



ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN

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

Statement

By

Mr. Mohammad Reza Ghaebi

**Deputy Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to
UN and Other International Organization**

Before

**10th Session of the Conference of the State Parties to the UNTOC
(Vienna, 12-16 October, 2020)**

Agenda item 1(f): General Discussion

In the Name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful

Mr. Chairperson,

Executive Secretary,

Dear Colleagues,

At the outset, I would like to express my appreciation for your able and active stewardship in leading the Conference. I would also like to thank the Executive Secretary and her team in the UNODC for their tireless and devoted efforts in convening this important meeting.

The Islamic Republic of Iran, as one of the signatories to the Convention attaches importance to the Conference and views it a fitting occasion to bolster and support States' efforts in combating transnational organized crime.

Mr. Chairperson,

The Islamic Republic of Iran, despite serious international impediments posed by illegal and unilateral sanctions, has consistently made effort to effectively disrupt and dismantle organized criminal groups at the domestic , regional and international levels. In addition to domestic efforts such as amending legal frameworks in line with international standards, the Islamic Republic of Iran, has maintained its determining role in combating transnational organized crimes, in particular, trafficking in persons, smuggling of migrant and drug trafficking in the West Asia and in this regard continues its activities and cooperation at the regional and international levels.

We underline a genuine collective response to transnational organized crimes and in this regard emphasize on effective international cooperation in a non-politicized context. We are of the view that lack of such cooperation not only weakens efforts of Member States in this scourge, but also undermine the rule of law and hinder sustainable development.

Mr. Chairperson,

Recalling article 4 of the Convention, we reiterate that the fight against transnational organized crime should be consistent with the fundamental principles of international law and principles set forth within the Charter of the United Nations, in particular, sovereign equality and non-intervention.

The Islamic Republic of Iran notes the importance of the review mechanism in assisting member states to effectively prevent and combat transnational organized crimes and reiterate that such review should be taken fully in line with the Guiding Principles of the Mechanism, in particular, its principles of non-intrusiveness and impartiality and that, accordingly, the review shall be non-adversarial, non-punitive and should not produce any ranking. That being said, we remain circumspect with regard to any proposal that might undermine such basic principles.

Mr. Chairperson,

We express our concern regarding increasing use of ICT for criminal purposes and in this respect emphasize on elaboration of a universal and comprehensive international legal framework under the auspices of the United Nations to address such pressing challenges and provide a sound context to effectively respond to exponentially sophisticating *modi operandi* of criminals.

Mr. Chairperson

The Unilateral Coercive Measures, which flagrantly violate the fundamental principles of international law and grossly infringe Article 4 of the Convention as

well as its underlying purpose in promoting cooperation among states, impaired international cooperation in combating transnational organized crimes, prevents effective remedy for victims of organized crime and stymies allocation of essential resources for fighting such crimes. These illegal measures would only embolden organized criminal groups to expand their criminal activities and jeopardize the rule of law at the regional and international levels.

In this context, we deem removal of the Unilateral Coercive Measures crucial in effectively countering transnational organized crime and achieving the very purpose of the Convention; to that end, we are all under the obligation to remove such impediments that encroach upon the Convention and defeat its purpose.

I thank you Mr. Chairperson,