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

Written statement* submitted by Iran Autism Association, 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.



Effect of comprehensive unilateral sanctions on the life of families with Autistic people in the Islamic Republic of Iran (Iran)

The Islamic Republic of Iran, a country with environmental diversity, has a population of over 80 million people, out of which about 700.000 are people with autism disorder, who are living in unpleasant and bad conditions.

Unfortunately, due to comprehensive unilateral sanctions, autistic people have to pay huge costs for their necessary medicines and livelihoods. This huge cost has put their families in inconvenience.

However, to survive, autistic people need support of their government as well as the knowledge and medicines that cannot be produced in their own country; in other words, autistic patients must bear many hardships in order to survive.

The silence of the international community shows that human society has not taken serious action to fully support all the autistic patients around the world, and many autistic people have been forgotten.

Now in the modern world and the global village, which is marked by explosion of information, we are still witnessing restrictions on access to the drugs and medical equipment that autistic people need - due to comprehensive unilateral sanctions - and it is not fair that human rights groups have to witness restrictions on access to the drugs needed by some people.

Citizens, especially those in need of treatment, should not be affected by the States' political disputes. The negative effect of political disputes on the life of patients is violation of human rights standards and principles of intergovernmental conflict. Now, the comprehensive unilateral sanctions imposed against Iran hinder patients' access to the medicines they need to survive. And there is no doubt that limited access to medicine is, in fact, continuation of the same inhumane policies that endanger the safety of the international community and human health.

In today's world, there is possibility of conflict or escalation of strife between different groups, and every day we hear unpleasant news about the conflicts of those in power. The unpleasant situation of citizens of war-torn countries should be an example for the world. By working together to make a free and prosperous world, we hope to see a peaceful and secure world, which is free of conflict and strife.

Iran Autism Association calls on the United Nations Human Rights Council and the Special Rapporteur on the right to health to discuss the negative effects of comprehensive unilateral sanctions on the access of patients - especially people suffering from Autism - to medicine in their reports and offer recommendation on how to facilitate the access to essential medicine.
