



**Statement of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan at the 32nd Session of the Commission
on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ)
Vienna, 22-26 May 2023**

Mr. Chair,

At the outset, allow me to congratulate you on your election as Chair of the 32nd 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.

The embassy of Afghanistan acknowledges the significant challenges posed by crime and criminal activities, which hinder the well-being and progress of societies. As a nation that has endured decades of conflict, we are acutely aware of the detrimental impact crime can have on the rule of law, governance, and social stability. Thus, we stand united with the international community in our commitment to effectively prevent and address these issues.

The current development in Afghanistan has intensified the risk of human trafficking, particularly for women who are at a higher risk of exploitation. This includes trafficking for purposes such as forced and child marriage, sexual exploitation, and forced labor. It is crucial to address the root causes, prevention, victim rights, effective law enforcement, the demand aspect, and provide assistance to vulnerable groups, especially women and children.

We express deep concern about the widespread human rights violations in Afghanistan and urgently call upon the United Nations to fulfill its mandate by collaborating with the International Criminal Court (ICC). The human rights abuses and war crimes committed are in direct contradiction to the principles of basic humanity and represent clear violations of international human rights agreements and humanitarian law, as stipulated in the ICC Rome Statute. The United Nations and the ICC have a vital role to play in ensuring that justice prevails and that these grave violations do not go unpunished.

In Afghanistan, there is an increasing convergence between transnational organized crime, drug trafficking, and terrorism, including its financing. As per many reliable reports, the country has become a safe haven for terrorist groups, leading to a clear escalation of terrorism in the region. It is crucial to prioritize bilateral, regional, and international cooperation to effectively tackle these interconnected challenges and ensure the safety and security of Afghanistan and the global community.

The persistent threats posed by terrorism, drug trafficking, organized crime networks in Afghanistan demand a comprehensive and coordinated response at the national, regional, and international levels. We call upon the international community to strengthen cooperation,



exchange best practices, and provide technical assistance to countries in need, particularly those grappling with similar security and development challenges.

Furthermore, we emphasize the importance of addressing the root causes of crime, including poverty, inequality, social exclusion, and weak governance. By promoting social cohesion, access to justice, and respect for human rights, we can create an environment that discourages criminal behavior and fosters a culture of lawfulness.

In conclusion, the Embassy of of Afghanistan reaffirms its unwavering commitment to crime prevention and criminal justice. We pledge to continue our efforts to build a secure, just, and prosperous Afghanistan, while actively engaging with the international community to tackle crime collectively.

I thank you Mr. Chair for your attention.