



Statement during the 31st Regular Session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ)

**Delivered by H.E. Ambassador Manizha Bakhtari, Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan to the United Nations
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Mr. Chair, [H.E. Ambassador Hikihara Takeshi, Permanent Representative of Japan]

At the outset, allow me to congratulate H.E. Ambassador Hikihara Takeshi of Japan on his election as Chair of the 31st Session of the CCPCJ, as well as to the other elected members of the Bureau. I also extend my thanks to the Secretariat for the excellent work done in preparation of this session.

Since August 15th 2021, Afghanistan has been the prime victim of international crimes and widespread human rights violations repeatedly committed by the Taliban. The past months of extreme violence, failure of the state to provide effective public service, and disruption of the constitutional order gave way to many forms of crimes such as: hate crimes, terrorism, drug trafficking, corruption, trafficking in persons and migrants smuggling.

We express grave concern over the constant and widespread violation of human rights in Afghanistan and urge the international community to ensure that human rights, particularly of women and girls, are respected. We call on the international community to continue monitoring the situation and support efforts to ensure the upholding of the enjoyment of all human rights by Afghan women and girls, and in particular, immediate respect for their right to education, right to work, right to public and political participation, and right to information and freedom of expression and movement.

The last months have witnessed summary executions, hostage-takings, arbitrary detentions, torture, terrorist attacks and ill-treatment of innocent civilians, including women and children, by the Taliban forces in the province of Panjshir, the Andrabs districts of Baghlan province, and the Worsaj district of Takhar province and other places in the country.

The war crimes and widespread human rights violations repeatedly committed by the Taliban need not only unequivocal condemnation but also the immediate application of preventive and accountability measures. We call on the international community as a whole, and, in particular, on the relevant institutions and mechanisms of the United Nations (UN), including the UNODC, to step up its roles in crime prevention and criminal justice in support of an effective, fair, humane, and accountable criminal justice system in Afghanistan, especially for women and children, so that further crimes are prevented and accounted for in the future.

We strongly reaffirm the need to enhance bilateral, regional, and international cooperation in criminal matters aimed at preventing and combating transnational organized crime, corruption and terrorism in Afghanistan for sustainable peace in the region and around the world.

I thank you Mr. Chair for your attention.