

**(Check Against Delivery)**

**32nd Session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and  
Criminal Justice**

**(22-26 May 2023)**

**Pakistan's Statement under Agenda-item 3: General Debate**

Chair, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Asslam-o-alikum and a very Good Afternoon to you all !

Madam,

It is a great privilege and honor to address this Assembly of 32<sup>nd</sup> Session of Commission of Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ). Let me start by felicitating you as the Chair of the Commission, as well as to other members of the Bureau. We look forward to an interesting and productive session under your stewardship.

Pakistan aligns itself to the statements of the Group of 77 and China and Asia Pacific Group. I have the following additional remarks to make in my national capacity.

Madam Chair,

The world is undergoing major political, social and economic transformations. Starting with the COVID-19 pandemic coupled with the ongoing tensions between major powers of the world, the supply chains have been disrupted leading to a spike in global inflation and poverty, exacerbating the rate of crime.

Recently, we have also witnessed the devastating impacts of Climate change unfolding in several countries in the form of floods,

including my own, which undermined millions of lives and livelihoods. Such disasters may induce 'survival crimes' for people who have lost their income and livelihoods. This vulnerability may also cause organized criminal networks to lure people into joining their criminal networks or entrap them into becoming victims of trafficking.

Let us remind ourselves that crime, including transnational organized crimes continue to pose challenge to our societies in various forms and manifestations. Therefore, we must adopt holistic measures aimed at not only addressing the root causes of crime and overall ensuring equal access to justice for all.

Madam Chair,

Freedom of expression; a value cherished by all of us has come under strain due to the rise of misinformation, supplemented by the use of ICTS, and its potential for perpetuating crimes. It is our collective responsibility to counter these trends through national legislations, spreading awareness and concrete policy responses. In this regard, we appreciate the ongoing work of the *Inter-governmental Adhoc Committee*, to elaborate a comprehensive international convention on countering the use of information and communications technologies for criminal purposes. We further look forward to its upcoming Session in New York in August 2023.

Madam Chair,

In Pakistan, we have made substantial progress in combating crimes through a multifaceted approach. The Parliament of Pakistan legislated the groundbreaking *Prevention of Trafficking in Persons Act* and *Prevention of Smuggling of Migrants Act* in 2018. We have recently signed the UNTOC's additional international protocol on Trafficking in persons (TIP).

Madam Chair

Corruption is a complex social, political and economic phenomenon that affects all countries. Corruption undermines democracy and the rule of law, leads to violations of human rights, distorts markets and erodes the quality of life.

Furthermore, and especially for developing countries, corruption poses a significant barrier towards achieving economic and human development. We also call for greater international cooperation in addressing the challenges and barriers related to asset recovery, as it is crucial to ensure that ill-gotten assets are returned to their rightful owners and stolen resources are utilized for ensuring rule of law.

Pakistan reaffirms its commitment towards the objectives set forth by the Kyoto Declaration, adopted at the 14<sup>th</sup> Crime Congress. We also look forward to participating in the 15<sup>th</sup> Congress and appreciate UAE for hosting it.

Madam Chair,

In **conclusion**, I would like to reiterate my country's strong resolve in the fight against Crime and look forward to further deepening cooperation with all our bilateral and multilateral partners.

Thank you !

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