



Human Rights and the Question of Democratisation and Federalism in Iran

DECLARATION **2 April 2009 – Brussels, Belgium**

Delegates welcome the support that the conference, and by extension the campaign for democracy in Iran has received from Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) and international civil society.

Delegates stress that despite efforts by the Iranian regime to exert pressure on MEPs to boycott the event, the conference marks a significant step forward towards engaging in a free exchange of viewpoints in an open forum.

Delegates publically reaffirm their commitment to the unity of Iran and impress upon the international community their desire for peaceful, inclusive and domestically driven democratisation, and emphatically reject any accusation of separatist intention.

Delegates call on Iranian authorities to respect the cultural, economic, linguistic and religious rights of all nationalities living within the borders of Iran today, in accordance with the state's international obligations.

Delegates urge the international community to support existing and future efforts to establish independent mass media broadcasting in the different languages of Iran's nationalities and to facilitate access to international media in support of inclusion, secularism and respect for human rights.

Delegates call on the European Union to continue and further its assistance to Iranian civil society and commitment to the promotion of universal human rights but also to ensure that such assistance is extended to all ethnic and religious communities.

Delegates call on the international community to support and promote gender equality and collective rights in Iran in acknowledgement of their status as enshrined principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Delegates wish to stress their belief that democracy within Iran cannot be meaningfully exercised without considering a multinational, secular, federal solution that ensures adequate representation and protection of all Iran's nationalities and allows for internal self-determination.

Signed:

Congress of Nationalities for a Federal Iran (CNFI)
Unrepresented Nations and Peoples Organization (UNPO)

Supported by: