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**Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil,
political, economic, social and cultural rights,
including the right to development**

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

[18 August 2024]

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



The Negative Impacts of Unilateral Coercive Measures and Sanctions on Poverty Reduction and Charitable Activities

Unilateral coercive measures are intended to achieve political or economic objectives, but they frequently have far-reaching and mostly inhuman consequences on the most vulnerable populations.

On Poverty

One of the most immediate and severe impacts of illegal unilateral sanctions is the economic hardship they impose on the targeted society. Sanctions can lead to a significant reduction in national income, increased unemployment, and inflation. These economic disruptions disproportionately affect the poor, exacerbating existing poverty levels.

Furthermore, sanctions can lead to a decrease in the availability of essential goods, such as food and medicine, making them unaffordable for many people. This situation can result in malnutrition, increased mortality rates, and a general decline in the quality of life.

On Health

Years of experiences by targeted countries have shown that sanctions often restrict access to medical supplies and equipment, which can have devastating effects on public health. Hospitals and clinics may struggle to obtain necessary medications and technologies, leading to a decline in the quality of healthcare services. This is particularly concerning in countries with already fragile healthcare systems. The inability to provide adequate medical care can lead to increased morbidity and mortality, particularly among vulnerable groups such as children, the elderly, and those with chronic illnesses.

On Charitable Activities

Charitable organizations play a crucial role in mitigating the effects of poverty and providing essential services to those in need. However, sanctions can severely hinder the operations of these organizations. Financial restrictions and banking sanctions can make it difficult for charities to receive and distribute funds. Additionally, logistical challenges, such as restrictions on the import of goods, can impede the delivery of aid. These obstacles can significantly reduce the effectiveness of charitable activities, leaving many people without the support they desperately need.

On Education and Employment

Sanctions can also have long-term effects on education and future prospects for young people. Economic hardship often forces families to prioritize immediate survival over education, leading to higher dropout rates and reduced access to educational resources. This lack of education can have lasting effects on individuals' future employment opportunities and earning potential, perpetuating the cycle of poverty. Furthermore, a poorly educated population can hinder a country's overall development and economic growth.

Side Effects

Our field work as one of the largest charity institute inside of the Islamic Republic of Iran, confirms that the social and psychological impacts of sanctions are profound. Economic hardship and the resulting increase in poverty frustrates the vulnerable people. The people who feel desperate may lose faith in their government and institutions, leading to a breakdown in social cohesion.

The stress and uncertainty caused by economic instability can also have severe psychological effects, including increased rates of depression, anxiety, and other mental health issues. These social and psychological impacts can further entrench poverty and hinder efforts to improve living conditions.

According to UN documents, the sanctions imposed on Iraq in the 1990s led to widespread poverty, malnutrition, and a significant decline in public health. Similarly, as the report of special rapporteur on the negative impact of the unilateral coercive measures on the enjoyment of human rights (visit to the Islamic Republic of Iran) has concluded, the sanctions on the Islamic Republic of Iran have resulted in economic hardship, reduced access to medical supplies, and increased poverty levels. These examples highlight the unintended consequences of sanctions and the need to stop it as soon as possible

Conclusion

While unilateral coercive measures and sanctions are often implemented with the intention of achieving political or economic objectives, their negative impacts on poverty reduction and charitable activities cannot be overlooked. These measures can exacerbate poverty, hinder access to healthcare and education, and disrupt the operations of charitable organizations. The resulting economic, social, and psychological effects can have long-lasting consequences for the most vulnerable populations.

We work with vulnerable sections of the society and we have observed the really inhuman and negative impacts of illegal unilateral and secondary sanctions on our citizens. We hope before termination of the prof. Alena Douhan's mandate, her precious scientific studies and coordination among targeted countries can stop the inhuman and anti-human rights behavior of sanctioning states.
