

**بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ**

**Statement by**

**Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran**

**Before**

**10<sup>th</sup> Session of the Conference of the State Parties to the UNTOC**

**(Vienna, 12-16 October, 2020)**

**Agenda item 2: Review of the Implementation of UNTOC and the protocols thereto**

**In the Name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful**

**Mr. Chairman**

I would like to commence by expressing gratitude for your active leadership of the Conference and also for the UNODC commendable efforts in bringing us all together.

We note the efforts of the open-ended intergovernmental expert group established by resolution 9/1 in preparing the guidelines and self-assessment questionnaires related to the review mechanism.

**Mr. Chairman**

We recall that the Conference was established to improve capacity of States to combat transnational organized crime and to review implementation of the Convention, pursuant to which the procedures and rules for the review has been developed. In this regard, we highlight the central and main role of the Conference in administering the review process within its mandates.

We emphasize that the review process, as set forth in resolution 9/1, should be aimed at fulfillment of the purpose of the Convention in promoting cooperation to prevent and combat transnational organized crime more effectively as well as at improving capacity of States taking into account challenges they face in implementing and utilizing the Convention.

The Islamic Republic of Iran further recalls that the Review Mechanism was established by the Conference pursuant to, among others, Article 4, paragraph 1, of the Convention which provides that States shall carry out their obligations under the Convention in a manner consistent with the principles of sovereign equality and territorial integrity of States and that of non-intervention in the domestic affairs of other States.

That being said, we are of the conviction that these fundamental principles of international law, in particular, constitute the bedrock of the review mechanism and therefore should be fully observed at all stages of review processes. In this respect, we reaffirm the guiding principles and characteristics of the Mechanism adopted by the Conference which stipulate that the Mechanism shall, inter alia, be non-intrusive, impartial, non-adversarial and non-punitive, shall not produce any form of ranking and shall not serve as an instrument for interfering in the domestic affairs of States parties. The Islamic Republic of Iran remains circumspect to proposals that might undermine these consensually-adopted guiding principles.

The Islamic Republic of Iran believes that the technical and non-political nature of the review mechanism along with full observance of the guiding principles of the Mechanism would encourage States Parties to more effectively engage with the review process which in turn would be highly conducive in bolstering States' efforts in combatting transnational organized crime.

To that end, we look forward to the launch of the review mechanism by the Conference and expect the Conference to initiate the Mechanism with a view to ensure full realization of the underlying purpose of the Convention in promoting international cooperation.