



# General Assembly

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## Human Rights Council

### Fifty-first session

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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, Fundación Latinoamericana por los Derechos Humanos y el Desarrollo Social, 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.

[20 August 2022]

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\* Issued as received, in the language of submission only.



## **The Negative Effect of Unilateral Coercive Measures (UCM)s on All Human Rights, Including the Right to Development**

We note with interest, the reports submitted by Expert Mechanism on the Right to Development to the Human Rights Council regular session 51 and the extended attention of the Expert Mechanism to multilayered and negative effect of Unilateral Coercive Measures (UCM)s on all human rights, specifically the right to development and attainment of all Sustainable Development Goals, which is repeatedly discussed by ODVV, FUNDALATIN and different Member States.

Also, we welcome the attention of the Expert Mechanism to the remakes made by ODVV in the fourth and the fifth sessions of the Expert Mechanism on the obstacles created by UCMs on the enjoyment of the right to development.

In addition, we note with interest the meeting held by the Expert Mechanism, the Special Rapporteur on the negative impact of unilateral coercive measures on the enjoyment of human rights, the Independent Expert on human rights and international solidarity and the Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights, exploring the duty to cooperate which is enshrined in the UN Charter, in core human rights treaties and the Declaration on the Right to Development.

We find it regrettable that while the duty to cooperate included States' obligation not to adopt national policies that infringe on human rights extraterritorially, sanctioning countries continue to violate human rights through imposition of unilateral sanctions globally even during international emergency situations such as the Covid-19 pandemic.

The pandemic made negative humanitarian effects of unilateral sanctions more obvious and more disastrous by disrupting the existing medicine supply and payment chains resulting in increasing prices of pharmaceuticals and health care.

What is even more regrettable is the continued efforts of lobbies of sanctioning countries (1) to sustain violation of human rights, by enforcing their secondary sanctions on third parties, deliberately hindering any regional and bilateral cooperation mechanisms between the sanctioned countries and the rest of the world, which is devastating for countries that depend on imports of humanitarian items, including food and medicine.

One more time, we would like to emphasize that UCMs violate the principles of international law, severely impede the economic development and health capacity of target countries especially during the pandemic and the following recovery phase. With no guarantees for human rights and international law, unilateral sanctions serve as political weapons at the service of the sanctioning State. Their repercussions are deadly for target populations, destructive for third parties and destabilizing for international peace and security.

In addition, we reiterated that civilians, especially the most vulnerable social strata, including children; women; female headed households; people with disabilities; children and civilians with chronic disease; Covid patients; the elderly; migrants; asylum seekers and their families are the biggest victims of unilateral coercive measures.

Finally, we repeat that UCMs imposed by the United States of America and the European Union impede access to pharmaceuticals, health care, education, employment, food, drinking water and basic services, have a serious impact on the legal flow of funds, the procurement of goods and the health facilities for the States and humanitarian agencies, hamper reconstruction and economic development, exacerbate poverty and lower the living standard. The Measures also restrict the normal movement of people to and from targeted countries. Their so-called humanitarian exemptions do not work at all and therefore we urge for immediate lifting of the unilateral coercive measures.

It is regrettable that the Expert Mechanism report on racism A/HRC/51/37 has failed to examine and discuss the discrimination based on nationality, imposed on citizens of all sanctioned countries by UCMs, that create multiple complications for the people.

## **Recommendations**

Considering the huge number of people who are globally affected by Unilateral Coercive Measures - one fifth the of the world population according to the Special Rapporteur on UCMs - and the scale and the extent of human rights violations taking place by unilateral sanctions, we call on the Expert Mechanism to offer comprehensive recommendations to the Human Rights Council on how to approach such illegal forms of unilateralism which is being applied beyond the authority of the United Nations and above the international law as the Security Council is the only entity that has the right to impose coercive measures Under Article 41 of the UN Charter.

In line with our previous recommendations and noting the recommendation offered by the Expert Mechanism (A/HRC/51/36, pp.68), we look forward to see the human rights effects of UCMs as a theme for future studies of the Expert Mechanism

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1. <https://www.unitedagainstnucleariran.com/iran-business-risks>