



General Assembly

Distr.: General
26 May 2022

English only

Human Rights Council

Fiftieth session

13 June–8 July 2022

Agenda item 3

**Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil,
political, economic, social and cultural rights,
including the right to development**

Joint written statement* submitted by Organization for Defending Victims of Violence, Fundación Latinoamericana por los Derechos Humanos y el Desarrollo Social, non- governmental organizations 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.

[18 May 2022]

* Issued as received, in the language of submission only. The views expressed in the present document do not necessarily reflect the views of the United Nations or its officials.



Unilateral Coercive Measures Increase Extreme Poverty

We welcome the Special Rapporteurs' approach to assign priority to make contributions to Social Protection Floors and taking steps to eliminate poverty at international level, especially following the economic decline and global financial crisis, associated with the Covid-19 pandemic that reversed the previous attempts toward attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals and eradication of extreme poverty.

However, we would like to draw the attention of the Special Rapporteur to the destructive effect of Unilateral Coercive Measures (UCM)s or economic sanctions which was magnified by the Covid-19 outbreak, enforcing a double pressure on the economy of countries targeted by UCMs (Including Cuba, Iran (Islamic Republic of) and the Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)), diminishing the efforts to eradicate poverty or provide the disadvantaged groups with effective and inclusive social protection. The multiple pressures affected the vulnerable sectors disproportionately, including the patients with chronic disease, persons with disabilities, asylum seekers, the self-employed women, the women working in the private sector and the people living in rural areas.

Millions of the world population (20 percent of the world according to the Special Rapporteur on Unilateral Coercive Measures) live under unilateral sanctions and the vulnerable groups of the target countries lose any opportunity to get rid of poverty or enjoy adequate social security benefits, because of the complexities created by sanctions and Covid-19 that undermine the ability of sanctioned States to mobilize sufficient resources to implement effective and inclusive social protection schemes.

In addition, the hampered access to quality education under sanctions, erodes the opportunity for members of disadvantaged groups to acquire certain qualifications and competencies that would otherwise help the impoverished people leave their socioeconomic situation.

With the negative impacts of UCMs on the economy of the sanctioned countries and living conditions of their populations in mind, we encourage the Special Rapporteur to study the systemic effects of UCMs on social inequalities, poverty, unemployment and equal access to health care, education, food and basic services as well as the implementation of national programs to achieve sustainable development goals, sustainable infrastructures and inclusive and sustainable social protection programs.

We also, call on the Special Rapporteur for enhanced engagement with the civil society organizations active in sanctioned countries, especially the ones who support disadvantaged and vulnerable strata, in his "Participatory Dialogues", to examine and assess the negative impact of UCMs on poverty, inflation and inequality in sanctioned countries.

we echo the call mentioned in the UN resolutions (A/RES/73/167, pp. 23 and A/HRC/40/L.5, pp.17), on "all special rapporteurs and existing thematic mechanisms of the Council in the field of economic, social and cultural rights to pay due attention, within the scope of their respective mandates, to the negative impact and consequences of unilateral coercive measures," and encourage the Special Rapporteur to report the adverse effects of UCMs on economy and poverty of targeted countries to the UN Human Rights Council and the UN General Assembly in the annual thematic reports submitted to the mentioned UN bodies, discussing initiatives for mitigating the harms and compensating for the losses.

Finally, we call on the Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty to join the Special Rapporteur on Unilateral Coercive Measures in her public statements that voice concerns over the human rights and humanitarian repercussions of UCMs in line with UN Resolutions (1) and Reports (2).

1 A/HRC/RES/24/14; A/HRC/RES/30/2; A/HRC/RES/34/13; A/RES/71/193; A/HRC/RES/46/5; A/HRC/RES/43/15

2 A/HRC/48/59; A/HRC/48/59/Add.2; A/HRC/45/7; A/HRC/42/46; A/HRC/36/44; A/HRC/33/48; A/HRC/48/59; A/HRC/48/59/Add.2