

Statement

By

**Representative of the Islamic Republic of
Iran before**

**Working Group on Smuggling of Migrants
(Vienna, 8-9 September 2020)**

Mr. Chairman,

- At the outset, my delegation would like to congratulate you as the chair of this important session. I am confident that, under your able leadership, the present session would result in successful outcome. I would also like to express my appreciation to the Secretariat for its hard work in preparing for this session.
- Smuggling of Migrants and Trafficking in Persons are global challenges with raising numbers of victims; as such it requires a determined response at national and international levels. In recent years, this issue has been standing high on the agenda of international dialogues, thus requiring serious thought and decisions by all governments and policymakers.
- In time, use of technological tools by criminals has not only diversified such crimes, leading to more sophisticated manifestations of criminal activities, but also increased the number of cases worldwide. Unfortunately, the Covid-19 pandemic has only contributed to creating new opportunities for organized criminal groups. So, now more than ever, we need to step up our efforts to identify collective solutions for combating SOM.
- Smuggling of Migrants and Human Trafficking are both sources and aftermaths of conflict and instability, particularly affecting most vulnerable populations. These phenomena must be addressed comprehensively, including by taking a close look at its root causes. Underlying factors, particularly foreign aggression and intervention, occupation, war and protracted conflicts, political instability, terrorism,

genocide, ethnic cleansing and unilateral coercive measures create conditions under which millions of people become displaced in their own countries or seek refuge overseas in a quest for safety, stability and opportunity. These journeys can themselves put migrants at great risk of falling victim to human trafficking, forced labor and contemporary forms of slavery.

- One of the significant challenges in combating Smuggling of Migrants is unilateral coercive measures, imposed by a certain state against some countries, which are contrary to the fundamental principles of international law, including the principles set forth within the charter of the UN. They have impaired allocation of sufficient resources to our fight against crime and have further hindered our cooperation with the other countries in the region on criminal matters.

Mr. Chair,

- We are of the view that dealing with these original causes is the primary responsibility of relevant international organizations, including UNODC. These bodies should not choose to focus on symptoms. If they do, it will certainly fail to address them in a proper manner. We believe that efficiency in combating smuggling of migrants and trafficking in persons could be achieved by a comprehensive and coherent approach to the phenomenon of migration through dialogue and cooperation at all levels.
- With regard to the crucial role of international and regional cooperation in fighting against international organized crime, Islamic Republic of Iran has been considering working alongside with the neighbouring states, in partnership with the Global Action to Prevent and Address Trafficking in Persons and the Smuggling of Migrants, also known as GLO.ACT.

Mr. Chair,

- We do believe that addressing root causes, prevention, protection of victims, prosecution of traffickers and partnership at the global level must be the pillars of any comprehensive approach in combating Smuggling of Migrants and Trafficking in Persons. In fact, this is shared responsibility of all states in international cooperation for fighting with these crimes.

- There is an urgent need to scale up international cooperation, including capacity building as well as technical assistance to combat smuggling of Migrants. Meanwhile, education and awareness-raising on smuggling of Migrants and human trafficking should form an integral part of our policies in countries of origin, transit and destination. People who knowingly or inadvertently use the services provided by trafficked persons are in as much need of training as those who are at the risk of being trafficked.

I thank you for your attention