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Statement by
H.E. Mr. Seyyed Ali Kazemi,
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the Focal Point for the United Nations Convention against Corruption
Before
The Tenth Conference of States Parties to the United Nations Convention
against Corruption
(11-15 Dec 2023, Atlanta)

In The Name of Allah; The Most Compassionate; The Most Merciful

Mr. President; Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

At the outset, as the head of Iranian delegation, I would like to express my appreciation to the Arab Republic of Egypt for their abled leadership of the Conference over the past two years. I would like to thank the Secretariat for their tireless efforts made in preparation of the session. We attach great importance to the work of the Conference in fighting corruption.

Celebrating the 20th anniversary of the United Nations Convention against Corruption, the Conference of States Parties remains a valuable opportunity for renewing commitments to the purposes of the Convention, reinvigorating international cooperation in fighting corruption and collaborating in sharing best practices, experiences, and provision of technical assistance tailored to the needs and priorities of requesting States, so as to step up our collective efforts in effectively preventing and combating corruption.

Affording the widest measures of cooperation to recovery and return of stolen assets to the country of origin, as the fundamental principle and one of the most important purposes of the Convention, and assistance with a view to removing barriers to the return of assets is crucial between State Parties. This will in turn, play an important role in prevention of corruption as this would dissuade criminals from committing corruption offences, and send an unambiguous signal to criminals that they do not have any safe haven.

Distinguished colleagues;

Continuing our national efforts in accelerating progress in the implementation of the Convention, under the guiding principles of the review mechanism, the Islamic Republic of Iran has actively participated in the review mechanism. Recently, a country visit was held in Tehran with the participation of experts from the Republic of Armenia and Palestine accompanied by the UNODC experts. Taking into account the outcomes of reviewing of the second and fifth chapter of the Convention, the Islamic Republic of Iran, on the basis of its domestic legal system has designed comprehensive measures in implementing the commitments set forth in the Convention.

To further strengthen our legal frameworks in fighting corruption multiple draft legislations have been submitted to the parliament and are in the process of adoption which include the bill on “Managing the Conflict of Interests”, the bill on “Transparency”, the bill on “Protecting Reporting Persons of Corruption”, the bill on “International Judicial Cooperation”, and the bill on “Recovery of Assets”. In addition, our “National Comprehensive Strategy against Corruption” is also in the process of drafting.

Mr. President,

Despite the efforts made in combating corruption, the Islamic Republic of Iran still faces certain international challenges and barriers, in particular in the recovery of assets. The Unilateral Coercive Measures imposed by a certain State Party which are flagrant violation of the fundamental principles of international law and principles set forth within the Charter of the United Nations continue to impede international cooperation in fighting corruption while inflicting severe harms upon the Iranian people. Such internationally wrongful acts must be terminated, and states should refrain from aiding or abetting in such gross violations of international law.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

We cannot and should not lose sight of the widespread and systematic attacks of the occupying Israeli regime in Palestine and the ruthless massacre of thousands of Palestinians, including women and children which has also resulted in severe catastrophic situation in Gaza. Unfortunately, Palestinians continue to be subjected to the longest systematic gross violations of human rights and humanitarian law under a military apartheid regime supported by certain western countries. It is incumbent upon the international community as a whole to stop the occupying Israeli regime and its supporters from committing further international crimes while fully holding it accountable for the war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide it perpetrates against Palestinian People.

Distinguished delegates;

To conclude my remarks, I would like to, once again, reiterate the commitment of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the purposes of the UNCAC and express our readiness to strengthen international cooperation with a view to realizing the very purpose of the Convention in fighting corruption. We also underline the role of UNODC and the necessity for the efficient use of its capacities in this regard.

Thank you.