

Statement of the representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran
Before
14th Session of Working Group of Government Experts on
“Technical Assistance”
Under
Agenda Item 3: Technical assistance needs in the prevention of
organized crime
(29 - 30 May 2023, Vienna)

In the Name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful

Let me begin by thanking the chair and appreciating the Secretariat for its hard work in preparing this important session.

Mr. Chair,

One of the main purposes of the United Nations Convention against transnational organized crime and its protocols is to promote, facilitate and support technical assistance in the prevention of and fight against crimes. In this regard, we are of the firm belief that appropriate, timely and focused technical assistance based on the needs of States and provided through the United Nations, in particular, UNODC, would enable authorities to prevent and combat crime and criminals in a more, comprehensive, effective and sustained manner.

We are of the view that for technical assistance programs to be more targeted and productive; It should be taken into consideration domestic regulations, priorities, and challenges of States in relevant areas pertinent to prevent and combat organized crime. Such approaches in providing technical assistance ensure successful cooperation among States conducive to counter crime effectively and efficiently, and would help States to identify specific needs for technical assistance and to promote and facilitate the provision of

technical assistance, upon their request, which enables the implementation of national institutions' strategies in the field of combating transnational organized crime.

Mr. Chair,

Crime changes with time and circumstances. As society develops, crime develops. New technologies facilitate social development and also do the same to crimes. These technologies, which undoubtedly have a significant role in the changes in our society, are constantly being exploited by both criminals and crime fighters. New technologies provide crime fighters with crime control tools and criminals with crime-enhancing tools; Criminals use new technologies to facilitate and maximize criminal activities, even across international borders, while crime fighters use new technologies to do the opposite. It is important to consider new technologies to support crime prevention generally and crime control by crime fighters to minimize or control criminal activities in order to serve society.

Applied intelligently, technology can change and improve the practices of crime fighters. Combatting all forms of transnational organized crime requires new technologies in particular for developing countries to address and combat the negative consequences of the crimes which committed through new technologies.

In this respect, criminal use of information and communication technology by criminals has appeared as a pressing challenge and has posed serious threats to societies which needs particular attention by States including through technical assistance as well as transfer of technologies. We are of the view that a context-specific and targeted technical assistance in responding to this challenge would entail, upon their request, supporting States in adapting to

ever-evolving modus operandi of criminals and providing material support, equipment, training and shared knowledge and practices in area of information and communication technologies and countering criminal use of such technologies. In this regard, we firmly underscore the need to support developing countries, including inter alia through technical assistance, and transfer of new knowledge and technology, to help strengthen their capacity building by considering the priorities and needs of these countries, upon their request.

Mr. Chair,

Technical assistance necessitates provisions of required equipment, material support, and technology to law enforcement and judicial authorities through politically neutral and reliable technical assistance. In this regard, the challenges, and barriers, in particular, the Unilateral Coercive Measures such as unilateral sanctions that undermine the ability of states to effectively fight against these crimes should be removed in achieving the objectives of the Convention and its protocols, with a view to assisting developing countries affected by such internationally wrongful acts which are in conflict with the UN Charter and applicable international law.

In conclusion, we highlight the important role of UNODC in facilitating cooperation and delivering such technical assistance to State, upon their request and based on their needs and priorities. We also appreciate UNODC for works done thus far in promoting country-led and context-specific technical assistance.

Thank you!