



Item 3: General Debate, the Expert Mechanism on the Right to Development

Madam President,

ODVV notes with interest the themes of the second and the third thematic studies of the Expert Mechanism on the Right to Development.

In addition, ODVV notes the fact that the Expert Mechanism considers “unilateral sanctions”¹ as obstacles to the realization of the right to development.

As an NGO working in a country under unilateral sanctions, ODVV reassures the Expert mechanism that Comprehensive unilateral sanctions, violate all social, economic and cultural rights of the target populations including the right to life, the right to health and the right to development. Unilateral Coercive Measures (UCM)s or unilateral sanctions are widely criticized by the UN HC, the UN advisory Committee and the SR on UCMs.

Madam President,

Considering the scope and the intensity of the human rights violation caused by UCMs and the un-imaginable array of the obstacles they create on the realization of the right to development, and the numerous studies conducted in the HRC on the negative effect of UCMs on populations, ODVV urges the Expert Mechanism to:

- avoid duplication of the previous studies and simply stating that the UCMs are negatively affecting populations.
- offer the HRC with concrete recommendations on how to prevent the systematic violation of the right to development caused by UCMs.
- Insert elements into the legally binding instrument on the right to development so that sanctioning states will not be able to continue crimes against humanity² through unilateral sanctions with impunity.
- Find ways to end the unending sufferings of targeted populations whose lives are lost or engendered by unilateral sanctions.³

¹ A/HRC/45/29, pp.25.

² A/HRC/39/47/Add.1

³ <http://cepr.net/publications/reports/economic-sanctions-as-collective-punishment-the-case-of-venezuela>