

STATEMENT

BY

**The Representative of the
THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN**

BEFORE THE

**SIXTEENTH SESSION OF
COMMISSION ON CRIME PREVENTION AND
CRIMINAL JUSTICE**

ON AGENDA ITEM 3(b)

**Effective crime prevention and criminal justice responses to combat
sexual exploitation of children**

**VIENNA
23-27 April 2007**

In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful

At the outset, my Delegation would like to congratulate you and your colleagues at the Bureau on your election. My Delegation also wishes to extend its congratulations to the secretariat of the UNODC for the excellent arrangement of this session.

My Delegation fully endorses the statement read by distinguished Ambassador of Sudan on behalf of G77 and China.

Mr. Chairman,

Sexual exploitation of children is a serious violation of their fundamental human rights and has devastating psychological and physical consequences for children. The root causes of this calamity are socio-economic and cultural factors, such as lack of education, family breakdown, urban-rural migration, lack of economic opportunity and poverty that make young people particularly susceptible to sexual exploitation.

Another acute danger to children stems from child pornography on the Internet. The Internet, on account of its increasing numbers of users, the anonymity it offers and its ease of use, poses a dangerous threat to children. Special attention should be paid to the problem of sexual exploitation of children online. The information technology industry should seek to counter such crime by raising awareness and setting new protection standards.

Children may also be forced or lured into the sex industry as a means of economic survival. Sadly that is fuelled by the rise of child sex tourism, where traveler from richer countries visits poorer countries to exploit children. It is obvious that in our modern world of sophisticated communications, no government can address the problem of sexual exploitation of children in isolation. The sexual exploitation (through trafficking, prostitution and child pornography) of minors is unremitting and knows no borders, whether geographical, cultural or social borders and there is a long way from halting its expansion. This will need the consolidated efforts and cooperation of all governments, international organizations, nongovernmental organizations, the media, religious groups, and communities to tackle the menace.

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation believes that acceding to the relevant international instruments dealing with combating sexual exploitation and abuse of children is a critical step toward fighting this inhuman act. Islamic Republic of Iran is a member of the following international instruments:

- Universal Declaration of Human Rights of 10 December 1948;
- International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights of 16 December 1966;
- International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights of 16 December 1966;
- Convention on The Right of the child of 20 November 1989;
- Convention concerning Forced or Compulsory Labour, 1930;
- Convention concerning the Abolition of Forced Labour, 1957;
- Convention concerning the prohibition and immediate action for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour, 1999.

Moreover, the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child -on the Sale of Children- Child Prostitution and Child Pornography of 25 May 2000 was recently approved by the relevant commissions of the Parliament and will be adopted in the plenary session of Parliament in the future.

The Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran and UNICEF have agreed on a five-year programme of cooperation for the period 2005-2009. The overall goal is to protect and realize the rights of the most vulnerable, marginalized and at-risk girls, boys and women in 12 selected districts. The programme also promotes the cooperation with the Government to develop, revise and enforce national legislation and policies that realize the rights of children. One of the important parts of the Programme is pertaining to the protection of child. The General strategy is promoting awareness, prevention and reaction to the child abuse and exploitation and strengthening legal protection of child in level of local and national community. Protection the rights of girls and boys of all ages in the home, in schools, and in the community is the practical purpose. Legal reform and policy development as well as preventing child abuse are key project components

The Islamic Republic of Iran in order to prevent and combat the sexual exploitation of children has also provided some effective measures in following legislations on the issue:

1-Islamic Criminal Code

2-Law on Punishment of the Persons involved in Illegitimate Audio-Video Activity (1994);

3- Regulation on the Protection of the Children without Parents (1974).

4- Trafficking in persons to and/or from Iranian territory for purposes of sexual exploitation and/or forced labor is criminalized in accordance with a specific legislation approved by the parliament in 2004.

Furthermore, extensive measures have been taken by related bodies including Iranian Welfare Organization to support victims and assist the vulnerable groups.

Mr. Chairman,

Fighting sex exploitation of children requires a coordinated holistic approach, taking into account all factors which may contribute to or associated with it. States should be assisted to adopt appropriate legislations, including measures to support and rehabilitate victims, on one hand, and to fight sex exploitation of children and to facilitate multilateral cooperation, e.g. through mutual legal assistance and law enforcement cooperation on the other. It is imperative, however, to bear in mind that the sexual exploitation of children could not effectively be suppressed unless demand for them is controlled. We should note that sex exploitation of children is a global concern and need to be taken seriously. Given that, an active campaign at global level shall be developed in order to target demand side of the problem. A more coordinated inter-agency cooperation among related specialized UN bodies including ILO, UNICEF and UNODC is also needed to make such an endeavor a success.

We also believe that the children that are victims of sexual exploitation must be identified and actively sought with a view to rehabilitation, and that assistance must be given to the victims, who must

leave behind their feelings of guilt and receive fair compensation for the damage done to them. There is paucity of programs for the rehabilitation and reintegration of child victims of sexual exploitation. Many child survivors of these practices require psycho-social counselling and life skills training.

Mr.Chairman,

While laws, policies and programmes exist to counter the Sexual exploitation of children, greater political will, more effective implementation measures, and adequate allocation of resources are needed to give effect to the spirit and letter of these laws, policies and programmes.

Thank you.

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