



## **ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN**

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

**Statement  
by**

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Legal Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic  
Republic of Iran**

**before**

**The Thirty-first Session of the Commission on Crime Prevention  
and Criminal Justice**

**Agenda Item (3): General Debate**

**16-20 May 2022-Vienna**

*In the name of God, the Most Compassionate, the Most Merciful*

**Mr. Chair;**

Allow me to commence by commending your abled leadership of the session as well as the devoted efforts of the Secretariat in convening this meeting.

**Mr. Chair;**

As crimes are becoming more transnational and sophisticated, it becomes self-evident, more than ever, that no country could fight the menace of crimes on its own. Strengthening a genuine collective response to such crimes through international cooperation is the only option that could ensure an effective fight against crimes. To this end, we shall not lose sight of the acute challenges and impediments that Member States, in particular, developing countries face in fighting such crimes. Despite nearly two decades since the adoption of the United Nations Conventions against Corruption and against Transnational Organized Crimes, denying criminals of proceeds of crime through international cooperation in tracing, seizing and returning of such proceeds to countries of origin has remained but a challenge. Effective asset recovery 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 as well as reducing criminal recidivism. Therefore, barriers and impediments on measures in asset recovery should be removed so to ensure a balanced and effective implementation and realization of the underlying purposes of the relevant conventions.

In the same vein, we express our serious concern 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 responses to crimes at the national and international level. Such internationally wrongful acts hinder allocation of resources for fighting crimes and also impairs cooperation of Member States, in particular affected States, in this scourge. These unlawful acts must be terminated and reparations should be made for the harms inflicted upon affected people as a result of the unilateral sanctions.

**Mr. Chair;**

The Islamic Republic of Iran has manifested its 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 unwavering 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, in particular General Soleimani who was at the forefront of the fight against terrorism and yet was martyred by while on an official visit as well terrorist attacks against nuclear facilities and scientists.

**Distinguished colleagues, ladies and gentlemen;**

The information and communications technologies has presented remarkable opportunities for nations to thrive, yet, the criminal proclivity has increasingly inclined to misuse such technologies for illicit gains. The *modi operandi* of criminals are becoming increasingly diversified and the compounded nature of such offences is substantially evolving. Crimes committed via use of ICT often transcend geographical boundaries turning it into an unprecedented pressing challenge for Member States. That being said, the necessity of an international convention under the aegis of the United Nations for fighting such crimes could not be overstated. In this regard, we reaffirm our continued support for the work of the Ad hoc Committee on elaboration of an international convention on countering the use of ICT for criminal purposes and, looking forward to the upcoming session of the committee, we invite Member States to actively and in good faith engage in the session by adopting a technical and non-politized approach so as to ensure the smooth and uninterrupted performance of the Committee and finalize the convention in due time as envisaged in the General Assembly resolution 75/282.

**Mr. Chair;**

We attach great importance to the UNODC as the leading entity of the United Nations in the field of preventing and combating crimes as well as to its extensive role in providing and facilitating technical assistance, capacity-building and knowledge to Member States. In spite of important mandates conferred upon UNODC in various fields, lack of adequate budgets and resources for the general purposes funding has negatively affected the fulfilment of the diversified mandates of the Office. As expressed by the commission, such financial situation of the Office which has remained a serious concern needs to be addressed in a pragmatic, results-oriented, efficient and cooperative manner. In line with this, welcoming the extension of the mandate of the FINGOV, we emphasize that the Working Group should aim to strengthen the performance and effectiveness of the Office through revitalization of the process of its funding giving due consideration to the need for increasing the proportion and amount of contributions to the general purpose funding while enhancing efficient resource mobilization. The Working Group should also give due

consideration to the ways and means for strengthening the performance of country offices.

By the same token, recalling Article 101 of the Charter of the United Nations on the importance of recruiting the staff of the United Nations on geographical basis and highlighting the very multilateral nature of the Organization, we reaffirm that the imbalance in the staff composition of the UNODC in terms of geographical representation which has rendered many States, in particular, developing countries, unrepresented and underrepresented, while many others overrepresented, should be addressed in a comprehensive and result-oriented manner. To this end, noting that the new UNODC Strategy has highlighted the issue by pledging to promote equitable geographical representation in its staff composition, we once again request the Executive Director to step up efforts in this area by providing a comprehensive action plan for ensuring equitable geographical representation in UNODC at all levels.

**Mr. Chair;**

At the end, the Islamic Republic of Iran reaffirms its commitments in preventing and combating all forms of crimes, stress 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 endeavor.

**I thank you.**