

**Adverse Impacts of Unilateral Coercive
Measures on Targeted Populations:
The Experiences of Cuba, Iran, Syria, Venezuela
and Zimbabwe**

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on Targeted Populations: The Experiences of Cuba, Iran, Syria, Venezuela
and Zimbabwe**

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As part of our ongoing efforts to shed light on and challenge the systematic human rights violations of the most vulnerable people in Iran, due to comprehensive unilateral coercive measures,

Organization for Defending Victims of Violence (ODVV) has published a series of reports on the ways in which economic sanctions negatively impact the daily life of the civilian citizens in Iran and targeted countries. The first volume in the series addressed the detrimental consequences of the imposed economic sanctions on “patients and the process of the production and distribution of medicines in Iran”; the second volume discussed “corruption and money-laundering” as a result of sanctions; the third volume centered on the economic sanctions forced upon Iran and its people, particularly by “banks and other financial institutions;” the fourth volume focused on “the humanitarian consequences of sanctions”; the fifth volume explored “the impact of sanctions on refugees and migrants in Iran”, the sixth volume reflected on “Sanctions and Medicines”, the seventh volume discussed “Sanctions and the people with Disabilities”, the eighth Volume drew the reader’s attention to “Mal-effects of UCMs on Human Rights under Covid-19”, the ninth Volume recorded the ODVV’s exclusive interview with Prof. Alena Douhan, the UN Special Rapporteur on the negative impact of the unilateral coercive Measures on the Enjoyment of Human Rights, the tenth issue assessed the impact of the United States Unilateral Sanctions on various sections of societies in Cuba, Iran and Venezuela and the eleventh issue highlighted the challenges that UCMs pose to the implementation of the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs), and the current Issue calls attention to the Adverse Impacts of Unilateral Coercive Measures on people of Cuba, Iran, Syria, Venezuela and Zimbabwe.

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C O N T E N T S

Introduction

The term Unilateral Coercive Measures (UCM)s refers to the widely utilized policy instruments which are imposed on some countries, in the form of economic sanctions, beyond the authority of the United Nations and the international rule of law to coerce the target country change certain policies. UCMs are claimed by the sanctioning countries to affect the governments or the political elite, while leaving the target people unharmed. However, the reality of the human rights impacts of UCMs proves to be contrary on the ground. When the economy of sanctioned countries is affected by sanctions, all sectors of the society will suffer from the negative consequences, with the most vulnerable social groups bearing the most burnt.

Most alarming, was the negative impact of UCMs on human lives during the out- break of the Covid-19 pandemic. The sanctioning countries and the United States as the country imposing most UCMs on the rest of the world, decided to tighten the grip of sanctions on some sanctioned countries and continued to deny the humanitarian impacts on human lives under the excuse that there are humanitarian exemptions to sanctions.

By the time the exemptions were proved to be dysfunctional, insufficient and ineffective, they had already taken many lives in the pandemic stricken sanctioned countries, while adding unnecessary sufferings to millions of patients in the target countries worldwide. Almost

two years after the outbreak of the pandemic, a group of UN experts criticized the ineffectiveness¹ of humanitarian exemptions and called on the international community to start a constructive dialogue on the humanitarian impact of unilateral sanctions and to take serious steps to address “over-compliance” or “de-risking”, in addition to the obstacles that UCMs have generated on the way of delivering aid and performing humanitarian work.

One of the main concerns associated with the United States unilateral sanctions is that, contrary to the international law, the sanctions have no sunset clauses –no provisions for emergencies - and there are no clear circumstances defined for sanctions removals, that is, once the sanctions are imposed, they continue to adversely impact the target population for decades and decades. The UCMs never foresee emergencies, therefore they continued – for some countries in a more severe way – during the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Having in mind the negative consequences of UCMs experienced by the people of the target countries during the pandemic, the current report has a quick glance at the overall impacts of UCMs imposed on countries such as Cuba, Iran, Syria, Venezuela and Zimbabwe, focusing on human rights repercussions of the sanctions for the target populations.

1 Humanitarian exemptions in unilateral sanctions regimes ineffective and inefficient: UN experts, 24, Nov. 2022, available at: <https://www.ohchr.org/en/node/104258>

Cuba

Cuba has been under unilateral sanctions of the United States for about 6 decades, suffering the impacts on the country's economy and human rights of the people. Since 1992 the UN General Assembly has been adopting annual resolutions on “Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba”.

Through the text, the UN General Assembly has been repeating its call on all States to “refrain from promulgating and applying laws and measures of the kind referred to in the text's preamble, in conformity with their obligations under the United Nations Charter and international law”. It also urged States that have and continue to apply such laws and measures to “take the steps necessary to repeal or invalidate them as soon as possible in accordance with their legal regimes”.

