Statement by

H. E. Mr. Gholamhossein Dehghani,
Ambassador, Deputy Permanent Representative
of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the UN
On the Agenda Items 103 and 104: Crime Prevention, Criminal Justice
And International Drug Control

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In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful

Mr. Chairman,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies & Gentleman,

Today, due to new technological development, corruption, organized crime and related
problems are transforming into new forms, which among others, online exploitation of children,
internet abuse, new innovative drugs, etc. are a few of the manifestations of this, not a mere
blessing, but curse-in-disguise.

In this statement, I would like to dwell a bit more on the issue of Drug Trafficking, which
my country, by its geographical location, is in the forefront of combating this heinous crime.
Drug trafficking poses major risks and inflicts heavy losses on the societies in every economic, social, political and security aspects. The Islamic Republic of Iran, bordering 1800 kilometers with the so-called Gold Crescent countries, and standing wholeheartedly to combating drug abuse and smuggling worldwide, renews its call upon the international community to cooperate with and support the transit states in full conformity with Article 10 of the 1988 Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances.

In our battle against drug trafficking more than 10,000 Iranian anti trafficking forces have been killed or wounded by the armed drug traffickers. Nevertheless, we have mobilized more than 30,000 troops of our military and law enforcement forces along the joint borders with Afghanistan and Pakistan and reinforced fortifications, facilities and intelligent control systems in transit and border check-points, in order to prevent the entry of trafficking caravans into the country and annihilate them in case of infiltration.

Mr. Chairman,

The traffickers endanger the stability along the eastern borders of Islamic Republic of Iran by their vicious activities, including large motorized convoys, Norco-camel and mule caravans, motorbike convoys, speed-boats' shipments, and some individuals by conveying backpacks and also swallowing certain amounts of drugs.

Given the large quantities of licit substances that make their way across sea ways, in containers and even small boats, maritime trafficking poses a particularly knotty challenge for the whole world. According to the UNODC World Drug Report 2013, data for 1997-2011 shows that each maritime seizure was on average almost 30 times larger than consignments seized while being trafficked by air, and almost four times larger than those trafficked by road and rail.

Massive and large counter-measures taken by the Islamic Republic of Iran at the national level against such drug consignments and various narcotic-trafficking networks is recognized in the repeated international bodies' reports.

Iran has also collaborated at the regional level with its neighboring countries, as well as 'Balkan Route' countries. Likewise, two regional information exchange centers are based in Iran, namely the Anti-Narcotic Police and Drug control Headquarters (DCHQ), which are fully engaged in information sharing and exchange of Drug Liaison Officers (DLOs) of the region and neighboring countries. Additionally, the Islamic Republic of Iran has held eight rounds of International Conference of Drug Liaison Officers, the latest of which was in Tehran in May 2009.

A regional training workshop on anti-money-laundering, illegal financial flows and suspect cash transactions was also held in Tehran from 30 June to 3 July 2013 with the participation of experts from the countries in the region.

Moreover, the Triangular Initiative consisting of Iran, Afghanistan and Pakistan and the Joint Planning Cell (JPC) made significant contribution by providing a strategic regional response to combat trafficking. The JPC is tasked with guiding Triangular Initiative operations and has managed to plan and direct 15 simultaneous operations till the end of 2011.
My country is of the view that despite the significance of current strategies for combating drugs such as regional cooperation, demand reduction and precursor chemicals control, the problem of drugs cannot be resolved without addressing the root causes of the problem in Afghanistan. The international and regional partners should concentrate their efforts at laying the foundations for a sustainable economic growth and better conditions for livelihood in Afghanistan.

We also welcome in particular regional initiatives such as the Heart of Asia process and adoption of plans on confidence-building measures between Afghanistan and its neighboring countries which surely could serve as a good basis for further cooperation at the regional level.

Since, the drug trafficking, originating from Afghanistan is not targeting neighboring countries only and it has destinations in the western countries, they should also play a more active and substantive role in supporting the holistic approach in the anti drug trafficking policies at the international and regional levels.

In conclusion, Mr. Chairman,

The Islamic Republic of Iran, once more, emphasizes its strong determination to combat against organized crimes including drug trafficking, and announces its full readiness to cooperate with others to resolve decisively such problems of global concern.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.