Islamic Republic of IRAN  
Presidency  

National Youth Organization  

BIA-212/A  
January 21, 2004

His Excellency,  
Director- General  
International Labor Organization  
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Your Excellency,  
Dear Mr. Juan Somavia

On behalf of the Islamic Republic of Iran, I have the pleasure and the honor to inform you that the National Youth Organization, as the only official coordinating body in all youth activities around the country, now along with the other related bodies such as Ministry of Labor has undertaken the responsibility for youth employment. According to the commitment of states in UN General Assembly resolution A/RES/57/165 on Promoting Youth Employment and in order to realize the goals asserted in the Millennium Declaration, NYO has recently formulated a new action plan on HRD and youth employment on the basis of ICTs. This action plan, approved by the Supreme Council of Youth and Supreme Council for Employment chaired by President of I.R. Iran, now has been put into action throughout the country.  
Also, I would like to inform you that the delegation of NYO, which participated in the World Summit on the Information Society (Geneva, 10-12 Dec, 2003), took the opportunity to meet you and the secretary of YEN (Youth Employment Network). Following the initial understandings reached through negotiations with Mr. Steve K. Miller, Secretary of YEN, I hereby send you this letter as the formal request of I.R. of Iran for joining to YEN and getting the status of a lead country in a specific sub-region.  
I will be grateful if you send me your response as soon as possible.  
Please accept Excellency the assurances of my highest considerations.

Rahim Ebadi  
Advisor to the President &  
The Head of National Youth Organization  

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Dear Minister Ebadi,

It is with great pleasure that I acknowledge receipt of your letter of 21 January 2004, and its expression of your Government’s interest in becoming one of the lead countries in the Youth Employment Network. As you know, the Youth Employment Network (YEN) was initiated by the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr. Kofi Annan, the President of the World Bank, Mr. James Wolfensohn, and myself, as a means of supporting the goal, stated in the Millennium Declaration, to “develop and implement strategies that give young people everywhere a real chance to find decent and productive work”. In expressing your interest to come forward as a lead country of the YEN and in the formulation and implementation of a new action plan on Human Resources Development and youth employment on the basis of ICTs, you have shown your commitment to this goal. I congratulate you on your decision. I also warmly welcome this show of support to the young people of your nation.

In establishing the YEN, the Secretary-General named a high-level Panel, which has presented him with a series of recommendations on youth employment. The recommendations, a copy of which is attached to this letter, were transmitted to the General Assembly for consideration by the Member States in the overall framework of the follow-up to the Millennium Declaration. Most recently, at the end of June last year, the Panel met again to chart a road map on the four main policy interventions identified - Employability, Equal Opportunities, Entrepreneurship and Employment Creation - and to launch the second, more operational phase of the YEN. This phase focuses on increased country activities, collaboration among a broad range of partners, and youth participation within a social dialogue framework. The outcome document of that Panel meeting is also attached.

Mr. Rahim Ebadi
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As you know, the Secretary-General’s Panel had also recommended that Heads of State and Government, in order to give effect to their commitment to create decent and productive work for young people, undertake a review of past policies and programmes on youth employment and, drawing lessons from this review, prepare National Action Plans on youth employment. That original submission deadline of March 2004 has last month been extended by UN Resolution to September 2004.

In that context, the High Level Panel also recommended that Heads of State and Government be encouraged to volunteer to lead that process through multi-stakeholder consultations and with the support from the ILO, the United Nations and the World Bank, in order that their experiences can be shared with all other countries in developing National Action Plans. The ILO was pleased therefore to have received a delegation of the National Youth Organization during the World Summit on the Information Society. As you pointed out then, it was Iranian youth who brought us together on that occasion, which was particularly appropriate.

Once again, I welcome your expression of interest and commitment to being one of the Lead Countries. The ILO, as lead agency for this joint initiative, looks forward to working closely with your Government in the development of your country’s review and action plan on youth employment and in sharing your experience with others as part of a longer term process.

I look forward to receiving the contact information for the official who will be responsible for coordinating this process for your Government. I am also including a preliminary guidance note, as a basis for discussion, outlining potential areas of action in which your country, in cooperation with other Lead Countries, may wish to take the lead, particularly in your region, in this global alliance for youth employment.

Yours sincerely,

Juan Somavia