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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 Iran Autism Association, 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.



Violation Of The Right to Access Medicines and Medical Equipment In The Islamic Republic Of Iran

The issue of access to medicines is a fundamental component of the full realization of the right to health. Medical care in the event of sickness and the prevention, treatment, and control of diseases, depends largely on timely and appropriate access to quality medicines.

Despite progress made, many people still lack access to essential medicines. This is due to the obstacles that block access to medicines of good quality, in an affordable and timely way, mostly in developing countries. This challenges human dignity and the basis of all human rights, including the rights to life, health, and development of all persons.

The implementation of legal sanctions on the supply of non-specific drugs for thalassemia, cancer, autism, and even medical equipment parts has made disease diagnosis a difficult challenge. Experts in the field of health consider these sanctions to be a type of silent and hidden war crime against the people of the Islamic Republic of Iran, which has continued purposefully in recent years, especially in the field of health. Although the United States of America have repeatedly declared: "America has not embargoed Iran's food and pharmaceutical products", the evidence and documents show that this is only a claim, and in the field of medicine and medical equipment, especially in 1997, is restricted.

On the other hand, due to the coronavirus in recent years; The international community, especially the people of several countries, including the Islamic Republic of Iran, is facing difficult conditions. The people of the Islamic Republic of Iran benefit from medical and therapeutic facilities that can be used in the prevention process.

The Autism Association, which aims to improve the quality of life of people with autism and their families in the Islamic Republic of Iran, believes that in a situation where an unprecedented health crisis has threatened the health of human societies, adopting unilateral coercive measures has targeted countries' health systems. We expect you, human rights officials, and members of the Human Rights Council, to take a collective and coordinated stance in defense of the right to health of nations under sanctions, including the Islamic Republic of Iran, to condemn this gross violation of human rights; In addition, we request you to take international measures to remove the sanctions, follow up on the guarantee of their implementation and pursue the founders of this sanction with speed and seriousness.
