

As of 18 May 2021

**30th Session of the Commission on Crime Prevention
and Criminal Justice (17-21 May 2021)
Under agenda-item 3: General debate**

Mr. Chair,

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

My heartiest congratulations on your election as Chair of the 30th session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ), as well as to the other members of the Bureau. We look forward to a productive session under your skillful chairpersonship. We also commend the efforts of the Secretariat and Government of Japan particularly Ambassador of Japan, H.E. Hikihara Takeshi, for the successful organization of 14th Congress on the Crime Convention and Criminal Justice.

Pakistan aligns itself to the statements delivered earlier on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, and the Asia Pacific Group.

Pakistan also aligns itself with the statement delivered by Ambassador of Tunisia, H.E. Mr. Mohamed MEZGHANI, on behalf of Arab States and Pakistan, on the prevailing situation in the occupied Palestinian territories. In our national capacity, I would like to highlight the following additional points, which Pakistan's Foreign Minister, Shah Mahmood Qureshi, stressed during his address to the Emergency Meeting of the OIC Executive Committee to Discuss Israel's Aggression against Palestine held on Sunday:

- Support for the Palestinian cause has been a defining principle of Pakistan's foreign policy since our inception. Our founding father, Quaid-i-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, was unrelenting in upholding the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people.

- Pakistan, is appalled by the sheer magnitude of illegal, disproportionate and indiscriminate use of force, tyranny and injustice being perpetrated by the Israeli occupation forces against defenseless Palestinians.
- The indiscriminate use of force by Israeli forces against defenseless Palestinians is tantamount to grave violations of principles underpinned in international law, including international humanitarian and human rights law.
- The latest spate of Israeli aggression cannot be justified or condoned.
- Pakistan condemns in the strongest possible terms the continuing air strikes by Israel in Gaza that have resulted in deaths and injuries to so many innocent Palestinians.
- Pakistan also condemns, in the strongest possible terms, attacks on innocent worshippers in Al-Aqsa Mosque, violating the very sanctity of Qibla-e-Awal.
- Death and destruction in the holy month of Ramzan; during Eid-ul-Fitr is unacceptable. Endless, senseless violence must end.
- We are also gravely concerned at the continuing expansion of Israeli settlements in the occupied territories and expulsion of Palestinians from their properties. The tragedy of forced evictions of Palestinians from the Shaikh Jarrah neighborhood of Al-Quds Al-Shareef is the latest manifestation of the systematic Israeli effort to change the demographic structure; historical and legal status; and Arab-Islamic and Christian character of Al-Quds Al-Shareef. This is patently illegal, immoral and unacceptable.
- At this somber juncture, we reaffirm our unflinching solidarity with the government and people of Palestine – valiantly defending their legitimate rights. We salute their courage in the face of unabated Israeli atrocities and preserving their Arab and Islamic identity.
- All necessary steps must be taken for stopping the ongoing aggression against the Palestinian people and their properties.

Mr. Chair,

The Commission, which is marking its 30th anniversary, bears responsibility to prevent the heinous crime happening right at this moment.

The Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ) cannot stay irrelevant from this development regarding heinous crime threatening regional and global peace, security and stability. It's not simply an issue of human rights. It's the question about humanity and international humanitarian law issue and crime prevention.

Mr. Chair,

Crime, in its various forms, including transnational organized crime, corruption and terrorism continue to be formidable challenges for all of us.

Criminals and criminal organizations threaten the peace and stability of our societies, undermining efforts aimed at promoting human rights and sustainable development. We need to continue our efforts at national, regional and international levels to prevent and combat crime effectively.

Crime including terrorism cannot and should not be associated with any religion, civilization, nationality or ethnicity. We also need to identify and address root causes of these crimes, including socioeconomic factors.

There is a steep rise in incidents of hate speech and hate crimes, and also actions which cause incitement to hatred and result in intolerance, discrimination, hostility and violence against persons on the basis of their race, ethnicity, religion or belief in all regions of the world.

Unfortunately, this problem has become further aggravated during the ongoing pandemic with religious and ethnic communities being stigmatized and dehumanized as deliberate spreaders of infection.

At the same time misuse of freedom of expression generates hatred and violence among individuals from and within different nations that may have serious implications at the national, regional and international levels.

We emphasize on the importance of respect for religious and cultural diversity and personalities, and therefore call for interfaith and intercultural

dialogue aimed at promoting a culture of tolerance and respect among individuals, societies and nations. The ridiculing of Holy Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) is beyond the boundaries of freedom of expression as it hurts the feelings of billions of Muslims across the world. It's a new form of crime. We urge the Commission to look at it from the perspective of crime and take measures to prevent it. We urge the international community to come together, engage in a dialogue and take legal as well as administrative measures to prevent this form of crime.

Mr. Chair

Our criminal justice institutions, policies, and strategies have to be responsive to our specific needs and sensitive to our economic, social and cultural contexts. For effectively combating criminal activity, cooperation has to be based on respect for national sovereignty and territorial integrity of Member States. We also need to build and strengthen states' capacities against organized crime and associated syndicates.

Mr. Chair,

Trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants call for our continuous focus and attention. To counter human trafficking, Pakistan has taken a number of measures and has recently promulgated two acts, namely the:

Prevention of Trafficking in Persons Act,
Prevention of Smuggling of Migrants Act,

Our fight against this menace will be aided by exploring legal and safe avenues of migration. The free and legal movement of labor, like other factor of production, is the only answer to fully exploit the potentials of global economy.

Mr. Chair

Complex chains of hidden and fraudulent transactions, spanning multiple jurisdictions, move ill-gotten wealth and resources to safe havens across borders. According to safe estimates around \$7 trillion of private wealth mostly from developing countries is hidden in safe havens and equivalent to 10 percent of world GDP may be held in offshore financial assets. Existence of such safe havens contributes to impunity for crime. Tax

avoidance and evasion, money-laundering, and corruption constitute the main activities that lead to these illicit financial flows.

This reduces available resources for investment in essential public goods and services, undermines the social contract, and weakens domestic financial systems and economic potential of developing countries.

Therefore, there is also an urgent need of addressing the gaps, barriers and challenges in the international anti-corruption framework particularly on asset recovery by considering an additional dedicated protocol on asset recovery and return as part of the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) with a view to remove the obstacles and overcome challenges.

Mr. Chair

Pakistan believes that cybercrime is the most cross-cutting and transnational challenge we are confronted with. We are of the view that Ad-hoc Committee on Cybercrime will lead to successful negotiation of a global instrument to effectively address this challenge.

Pakistan appreciates UNODC's role within the UN-system in relation to crime prevention and criminal justice. We are pleased to see the growing cooperation between Pakistan and the UNODC Country Office. We are moving towards expanding this cooperation to a comprehensive Criminal Justice Reform programme and look forward to support of member states and UNODC.

In conclusion, I would like to reiterate my country's strong resolve in the fight against Crime, and our firm commitment towards effective international cooperation in this regard.

Thank you
