ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN

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

Statement

By

Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran

Before

The fifteenth session of the Implementation Review Group


(10 and 14 June 2024)
At the outset, my delegation would like to thank the Secretariat for the commendable efforts made to support the work during this session. The Islamic Republic of Iran attaches great importance to the IRG, as the only appropriate body, for discussing matters related to the review mechanism and its challenges.

Distinguished Colleagues,

The Islamic Republic of Iran, as an active party to the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC), highly values the review mechanism of the Convention as an effective tool to assist states parties in implementing the Convention. It also serves as a mean to identify gaps and specific needs, trigger legislative amendments, and more importantly, facilitate the provision of technical assistance in the prevention and fight against corruption.

Bearing in mind that the Mechanism should take into account the levels of development of States parties, as well as the diversity of judicial, legal, political, economic and social systems and differences in legal traditions. In the course of country reviews, efforts should be made to ensure that recommendations are consistent with the provisions of the Convention and do not go beyond its scope. We are of the firm belief that the follow-up phase of the Mechanism should consider whether the technical assistance have been provided, based on the identified priorities, when reviewing the implementation of recommendations.

The Islamic Republic of Iran remains steadfast in its commitment to the objectives of the UNCAC. We have undertaken substantial efforts to harmonize our domestic law with the Convention's provisions, enhance institutional capacities, and foster a culture of transparency and accountability. Iran has taken several key measures, including:

1. **Legislative amendments**: various laws and regulations has been amended and enacted to strengthen the legal framework in order to effectively fight against corruption. These include imposing appropriate penalties for corrupt activities and implementing enhanced measures to improve
transparency in public procurement. Our Parliament has recently adopted the Act on "Protection of Reporting Persons" on December 5, 2023, in line with Article 33 of the Convention which is available on our parliament's website.

Furthermore, in line with the "Act on Transparency and Supervision on the Financing of Electoral Activities in the Islamic Parliament Elections" (adopted in 2019), we have launched the Election Financing System for transparent financing of candidates in the parliamentary elections. Accordingly, the candidates have to provide a record of the expenses of their campaign. Failure to provide the records would be considered a violation of the law.

2. **Activities to strengthen institutions**: in bolstering the capacities of our anti-corruption bodies to ensure their independent and effective operation, the General Inspection Organization and other relevant institutions have been mandated and empowered to investigate and prosecute corruption cases rigorously.

3. **International Cooperation**: Iran has actively participated in international forums and has been enhancing cooperation with other States Parties and the UNODC in the fight against corruption. We have engaged in mutual legal assistance, asset recovery, extradition, and exchange of best practices, to make full use of the capacities of the UNCAC as a legally binding international instrument.

4. **Public Awareness and Education**: Recognizing the significance of public participation, Iran has been launching extensive awareness campaigns and educational programs to cultivate a culture of integrity and ethics among public officials and citizens.

**Distinguished colleagues,**

We reiterate that the Review Mechanism should be in accordance with the Terms of Reference and conducted in a spirit of constructive collaboration, dialogue and mutual trust. This Mechanism can provide valuable insights into the effectiveness of national anti-corruption measures and identify areas for

1https://rc.majlis.ir/fa/law/show/1797478
improvement. Through the Review Mechanism, Iran has taken targeted actions, based on the identified gaps, in order to further strengthen its anti-corruption framework. Also, the collaborative nature of the review process has fostered stronger ties between Iran and other state parties, facilitating the exchange of knowledge and expertise.

While significant progress has been made, challenges remain. Iran acknowledges the need for continuous improvement and is committed to addressing these impediments and barriers specifically in capacity building and resource allocation.

However, the roots of these impediments and barriers have to be addressed. The Unilateral Coercive Measures, being systematically imposed and/or maintained, flagrantly violate the fundamental principles of international law and grossly infringe upon Article 4 of the Convention as well as its underlying purpose of promoting cooperation among State Parties. These measures have aggravated the situation and impaired international cooperation in implementing the Convention, prevented effective measures and stymied allocation of essential resources for fighting the corruption. These illegal measures only embolden criminals to expand their corruptive activities and jeopardize the rule of law, transparency, integrity, and accountability at the regional and international levels. To this end, the removal of all these measures is of high priority and urgency in effectively countering corruption and achieving the purposes of the Convention, especially in the new decade of implementation of the Convention.

Last but not least, the Islamic Republic of Iran reaffirms its unwavering commitment to the principles and objectives of the United Nations Convention against Corruption. We are grateful to UNODC for their efforts in assisting States to advance country reviews, organizing country visits and meetings, and facilitating the finalization of relevant documentations despite their limited resources; and also, pledge to continue our efforts to countering corruption.

Thank you!