It is alarming that the continuous calls and reiterations of the majority of States – The 2022 resolution (A/77/L.5) was adopted by a recorded vote of 185 in favour to 2 against (Israel, United States), with 2 abstentions (Brazil, Ukraine) – has been falling on deaf ears in the sanctioning country for decades. Even worst was the Tightening of sanctions during the pandemic, when the blockade was causing more delays in the delivery of necessary goods including the medical equipment.

The inclusion of Cuba in the United States Department of State's list of countries that allegedly sponsor terrorism has added another range of complications to the Cuba situation. The enlisting forces Cuba to pay twice the usual price for commodities on the international market.

This while, the current United States Administration (Biden administration) has continued to exert the “maximum pressure” policy of Donald Trump Administration on Cuba. While the unilateral punitive measures against Cuba continue beyond the authority of the UN, the United Nations renews its calls on the sanctioning country [the United States] to refrain from imposition of UCMs.



Cuba has been under unilateral sanctions of the United States for about 6 decades

The Report of the UN Secretary General

In 2018, with the intensifying of sanctions on Cuba and the harms done to the economic interest of the country and following the instructions of the UN resolution 72/4, the Secretary General submitted a report to the UN General Assembly, on the implementation of the annually-adopted resolution, in consultation with the appropriate organs and agencies of the United Nations system.

Therefore, the report asked all UN member States to make comments on the continuing embargo against Cuba. Over 160 countries have responded positively to the call distributed by the UN Secretary General and expressed support for the implementation of the resolution or have condemned and criticized the continuation of sanctions against Cuba. The written responses provided by the Member States is available in the

report (A/73/85).

Needless to say that Israel and the United States are absent in the list as always. However, the European Union and countries such as Australia, Canada, Norway, Sweden and most countries from Africa, Latin America, Asia and the Middle East, including the State of Palestine are among the considerable majority of the countries who have supported Cuba and the UN resolution.

In this report the European Union has clarified that “the unilateral measures of the United States against Cuba should be ended” because they leave negative impact on the economy of the target country and the living standard of the people. The European countries have condemned the extraterritorial reach of the unilateral sanctions that negatively affect the target country.

In addition to the States, over 30 international organizations and UN agencies and bodies have also supported implementation of Cuba resolution. That is, a world majority has been supporting Cuba against the Unilateral Sanctions of the United States, while all the global criticism has fallen on deaf ears of the sanctioning country, making the UN General Assembly to continue presentation and adoption of the resolution for the next 5 years (2018-2023).



In 2018, Over 160 countries have condemned and criticized the continuation of sanctions against Cuba

Islamic Republic of Iran

Similar to many other sanctioned countries, Iran has been under sanctions for decades (four decades). In 2015, following long term dialogue, a Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) was signed between Iran and some world powers including the United States and members of the European Union¹. The deal was considered to be a landmark achievement of diplomacy, however, 3 years later, the United States Donald Trump announced unilateral withdrawal from the JCPOA, which terminated the long-debated deal which was endorsed by the UN Security Council its resolution 2231 (2015).

Following the withdrawal, Donald Trump threatened Iran with imposition of sanctions “unprecedented in history” under the excuse of forcing Iran to change some foreign policies, hoping to turn the whole life into a nightmare for all Iranian people. The imposition of multiple sanctions, coupled with a wave of secondary sanctions, negatively impacted all human rights in the country and affected the lives, the health and the adequate standard of living for all Iranian people, making the fight with Covid-19 a difficult task as in most sanctioned countries.

The multi-layered sanctions included banning the access of Iranian banks to the international interbank messaging system or SWIFT, preventing the country from getting involved in formal trade with the rest of the world. In addition, the comprehensive sanctions regime enforced heavy fines on any foreign entity who would conduct transactions with Iranian entities or individuals.

¹ China, France, Germany, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States

The huge fines made foreign financial institutions and businesses refuse to make payments, to deliver goods and services to Iran. Even after the signing of the JCPOA foreign banks and businesses were reluctant to restore engagements with Iran.

The consequences affected provision of basic goods, including food, medicines,

medical and other equipment, spare parts and raw materials and prevented Iranian cooperation with the international market.

The complicated regime of sanctions left shrinking impacts on the macro-economy of the country, all imports, exports including the oil export as the main national revenue. For example, trade between the European Union and the Islamic Republic of Iran declined by more than 50 per cent between 2017 and 2021². The UCMs also, led to skyrocketing inflation and drastic devaluation of national currency. The inflation rate has been on the rise from 18 per cent in 2018 – the time of the re-imposition of sanctions - to 39.9 per cent in 2019, 45 percent in 2022 and 55 percent in 2023³. Since the re-imposition of sanctions in 2018, general prices in the country rose drastically



The imposition of multiple sanctions, coupled with a wave of secondary sanctions, negatively impacted all human rights in the country

2 https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/isdb_results/factsheets/country/overview_iran_en.pdf

3 <https://tradingeconomics.com/iran/inflation-cpi>

and food prices increased. The cumulative impacts of the multiple sanctions led to job market instability and increase of unemployment.

