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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 Iran Autism Association, 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.

[15 August 2024]

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



Impact of Unilateral Coercive Measures on Access to Essential Services for People with Autism

The Iran Autism Association (IAA) is deeply concerned about the humanitarian crisis facing people with autism as a direct result of the Illegal unilateral Coercive Measures. These measures have created insurmountable barriers to accessing essential therapies, support services and life-sustaining interventions, and have severely impacted the quality of life of people with autism and their families.

People with autism often require specialized therapies, including behavioral interventions, speech therapy and occupational therapy, to develop important life skills and participate fully in society. However, illegal sanctions have led to a severe shortage of qualified therapists and limited access to essential equipment, preventing people with autism from receiving the treatment they need. In addition, restrictions on the import of specialized equipment have limited the availability of assistive technologies that can significantly improve the quality of life of people with autism.

Aside from the therapeutic effects, illegal sanctions also have a profound impact on the mental health and well-being of people with autism and their families. The stress and uncertainty caused by these sanctions can exacerbate existing problems and lead to increased rates of anxiety, depression and social isolation. Also, the compounded effects of these challenges caused Many families are forced to seek alternative, often less effective, treatments or go without necessary care altogether. The financial strain of acquiring scarce and expensive medications and equipment further exacerbates the hardships faced by families, leading to increased stress and diminished quality of life.

we believe that the imposition of illegal unilateral coercive measures on people with autism is a blatant violation of their human rights. These measures disproportionately affect vulnerable groups and undermine the principles of human dignity and equality. It is imperative that all people, regardless of political circumstances, have the right to access the necessary care and support for a dignified and healthy life.

We specifically request the Special Rapporteur on Unilateral Coercive Measures to conduct a comprehensive assessment of the impact of these measures on the healthcare sector, especially in the Islamic Republic of Iran, with a particular focus on the access to essential services for individuals with autism.

We urge the Special Rapporteur to include specific recommendations to ensure that humanitarian exemptions are fully respected and implemented effectively, thus safeguarding the rights and well-being of vulnerable populations, including those with autism.
