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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 Rahbord Peimayesh Research & Educational Services Cooperative, 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.

[25 January 2021]

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



Comprehensive Unilateral Coercive Measures Violate Cultural Rights

Why Unilateral Coercive Measures are imposed on the Islamic Republic of Iran?

The Islamic Republic of Iran is under the United States of America unilateral coercive measures (UCMs) that violate people's economic, social and cultural rights, including the functioning of art and culture sector.

After 12 years of talks, finally in July 2015 the Islamic Republic of Iran and the group known as 5+1 (the Russian Federation, China, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, France, Germany and the United States of America) reached an agreement on the peaceful Iranian nuclear programme "Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action" or JCPOA. Through suspension of some nuclear activities of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the agreement lifted some of the heavy sanctions imposed on the country. The agreement received its official support by the United Nations (UN) Security Council Resolution 2231 which placed JCPOA in international law, and made it enforceable.

Right from the outset, the United States of America (US) failed to lift the nuclear related sanctions against the Iranian people and ultimately in May 2018 the US pulled out of the agreement and announced that severe sanctions, would be re-imposed on the Islamic Republic of Iran. The sanctions negatively affect arts, cultural events and cultural life.

Comprehensive UCMs violate all economic, social and cultural rights as well as achievement of Sustainable Development Goals

The comprehensive unilateral sanctions disrupt all trades with the Islamic Republic of Iran in addition to all banking exchanges. The sanctions ban oil export as the main source of income for the Islamic Republic of Iran and prevent import of all fundamental items including food and medicine and push many artists to challenge the maintenance of their jobs and their incomes.

Numerous UN reports¹ and resolutions² have criticized the impact of unilateral sanctions on populations and have called on the UN member states to refrain from imposition of unilateral measures. In addition to the UN documents, the non-governmental organizations on-the-ground experience proves that unilateral comprehensive sanctions affect all sectors of society including the art and culture sector.

The measures affect all economic, social and cultural rights including the right to development and attainment of almost all Sustainable Development Goals specifically the eradication of poverty and hunger, protection of health, wellbeing, economic growth and clean energy. They affect equal access to food, water, disease management and mitigation of climate change effects. UCMs also undermine the target countries' capacity to develop new technologies to address climate variability in areas related to energy, water, food security, agriculture, health and disaster risk management.

In line with the UN Human Rights Council reports³ and resolutions⁴, Rahbord Peimayesh Research & Educational Services Cooperative (Rahbord Peymayesh) calls on the Special Rapporteur to study the effect of UCMs on people's enjoyment of cultural rights and achievement of Sustainable Development Goals, in all target countries and report the findings to the Human Rights Council.

¹ A/HRC/45/7; A/HRC/42/46; A/HRC/36/44; A/HRC/33/48.

² A/HRC/RES/24/14; A/HRC/RES/30/2; A/HRC/RES/34/13; A/RES/71/193.

³ A/HRC/45/7; A/HRC/42/46; A/HRC/36/44; A/HRC/33/48.

⁴ A/HRC/RES/24/14; A/HRC/RES/30/2; A/HRC/RES/34/13; A/RES/71/193.

Also, Rahbord Peymayesh calls on the Special Rapporteur in the field of cultural rights to support the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the negative impact of unilateral coercive measures on the enjoyment of human rights in line with the UN resolutions and join her in her public statements on the impact of unilateral sanctions on human rights.