Medicine and Essential Items

The obstacles created by UCMs in access to the global market and pharmaceutical companies has resulted in scarcity of certain types of medicine required by people with physical and mental issues.

Iranian war veterans and civilians who survived Iraq attacks with chemical weapons including the nerve agent and mustard gas during the Iran- Iraq war (1980s) are facing shortages of specialized medicines and medical equipment.

In addition, NGOs based in Iran, especially the NGOs that support patients with chronic disease, including thalassemia, hemophilia, Multiple sclerosis (MS), Epidermolysis bullosa (EB), various types of cancer, autism as well as the NGOs that offer livelihood support, healthcare or education services to vulnerable groups such as the disadvantaged, the people with disabilities, Afghan and Iraqi refugees and asylum seekers, abandoned and street children or NGOs that work in the field of environment, protection of wild life or sustainable development, have been collectively echoing concerns over the negative impacts of UCMs on all human rights and the deadly impacts of unilateral measures on patients, reiterating that limitation of access to items such as life-saving medicine, medical equipment, medicine raw materials and mobility equipment, are exposing patients to premature death, un-necessary sufferings, prolonged disease or further complications of physical and mental issues, that amount to illegal collective punishments.

The outbreak of coronavirus disease, (COVID-19) pandemic, further compounded the negative impacts of UCMs on Iran health care system. The Islamic Republic of Iran recorded more than 131,000 loss of lives by the end of 2021, as one the countries most affected by Covid-19 in the Middle East & Northern Africa (MENA) region⁴.

During the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, UCMs caused disruptions in the delivery of vital equipment required by the patients, including ventilators, CT scanners and protective equipment, vaccine, medical machinery spare parts and medicine raw materials. In addition, the United States blocked, of the payment of a loan from the International Monetary Fund requested by Iran to address the health care situation.

Food Stuff

Following the re-imposition of sanctions in 2018, UCMs disrupted the access of Iran agriculture sector to seeds, fertilizers, equipment and machinery spare parts. In addition, the rising inflation rate coupled with the devaluation of the national currency, have drastically increased the

4 [https://www.unicef.org/media/117066/file/Iran-\(Islamic-Republic-of\)-2021-COAR.pdf](https://www.unicef.org/media/117066/file/Iran-(Islamic-Republic-of)-2021-COAR.pdf)



The people of sanctioned and developing countries including Iran experience serious inequalities in terms of income, access to social services and enjoyment of all human rights as a result of sanctions

prices of food stuff, which has made the households to spend much more on their required food items.

Poverty

The impact of UCMs on exacerbating national inequalities through increase of poverty and unemployment is equally alarming. The people of sanctioned and developing countries including Iran experience serious inequalities in terms of income, access to social services and enjoyment of all human rights as a result of sanctions. UCMs that target the economy of the target countries, widen the wealth distribution gaps in these countries and push more and more people below the poverty line to create increasing social dissatisfaction.

UCMs hamper successful implementation of many national programs that aim at provision of equal rights for various sectors of society and reach out to marginalized groups.

International Participation

UCMs have interfered with Iran voting rights in the United Nations because of the limitation of the Government access to funds in foreign accounts. Also, there are similar complications for payment of membership fees to international sports and cultural associations and in financing the participation of Iranian artists in international cultural meetings and festivals.

Even worst, is the impact of UCMs on Iran academia, when international academic institutions and scholars show serious reluctance to collaborate with Iranian counterparts; the members of the academia also experience

travel constraints; exclusion from editorial boards abroad; denial of access to foreign grants for academic exchanges and research; inability in submitting articles to foreign journals and publishers and being banned from accessing foreign online academic, technological and medical databases and libraries, all of which constitute serious discrimination based on nationality.

The sanctions have also had serious negative impacts on the capacity of Iranian students wishing to study or studying in foreign academic institutions, interns of making the payment of fees and opening or maintaining of bank accounts.

To summarize, it can be confirmed that Iran multifaceted UCMs have had a wide range of adverse impacts on all human rights of Iranians.



During the pandemic, UCMs caused disruptions in the delivery of vital equipment required by the patients, including ventilators, CT scanners and protective equipment

Syria

The Syrian Arab Republic has been under Unilateral Coercive Measures (UCM)s for over four decades and under sever sanctions for about 12 years, mostly imposed by the United States The multiple sanctions, which can amount to a blockade, have interrupted the life-saving operations of international and national humanitarian organizations, which proves that the humanitarian exemptions declared for sanctions are not working, not even for essential items such as food and medicine.

