



ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN

PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS
AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS
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Statement

by

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The Islamic Republic of Iran**

at the

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In the Name of Allah, the Compassionate, the Merciful

Mr. Chairperson,

Executive Director,

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentleman

Please, check against delivery

At the outset, I wish to congratulate you, Ambassador Mansour Ahmadkhan, for your election as the Chairperson of the 63rd session of the CND and assure you of the full support and cooperation of my delegation.

I also wish to seize this opportunity to congratulate Ms. Ghada Fathi Waly for her appointment as the Executive Director of UNODC and wish her success in her new responsibility for combating the global problem of narcotic drugs.

Mr. Chairperson,

In spite of measures taken by states, the world is still facing many problems and challenges such as continued cultivation and production of opiates and psychotropic substances that is going on with an accelerated rate. Illicit use of electronic communications has facilitated the process of production, transit, distribution and consumption. It has shortened the distance between the point of origin and destination as well as the channels used for the flow of illicit proceeds. In certain regions, despite stabilization in the rate of opiate use, one can witness the spread of synthetic drugs or opiates being replaced with synthetic drugs. These challenges are minor examples indicating the changing nature of narcotic drugs and portray drug control efforts as being less effective and losses caused by the lethal trade in illicit drugs continue to threaten public health and sustainable development in the countries.

It is necessary to touch upon the continued trend of drug cultivation and production as well as the recent issue of the spread of methamphetamine manufacture and traffic in my neighboring country. Regretfully, the failure to pay due attention to the issue of drug production and cultivation by the international community has led to the changing of the production pattern in that country since 2019. Hence, it is necessary to counter the growing trend of methamphetamine manufacture and traffic at its starting point in order to prevent irreparable consequences in the future.

Mr. Chairperson,

Since my statement in the 62nd session of the CND, the Islamic Republic of Iran has dedicated 30 martyrs and wounded persons in the course of 2,319 operations and armed confrontations dismantling 1,886 active local and international networks and seizing approximately 1,000 tons of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances including 43 tons of heroin and morphine and 17 tons of methamphetamine during the current Iranian year that indicates close to 20 percent growth in the amount of seizures removing these drugs from the global cycle of the illicit trade. The figure is an unprecedented one. Many boys and girls in my homeland have lost their fathers and great number of women have lost their spouses in the course of the fight against illicit drugs.

Regretfully, I have to announce that Iran has received the least amount of international support and contribution, while fighting in two fronts. On the one hand, Iran is combating narcotic drugs and related crimes such as terrorism and violence, and on the other hand, it is facing the implications resulting from American unilateral and tyrannical sanctions.

The Islamic Republic of Iran's accomplishment in combating drugs is not due to the financial and technical support provided by other countries and international organizations, rather it is based on genuine, humane and developed teachings of Islam as well as the Islamic Republic of Iran's adherence to its international commitments.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

In line with its balanced strategy, the Islamic Republic of Iran while conducting a smart fight against the drug mafia has put on the agenda drug demand reduction plans. The Islamic Republic of Iran is of the view that public health and social security are the main pillars of a comprehensive policy in the field of drug control. While combating the diversion of drugs to illicit markets, Iran has put on its agenda the need for drug availability for medical use within the three drug control international conventions.

Speaking of the ongoing activities by the Islamic Republic of Iran, one can refer to the strengthening of harms reduction plans via non-discriminatory expansion of access to treatment services, providing social support aimed at improving health amongst individuals, families and communities, reducing negative effects such as cases of mortality and drug-related HIV/AIDS infections, providing various treatment options in prisons; rehab and empowerment aimed at social reintegration through social protection and the project known as *the helping hands in the society* with the maximum participation of NGOs.

While believing in the role of NGOs and the private sector, the Islamic Republic of Iran benefits from the capacities of non-governmental structures for the implementation of demand reduction projects. The project known as *the helping hands in the society* is one of the major plans being implemented based on the order by the President of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

In 2019, more than 1.6 million individuals received social support, treatment and harms reduction services at more than 9,000 centers. The rate of HIV/AIDS infection caused by the use of common syringes has sharply decreased. In the meantime, primary prevention plans within the educational system is being seriously followed up through the implementation of comprehensive plans for preventing tendency among teenagers and children towards drug use by providing cultural training and awareness regarding prevention and strengthening life skills.

Distinguished Delegates,

While supporting the CND as the focal point and the policy-making organ in drug-related matters within the UN structure and the role of INCB and UNODC as two leading bodies in the field of drug control, the Islamic Republic of Iran emphasizes the status of the three international conventions as the main foundation of the international drug control regime.

Mr. Chairperson,

Distinguished Delegates,

In conclusion, while inviting you to visit Iran's exhibition in Rotunda with the motto of *"Let's help each other"*, I wish to emphasize the following elements aimed at a more effective policy against the global menace of narcotic drugs:

- Implementation of development-based projects in target countries with the participation of the global community; •
- Necessity of providing equipment and technical assistance as well as transfer of advanced technologies aimed at a more effective fight against illicit flow of narcotic drugs with emphasis on the principle of common and shared responsibility •
- Necessity of continued cooperation by countries aimed at blocking the entry of drug-related illicit proceeds into international financial systems; •
- Necessity of sharing experiences in the field of demand reduction as one of the major aspects of cooperation at bilateral, regional and international levels; •
- Need for further support for UNODC programs and initiatives aimed at strengthening regional cooperation mechanisms in the fields of border control management and intelligence-sharing; •
- Refraining from a selective and politicized approach in the field of humanitarian cooperation and the need for the condemnation of unilateral and tyrannical sanctions imposed on leading countries in the combat against the world drug problem such as the Islamic Republic of Iran by certain states. •

Thank you for your kind attention.