



# General Assembly

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## Human Rights Council

### Fifty-first session

12 September–7 October 2022

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.

[20 August 2022]

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



## **Sanctions Negatively Affect the Right to Development**

Since 2018, the re-imposed sanctions have banned banking transactions between the Islamic Republic of Iran and other countries. Money cannot be transferred to foreign countries and companies, therefore import of medicine or raw material as well as food stuff has faced restrictions. In a blockade of import of all essential items including food and medicine, their price escalates and the supply of essential items decreases which in itself adversely affects the lives of and health of all vulnerable groups in the sanctioned country.

### **Development**

The sanctions impair the technological development of sanctioned countries by preventing the process of development and protection of national resources or creation economic opportunities. That is sanctions target the people's right to development by prohibition of transfer of money as well as banning the import of modern industries and modern technology into the country. The allegations reach a stage that the Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) of the United States of America Department of the Treasury, even banned some medical equipment such as autoclave sterilization machines from being imported to the Islamic Republic of Iran! on the excuse of their dual use and alleged contribution of such technologies to nuclear programs.

### **Healthy Environment**

Part of the violation focuses on prevention of nature friendly technologies that contribute to protection of environment. Green sources of energy including the wind and solar energy are less accessible under sanctions since the necessary equipment are prevented from being imported into the Islamic Republic of Iran. The limitation of access to green technologies is created by preventing the import of modern technologies into the Islamic Republic of Iran and sanctioning the interbank transactions to make financial transfers between Iranian banks and their foreign counterparts impossible. As a result, the country maintains reliance on old industries and sources of energy including fossil fuels that increase environmental pollution and destruction, jeopardizing the present and future generation's right to health and the right to a clean and healthy environment.

### **UCMs, Civil Aviation and the Right to Life**

Sanctions on the Islamic Republic of Iran continue to have a negative effect on the country's aviation industry and market. Many airlines have cancelled their flights to the Islamic Republic of Iran following the announcement of new round of sanctions which ban third countries from offering refueling services to Iranian planes.

Another serious challenge for Iranian aviation industry is created by the prohibition on the purchase of the spare parts and equipment of passenger planes. The ban on banking exchanges, include transactions involving the sale, lease and export of commercial passenger aircraft, parts, components and related services into the country. Iranian NGOs strongly believe in the fact that the decision will seriously violate the civilian's "right to life" through decreasing the security of flights and increasing the reliance of Iranian airlines on old components and parts.

### **Right to Education**

Prohibition of financial transfer between Iranian banks and their foreign counterpart has adversely affected the Iranian students' access to higher education in all foreign universities. American banks refuse to give education loans to Iranian students solely because of their nationality. A decision that discriminates against people based on their country of origin and can be considered as racism.

Also, prevention of financial transfer into and out of the Islamic Republic of Iran leads to students' inability to pay the university fee, making continuation of their education impossible.

### **Recommendations:**

Being over-concerned about the widespread and systematic violation of human rights as a result of Unilateral Coercive Measures (UCM)s in the Islamic Republic of Iran, we call on the Human Rights Council to implement the recommendations offered by the Special Rapporteur on UCMs in order to partially mitigate the notorious effects of UCMs on civilians especially the vulnerable groups.

We also call on the Special Rapporteur on the Right to Development to:

- Monitor the violations of right to development as a result of UCMs in all targeted counties including the Islamic Republic of Iran.
  - Support the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on UCMs and to pay attention to the negative effects of UCMs on people within the scope of his mandate and to offer recommendations on how to prevent such effects.
  - Study the negative effect of UCMs on the right to development in sanctioned countries and report the findings to the Human Rights Council.
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