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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 Institute for Protection of Women's Rights (IPWR), 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.



The Destructive Consequence Of Unilateral Coercive Measures on Iranian Citizens

Introduction

Since the World War I, sanctions have often been applied by international organizations and nations as a routine policy tool to react to any nation's actions that they oppose.¹ Economic sanctions seem to be more humane ways of resolving international disputes than wars. However, multiple studies showed that due to their long term impacts on the lives and health of a large population, the adverse humanitarian effects of economic sanctions are comparable to, if not more immense than wars

The unilateral coercive measures (UCM) imposed by some countries is against international law, with the aim of generating economic and social difficulties for targeted states and its people as a whole. Economic sanctions theory claims that economic pressure on civilians translates into pressure on the government for policy change

Detrimental effects resulting from economic sanctions that harm the civilian population are a widely lamented phenomenon in the legal and social science literature. Both empirical and legal analyses tend to claim a causal effect of the imposition of economic sanctions on the worsening of human rights in targeted countries.

Serious human rights violations around the world have grave consequences, An examination of the conditions resulting from unilateral coercive measures shows that sanctions have violated the Human Rights and dignity of sanctioned countries like the Islamic Republic of Iran as well as international rules and fundamental principles of humanitarian rights.

In recent years, Western countries have pursued aggressive and norm-breaking policies against non-aligned countries to isolate countries in the name of protecting Human Rights and international peace and security. Unfortunately, its impact is aimed squarely at the citizens of the target countries

The destructive consequence of unilateral coercive measures on Iranian citizens

Countries which imposed economic sanctions against the Islamic Republic of Iran have violated Iranians' right to health. International community should have predicted any probable humanitarian effects of sanctions and used any necessary means to prevent it. Before imposition of sanctions, decisions makers should advice an international order to prevent such impacts on targeted countries' populations.

The process of comprehensive sanctions imposed by this country is a common and repetitive procedure, regardless of the type or circumstances of the target country. Whereas sanctions in the past tended to be focused on specific military activities, weapons, or political activities, today's sanctions are unilateral which will lead to an "economic meltdown".

Progressive sanctions of this kind have led to numerous Human Rights violations, including violations of the right to life of particularly vulnerable populations, denied access of citizens to health and medical services, and rising death tolls. These actions used to be considered as uncontrolled consequences of sanctions while today they are theorized and planned as methods of putting pressure and collapse.

Alena Douhan, the Special Rapporteur on the negative impact of unilateral coercive measures, paid a visit to the Islamic Republic of Iran to examine the impact of UCMs on the country. She stated that unilateral sanctions against the Islamic Republic of Iran have negatively affected the lives of the people. This has not only caused disruptions and severe delays in the supply of basic commodities such as food, medicines, medical equipment, and other raw materials but has also caused serious problems at international levels such as payment of membership fees or participation in academic, scientific, and sports programs and activities. According to Douhan, "the complex set of unilateral sanctions against Iran, coupled with secondary sanctions against third parties, over-compliance and zero-risking

policies by businesses and financial institutions, exacerbate existing humanitarian and economic challenges and negatively affect the lives of the people, in particular the most vulnerable.”

Recommendation

While emphasizing that human rights sanctions are fragmented and politicized in nature, according to international Human Rights rules, isolation and systematic destruction of a country's economy to make the target country suffer to accelerate a humanitarian crisis is economic terrorism, the Institute for Protection of Women's Rights (IPWR) believes that addressing this inhumane crime requires working with Human Rights institutions to set up a fact-finding committee to investigate the impact of sanctions on civil rights violations.
