



General Assembly

Distr.: General
17 February 2021

English only

Human Rights Council

Forty-sixth session

22 February–19 March 2021

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 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.

[27 January 2021]

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



The negative impacts of Unilateral Coercive Measures on the basic human rights of the targeted populations

It is clear that all universal Agendas for Sustainable Development cannot be achieved without the serious cooperation of the countries around the world. Solidarity is the key to reach international peace and fight against hunger, poverty, inequality and climate change.

Cooperation among developing countries, i.e. south-south cooperation, is an important factor for these countries to generate both new ideas and concrete projects to enable voices from the Global South, to drive innovation, tackling problems like Covid-19 pandemic and promote human rights and development.

However, these policies and initiatives require fiscal space which is an ongoing dilemma for several developing countries. Public expenditure needs greater support and resources. But in these processes there are many unilateral and illegal obstacles. For instance, sanctions on the Islamic Republic of Iran (Iran) not only have negatively affected the Iranian citizens especially the most vulnerable of them, but also have badly affected the country's commitments to Sustainable Developments Goals.

Unfortunately, the political use of human rights and following double-standards, prevent the promotion of human rights and sustainable development around the world, increase violence and endanger international peace and security. The silence of the world towards the extensive and systematic violation of the human rights of the people of the Islamic Republic of Iran due to the re-imposition of harsh and illegal sanctions, is proof to the claim.

The United States of America (US)'s economic war against the Islamic Republic of Iran, even on humanitarian aids and goods, despite the false claims made by the US leaders, have blocked Iran's vital economic arteries and crippled financial transactions in such way that the government has had budget shortages for most domestic infrastructural issues. Furthermore, the maximum pressure policy by the United States of America puts increasing daily pressures on ordinary citizens of the country and causes problems in their living.

On the other side, the Unilateral Coercive Measures (UCMs) promote unilateralism rather than multi-literalism and especially under Covid-19 emergency, they reverse most efforts made under multilateral agreements. UCMs prevent the targeted countries from co-operation with the international community and violate the fundamental human rights of the civilians in targeted countries, including the right to life and the right to health of all citizens, putting extreme pressure on the most vulnerable sectors – “People with disabilities, older persons, minority communities, indigenous peoples, internally displaced people, people affected by extreme poverty and living in overcrowded settings, people who live in residential institutions, people in detention, homeless people, migrants and refugees...”.

While the illegality of normal types of UCMs are reiterated by the United Nations (UN) General Assembly and UN Human Rights Council resolutions countless times, currently, the most detrimental types of UCMs, known as comprehensive UCMs that amount to Economic Warfare, target civilian lives of the most vulnerable groups of the target societies including the Islamic Republic of Iran.

We believe that Comprehensive UCMs that amount to de facto blockades or economic wars, have detrimental effects on fundamental human rights specially the right to life and the right to health. They adversely target all economic, social and cultural rights of the citizens and prevent the non-governmental organizations dealing with charity activities, to act in a proper way to reduce the harms and agonies of targeted populations.

Abshar Atefeha Charity Institute draws the attention of the Human Rights Council to the negative impact of Unilateralism and Unilateral Coercive Measures on basic human rights, international co-operation, international values of multilateralism and promotion of a democratic and equitable international order.