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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 Disability Association of Tavana, 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.

[22 August 2022]

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



Unilateral Coercive Measures (UCM)s Violate the Rights of People with Disabilities

According to Article 25.7 CRPD, persons with disabilities have the right to enjoy the highest attainable standard of health, equal to other members of their society and without discrimination of any kind. However, Disability Association of Tavana is highly concerned about the discriminatory effect of unilateral coercive measures (UCM)s on the human rights of the people with disabilities in sanctioned countries, especially the right to health, equal access to medicine and to all equipment required for mobility. UCMs that hamper access to all social services, seriously discriminate against people with disabilities by hindering their full and effective participation in society.

The existing pressures caused by sanctions decrease the government's income and deprioritize national disability support programs, while the State gives priority to fortify efforts to meet the basic needs of the population. Consequently, national efforts to effectively protect the rights of the disabled people also diminish.

Sanctions coerce the persons with disabilities to face a range of barriers in accessing health care services, including cost, accessibility, availability, effectiveness and quality of the services with harmful repercussion for both their physical and mental health. The unilateral measures pose the people with disabilities at serious risk of delayed diagnoses, secondary disability, persistent abuse and isolation. Deteriorating health conditions will violate the right to non-discrimination, the right to work, social participation and social inclusion and undermines the living standards of the disabled.

The impact of sanctions on people's livelihood and its impact on people's income determines families' capacity to offer support to people with disabilities, especially in childhood.

In normal economic conditions, States and the private sector run programs to include the people with disabilities in the workforce, however, under sanctions the implementation of such projects face various challenges.

Sanctions also create limitation of access to new technologies for developing rehabilitation equipment - including wheelchair, walking and mobility equipment, devices required by the visually impaired people, assisting hearing devices and all the equipment that facilitate the social participation of people with disabilities - in sanctioned countries due to the effect of secondary sanctions and bans on interbank transactions that prevent the import of all goods including humanitarian items.

UCMs dangerously affect the sanctioned States' capacity to take steps to addressing and safeguarding the rights people with disabilities, to developing health care infrastructure, training health professionals, or implementing health care legal reforms to strengthen realization of the rights of this vulnerable group.

This is while the sanctioning States, upon signing CRPD are obligated to guarantee that economic, social and cultural rights of the people without discrimination based on geographical borderlines. The obligation to guarantee non-discrimination must be implemented as obligation for all States, including the sanctioning States who are responsible for all their policies that create inequalities including health-related discrimination, by the extra-territorial reach of UCMs.

Our organization, notes the recent report of the Special Rapporteur on the Unilateral Coercive Measures to HRC 51 and the attention to the negative effect of sanctions on the rights of persons with disabilities, we appreciate the focused attention of the Special Rapporteur to the multitude of rights violated under unilateral sanctions.

We also, encourage Her Excellency to continue the discussion on the negative effect of UCMs on human rights in line with Human Rights Council reports (1), the resolutions (2) and the UN Experts public statements (3) – that unanimously condemn and criticize application of UCMs as illegal, deadly measures, because they target people and systematically violate all their economic, social and cultural rights including the right to life and the right to health.

With the destructive effect of UCMs in mind, we urge the Special Rapporteur to repeat the calls and public statements on lifting and removing UCMs, specifically during the outbreak of the pandemic.

Finally, we urge the Special Rapporteur to more extensively discuss the effect of UCMs on the enjoyment of the human rights of people with disabilities in sanctioned countries and present the findings to the Human Rights Council in annual reports.

1- .e.g., 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

2- . e.g.,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

3- . e.g., UN Experts: Sanctions proving deadly during COVID pandemic, humanitarian exemptions not working:

<https://www.ohchr.org/en/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=26155&LangID=E>;

Unilateral sanctions hurt all, especially women, children and other vulnerable groups – UN human rights expert:

<https://www.ohchr.org/SP/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=27931&LangID=E>