



# Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General  
17 June 2019

Original: English

---

## 2019 session

26 July 2018–25 July 2019

Agenda item 5

### High-level segment

## **Statement submitted by Soroor Mehr Andishan Rastin Institute, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council\***

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

---

\* The present statement is issued without formal editing.



## **Empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality: the role of Samar Charity**

More than 90,000 people get cancer in Iran yearly and by 2030, it will increase by seventy percent to 155,000. This would impose huge human capital and economic costs on the society.

According to estimates, about \$250 million is spent on cancer treatment annually, of which the patients should pay more than half. A cancer patient loses his or her ability to earn money and must pay for the catastrophic cost of healing too. The ability to pay for poor people is impossible. This results in a fall below the poverty line and the disruption of the family.

Soroor Mehr Andishan Rastin (Samar) institute is a non-political and non-profit charity established under the laws of the Islamic Republic of Iran and operates as a non-governmental organization for humanitarian affairs. The goal of Samar Charity is to provide the best comprehensive quality services (including physical, mental and social supports) for cancer patients in Iran. It offers useful, effective and humanitarian services for treatment of cancer patients over 14 years of age and their families including psychotherapy, counselling, healthy nutrition, training and financial support. These services are provided without any discrimination based on gender, race, religion or social status.

So far, the institute has provided comprehensive quality services to more than 6,500 cancer patients in Iran and some neighbouring countries, such as Afghanistan, Iraq and Tajikistan, and has enabled most of them to return to normal life. To ensure inclusiveness and equality, we provide treatment costs and to empower people, we provide some skills for patients such as:

- Confectionery skill training for 54 patients to build their own business and earn money;
- Jewellery Making, Candle Making, Bag Making skill training for 30 patients to build their own business and earn money;
- Providing sport training courses and sport matches for more than 10% of the admitted clients.

The Samar Institute also brings to patients a message of equality and importance with the provision of beautiful, attractive and clean space and atmosphere with full respect.

We increase the effectiveness of treatment and life expectancy by employing professors in the field of psychotherapy and nutrition and empower them for returning to normal life.

To conclude, non-governmental organizations such as Samar can play an important role in empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality by providing financial and psychological support to cancer patients and their families.