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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.

[26 January 2021]

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



The Right to Health and Access to Medicine Is Affected by the United States of America Unilateral Coercive Measures

The Islamic Republic of Iran (Iran) is under the United States of America (United States) illegal unilateral coercive measures (UCMs) that violate people's human rights especially the right to health and access to medicine and medical care for all people including those suffering from autism.

Unilateral and unfair sanctions aim at "collective punishment" of Iranian people and violating the people's right to health and access to medicine and medical care for all patients.

The United States' comprehensive unilateral sanctions disrupt all trades with Iran in addition to all banking exchanges. The sanctions ban oil export as the main source of income for Iran and prevent the import of all fundamental items including medicine and medical equipment.

Numerous United Nations (UN) reports¹ and resolutions² have criticized the illegality as well as the negative impact of unilateral sanctions on populations and have called on the UN member states to refrain from imposition of unilateral measures while the application of sanctions are increasing in the world. In addition to the UN documents, the non-governmental organizations' on-the-ground experience proves the destructive nature of unilateral comprehensive sanctions on people.

The UN Special Rapporteur on the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, Ms. Tlaleng Mofokeng, has called on sanctioning countries to lift the sanctions under Covid-19, in order not to jeopardize the people's right to life and right to health, under the emergency situation.³

Recommendations

In line with the UN Human Rights Council reports and resolutions, Iran Autism Association condemns the negative impact of unilateral sanctions on human rights especially the right to health for all people including those suffering from autism and calls on the Special Rapporteur on the right to health to study the effect of UCMs on people's access to medicine 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 <https://www.ohchr.org/en/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=26155&LangID=E>.