



ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN

PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS
AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS
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Statement

By

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to the United Nations and other International Organizations**

Before

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Review Group - CAC**

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In the Name of Allah, the Compassionate, the Merciful

Please, check against delivery

Madam Chair,

Excellencies,

Distinguished Delegates,

Let me begin by congratulating you, Madam Chair, on your election to preside over this session. I would like to assure you of my delegation's continued full cooperation and support at this session. I would also like to express my delegation's gratitude to the Secretariat for their work, including preparation and circulation of the relevant documents.

Madam Chair,

Islamic Republic of Iran attaches great importance to the implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption and its review mechanism. We are of the view that the Implementation Review Mechanism has had a positive impact on the fight against corruption at the domestic, regional as well as international level. In this context, while recognizing that each State party must determine its own way of enhancing the implementation of its obligations against corruption, there is also a clear need to specify successes, good practices, challenges, and technical assistance needs to promote the efficiency of actions at

the domestic level in one hand, and international cooperation on the other.

Madam Chair,

Islamic Republic of Iran and many other countries are undergoing their second cycle review on the implementation of chapters II on preventive measures and V on asset recovery. Both review cycles could pave the way for and facilitate possible cooperation and collaboration among States parties and their enforcement agencies.

Due to the commitments of the State parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption, fighting corruption in all forms and at all levels and repatriation of funds of illicit origin could be as priorities for all States. To achieve this noble goal, a cooperation framework with financial institutions such as banks, insurance companies and other relevant institutions could be initiated in line with the resolution 6/2 of the conference of the States parties to the Convention in order to use their influences to facilitate tracing, detecting, freezing, seizure, confiscation, investigation and returning of stolen assets to the original countries.

Madam Chair,

Taking into account the priority areas for technical assistance identified during the course of the implementation review mechanism in each country, the Islamic Republic of Iran has cooperated and concluded a country partnership program for 2015-2019 with the UNODC and we welcome exchanging cooperation and experiences in this regard. This program is made up of four Sub-Programs as following:

- Border Management and illicit trafficking outcomes;
- Crime, corruption and criminal justice outcomes;
- Drug use prevention, treatment, rehabilitation, and HIV care;
- and
- Alternative livelihoods and sustainable development outcomes.

Madam Chair,

Let me brief the room on our findings during the first review cycle. As a preliminary observation on the implementation of Chapter III of the Convention, the Islamic Republic of Iran has a wide scope of coverage for “public official”, it includes “any public employee or official, whether being judicial or administrative, councils, municipalities, or generally speaking the three branches of Government as well as Armed Forces or public companies or

organizations affiliated with the Government and/or those assigned to public services, being it official or non-official (...)"

In general, the following successes and good practices are recognized in implementing Chapter III of the Convention in the Islamic Republic of Iran:

- Extensive efforts undertaken by different organizations to compile relevant data and statistics;
- With regard to article 23 of the Convention, the Iranian Anti-Money Laundering Act provides for an “all-crimes approach” for related offences, including prosecuting them in case of being committed abroad;
- Comprehensive measures taken in relation to the establishment of liability of legal persons;
- Establishment of a dedicated body, the Judiciary Complex for Economic Affairs, consisting of experienced judges and prosecutors, to take on cases pertinent to economic crimes;
- Efforts to raise awareness, train and encourage reporting by public officials;
- Active engagement with national stakeholders, in particular the private sector;

- Establishment of several centres dealing with complaints and reports by any person or entity of irregularities or misconduct carried out by public officials;
- And most recently, agreement of the supreme leadership with the request of the Chief of the Judiciary to establish ad hoc court branches to deal with economic offences and corruption, with emphasize on justice.

The following successes and good practices have also been recognized in respect of the implementation of chapter IV of the Convention in the Islamic Republic of Iran:

- Conclusion of a number of bilateral extradition agreements;
- Establishing an ad hoc operational framework in dealing with international cooperation requests based on the Convention in the Ministry of Justice as the designated competent authority;
- Considering the Convention as the legal basis for extradition in practice;

Madam Chair,

In this context, while we are increasingly taking different steps to further strengthen existing anti-corruption measures and cooperation, we would welcome exchanging the best practices and lessons learned; model legislation, agreements or arrangements including in mutual legal assistance, enhancing law enforcement

cooperation, use of modern technology as a response to corruption offences, and establishment of joint investigative bodies. The Islamic Republic of Iran is of the firm conviction that international cooperation in investigating, prosecuting, and extradition of criminals who steal the assets of the private or public sectors and flee to safe heavens that are members to the CAC, is of paramount importance and a necessity to prove our compliance with the obligations under the Convention.

Madam Chair,

Despite the above - mentioned endeavors, the Islamic Republic of Iran continues its efforts to identify risk areas, possible challenges and positions vulnerable to corruption in order to mitigate the risks. My delegation would like to strongly emphasize on inter-governmental nature of the Review mechanism, and the necessity to preserve and respect it. Iran appreciates the efforts made by UNCAC member states and UNODC at Implementation Review Group sessions aimed at steering the process of review mechanism through offering guidance, exchanging experiences and holding training courses and declares its full support for such activities.

I thank you Madam Chair.