



# General Assembly

Distr.: General  
29 February 2024

English only

---

## Human Rights Council

### Fifty-fifth session

26 February–5 April 2024

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 Jameh Ehyagaran Teb Sonnati Va Salamat Iranian, 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.

[29 January 2024]

---

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



## Unilateral Coercive Measures and its Impacts on the Rights to Health

The unilateral sanctions of the United States of America against the Islamic Republic of Iran have directly and indirectly violated the human rights of the Iranian people, especially in the field of the right to life and the right to health. These sanctions have led to the blocking of bank accounts and, on the other hand, have disrupted access to the monetary and banking system. As a result, access to certain drugs, including drugs for thalassemia patients and EB patients, has become a problem.

As stated in the reports of the special rapporteur, Prof. Douhan, due to the aforementioned problems, the companies that sell drugs to the Islamic Republic of Iran cannot export drugs to the Islamic Republic of Iran due to disruptions in the banking system, or the United States of America imposes heavy fines on those companies that export drugs to the Islamic Republic of Iran. Therefore, foreign pharmaceutical companies do not have any tendency to establish this business even when the supply of drugs to the Islamic Republic of Iran is allowed due to the fear of the implementation of the United States of America's sanctions and punishments. For instance, the supply and import of such drugs and their main ingredients are prohibited to the Islamic Republic of Iran by the Swiss pharmaceutical group Novartis (the leading supplier) and the French company Roquette Frères.

Another challenge that these patients are facing is the increase in the price of these types of drugs due to sanctions, which has seriously affected the ability of patients and especially their families to buy these drugs. On the other hand, the production of counterfeit drugs is another challenge that is unfortunately increasing and threatens the lives and health of patients.

According to the statistics provided by the medical and health centers, as well as the statistics in the reports of the special rapporteur, Prof. Douhan, so far 930 butterfly patients and 23,000 thalassemia patients in the Islamic Republic of Iran due to the unwillingness of the pharmaceutical companies based in Sweden, Switzerland and France, their condition is worsening. Meanwhile, according to the principles and guidelines of the United Nations in the field of trade and human rights, companies producing thalassemia drugs are responsible for protecting the human rights of patients in the Islamic Republic of Iran.

It is necessary to mention that sanctions are one of the legitimate tools set forth in the UN Charter, and its purpose is to ensure international peace and security. Therefore, sanctions should not violate the pivotal principles of human rights. If it violates, international peace and security will be violated.

states are responsible for maintaining international peace and security based on customary international law and their obligations towards it. Therefore, the fundamental principles of human rights must be respected in applying sanctions, otherwise, this action will not be legitimate based on international standards. Therefore, due to the imposition of illegal unilateral sanctions, the United States of America has violated the human rights of the Iranian people and is responsible in accordance with Articles 40 and 42 of the Draft articles on Responsibility of states (2001).

- Convergence of the sanctioned countries and the formation of the union of the sanctioned countries in order to take legal, political and economic measures to deal with the sanctions and manage the situation through the creation of trade agreements and new financial mechanisms;
- Filing a lawsuit in the International Court of Justice against the United States of America based on the anti-human rights effects of the sanctions;
- Using the appropriate executive mechanism found in international treaties;
- Creating an anti-sanctions campaign through the development of international measures;
- Compilation of an international legal charter against sanctions with a focus and emphasis on anti-human rights aspects to attract the abilities and capabilities of talented forces against the irresponsible actions of the United States of America.