



General Assembly

Distr.: General
12 February 2020

English only

Human Rights Council

Forty-third session

24 February–20 March 2020

Agenda item 3

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

Written statement* submitted by Disability Association of Tavana, a non-governmental organization 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.

[03 February 2020]

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



Aftermaths of Unilateral Coercive Measures on the rights of persons with disabilities

The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities adopted by United Nations General Assembly Resolution 61/ 106. As one of the eight UN human rights instruments, the document advocates for the rights and fundamental freedoms of people with disabilities as a large vulnerable population in the world. The distinctive feature of human rights instruments is the focus on protecting rights of human beings, and the state is only a powerful protective tool, and therefore human rights cannot be influenced and overshadowed by intergovernmental interactions.

According to the provisions of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (1966), human rights are free from territorial jurisdiction, and the developed States Parties to the Covenant have pledged to make the most of their efforts by using their existing financial and technical facilities To promote economic, social and cultural rights for other state parties.

On the other hand, Article 32 of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities on International Cooperation requires States Parties to strengthen intergovernmental interactions as well as cooperation with non-governmental organizations and civil societies which are focusing on protection of the rights of persons with disabilities. In fact, it is in the spirit of the provisions of the International Bill of Human Rights law that is enshrined in this human rights document, in order to protect persons with disabilities as a more vulnerable group. Due to the Article 32 (1) of the CRPD, state parties are committed to facilitate and strengthen capacity building, including through the exchange and sharing of information, experiences, appropriate training programs and practices, facilitating access to technical and scientific knowledge, and providing economic and technical assistance. In other words, the general mandate of this article is to expedite access to knowledge, information, financial and technical support, and civil cooperation.

However, Unilateral Coercive Measures (hereinafter "UCMs") directly and indirectly make States not being able to fulfil these commitments in practice. Restrictions to conduct banking transactions, import aid, movement and rehabilitation equipment for the disabled has turned into a serious challenge. Providing necessary medicines for persons with disabilities has been influenced by inflation due to sanctions and increase in currency rate, and it has severely reduced the purchasing power of the disabled. Moreover, most urgent drugs have become hardly found or unavailable.

Disruption in banking transactions has hurt the cycle of provision of goods by domestic drugs producing companies. For the production of one drug, sometimes it is necessary to import 15 different raw materials from different companies in various countries. While banking sanctions have become more difficult and complex resulting in drugs companies not being able to get the raw materials on time. Sometimes lack of just one component can completely halt producing of the medicine.

Since persons with disabilities are usually from low income and more vulnerable groups of society, getting mobility aid and equipment such as wheelchairs, hearing aids, walking sticks etc is difficult for them in normal conditions, and in the situation of economic problems caused by sanctions and notable rise in the price of these aid and equipment, they are completely unable to provide these needed goods for themselves, and resort to getting poor quality goods which cause serious damage to their bodies, and even lead to secondary disabilities.

It can be concluded that UCM extensively affect States abilities to implement their international obligations and prevent them from being fulfilled, and make governments responsible of not implementing their obligations. Specifically in the case of Islamic Republic of Iran, UCM have seriously put under challenge the obligations in implementing the Convention, as a result of which, many persons with disabilities have been denied their rights. To an extent, UCM reduce the possibility to access to drugs and aid and rehabilitation equipment for persons with disabilities, and their health conditions are seriously threatened.

Disability association of Tavana calls on the UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities to:

- Condemn the governments who through imposition of UCM have launched an economic war and directly and extensively are committing crimes against humanity, and call on these governments to instead of resorting to UCM to remain committed and observe international mechanisms.
 - Pay special attention to the aftermaths of sanctions on the rights of persons with disabilities and review and study of the effects of UCM on the disabled's lack of access to their fundamental rights. For this, Disability association of Tavana announces its readiness to contribute with any form of help from documentation and submission of surveys, information and interviews with the disabled community in the Islamic Republic of Iran, and make all these available to the Special Rapporteur.
 - Be interconnected with the United Nations Special Rapporteur on UCM and share with her findings and conclusions of the studies.
 - Call on the Iranian government to make available necessary documentation on the effects of sanctions on the rights of persons with disabilities.
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