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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 Abshar Atefeha Charity Institute, 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.

[01 February 2020]

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



Negative impacts of Unilateral Coercive Measures on Human Rights

Unilateral Coercive Measures (UCM) subject the people of targeted countries to collective punishment, violating international law, including international humanitarian and human rights law.

We remind all the members of the Human Rights Council of the bitter reality that UCMs violate people's right to life, right to health, right to education, right to an adequate standard of living, right to development and right to self-determination among other rights in all targeted countries.

In the Islamic Republic of Iran (Iran), economic sanctions directly target the lives and the health of Iranian people. They challenge the supply of medicine and sharply increase medical care expenses. All patients, including the people with chronic diseases including cancers patients, and other severe blood diseases face limitation of access to medicine leading to irreparable damage to their health.

Although seemingly there are no sanctions on medicine in the list of sanctioned items, on the ground, there is a ban for Iran's banking transactions that prevents money transfer for purchase of medicine impossible.

Also prevention of inter-bank transactions leads to an increase in the rate of foreign currency including Euro, leading to an increase in prices of all items and services, increase of inflation and unemployment and decrease of the value of Iranian currency.

Considering the above mentioned facts, Abshar Atefeha Charity Institute calls on the Human Rights Council to urge the Special Procedures to study the negative consequences of Iran sanctions on the country's environment, country's development and most important, the life of the most vulnerable citizens of society, specially the elderly, the patients, persons with disabilities, children and deprived sections of society, whom we are engaging daily, because of our responsibilities as a charity.

We call on sanctioning countries to meet their extraterritorial commitments under international human rights law to protect the people in the countries targeted by their sanctions.

And finally we urge all relevant Human Rights Council special procedures, especially the Special Rapporteur on the right to development and the Special Rapporteur on the right to health, to openly condemn, in joint statements, the impact of the United States of America unilateral sanctions on Iran civilians, especially the most vulnerable groups.

We urge the High Commissioner for Human Rights to mandate an independent mission to Iran to study the deteriorating impacts of UCMs on the life of the vulnerable sectors of society.

Reiterating on the UCM Special Rapporteur's previous recommendations, Abshar Atefeha Charity Institute urges the Human Rights Council to establish a compensation mechanism to address the sufferings of UCM victims in all sanctioned countries including Iran.
