



# **ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN**

PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS  
AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS  
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## **Statement**

**By**

**H.E. Dr. Eskandar Momeni, Secretary General of the Drug Control  
Headquarters of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the 65<sup>th</sup> CND  
session**

**Vienna, 14 March 2022**

**Mr. Chairman,**

**Excellencies,**

**Distinguished participants,**

At the outset, I would like to congratulate Mr. Ghislain D'Hoop as the president of the 65<sup>th</sup> CND session and assure His Excellency of the Islamic Republic of Iran's support for the realization of the objectives of this conference.

Since the previous session, new and important developments have unfolded throughout the world and particularly in West Asia that can negatively affect the all-out campaign against world drug problem. Therefore, it requires serious attention by the global community.

**Ladies and gentlemen,**

Allow me to begin the reporting of my country's measures and activities with a verse from the Holy Quran which states that whoever saves a human life indeed saves all the mankind. This divine command has been the guideline of the measures taken by the Islamic Republic of Iran taking into account the wellbeing and prosperity of all humans regardless of their religion, gender, color, race and nationality.

In line with its all-out campaign against world drug problem, the Islamic Republic of Iran succeeded in 2021 to carry out approximately 5,000 operations and armed confrontation to dismantle more than 2,300 armed drug trafficking rings and active local, regional and international networks, and inflict major blows to the financial backbone of drug traffickers in line with the relevant money-laundering rules and regulations of the Islamic Republic of Iran. During these operations, approximately 1,100 tons of different types of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances including 62 tons of heroin and morphine, 835 tons of opium, 125 tons of hashish and approximately 25 tons of metham-phetamine (ice) were seized and phased out of the global cycle of illicit drug trade.

Last year, 14 members of the Iranian law enforcement agencies were martyred in combating narcotic drugs and 26 others in fighting bandits and terrorist elements.

Maintaining the existing anti-drug campaign capacity and continuing effective combat against massive drug trafficking networks by the Islamic Republic of Iran are dependent on receiving appropriate international support.

In accordance with the principle of common and shared responsibility, it is necessary for the international community, the UNODC and beneficiary states to effectively support Iran's anti-drug campaign given its benefits for the destination countries of illicit trafficking drugs. The supply of modern equipment for boosting border control and analyzing, intercepting and discovering of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances as well as laboratories, the transfer of required technology for monitoring drug traffickers, technical assistance and equipment required for watching drug trafficking and distribution networks in the virtual space and dark net, helping the prohibition of illicit financial flows and crypto currencies generated by drug dealers, intelligence cooperation of international internet providers in exchanging information related to drug trafficking and distributing networks are only some of the primary requirements of my country, the absence of which would have an impact our campaign against international illicit drug trafficking .

Based on its balanced strategy aimed at saving the lives of victims and those harmed by narcotic drugs, and with the objective of boosting individual and collective responsibility among various social groups and preventing drug addiction in target environments, the Islamic Republic of Iran has formulated and executed upon the directives of the President, a strategic plan known as *helpers of life*.

The Islamic Republic of Iran has undertaken extensive measures in line with advancing a society-based strategy to reduce demands for illicit drugs. These measures include the establishment of treatment and rehabilitation centers for women, supporting relevant civil society and NGOs, boosting the participation of the youth in preventing and addressing illicit drugs use and formulating extensive programs for training children, young adults and the youth at schools and universities.

It should be noted that 9,002 authorized treatment and harms reduction clinics provided relevant services to 1,413,075 persons in 2021.

Considering Iran's capacity and advances in drug demand reduction, and establishing treatment and rehabilitation centers and adopting scientific approaches

to reduce demand for illicit drug use, the Islamic Republic of Iran stands ready to exchange experiences and good practices, hold training workshops and participate in joint scientific and research projects with UNODC, relevant international organizations and interested countries.

### **Ladies and gentlemen**

Speaking of major causes and challenges leading to the spread of drugs in West Asia and the world, one can refer to the presence of trans-regional powers, the nexus between drugs and terrorism, lack of proper responsibility by certain countries and international circles, lack of proper precursor control and failure to detect and effectively confront financial flows of international smugglers.

According to the UNODC report in 2021, drug cultivation and production has increased in Afghanistan. Moreover, the country has turned into the focal point for the production and trafficking in ice (metham-phetamine) due to the lack of attention to the precursor flow. I deem it necessary to warn against precursor transit and smuggling from Europe and other countries towards Afghanistan. Serious and immediate action and oversight are necessary in this regard.

Despite numerous UN instruments and repeated emphasis on the principle of common and shared responsibility, Iran, as the flagbearer of the fight against illicit drugs and terrorist threats and host of several millions of refugees in the region, has enjoyed minimum international support. Therefore, the United Nations is required to present an effective and inclusive executive plan to contain the production and cultivation of opiates and resolve the destructive scourge of narcotic drugs.

In this respect, the UNODC efforts to formulate a policy document “Strategic Stability Grid” is commendable and we hope that more efforts are focused on, budgeting, finalization and implementation of executive plans under this document. The Islamic Republic of Iran is prepared to strengthen its cooperation with other countries and particularly with the countries of the region, the UNODC and other international organizations to assist the people of Afghanistan and address and counter the world drug problem within the framework of Regional Programme For Afghanistan And Neighbouring Countries and other regional and international initiatives.

**Mr. Chairman,**

Allow me to draw your attention to the issue of sanctions. The United Nations in numerous resolutions has condemned selective approaches as well as the imposition of unilateral coercive measures such as unilateral sanctions. The measures by certain countries in imposing tyrannical sanctions against Iran, politicizing international cooperation and disrupting Iran's relentless fight against international drug networks is tantamount to the flagrant violation of international law, human rights and UN resolutions.

In conclusion, I wish to propose the following:

- Rendering full financial, technical and logistical support to the countries in the frontline of countering international drug trafficking.
- Promoting full cooperation among countries of origin, production, transit and destination for precursor shipments to combat diversion and illicit use of such substances for the production of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances;
- Targeting financial flows related to the drug trade using all the existing capacity;
- Reviewing and adopting an effective approach and executive plan by the United Nations and paying serious attention to alternative cultivation as well as sustainable development and livelihood in Afghanistan in accordance with the recent realities and developments.

**Thank you for your kind attention.**