



ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN

PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS
AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS
JAURÈSGASSE 3, 1030 VIENNA

Statement

By

**The Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of
Iran to the United Nations Office
and other International Organizations
in Vienna**

H.E. Mr. Kazem GHARIB ABADI

Before

**The Thirtieth Session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and
Criminal Justice**

Agenda Item 3: General Debate

Vienna, 17 – 21 May 2021

In de Name of God, the Most Compassionate, the Most Merciful

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Mr. Chair,

I would like to commence by congratulating you upon your deserved election and also commending the devoted and tireless efforts of the Secretariat in convening this session.

Mr. Chair,

The Islamic Republic of Iran attaches great importance to the works of the Commission, as the main policymaking body of the United Nations in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice, in providing a unique opportunity for Member States to renew their pledge to the fight against crimes in all its forms and manifestations.

Having actively participated in the drafting processes of the Kyoto Declaration and the Political Declaration of the Special session of the General Assembly against corruption, we highly value the purposes and goals of such frameworks in strengthening criminal justice responses and promoting effective international cooperation; a goal that could only be realized if the economic, social, legal and cultural specificities of States as well as the fundamental principles of international law, in particular sovereignty equality and non-intervention are fully observed, respected and protected.

Mr. Chair,

Since the previous session of the Commission, the Islamic Republic of Iran has intensified its efforts to effectively combat various forms of crimes such as trafficking in persons, smuggling of migrants, money-laundering, corruption offences and cybercrime through adopting legislative, judicial and administrative measures and also enhancing its cooperation and coordination with its partners including in the region so as to maintain resilience in the face of the ever-evolving *modi operandi* of criminals.

Nonetheless, as crimes are becoming more transnational and sophisticated, in particular in the situation caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, it becomes axiomatic, more than ever, that no country could fight the menace of crimes on its own. Under such circumstances, a genuine collective response is the only option that could ensure the rule of law at the global level. To this end, effective implementation of the

relevant conventions such as UNCAC and compliance of Member States to their obligations therein is of utmost significance, for the very *raison d'etre* of such instruments is to promote international cooperation in preventing and combatting crimes.

In the same vein, denying criminals of proceeds of crime by strengthening international cooperation and assistance on tracing, seizing, confiscation and return of proceeds or other property and instrumentalities of crime to the country of origin not only constitutes an integral part of a collective response to transnational crimes but also is essential for protecting rights of victims including the right to compensation and reducing criminal recidivism. It goes without saying that given the compounded and exponentially sophisticating nature of cybercrime which transcends geographical boundaries and has appeared as a new source of lucrative profits for illicit activities, elaboration of an international comprehensive legal instrument on cybercrime is an urgent priority for denying cybercriminals of any safe haven and bringing them to justice. As such, we strongly support the works of the Ad hoc Committee established pursuant to resolution 74/247 and invite Member States to facilitate and expedite the process of elaboration of the convention against cybercrime.

Mr. Chair,

Terrorism as a pressing challenge continues to pose a formidable threat to the international peace and security as well as development and wellbeing of societies. The Islamic Republic of Iran has manifested its unwavering determination, strong commitment and decisive role in the fight against terrorism by effectively assisting affected States in combating and diminishing terrorist groups in the region. Nevertheless, an unfaltering resolve of the international community as a whole is vital for eliminating terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, in particular, at this juncture that we witness heinous terrorist attacks brazenly organized and perpetrated against governmental officials and scientists, in particular General Ghassem Soleimani who was at the forefront of the fight against terrorism and yet was martyred by a terrorist regime while on an official counter-terrorism mission, as well as the assassination of Dr. Fakhrizadeh, an eminent nuclear and defence scientist.

Speaking of terrorism, we cannot and shall not lose sight of the rampant terrorism perpetrated against innocent Palestinian people. Today, we are yet again witnessing, in anguish and outrage, horrific terrorist acts of the Israeli regime against the innocent Palestinians, in particular women and children, including in the Gaza strip. The Israeli regime's policy and practices of the terrorism, amongst others, its widespread and systematic attack directed against the civilian population of Palestine are grave violation of the fundamental human rights as well as the purposes and

principles of the United Nations Charter. Such unlawful acts also constitute a crime against humanity and pose a serious threat to international peace and security.

Mr. Chair,

In accordance with the relevant international legal instruments, all Member States are [under the obligation] to combat terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, wherever and by whomsoever committed and also to refrain from encouraging or tolerating terrorist activities. Silence over such horrendous terrorist attacks of the most heinous regime is tantamount to encouraging and tolerating terrorism, therefore, the international community shall not acquiesce to this savagery. As such, we condemn in the strongest terms the reprehensible attacks of the Israeli regime, demand immediate and complete cessation of all acts of violence, including military attacks, destruction and acts of terror of the Israeli regime and urge all Member States to, in conformity with their international legal obligation, unequivocally condemn the Israeli regime's criminal and terrorist acts and hold this regime accountable for its crimes with the aim of preventing their repetition.

Mr. Chair,

As regards the challenges and impediments we face in our endeavour in fighting crimes, we would like to reiterate that the promulgation and application of the Unilateral Coercive Measures, which are flagrant violation of the fundamental principles of international law and principles set forth within the Charter of the United Nations, continue to impede effective collective responses to crimes at the international level; since such internationally wrongful acts hinder cooperation and coordination of Member States, in particular affected States, in fighting crimes and criminals.

At the end, I would like to once again reiterate the commitments of the Islamic Republic of Iran in preventing and combating all forms of crimes, reaffirm the role of the Commission in strengthening the efforts of Member States in fighting crimes and underline the obligation of Member States to uphold and observe the fundamental principles of international law in this endeavour.

I thank you, Mr. Chair.