## In the Name God the Merciful the Compassionate

## Mr. President, Distinguish Colleagues Ladies and Gentlemen,

Firstly, on behalf of my country, the Islamic Republic of Iran, I wish to express my deep pleasure to attend this valuable gathering organized to defend the human rights in its various dimensions.

The main spirit behind ombudsmen organizations implies exercise of supervision for protecting the rights granted to every person by the Almighty God on equal basis; and this is one of the sublime teachings stipulated in all divine religions and holy books.

Bearing in mind the fact that it is the Almighty God who exercises the ultimate supervision on the world for protecting the rights of all human beings all those governments that disregard rights of human beings in order to maintain their rule and interests are actually standing against the will of the Almighty, deliberately or non-deliberately swimming against the divine stream that honors the human rights.

Knowing that all those who, in the course of history, intended to defy the "divine will" have been doomed to fail we need to lay emphasis that those great powers who, just for their own ill-intentions and illegitimate interests, intend to use the question of the human rights as a leverage against their political opponents by manipulation of the existing global structures will face similar destiny.

Under current rather changeable social and economic climates, ombudsmen are facing unique challenges; the challenges which have been unprecedented at least in the previous century given the today's available communication technologies and tools.

Now all human beings are involved in the global institutionalized social and economic developments. The present era may by no means be compared with any juncture in the past in view of the existing integration and march of millions of people towards a common objective that is removal of the unreal barriers dividing individuals; the barriers which unrightfully established in the course of centuries.

For dismantling the said barriers and obstacles to the global integration the present gathering is needed to make every effort towards and tackle all the impediments to materialization of all human rights, including the rights to enjoy freedom and independence. We need to do our best to realize and protect the people's beliefs and causes disregarded under false pretexts as well. As one of our most critical and important responsibilities it is also necessary for us to protect and preserve the natural process of all these positive developments.

## Ladies and Gentlemen,

One of the major challenges facing the ombudsmen that I wish to further elaborate on is the demographic changes transpired in the course of generations. Emergence of any new subject, although at first glance may seem like a challenge but it may be turned into an opportunity if its nature and root and all its related aspects are properly identified and investigated and efficient and proper strategies adopted and managed accordingly.

Cross-generation differences have led to emergence of new factors and elements affecting the ombudsmen responsibilities which due to their complexity may not be dealt with by adopting a passive approach. Therefore a responsible and farreaching ombudsman is needed to better deal with the issues and problems under the current circumstances.

According to Article 174 of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Iran the "the General Inspection Organization" was established in order to supervise performance of the public and government executive organizations and extend the required recommendations and intellectual assistance accordingly.

Iran, as one of the countries with youngest population in the world, has aptly identified and understood the issue of the Cross-generation differences. Now we are prepared to use this historic opportunity. Out of the 75 million Iranian population 38 millions are men and 37 millions are women. The Iranian female and male populations below 30 years old include respectively %58.2 and %58.5 of the total population.

With the purpose of supporting the rights of the Iranian population, in addition to the mechanisms provided in the Constitution and other positive laws, a number of measures have already been adopted by the General Inspection Organization which includes the following:

1- Implementation of the program for involving the volunteer inspectors and supervisors in the relevant activities with the purpose of utilizing knowledge, experiences and expertise of inspectors from different generations; through this program the General Inspection Organization could facilitate cooperation among individuals from different generations and assist identification of the problems they are grappling with.

- 2- Establishment of a national supervisory dashboard in favor of restoration of the people's rights against government and public organization.
- 3- Establishment of the Young Consultants Group and exercise supervision over and assessment of their performance in more than 70 bodies and organizations, affiliated to the government and NGOs, and accordingly provision of the required ground for further involvement of the young population in depicting future of their country and actualizing their rights in due process.
- 4- Establishment of the electronic national on-line service (web) for collecting and investigating the complaints and having easy access to the relevant processes, the follow ups and outcome in the cyber space in current year has facilitated communication between the General Inspection Organization and 36937 of its service users (15710 notifications and 20687 complaints) and promoted the procedures for receiving the information on the relevant rights and identifying and removing the problems to this end.
- 5- Establishment of the center for Assessing Bureaucratic Integrity and Accountability of the System vis-à-vis the service users and evaluation of public satisfaction; by establishment of this center the General Inspection Organization has succeeded in producing valuable outcome for introducing strategies conducive to making ombudsman related decisions at macro level by administration of national and regional opinion polls.
- 6- At international level: making the suggestion for establishment of the Asian Ombudsman Association Cultural Group in Iran and its Permanent Cultural and Training Secretariat; this Secretariat will be responsible to identify cultural and social methods and ways for better management of Cross-generation changes and rapid social developments at international level with the aim of turning the challenges facing the ombudsmen into golden opportunities in favor of restoration of the people's rights.
- 7- Active involvement of the General Inspection Organization in the relevant international events and the present meeting and embarking on bilateral and multilateral cooperation; making effective suggestions and recommendations given the valuable and successful experiences of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the last 32 years based on the sublime religious values of the Iranian population.

In conclusion I wish to thank you for your attention and patience and pray to the Almighty God for every success of the newly elected members of the board of directors.

I would like also to announce readiness of my country for extending its full cooperation for actualizing the objectives of the present gathering as well as our preparedness for hosting the next meeting in Tehran which will provide a valuable opportunity for you, distinguished participants, to get further familiarized with ombudsman achievements in Iran.

<u>Thank you</u>