

STATEMENT  
BY

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OF THE  
**ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN**

BEFORE  
THE THIRTEENTH UNITED NATIONS CONGRESS ON  
CRIME PREVENTION AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE  
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12 APRIL 2015  
DOHA-QATAR

## **IN THE NAME OF GOD, THE COMPASSIONATE THE MERCIFUL**

**“Certainly we sent our apostles with clear arguments, and sent down with them the Book and the Balance so that the people may maintain [their affairs] in justice”**

**Mr. President,  
Distinguished Delegates,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

At the outset, I would like to congratulate you, Mr. President, and other members of the Bureau for your election. I also wish to thank the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the State of Qatar, as the host country, for the excellent organization of this important gathering. It is a great honor for me to address the Thirteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice.

The verse that I read out from the holy Quran at the beginning of my statement clearly demonstrates the importance of justice in the divine religions. This is a clear reminder of the importance of promotion of justice in Islam and the mission of Prophet Mohammad, Peace Be upon Him, to fulfill this lofty undertaking. Proceeding from this prophetic mission and being inspired by sacred principles of Islam, the Islamic Republic of Iran has placed justice, in its broad sense which also included criminal justice, at the very top of its agenda. Since the triumph of the Islamic Revolution in 1979, the Judiciary of the Islamic Republic of Iran has employed its utmost efforts to improve criminal justice system by making better use of Islamic principles and rules as well as the latest developments in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice.

**Mr. President,**

Use of modern tools and methods by criminals has given rise to more innovative responses and policies by States. In such a society, proper response to criminal offences is highly demanded and the need for employment of effective crime prevention tools is clear. It could hardly be contested now that reactive preventative measures would not be able to keep crimes under control. We should mobilize our available resources and join hands at the national, regional and international levels to devise practicable prevention-oriented programs to embrace all stages of lives and all walks of society. Proactive measures rather than reactive measures, such as increasing public awareness, improvement of life skills & life style, developmental crime prevention, and empowerment of vulnerable, at risk and high risk groups shall be strengthened, with an emphasize on the important role of family, preschool, school in early stage and social crime prevention programs. Since the previous Congress, the Islamic Republic of Iran drafted a new bill on crime prevention, established a high council for crime prevention with provincial branches, and in the framework of Iran's five-year-development program with the centrality of rule of law, instructed law enforcement agencies to perform legal and administrative preventive measures. Following the very same approach, a deep and thorough examination of the laws and regulations was conducted; the Islamic Criminal Code and the Criminal Code of Procedure was revised, and a comprehensive law against corruption and detailed instructions against money laundering for relevant institutions was adopted. This, particularly, included protection of women and children in the criminal proceedings, elevated the status of special courts for children and facilitated appointment of trained judges and consultants for the juvenile justice system. The efforts have also been made on the promotion of status and sanctity of the institution of family, facilitation of public participation in court proceedings, electronic monitoring and

social reintegration of offenders, enhancement of the use of non-custodial sanctions, and reduction of pretrial detention.

**Mr. President,**

My delegation reiterates the call by the Group of 77 and China on States and international organization to avoid unilateral actions and sanctions that might weaken the international cooperation framework and Member States capabilities to fight against crimes. Unilateral actions and sanctions regardless of their purpose, have undoubtedly primary negative impact on the public, and are in contravention with justice, human rights and fundamental freedoms. These sanctions would promote informal channels for financial transactions and trade that in turn, facilitate commission of crimes such as money laundering, trafficking of goods including fraudulent medicines, and tax crimes. This congress provides a unique opportunity to discuss such concerns and reflect on ways to facilitate international cooperation.

**Mr. President,**

I would like to draw the attention to the heinous crimes of terrorist groups in the Middle East. These shocking crimes are against basic principles and fundamental rights of human being and dishonor the mankind in the 21st century. The international community shall spare no efforts in addressing these atrocities and should play its crucial role in countering these terrorist groups through, inter alia, preventing foreign terrorist fighter recruitment, blocking their financial resources, countering violent extremism and availing needed assistance and cooperation to the affected countries, while respecting sovereignty and territorial integrity of those states. The proposal for "A World Free from Violence and Extremism" presented

by the Islamic Republic of Iran at the sixty-eighth summit of General Assembly of United Nations was a step towards curbing similar crimes which should be duly considered.

In conclusion, my delegation would like to emphasize on the huge human, financial and social costs that my country has sustained to fight against drug trafficking. This fight is derived by illegal cultivation in our neighborhood, and trafficking to destination countries in the region and beyond especially to Europe. My country carried out interdiction missions at different levels especially in collaboration with neighboring countries and by strengthening cooperation at the regional level and with the Persian Gulf countries which succeeded to register record seizures of narcotics in the world. The Islamic Republic of Iran is alone paying a high price in the front line of this ever growing phenomenon and expects that the international community would play its role based on the principle of shared responsibility.

International cooperation in criminal matters is certainly the cornerstone of coordinated efforts to prevent and fight crimes in their most serious transnational manifestations. It should be underlined that complexity of crimes such as cybercrime, or growing involvement transnational organized groups in emerging crimes like crimes against cultural heritage necessitates devising more appropriate frameworks for bilateral, regional and international cooperation. I hope through our enhanced multilateral cooperation, we will witness more effective criminal justice and crime prevention measures in place in near future.

Thank you for your kind attention!