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Reference: C.N.472.2026.TREATIES-XVIII.12 (Depositary Notification)

UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION AGAINST TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME

NEW YORK, 15 NOVEMBER 2000

CZECH REPUBLIC: COMMUNICATION RELATING TO THE RESERVATIONS MADE BY THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN UPON RATIFICATION[1]

The Secretary-General of the United Nations, acting in his capacity as depositary, communicates the following:

The above action was effected on 20 October 2026.

(Original: English)

The Government of the Czech Republic has examined the reservations and declarations made by the Islamic Republic of Iran upon its ratification of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, as notified by the Secretary-General of the United Nations in depositary notification of 11 August 2025.

The Czech Republic considers that the reservations according to which the Islamic Republic of Iran will interpret and implement the provisions of the Convention, including Articles 2, 3, 5, 10 and 23, in accordance with its domestic laws and regulations, in particular the principles of its Constitution, as well as the reservations concerning Article 14, paragraph 1, Articles 15, 16 and 18, and the reservation relating to the right to self-determination, raise serious doubts as to the commitment of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the obligations under these Articles and to the object and purpose of the Convention as a whole.

The Czech Republic is of the view that the reservations referring to domestic law, constitutional principles and Sharia law are of general and vague nature, since they do not clearly define the extent to which the Islamic Republic of Iran has accepted the obligations arising under the Convention and their character and scope cannot be properly assessed.

Furthermore, the reservation according to which the Islamic Republic of Iran will decide, on a case-by-case basis, the application of Articles 15, 16 and 18 of the Convention fails to clearly define the extent of the obligations assumed under these provisions, make the application of relevant obligations discretionary and may undermine essential aspects of international cooperation, including extradition and mutual legal assistance under the Convention.

[1] Refer to depositary notification C.N.405.2025.TREATIES-XVIII.12 of 11 August 2025 (Ratification: Iran (Islamic Republic of)).

The reservation of the Islamic Republic of Iran related to the right of self-determination implies a conflict between the right to self-determination and the obligations under the Convention. However, the Convention does not contain any provision that may be interpreted as limiting the right to self-determination under international law and the necessity of such reservation remains unclear. Further, the reservation makes it unclear to what extent the Islamic Republic of Iran accepts to be bound by the obligations under the Convention.

The Czech Republic believes that the reservations of the Islamic Republic of Iran, if put into practice, would undermine the effective implementation of essential provisions of the Convention and raise serious doubts as to the extent of the obligations assumed by the Islamic Republic of Iran under the Convention. The Czech Republic therefore considers these reservations to be contrary to the object and purpose of the Convention. According to customary international law, as codified in the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties, reservations incompatible with the object and purpose of a treaty shall not be permitted.

Nothing in this communication shall be understood as precluding the entry into force of the Convention between the Czech Republic and the Islamic Republic of Iran, without the Islamic Republic of Iran benefitting from its reservations.

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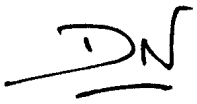
29 October 2026