



General Assembly

Distr.: General
5 September 2024

English only

Human Rights Council

Fifty-seventh session

9 September–9 October 2024

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 Association of Iranian Jurists Defending Human Rights, 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 2024]

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



The Impact of Coercive Sanctions on the Iranian Right to Sustainable Development

All unilateral or multilateral sanctions leave heavy and irreparable damages against the civil population. These Coercive Measures, which are beyond the authorization of the Security Council and are not qualified as Retorsions or countermeasures under international law, are illegal (A/77/296, para. 6 and A/HRC/51/33, para. 87) and disproportionately harm the most vulnerable and often the most innocent parts of society including patients.

These coercive measures, which are imposed by the United States of America and some European countries against the Iranian people, have violated most of the human rights of Iranians, especially the right to Life, Health, Etc. Mrs. Alena Douhan, the Special Rapporteur on the negative impact of unilateral coercive measures on the enjoyment of human rights, on her official visit to the Islamic Republic of Iran (7-18 May 2022) stated that: “sanctions, secondary sanctions and different forms of over-compliance have a serious negative impact on the country’s economy, leading to serious violations of human rights and humanitarian challenges, which the COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated”. She concludes that the use of unilateral sanctions, secondary sanctions, and over-compliance has an overall adverse effect on the broad spectrum of human rights, civil, political, economic, social, and cultural, including the right to life and the right to development. (A/HRC/51/33)

Violation of Iranian Right to Sustainable Development Through Sanctions

- In the Human Rights system, Right to Sustainable Development can be considered in three areas: economic, environmental, and social sphere:

A) The United States of America’s sanctions blocked Iranian government assets in the United States of America, banned nearly all the United States of America’s trade with the Islamic Republic of Iran, and prohibited foreign assistance and arms sales. The United States of America’s law authorizes sanctions targeting:

1. The Islamic Republic of Iran’s energy sector, including foreign corporations that invest in it and entities that buy, sell, or transport Iranian oil;
2. The Islamic Republic of Iran’s financial sector, including its Central Bank;
3. Additional sectors of the Islamic Republic of Iran’s economy, including shipping, construction, mining, textiles, automotive, and manufacturing, as well as entities that conduct transactions with, or otherwise provide support for, those sectors;
4. Etc.

B) Sanctions have had an undeniable impact on the Islamic Republic of Iran’s environment by (1) restricting its access to technology, service, and know-how, (2) blocking international environmental aid, and (3) increasing the natural resource intensity of its economy. The success of economic sanctions in impacting the Islamic Republic of Iran’s banking system and financial transactions is undeniable. Sanctions limit the Islamic Republic of Iran’s access to its export income and its assets abroad and devalue the Islamic Republic of Iran’s currency. These outcomes reduce the Islamic Republic of Iran’s ability to purchase goods, technology, knowledge, and services (GTKS) in the international market, increasing the cost of foreign GTKS when acquired through unofficial channels and sanctions-busting. These Sanctions have also violated the Islamic Republic of Iran’s right to development, specifically in pursuit of peaceful access to Nuclear Energy.

C) New reports show that even though the United States of America has created exemptions for humanitarian trade with the Islamic Republic of Iran, the broad nature of the economic and non-economic sanctions has restricted Iranians’ human rights by interfering with access to healthcare, education, and other human rights. Refusal to Grant Visas, preventing Iranians from joining several academic and scientific organizations, Denying access to many scientific databases, and the impossibility of equipping and renovating infrastructure due to economic

sanctions are examples that show how sanctions violate the right to social development of Iranians.

Conclusion and General Recommendations

There a lot of evidence that shows sanctions harm vulnerable populations while blocking globalization and not creating political or social change quickly. As a case in point, these sanctions have affected Iranians' civil, political, economic, social, and cultural rights. They have impeded or disrupted, among other things, access to medical and healthcare services and equipment, equal access to education and information, employment, an adequate standard of living, Sustainable Development, Etc.

We express our deep concern about the impacts of coercive sanctions on Iranians' rights and urge the Human Rights Council:

- To condemn the Coercive Sanctions against Iranian civilians imposed by the United States of America and Some other countries;
 - To implement and supervise the guidelines on ways and means to prevent, remove, minimize, and redress the adverse impacts of Sanctions;
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