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Agenda item 3

**Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil,
political, economic, social and cultural rights,
including the right to development**

Joint written statement* submitted by Organization for Defending Victims of Violence, Abshar Atefeha Charity Institute, Chant du Guépard dans le Désert, Charitable Institute for Protecting Social Victims, The, Disability Association of Tavana, Ertegha Keyfiat Zendegi Iranian Charitable Institute, Family Health Association of Iran, Humanitarian Ambassadors NGO, Iran Autism Association, Iranian Thalassaemia Society, Jameh Ehyagaran Teb Sonnati Va Salamat Iranian, Maryam Ghasemi Educational Charity Institute, Peivande Gole Narges Organization, Rahbord Peimayesh Research & Educational Services Cooperative, Society of Iranian Women Advocating Sustainable Development of Environment, The Association of Citizens Civil Rights Protection "Manshour-e Parseh", non-governmental organizations in special consultative status

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[16 August 2021]

* Issued as received, in the language(s) of submission only.

Interactive Dialogue with the Expert Mechanism on the Right to Development, NGOs Draw Your Excellences Attention to Serious Violation of Human Rights through UCMs

We welcome the reports submitted by the expert mechanism to the 48 session of the Human Rights Council and would like to reiterate on the importance of realization of right to development for developing countries.

We note the arguments offered in the annual report on the recognition of barriers to achievement of development goals including the unilateral coercive measures (UCM)s and welcome the attention of the expert mechanism to the negative effects of UCMs on human rights, especially the right to development, discussed by the delegates of States and NGOs in the past three sessions of the Expert Mechanism.

We echo the concerns expressed by delegates of States and NGOs that the right to development could not be achieved if UCMs continue to be applied. UCMs violate all economic, social and cultural rights including the right to life and prevent the targeted States from achieving the sustainable development goals, especially, the eradication of extreme poverty, ending hunger and food insecurity, ensuring health and inclusive education, access to clean energy and sustainable economic growth as well as being involved in international partnership to achieve the goals.

We draw the attention of Experts to the reality that NGOs based in UCM target countries believe that unilateral sanctions systematically prevent the population from attaining sustainable development goals. The charities working on eradication of poverty and hunger who support disadvantaged communities believe that UCMs drastically increase poverty and hunger by devaluation of currency, increasing unemployment, declining the economy and prevention of trades.

Health sector NGOs who offer services to all patients including people with thalassemia and autism as well as cancer patients believe that limitation of access to vaccine, medicine and affordable medical care threatens the lives of many patients in targeted countries.

Also, NGOs that are engaged in protection of natural environment and the wildlife have highlighted that UCMs prevent developing countries from access to green technologies and renewable sources of energy.

In addition, NGO engaged in education sector have been complaining about the negative effect of UCMs on student's access to online academic sources and financial transfers for students studying in foreign countries.

Numerous UN resolutions have condemned the negative effects of UCMs on human rights and many voices have been raised emphasizing that the measures are incompatible with generally accepted human rights principles and have a negative impact on all human rights, international cooperation and social development.

We express serious worries that the UN repeated calls (1) and resolutions (2) have led to increase of sanctions even during the emergency of the pandemic.

Noting the statement joined by the member of the Expert Mechanism (March 2021, 1st) on the importance of equal access to vaccine for all, we urge the Expert Mechanism to pay particular attention to the fact that the practice of UCMs leads to serious discrimination in access to vaccine and call on the Mechanism to seek practical solutions to the challenge.

Considering the disrespect of sanctioning countries to the UN resolutions and UN experts repeated calls on elimination of sanctions specially during the pandemic, we call on the Expert Mechanism to offer the Human Rights Council with recommendations on how to

approach the States who consider themselves above the law and resort to unilateral measures and unilateralism instead of multilateralism which was the cornerstone of the UN Charter.

We call on the Expert Mechanism to pay particular attention to the effect of UCMs on all human rights in the thematic reports which are being submitted to the Human Rights Council and offer the developing countries with recommendations on how to deal with the multiple obstacles created by UCMs on the path to development and realization of sustainable development goals.

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- 1 . e.g.: UN HC call available at:
<https://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=25744&LangID=E>; UN SG call available at: <https://www.un.org/press/en/2020/sghsm20024.doc.htm> and the call made by the UN Special Rapporteurs available at <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=26155&LangID=E>.
- 2 . Human Rights Council (resolutions 15/24, paras. 1–3; 19/32, paras. 1–3; 24/14, paras. 1–3; 27/21, paras. 1–3; 30/2, paras. 1–2 and 4; and 34/13, paras. 1–2 and 4) and the General Assembly (resolutions 69/180, paras. 5–6; 70/151 paras. 5–6 and 71/193, paras. 5–6).