



# 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**

### **Joint written statement\* submitted by Abshar Atefeha Charity Institute, Organization for Defending Victims of Violence, non-governmental organizations 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.

[25 May 2021]

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



## **Impact of Unilateral Coercive Measures on Extreme Poverty**

Abshar Atefeha Charity Institute would like to kindly inform Your Excellency that eradication of extreme poverty is seriously hampered by Unilateral Coercive Measures (UCM) especially under Covid-19 pandemic. UCMs nullify any attempts to end poverty because they are designed to create increasing pain, poverty and unemployment in the targeted societies. In addition to poverty creation, UCMs violate the fundamental human rights of civilians in the targeted communities, specifically the right to development. In fact, UCMs act against the universal values set by the United Nations to protect human rights and improve the living conditions of civilians in targeted countries.

In the case of extreme poverty, UCMs that aim at undermining financial stability, increasingly push more people below the poverty line in targeted countries, making the population suffer from the adverse struggle with poverty. UCMs increase income inequality, widen the poverty gap and make the deprived sections of the population feel the most impact. The uneven distribution of income among the population leads to the inability of the poor to invest in education and their low health levels, among other needs. By limiting access of the deprived section of population to basic services including health and education, UCMs violate the fundamental right to life, the right to health and the right to education. Also, limited access to education and other basic services lead to social discrimination and exclusion as well as the lack of participation in social life for the poor and pushes them to the margins of society more than ever. Various social groups bear disproportionate burden of poverty with the most deprived bearing the heaviest.

Unilateral Measures move in the opposite direction of all development efforts made by the United Nations and can be considered as counter-development measures. Economic sanctions have a negative impact on all aspects of development, including economic growth, industry improvement, construction and maintenance of civilian infrastructures, education and wellbeing.

UCMs add to corruption and illegal trades and contribute to formation and strengthening of black markets, because they ban legal banking transactions and interbank communication systems.

All in all, sanctions disagree with the values of the international community and international standards set by the United Nations. They violate fundamental human rights and draw more and more people into poverty. Therefore, ODVV calls on the Special Rapporteur on Extreme poverty to speak out for the rights of people adversely affected by UCMs in targeted countries in public statements.

Abshar Atefeha Charity Institute calls on the Special Rapporteur on Extreme poverty to monitor the effects of UCMs on extreme poverty in targeted countries and report the findings to the Human Rights Council.

Abshar Atefeha Charity Institute calls on the Special Rapporteur on Extreme poverty to study the situation of poverty in countries targeted by unilateral sanctions and offer recommendations on how to eradicate extreme poverty in such communities.

Abshar Atefeha Charity Institute calls on the Special Rapporteur on Extreme poverty to support the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on UCMs and join her in public statements.