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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 Iranian Thalassemia Society, 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.

[5 February 2023]

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



Sanctions and Violations Of Patients' Right to Food Security In the Islamic Republic of Iran

Introduction

From a human rights perspective, access to medicines is intrinsically linked with the principles of equality and non-discrimination, transparency, participation, and accountability. States are obliged to develop national health legislation and policies and to strengthen their national health systems. Food security and the right of everyone to have access to safe and adequate food is the fundamental right of everyone to be free from hunger which cannot be suspended under any circumstances because any violation of the right to food can cause people to die from hunger. Based on human dignity, the right to food in different Human Rights documents imposes several obligations on Member States to provide adequate food, and various mechanisms have been foreseen to address its violation and to compensate the affected people.

Sanctions and violations of patients' right to food security in the Islamic Republic of Iran

Iranian Thalassemia Society, which represents 23,000 Iranian thalassemia patients, believes that unilateral coercive measures against the Iranian people had a disturbing impact on the general level, especially vulnerable groups, and its negative effects on patients' health are so evident.

Imports of agricultural and livestock products into the Islamic Republic of Iran have been a problem due to the cruel United States of America sanctions. On October 3, the UN's international court of justice ordered the United States of America to lift restrictive measures linked to humanitarian trade, food, medicine, and civil aviation but the sanctions have been worsened especially after the withdrawal of the United States of America from the JCPOA in 2018, which had detrimental effects on Iranians, especially the thalassemia patients.

Today, Iranian patients, who need healthy food and food supplements more than other members of society, are facing food and supplement shortages more than ever (even more than the 8-year imposed war). Although the main perpetrator of this clear violation of the fundamental rights of Iranian patients is the United States of America, some European countries and pharmaceutical companies are over-compliance with these illegal sanctions which can be considered a violation of international rules and can have international consequences for them.

In this regard, the import of raw materials necessary for production, as well as livestock and agricultural inputs to ensure food security has faced problems since the Islamic Republic of Iran's business partners are very cautious in doing business due to the United States of America's cruel sanctions.

The Thalassemia Support Association explicitly states that the systematic sanctions against the Iranian people, especially those with thalassemia, and the restrictions on their access to safe and healthy food are a violation of all basic principles and rules of Human Rights. It is an example of a crime against humanity and all perpetrators shall be held accountable at national, regional, and international levels.

So, we urge the Human Rights Council to support us and request the lifting of unilateral sanctions against the Islamic Republic of Iran and establish a legal framework to compensate the affected people