

In the name of Allah, the Compassionate, the Merciful

Statement of the Prosecutor-General of the Islamic Republic of Iran

Before

**The United Nations Fourteenth Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal
Justice**

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High-level Segment (Online Format)

Mr. President,

At the outset, I would like to congratulate you on your deserved election and also to commend the dedicated efforts of the Host Country and the Secretariat of the Congress in convening this unique and influential event. The Islamic Republic of Iran attaches great importance to the Congress and its unparalleled role in bolstering a collective response to the pressing challenge of crime.

Dear colleagues

Throughout the recent years, the Islamic Republic of Iran has enhanced its efforts in strengthening the rule of law and promoting sustainable development through, *inter alia*, adopting solid legal frameworks and robust crime prevention approaches. The Islamic Republic of Iran has passed and updated legislations and regulations in countering various forms of crime as well as effectively engaged in international cooperation in criminal matters with view to reinvigorating the fight against crimes while having due regard to the fundamental norms and principles of criminal justice. Such efforts have been determining and fruitful, in particular in combating heinous crimes such as trafficking in human and drug trafficking and also in diminishing extremism and eliminating terrorist groups like ISIS.

Distinguished colleagues,

Despite the remarkable progresses we all have made since the Doha Congress, we are still facing formidable challenges. Crimes are becoming more complex, diversified and transnational; criminals are expanding their malicious activities, in particular, utilizing advanced technologies and terrorism remains as a threat to the international peace and security. A vigorous international cooperation constitutes a vital component for overcoming such challenges. This is the very purpose of the United Nations Charter.

This Congress, as the utmost expression of multilateralism in preventing and combating crimes, is an appropriate setting to promote international cooperation and to address the challenges that we face in this endeavour. In this respect, we express our serious concern regarding the imposition and persistence of the Unilateral Coercive Measures by the American regime, which are flagrant violation of the fundamental principles of international law. The Unilateral Coercive Measures have been promulgated and imposed to purposefully stymie international cooperation and development of independent nations, in particular, the great Iranian nation.

As such, it is incumbent upon us all to once again demonstrate our unwavering adherence to the rule of law at the international level by rejecting and condemning the Unilateral Coercive Measures that continue to erode the foundations of lawfulness.

Mr. President,

In conclusion, I would like to reaffirm the commitments of the Islamic Republic of Iran in preventing and combating crimes and reiterate our support to the works of the Congress in reinforcing international cooperation in fighting crimes and in advancing sustainable development for this purpose. In this context, we highlight the Declaration of the Congress and, with due respect to the cultural and social values as well as the diversity of legal systems, emphasize that any measure taken to implement the Declaration must be fully compliant with the fundamental principles of international law so as to ensure that criminal justice propels all towards the realization of rights and perfection of humanity.

I thank you