



Item 3: ID with SR on Health

Unilateral Coercive Measures (UCM)s Target both Mental and Physical Health

Mr. President,

The most detrimental types of UCMs, known as comprehensive UCMs that amount to Economic Warfare, target physical and mental health of the most vulnerable sectors in sanctioned societies.

- Being over-concerned with the malignant effect of Comprehensive UCMs on physical and mental health and reiterating on the main goal of the United Nations to prevent “collective punishment” and mass killings of civilians in wars, ODVV calls on the UN SR on health to publicly condemn the collective physical and mental punishment of targeted populations by UCMs.
- ODVV warns the Special Rapporteur that economic war weaponizes food and medicine to kill the target people in mass and cause disproportionate distress, anxiety and hopelessness in target communities by inflicting various types of “pain”¹.

Mr. President,

- ODVV notes the Special Rapporteur’s reiteration on the right to mental health and using alternatives to medication informing His Excellency of the fact that in UCM affected countries, sanctions violate all economic, social and cultural causing serious lasting mental sufferings to all who need medications and all those who face a breach of their right to physical and mental health, food, housing, decent work and education.

¹. According to the book written by the designer of Iran sanctions, the sanctions aim at inflicting intolerable amounts of pain in the target populations: *Nephew, Richard. (2017). The Art of Sanctions: A View from the Field. USA: Columbia University Press.*