



# General Assembly

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## Human Rights Council

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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 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.

[21 August 2022]

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



## **Sanctions and Violations of the Right to Water**

As a member of the Iranian civil society, the Institute for the Protection of Women's Rights considers it its duty to provide information on one of the most important human rights issues of the Iranian people.

The Islamic Republic of Iran has long been known as a hot and dry climate, and Iranian citizens have always been familiar with words such as water shortage, drought crisis, lack of rainfall, etc. Based on frequent droughts, the Islamic Republic of Iran's plateau is in the heart of a serious water crisis. The water shortage crisis has not only affected the southern cities of the Islamic Republic of Iran, but also made the central cities, including the capital Tehran, vulnerable. The water crisis has, somehow, covered from the east to the west of the Islamic Republic of Iran, from Sistan & Baluchistan province, whose dams are on the border of warning, and Lake Hamoon, which is disappearing, to West Azerbaijan province, where Lake Urmia is running dry; and dimensions of the water crisis is increasing day by day.

The imposition of cruel and unilateral US sanctions on the Iranian people has also aggravated the water shortage crisis. The coincidence of these sanctions with the great challenge of water and natural resources in the medium term has increased the country's dependence on the import of crops, livestock and imported agricultural inputs (including livestock and poultry feed); and on the other hand, due to the disruption in foreign trade, and the sharp increase in the exchange rate of foreign currency, in the open market, has limited and made expensive the supply of agricultural products and imported inputs in this sector. In this situation, excessive emphasis on self-sufficiency in agriculture has led to further destruction of renewable natural resources, including the Islamic Republic of Iran's underground water resources. Also, in recent years, due to sanctions, policies and the limited resources, the Islamic Republic of Iran has faced stagnation in the implementation of water projects. The implementation of some defined projects to solve the problems of drinking water, in some Iranian cities requires the supply of a number of equipment, including pumps, equipment parts related to refineries, etc.; but due to the imposition of comprehensive sanctions and also the increase in the exchange rate, the implementation and completion of the projects have faced challenges. In some cases, for instance, a project with a physical progress of 95% has been delayed and has not been put into operation due to the lack of supply of necessary equipment and parts. Non-provision of the needed water, especially in southern cities, due to drought and the negative impacts of the sanctions, has created a degree of instability and social tensions in some of those areas.

Reminding that the right to water is a human right in the sense that all human beings can have access to healthy drinking water, without discrimination and in sufficient quantity for consumption, we urge the UN Special Rapporteur on the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation that, with due attention to the Islamic Republic of Iran's climatic conditions, present the issue of the negative impacts of unilateral sanctions on the supply and access to drinking water of the Iranian people in an independent and impartial report to the Human Rights Council.

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