

Organization for Defending Victims of Violence

Item 4 General Debate

UCMs Must be Lifted



Madam President,

Millions of patients in sanctioned countries could die because of limitation of access to food, essential medicine, vaccine, medical equipment and medical care due to the unilateral coercive measures (UCM)s imposed on their countries.

The lives of these patients are under continuous threat because UCMs ban interbank transactions and make any trade for even humanitarian items very complicated if not impossible.

Although, the sanctioning countries claim that there are humanitarian exemptions to the sanctions, the on-the-ground reality proven by the experiences of NGOs is contrary to claim. According to the findings available to NGOs working in the field, the lives of millions of patients in sanctioned countries are in danger because of the restrictions created by UCMs on trade and import of fundamental items. Therefore, NGOs believe that the sanctioning countries must stop all the sanctions, remove any obstacles for the treatment of patients in target countries and take full responsibility for the effect of their actions on the right to life and health of millions of people living in sanctioned countries.

Madam President,

Since the States are obliged to protect the human rights of all people, directly affected by their policies, outside their geographical territory, ODVV calls on the international community to hold sanctioning States accountable for the serious cases of violation of the right to life and the right to health by preventing the timely and equal access to medicine, vaccine and medical care in the target countries.