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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 the Society Studies Centre (MADA ssc), 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.

[17 August 2017]

* This written statement is issued, unedited, in the language(s) received from the submitting non-governmental organization(s).

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The Negative Impact of Unilateral Coercive Measures On Child Rights in Sudan

The Society Studies Center expresses its concern about the renewal of US unilateral coercive measures UCM against the Sudan in July 2017. The decision shocked the Sudanese people who suffer for decades bearing the brunt of the sanctions. These measures were partially lifted by the United States in January 2017.

The UCM completely contradict the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) because of their negative impact on the rights of the child. These measures constituted the greatest violation of the rights of the child in Sudan over the period of the imposition of these UCM, which lasted for over 20 years. It has negatively affected children's right to health, education and nutrition.

It also has led to some social phenomena such as the early employment of children, economic exploitation, and child abuse and neglect by their families. All of which have become dangerous social phenomena that have been created by these UCM.

According to the 2008 population census, children represent half the population of the Sudan by up to 48.5%. The negative affect by these UCM, can be summarized as the following:

General Negative Impacts of UCM on Child Rights:

1. The UCM have changed the pattern of consumption of the internally displaced as a result of their reliance on relief, where the local food production in some states falling to 55%.
2. Increase in the numbers of displaced children as a direct result of UCM.
3. The UCM affected all programs, projects, structures, infrastructure and mechanisms for the promotion and protection of children's rights in Sudan.
4. Some State have closed the Child Care Boards and some have been merged with the Population Council as a result of lack of financing.
6. The UCM led to the lack of special support for the National Council for Child Welfare on the project to reduce child labor through education due to bank restrictions.
7. The UCM caused a lack of financing for regional childcare workshops.
8. Children negatively affected by lack of access to clean water and sanitation.

The negative impact of UCM on Health:

1. UCM on Sudan caused distribution, availability, quality of food and clean drinking water, medicine and health supplies. The UCM have become one of the most factors of malnutrition outbreak among children, where reports indicate to more than 550,000 Sudanese children are malnourished, not including children who have not been identified in conflict zones.
2. UCM have led to the lack of incubators for premature children.
3. UCM have led to increased cochlear implantation in children with hearing impairments, and increased sensitivity to early detection of hearing.

4. In 2009, children who were infected with AIDS needed a drug from the United States of America, and health institutions were unable to import it. There are also US-based AIDS identification and testing devices, which it also unable to import it.
5. According to the annual statistical estimate of the Federal Ministry of Health in 2014, the malaria epidemic ranked first for the most transitional diseases in terms of frequency of health institutions at the rate of 32 per 1000 population. Malaria recorded 14% among children under five years of age, and ranked first among the most infectious diseases in terms of hospital admissions by 13.6%, and ranked seventh among the most infectious diseases causing death by 4.3%.so, the UCM have affected the efforts of eradication of malaria.

The negative impact of UCM on school dropout:

UCM are the main cause of school dropout for the following:

1. The UCM have led to higher prices and higher living costs in offset by the low purchasing power of low-income earners.
2. The coverage and long-term UCM have led to a significant rise in prices and the inability of many families to cover the educational costs for their children.
3. Many students prefer to work and make business to meet the living needs of their families.
4. The UCM have led to drop in support for school feeding to 51% has led to poor services for schoolchildren, leading to the intervention of many Sudanese civil society organizations to provide breakfast for poor pupils for nutrition.

Child Labor:

The economic and living conditions, poverty of the family, especially in the case of the parents or one of them fail to work and gain or be of low income or total unemployed, are the main factors leading to child labor and thus create a climate for exploiting this work.

This phenomenon of early labor among children has increased under these UCM. The economic pressures faced by low-income and poverty-stricken families are the main reason led parents to send them to work, which increases the number of children suffering from malnutrition, lack of health care and economic deprivation.

Children became engaged in welding, carpentry, plumbing, preparation of building materials, bakeries, sell daily newspapers, light goods, and polishing shoes among others.

Psychological Stress and its Impact on Children

Many Sudanese families, especially in rural areas, have suffered many psychological stresses due to the low standard of living of the family and the limited resources they have as a result of poverty.

Moreover, the UCM have led to deepening the disparity between the living standards of the citizens in a significant way, which has been reflected in social relations and phenomena that were not common in society.

Many families suffer from depression, anxiety and emotional deprivation because of parental absence for a long time, the migration of some members of the family to get work, so the relationship between the children and their families have become unbalanced and unstable and the children became unable to achieve psychological adjustment and always feel threat and danger.

Violence and Child Abuse:

Children in Sudan have been subjected to a number of forms of violence, abuse and neglect because of the consequences of the UCM and the psychological, social, health and educational pressures on the family. The most common forms of violence are low birth weight, child cancer and congenital malformations.

Problems between Parents:

The mother and father is the rock of the family and its cornerstone, and any problems due to pressure, between them affect immediately and clearly on the children attitudes and behavior. In the preamble of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), is stated that in order to develop the child fully and "harmoniously", a child should develop in a family environment characterized by an atmosphere of happiness, love and understanding, but under conditions of UCM, crises have been exacerbated among family members, especially between mother and father.

The psychological effects of these sanctions can be summarized in the manifestations of fear, anxiety, theft, social isolation and introversion and a sense of threat and danger, and all due to the following:

- Children are frustrated and deprived of buying the simplest things they like.
- Feeling tired and exhausted as a result of malnutrition, increasing the severity of irritation and anger.
- The child's feeling of hunger, which provokes acute emotions. Studies have shown that the rate of anger reached when hungry is 20%, after consuming foods it falls to 6%
- Lack of a sense of security, threat and danger due to the pressure conditions that the family is exposed to economic sanctions.

All the above, contradicts Article (19) of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and the Charter of the United Nations and the International Human Rights law.

The Society Studies Centre appeals to the Human Rights Council and the Special Rapporteur on the negative impact of UCM and the US administration that:

First: To work for the immediate and unconditional lifting of these UCM from the Sudanese people so that they can live a decent life as stipulated in the provisions of international human rights law.

Second: To compensate the Sudanese people for the serious damage caused by these UCM.

Third: The immediate commencement of an international convention to deny and criminalize and prevent such UCM.