



# General Assembly

Distr.: General  
25 August 2021

English only

---

## Human Rights Council

### Forty-eighth session

13 September–1 October 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 Disability Association of Tavana, 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.

[20 August 2021]

---

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



## **Unilateral Sanctions Violate all Human Rights of the People with Disabilities**

Our organization is expressing serious concerns on the negative impact of unilateral sanctions on the economy and financial situation of the target countries. We are appalled by the fact that economic sanctions are designed to create pain and sufferings in the target populations and are imposed to intentionally increase poverty and unemployment and undermine the economy of the sanctioned countries. It is seriously regrettable that one of the main aims of economic sanctions is to destroy hope in the target communities and making the people feel helpless.<sup>1</sup>

We regret that economic sanctions adversely target all economic, social and cultural rights of the target populations, especially the rights of people with disabilities to life and the right to health of the most vulnerable groups including the children, the patients, the disabled and the migrants. They aim at the “collective punishment” of citizens in the target countries, which is proven to be incompatible with the spirit of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and forbidden under international law.

Unilateral sanctions seriously harm the economy of the target country, leading to high rates of inflation and unemployment, especially for the people with disabilities. The escalation of prices, coupled with decrease of income and devaluation of currency, limit the affordability of life-saving medicine, medical equipment and healthcare. The situation is worsened by prevention of the banking system of the target country from having any financial transactions with the international community which contributes to the scarcity of life-saving medicine in the market and limits the access of patients to the already difficult-to-afford medicine.

The complicated situation created by banning import, prevention of banking transactions, skyrocketing of prices of food and medicine and serious decrease in income, lowers the living standard for people with both primary and secondary disabilities. Also, financial issues undermine the functioning of all NGOs, including the ones that support the disabled, forcing people to leave charity and volunteer work.

In addition, sanctions have proven to lead to widespread violation of human rights including the right to health, the right to work, the right to education and the right to an adequate standard of living for all people with vulnerable groups including the people with primary and secondary disabilities bearing the most burn.

One of the most serious consequence of sanctions is that they limit the access to education. On the one hand sanctions make education less affordable to families, because the decline of economy, devaluation of currency and raise of unemployment make many children drop out of school. On the other hand, sanctions ban the access of students to many scientific sources, articles, and educational platforms, discriminating against equal access to academic resources and online education for students living in sanctioned countries.

While witnessing the negative consequences of sanctions on the lives of people, especially the people with primary and secondary disabilities, we call on the Human Rights Council to use all its capacity to immediately stop economic sanctions that violate all human rights including the rights of many children to access education.

Considering the impact of sanctions on economic recovery and employment, we call on the Expert Mechanism on the Right to Development to pay more attention to the effect of sanctions on the people of target countries including their labor rights, right to education and access to information, offering the Human Rights Council with recommendations on how to prevent such human rights violations and protect the rights of vulnerable groups.

---

<sup>1</sup> The aim and purposes behind the design of economic sanctions is described in detail by Richard Nephew, the designer of economic sanctions in his book: *The Art of Sanctions: A View from the Field*, 2018 Columbia University Press.