



# 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 Organization for Defending Victims of Violence (ODVV) 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.

[19 August 2019]

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



## **ID with the Special Rapporteur on the right to development: UCMs and the Right to Development**

The mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the Right to Development is established by the United Nations Human Rights Council in resolution 33/14. According to the resolution, the Special rapporteur is mandated to contribute to the promotion, protection and fulfilment of the right to development in the context of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

This is while Unilateral Coercive Measures (UCM)s violate each and every single goal in the list of the seventeen goals of 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and reverse any improvement attained toward the achievement of these goals.

UCMs reverse any attempts made to eradicate poverty and hunger everywhere. The measurers aim at increase of poverty levels by negatively affecting the economic sector of the target country, escalating the prices of all items, the inflation and the unemployment rates. They also, limit people's access to food and essential items.

Unilateral Measures detrimentally affect the people's right to life and right to health because they limit the access to medicine, medical equipment and medical care. In many instances, it is claimed that food and medicine are exempt from UCMs however, loss of lives and deterioration of people's health conditions under UCMs prove that the claimed exemptions never exist on the ground.

Additionally, UCMs negatively affect people's access to "quality education"; attempts to promote "gender equality" empower women and girls; building infrastructures needed for supplying "clean water and sanitation"; expanding infrastructure and upgrading technology to provide "clean energy"; promoting inclusive and sustainable "economic growth", employment and decent work for all people; investments in infrastructure – transport, irrigation, energy and information and communication technology; attempts to reduce social economic "inequalities" within and among countries; building "sustainable cities and communities"; attempts to ensure patterns of sustainable consumption and production; taking urgent actions to combat climate change and its impacts; lasting protection of oceans, the life on land preserving the planet and its natural resources; building peaceful, just and inclusive societies and strong institutions and friendly relations among States to engage in partnership for the goals.

Another inhuman aspect of the UCMs is that they cripple Disaster Risk Reduction attempts, for example, in the case of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Iranian Red Crescent Society announced that United States sanctions have prevented the transfer of any foreign financial aid to the victims of the recent flooding that affected about 1,900 communities in the country<sup>1</sup>.

It can be concluded that UCMs sustainably reverse all slow struggles in developing countries to make progress toward attainment of Sustainable Development goals, depriving the people of the opportunities available to other countries, deliberately keeping the UCM target countries behind in the course of development. UCM create serious discrimination between the people who live in target and non-target developing countries.

Being appalled by all the sufferings being reported by the people living in UCM target countries all over the world, alarmed by the information that UCMs take lives in target countries,<sup>2</sup> the Organization for Defending Victims of Violence (ODVV) urges the Special Rapporteur on the Right to development to:

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<sup>1</sup> A/HRC/42/46, p.4.

<sup>2</sup> For example, documentation of 40,000 deaths in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela as a result of UCMs in a ONE-year period. <http://cepr.net/publications/reports/economic-sanctions-as-collective-punishment-the-case-of-venezuela>.

- Study the widespread effects of UCMs on the various aspects of the Right to Development and share his findings with the Working Group on the Right to Development, the UN General Assembly and the Human Rights Council.
  - Invites all Governments, especially the UCM target countries to cooperate fully with the Special Rapporteur on the Right to Development to document all cases of breach of the right to development as a result of UCMs in target countries.
  - Transmits urgent appeals and communications on cases of violations of the right to development as a result of UCMs to the sanctioning countries, urging them to take action in this regard.
  - Pay special and adequate attention to the cases of right to development violated by UCMs in his annual thematic reports being submitted to the Human Rights Council.
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