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**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 Atefeh Charity Institute, Association of Iranian Short Statured Adults, Family Health Association of Iran, Iran Autism Association, Iranian Thalassemia Society, Jameh Ehyagaran Teb Sonnati Va Salamat Iranian, Maryam Ghasemi Educational Charity Institute, Medical Support Association for Underprivileged Iranian Patients, Pars Non Trading Development Activists Co., 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", The Society for Recovery Support, 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.

[27 May 2023]

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

ID with IE on International Solidarity UCMs undermine international solidarity and violate human rights

We note the joint concerns expressed by the UN Independent Expert on International Solidarity on the deadly effects of economic sanctions or Unilateral Coercive Measures (UCM)s on Iranian thalassemia patients who are losing lives due to reduced access to vital imported medicines as a result of over-compliance of pharmaceutical companies and banks with United States sanctions (Feb 2023).

We emphasize that the humanitarian exemptions announced for humanitarian items in US sanctions regulations are ineffectual and insufficient and the heavy fines that US imposes on pharmaceutical companies and banks that get involved in trades with Iran triggers fear in business owners in export delivery and insurance sectors, limiting patients' access to medicine and threatening human lives in all sanctioned counties including Iran.

We also note the joint concerning remarks made by the UN IE on 25 March 2022, discussing the negative impacts of UCMs on sanctioned people's access to "food, water, sanitation, medicine, vaccines, and other necessary goods and services for maintenance of critical infrastructure and survival" as well as the recognition that imposition of UCMs negatively affects ALL human rights of the target populations.

We reiterate with regret that unilateral sanctions, which are imposed on populations beyond the authority of the UN and the international rule of law, cause widespread unnecessary sufferings and premature death in target populations that amount to illegal collective punishments.

In addition, we are alarmed by the bitter reality that UCMs impede the ability of target populations to obtain basic goods, services or expand and maintain critical infrastructure necessary for an adequate living standards of all people, as well as improvement of the right to development and attainment of all sustainable development goals, in addition to the ability of international organizations, NGOs and sanctioned States to maintain their activities, including implementation of development projects.

Finally, we welcome all the discussions on the destructive impacts of UCMs on people, presented by the UN IE on International Solidarity in annual reports (1) and joint statements with other UN Experts and calls on Professor Okafor to continue presenting arguments over the extraterritorial reach of sanctions and the deadly impacts of over-compliance in sanctioned countries.

With the disproportionate impacts of economic sanctions on the target populations, especially the most vulnerable groups, we call on the UN IE to continue offering recommendations to the United Nations on how to address this form of unilateralism that indiscriminately violates human rights in sanctioned countries.

Given the continuous disregard of sanctioning countries for international human rights and humanitarian law, we call on the UN IE to continue offering the international community with recommendations on how to address the deadly impacts of sanctions.

1. e.g., A/HRC/50/37, pp. 46-49