UN DAY

WELCOME ADDRESS

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and

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29 October 2014

Tehran, Iran
Your Excellency Dr. Javad Zarif, Foreign Minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran,

Your Excellency Dr. Abbas Aragchi, Deputy Foreign Minister,

Your Excellency, Mr. Jan Eliasson, Deputy Secretary General of the United Nations

Mr. Peiman Saedat, Director-General in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs,

Excellencies,

Distinguished Guests,

Friends of the United Nations,

My colleagues working in the UN,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

[Reads the Secretary-General’s message]

We are delighted that you can join us for this special day.

For, on this day we commemorate our founding.

And we recommit ourselves to the noble ideals which remain at the core of the UN – and which inspired our Charter a full 69 years ago.

Your Excellency, Dr. Araghchi, thank you and the many Iranians here in this hall today – and the representatives from so many countries – for coming to celebrate United Nations Day with us.

A special welcome also to Mr. Jan Eliasson for travelling half way across the world to be here today.

In doing so, you symbolize the energy and vision with which the United Nations wishes to partner with and support the Islamic Republic of Iran – one of our founding Member States – at this crucial time in its history.

Colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The UN exists to make positive change possible.

Peace and security – justice – human rights – development – and fundamental freedoms...
...these are the purposes of the United Nations, as set down in our Charter.

Our Charter has, for 69 years, remained the living, beating heart of our organization.

- And these noble goals direct our efforts.
- They guide our work – and our destiny.
- They inspire our commitment to a better future – a shared future.

During the course of the next hour-and-a-half, you will come to glimpse some of the benefits which have been produced by the partnership between Iran and the United Nations under our current cooperation programme. A programme which covers six areas. These are:

- Promoting health,
- Protecting the environment,
- Preventing the abuse and trafficking if illicit drugs,
- Supporting refugees,
- Helping the poor and
- Preparing for – and mitigating – natural disasters.

To the staff of the United Nations family in the Islamic Republic of Iran – most of whom are gathered in this hall today – I say that – working together as One UN, we must help to support the immense and positive changes now taking place.

In this way, we can contribute to making development more inclusive and more sustainable for the people of Iran – and – indeed – to the people of our planet.

The key to this change will be our work, and that of our Member States and civil society partners, in the big final push to 2015 on achieving the Millennium Development Goals.

But we must also push past this. We must work in partnership to forge our post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals – to which Iran has already contributed its views – and we must make it work.

**Sustainable development will** become the crucial dimension of delivering on the UN Charter for the 21st Century.

I would like to end today by recalling the words of our former Secretary-General Dag Hammarskjöld, who said:

*“We are not permitted to choose the frame of our destiny. But what we put into it – that is ours”.*

So, let us – together – frame the **Future We Want**.
And let us do this through **positive change** grounded on the principles and values of the United Nations.

Please join me in wishing the United Nations a very happy birthday today.

Thank you all and welcome once again.