



# General Assembly

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## Human Rights Council

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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 The Society for Recovery Support, 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.

[7 February 2022]

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\* Issued as received, in the language of submission only. The views expressed in the present document do not necessarily reflect the views of the United Nations or its officials.



## **Sanctions and their impact on drug users**

Addiction and drug use as a global challenge threatens human societies, and this challenge is more pronounced in developing countries. Addiction has various factors, nonetheless economic problems and their consequences in the social sphere are one of its causes. The more difficult and critical the economic situation, the more likely one is to turn to drugs. Prolonged sanctions had caused the Islamic Republic of Iran's economy chronic problems, which were exacerbated by the devaluation of the IRR and rising inflation, intensifying financial and economic crises for the people. Corona outbreaks worsen poor economic conditions. Bankruptcy, rising unemployment, and problems in providing the cost of living for the family greatly overshadowed the situation of ordinary consumers, and most consumers are employed and maintain their social and economic functions while consuming drugs. The resulting economic conditions have increased the cost of living, and on the other hand, the devaluation of the IRR and corona traffic restrictions have led to an increase in the price of various materials. This changed the consumption pattern to high-risk consumption because people cannot prepare the same amount of substances and with less substances, are forced to change the method of consumption from smoking to injection, resulting in increase in overdose and infectious and contagious diseases. Several consumers have either migrated to the suburbs or lost their shelter and become homeless due to non-payment of rent. In the field, we see an increase in injections and homelessness for new people, sometimes even with family in hangouts and spots. When the consumer injects himself, he is more likely to be rejected by his family and became a homeless person. NGOs and the government in recent years have taken very valuable steps in the field of treatment and reduction of addiction damage, which is evidenced by the statistics of more than five hundred thousand recovered people and the reduction of 85% of HIV-positive people through joint injections to 35%. Sanctions and their negative effects on the economy and society in our target group (drug users and their families) are noteworthy.

SRS, with more than 12 years of experience in this field, announces that if the current economic situation continues in the coming years, we will see a significant increase in the number of homeless and infectious diseases such as AIDS and hepatitis. We call on international agencies and organizations in the field of addiction, health, and human rights to take prompt and effective action to lift economic sanctions. Saving an addict is saving a community.

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