



Item 4: ID with COI on Syria

**Mr. President,**

ODVV is specifically alarmed by the effect of Unilateral Coercive Measures (UCM)s on the Syrian people while the country is continuing to struggle with terrorists. In parts of Syria the hostilities continue unabated, negatively threatening the whole population specially the children with loss of families, decline of physical and mental health, limitation of access to education and forced displacement.

It is highly regrettable that under the ongoing conflict, UCMs prevent Syria from access to all goods including humanitarian items and subject civilians to illegal “collective punishment”. Studies around the world have proven that unilateral sanctions take lives and ODVV is alarmed by the deadly effect of sanctions on the Syrian people who experience the double pressure of sanctions and conflict at the same time.

**Mr. President,**

ODVV notes the contributions made by the COI on Syria and encourages the COI to study and report the effect of UCMs on Syria population in both September and March reports. Being over concerned with the situation of Syrian people, especially the children, ODVV calls on the international community to:

- Immediately lift all unilateral sanctions against Syria that subject the people to unnecessary sufferings.
- Encourage parties in the conflict and international organizations to continue addressing the needs of civilians.
- Recognize the right of countries to self-defence and fight against terrorism and respect sovereignty and national boundaries of member states.