



# **ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN**

PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS  
AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS  
JAURÈSGASSE 3, 1030 VIENNA

## **Statement**

**By**

**H.E. Kazem Gharibabadi, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the  
Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations Office  
and other International Organizations  
in Vienna**

**Before**

**The Joint Meeting of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and  
the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice**

**Vienna, 3 December 2020**

*In the Name of Allah, the Most Compassionate, the Most Merciful*

**Distinguished co-chairs,  
Executive Director,  
Dear Colleagues,**

My delegation would like to appreciate distinguished Ambassadors of Pakistan and Brazil for their co-chairpersonship of the joint meeting of the two Commissions. We also take note with appreciation of the preparations made by the Secretariat for this joint meeting, especially during this challenging time of COVID-19.

While associating itself with the statement delivered by distinguished Ambassador of the Philippines on behalf of G-77 and China, my delegation would like to put forward the following comments in its national capacity.

Our struggle against the COVID19 virus is far from over. The full recovery will be time consuming and painstaking, and requires our unyielding solidarity and devotion. It is hugely and unprecedentedly affecting societies and economies at their core. Immediate development responses in this crisis must be undertaken with an eye to the future. In this connection, we believe that UNODC should play its crucial role to deal with Member State's needs, challenges and opportunities during the pandemic.

The Islamic Republic of Iran attaches great importance to a strategy, which would ultimately enhance UNODC efforts in fulfilling its mandate, strengthen its capacity and realize its main objectives aimed at assisting member states in preventing and combating crime and drugs more efficiently and effectively. To achieve that noble goal, we are of the view that it is essential that the Strategy and also its implementation programme be strictly within the mandate of the UNODC and be developed and finalized in close consultation with Member States in an intergovernmental, open, transparent and all-inclusive manner, so as to receive the widest supports from all Member States, in particular, for its follow-up and implementation. In this regard, we appreciate the Executive Director for presenting the UNODC draft Strategy for 2021-2025.

We underscore the importance and active role of FINGOV and consider it as a valuable apparatus for cultivating prolific consultations and communications between Member States and the Secretariat in matters related to the UNODC. We welcome extension of the mandate of this working group for one year through the joint meeting of the two Commissions. However, we firmly believe that during this period, member states should work on the modalities with regard to the content and format of FINGOV work and further extension of its mandate including through establishing a standing working group.

**Distinguished co-chairs,**

While stressing the significance of availability of adequate, foreseeable and unwavering funding for UNODC to boost providing technical assistances and capacity building to developing countries, upon their request, we note with concern the challenges that the UNODC is facing due to the shortfall in general purpose funding and underlining funding trends affecting the Office ability to efficiently and independently uphold core programmatic functions. In this regard, we request the Office to redouble its efforts to ensure that adequate financial and logistical resources are allocated to promoting the capacity and efficiency of the Field Offices, aiming at the full implementation of the UNODC country and regional programmes.

We also emphasize on the necessity for UNODC to augment effectiveness of its technical assistance programmes and activities, in close consultations with and guidance received from the Member States. In this context, I should remind that several member states are facing challenges which undermine their capacities to fight drugs and crimes. Despite the fact that response to and recovery from COVID-19 requires global solidarity and international cooperation, we continue to witness the use of unilateral sanctions, especially of secondary and extraterritorial implications by the US which are in flagrant breach of the UN charter, international law and international human rights law.

Finally, we renew our request to the Executive Director to present a comprehensive action plan for equitable geographical representation in the UNODC to the coming formal meetings of the CND and CCPCJ. In this regard, we

also appeal FINGOV to continue on a standing agenda item, on a regular basis, to evaluate the progress made by the Office in improving representation from developing countries. In this context, we note that developing countries are either unrepresented or underrepresented in the Secretariat of the UNODC, particularly at the professional, senior and policy-making levels. We believe that the principle of equitable geographical representation should be applied to posts within the UN Secretariat regardless of the source of funding.

**Thank you for your attention.**