

***Text of the Statement
of
H.E. Mr. Ahamdi Moghaddam
the Secretary-General of Drug Control Headquarter (DCHQ) of the Islamic
Republic of Iran
Before the 53rd Session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs
Vienna-8 March 2010***

In the Name of God

*Mr. Chairman,
Distinguished delegates,*

Almost a year has passed since the adoption of the Political Declaration and the formulation of the Plan of Action by the High Level Segment of the fifty second Commission on Narcotic Drugs. Undoubtedly during this period, world countries have made efforts for materializing the objectives that emanate from the global resolve as envisaged in these two documents in proportionate with their conditions and capabilities. In spite of all such efforts, the problem of drugs still prevails. Despite the reduction of the land under cultivation, the amount of harvest has improved and the smuggling trend has not been undermined considerably. On the other hand cannabis cultivation has been reported in Afghanistan. In case the problem is not contained the situation will become more complicated in the region and it will even spread to other parts of the world. Based on the existing reports, the smuggling and consumption of synthetic drugs has been intensified at least in Asia and the problem of smuggling and addiction will become more critical in case the current trend continues.

*Mr. Chairman,
Distinguished participants,*

The efforts by the government of Afghanistan for eliminating cultivation in more provinces are laudable. But no effective measures have been reported for halting cultivation and production in areas where the huge amount of production makes up for the reduction of cultivation. Moreover, the operations by international forces such as NATO have not managed to disrupt the flow of drugs from Afghanistan to other countries. The resolutions calling for support as well as financial and technical assistance to the countries most affected by the negative and destructive impacts of drug trafficking are not implemented and have been limited to expression of sympathy and solidarity.

As announced by the UNODC in its report, the good news far outweighs the bad. I would like to seize the opportunity and inform you that despite such negative news, due to the measures carried out by Iran in its eastern borders that have been

visited by the UNODC Executive Director, H.E. Mr. Costa and some of his colleagues and the inauguration of new embankments in the western borders the passage of drugs to Europe is reduced. The reason for such a reduction lies in the heightened risk of transit of drugs through the Islamic Republic of Iran's territory in a way that 93% of the world opiate seizure takes place in Iran.

Mr. Chairman,

The Islamic Republic of Iran believes that it is not feasible to control the global and wide-spread problem of narcotic drugs and addiction without the practical cooperation and contribution of countries, based on the principal of shared responsibility and free from political pretexts.

In order to materialize this notion, the Islamic republic of Iran set as its priority cooperation with UN organizations particularly the UNODC and INCB based on recommendations made by the Political Declaration and its Action Plan. The approval of the law against money-laundering, enactment of the law against cyber-crime, contribution in plans for reconstruction in Afghanistan, participation in TARCET operation, implementation of 9 projects with UNODC in the fields of demand and supply reduction and the rule of law, establishment of data collection and reporting system, accurate implementation of conventions and supervision over imports and exports of substances under control via the PEN system were among the measures done by Iran in 2009.

In 2009, regional cooperation for combating narcotic drugs was on the Islamic Republic of Iran's agenda as one of the strategic priorities. In this regard, reference can be made to the implementation of the Triangular Initiative between the Islamic Republic of Iran, Afghanistan and Pakistan and its achievements such as establishing the Joint Planning Cell (JPC) and conducting several joint operations.

Mr. Chairman,

The Islamic Republic of Iran as the country in the frontline of the battle against illicit drug trafficking that has sustained the greatest life and property losses voices its profound concern on the following issues:

- 1- Continuation of opiate cultivation in areas that are not under control, cultivation of hashish in other areas, stockpiling of drugs and continued activities by illicit labs in Afghanistan;
- 2- Lack of transparency concerning dirty money earned through drug trafficking finding its way into the international financial and banking systems;
- 3- Politicization of the campaign against drug trafficking will not resolve the existing issues and in the meantime it will cause frustration among institutes that are active in combating drugs;

- 4- The escalating production and smuggling of psychotropic and synthetic substances has made the process of combating illicit drugs more difficult and intricate. This is due to the fact that on the one hand psychotropic and synthetic substances are simply produced and distributed and on the other hand there is the problem of the vulnerability of the community targeted by drug traffickers;
- 5- Lack of

Mr. Chairman,

From the view of the delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the prevailing circumstances, our success in combating illicit drug trafficking will be materialized by inevitably taking the following issues into consideration:

- 1- Implementing the resolutions that call for financial, technical and equipment assistance to countries along the transit route; its noteworthy that Iran has already submitted the list of its technical equipment needs to UNODC.
- 2- Finding a mechanism for materializing the promises based on common responsibility;
- 3- Evaluating the plans for development and alternative cultivation in Afghanistan with a focus on their effectiveness;
- 4- Necessity for destroying illicit labs in Afghanistan;
- 5- Formulating a supervisory mechanism for production and export of precursors in countries of origin;
- 6- Countering the transit of psychotropic and synthetic substances in points of origin;
- 7- Contribution by the global community including the UNODC and the consumer countries in particular in measures by countries along the transit route aimed at combating illicit drugs through obtaining their technical needs and equipment,
- 8- Developing regional initiatives aimed at promoting cooperation for border control management
- 9- Last but not least paying serious attention to the needs of women who have been harmed by narcotic drugs.

Thank you very much for your kind attention and patience.