

Statement by
H.E. Dr. Kazem GHARIB ABADI
Vice-President of the Judiciary of the Islamic Republic of Iran for
International Affairs
Before
The Thirty Second Session of the Commission on Crime Prevention
And
Criminal Justice
Agenda Item 3: General Debate
(22-26 May 2023, Vienna)

In the Name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful

Madam Chair,

I would like to commence by congratulating you, madam ambassador, upon your deserved election and also commending your able leadership as well as the devoted efforts of the Secretariat in convening the 32nd session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, as the main policy-making 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. Iran associates itself with the statements delivered on behalf of G77 & China and Asian Group.

Madam Chair,

The Islamic Republic of Iran continues to contribute to the work of the Commission in a positive manner through actively engaging in the negotiations of proposed draft resolutions, as well as taking part in designing innovative mechanisms to improve its criminal justice responses and promote 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 sovereign equality and non-intervention are fully observed, respected, and protected.

Madam Chair,

Enjoying efficient legislative, judicial and administrative frameworks, the Islamic Republic of Iran has well demonstrated its dedication in effectively combating various forms of crimes such as trafficking in persons, smuggling of migrants, money-laundering, corruption offences, and cybercrime. The efforts of the Islamic Republic of Iran have also led to effective prevention and combating of terrorist activities at the regional and international level. However, what leaves room to be desired is the global will to form a unified response, as a community, regardless of political motives, and to rally our forces, keeping our world to a higher standard when it comes to preventing and combating heinous crimes. As the urgent need to scale up international cooperation rises, effective implementation of the relevant conventions such as UNCAC and compliance of Member States with their obligations therein, as well as taking advantage of every international platform, namely this Commission, to address the impediments and challenges of combating crime, becomes increasingly significant. 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 sophisticated 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 misuse of ICT for criminal purposes 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 misuse of ICT for criminal purposes.

Madam Chair,

Despite the efforts of international community, terrorizing nations and states has remained to create a major global challenge and threat towards the international community in which, has claimed the lives of innocent people, while having devastating consequences on the stability and security of countries as well as development and wellbeing of societies. Ironically, the measures adopted by some States in the name of countering terrorism have themselves often posed serious challenges to international peace and security. 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 such as Al-Qaeda, Daesh and Al-Nusra Front. While certain attacks brazenly organized and perpetrated against governmental officials and scientists of our country, in particular General Ghassem Soleimani despite being at the forefront of the fight against terrorism in the region, they remain unaccounted for.

At the domestic level, with the aim of updating and making efficiency in our current laws and provisions, the Judiciary of the Islamic Republic of Iran has been working on **drafting a comprehensive Anti-Terrorism Act**, taking into account the relevant national and accepted international standards and practices. This new law can potentially provide a more sound and efficient legal framework for countering terrorism and would be considerably conducive and of utmost practical utility in denying terrorists any resources for perpetration of egregious crimes.

Madam Chair,

As regards the challenges and impediments we face in our endeavours in fighting crimes, we would like to reiterate that the promulgation, maintaining 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. Needless to mention that such unlawful measures only create an opportunity for criminals to pursue their illegitimate objectives. These measures should be terminated swiftly and unconditionally.

The Islamic Republic of Iran stands firm in the advocacy for preventing and combating all forms of crimes, reaffirms the role of the Commission in strengthening the efforts of Member States in fighting crimes and underlines the obligation of Member States to uphold and observe the fundamental principles of international law in this endeavour.

In conclusion, Madam Chair,

I am confident that, under your able leadership, the present session would result in a successful outcome.

I thank you.