The current situation is caused by the over-compliance of banks, financial institutions and businesses with the extraterritorial reach of unilateral sanctions.

The sanctions have negatively impacted the macro economy of the country, the gross domestic product (GDP), economic growth, the oil production and oil export, government revenue, foreign direct investment and all international trade.

The sanctions have adversely affected the critical infrastructure; the human rights to food, health, education and adequate living standard; delivery of Humanitarian assistance; the country's Tourism industry; the transportation system; the people's culture and their access to new technologies.

The civilian **infrastructure** such as power plants and water structures are on the one hand destroyed by the 12 years of conflict and on the other hand the sanctions and the over-compliance of foreign companies prevents the required reconstructions. Presently, (in August 2023) the country's oil

and gas reserves fall in the areas outside government control which leads to fuel shortages, negatively affecting the daily lives of the people as well as the functioning of the water supply facilities, transportation, health and education systems.

The country has been mostly reliant on agricultural products to provide the population with the required **food** stuff. Such productions have witnessed a

sharp decrease. Wheat production was recorded to be about 4.1 million tonnes during the period 2002-2011¹. In 2021 was around 1.05 million tonnes, only one quarter of the average production of 2011. The same trend applies to other agricultural and livestock products.

Unilateral sanctions have affected livelihoods of millions of Syrians. “According to the World Food Programme (WFP), more than 12.4 million people (60 percent of the population) were food insecure in 2020, 5.4 million more than in 2019. The food security situation has continued to worsen in 2021”².



The sanctions have negatively impacted the gross domestic product (GDP), economic growth, the oil production and oil export, and all international trade

1 <https://reliefweb.int/report/syrian-arab-republic/special-report-2021-fao-crop-and-food-supply-assessment-mission-syrian>

2 <file:///C:/Users/39/Downloads/cb8039en.pdf>

Generally, **the right to health** is targeted by unilateral sanctions. The financial exchange and trade restrictions caused by unilateral sanctions have created obstacles in patients' access of life-saving medicines, for physical issues including cancer, kidney dialysis, multiple sclerosis, hypertension, anemia, diabetes and respiratory diseases.

With the gloomy impacts of the medicine shortage in the horizon, electricity shortages have interfered with the functioning of hospitals and health centres. In addition, collective immigration of doctors and health-care personnel has left harmful impacts on the health care system, seriously limiting people's access on the right to health.

The over-compliance of companies and banks with unilateral sanctions have turned the delivery of **humanitarian aid** to a serious challenge for the relevant organizations and actors, while the defined exemptions have proven to be ineffective in practice. Even the humanitarian exemptions introduced by the United States and the European Union to support the country response to 2023 earthquake are reported to be too lengthy and complicated to meet the emergency needs on time.

The right to **education** has been restricted. With only two-thirds of the country's 19,663 schools operating, (UNICEF report 2022), 2.4 million children are out of school and 1.6 million children are at risk of dropping out. The unilateral sanctions negatively affected access to new technologies, educational websites, online training and communication.

Venezuela

The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela has been under the United States unilateral sanctions for about two decades, (since 2005), in addition to the unilateral sanctions imposed by the European Union, the United Kingdom, Canada; Mexico and Switzerland.

The United States sanctions imposed on Venezuela had adversely impacted the country's economy, civilian infrastructures and enjoyment of fundamental human rights to life, food, water, health, housing and education.

Unilateral Coercive Measures had a harmful effect on the people, especially the most vulnerable, such as women, children, older persons, persons with disabilities, serious or chronic diseases, and indigenous people.

The sanctions made the maintenance and functioning of the civilian **infrastructures** such as schools and hospitals, undermining the right to life, to health and to education. The sanctions have also interfered with supply of electricity, gas, water, transport, telephone and communication systems, affecting all human rights and the right to an adequate living standard.

The country's **macro economy** has been seriously harmed by sanctions, reducing the government revenue to the 1 percent of the amount before the sanction phase¹. The reduce in national revenue resulted in decrease in the budget allocated to social development projects in addition to worsening of the humanitarian situation.

The situation of people's **health** and the right to life has been dire. A research report published in 2019, found sanctions responsible for thousands of deaths and documented the staggering death toll associated with sanctions to amount to 40,000 people in Venezuela in one year². A figure, that among other findings and experiences might have encouraged the government to consider sanctions as “crimes against humanity”, bringing the case to the International Court of Justice.

With almost all members of the population (94%) living under **poverty** and a significant majority being in extreme poverty (67%)³, the right to **food** is already violated for millions of people. The country imports about 75%⁴ of the required food stuff while, oil export, as the main source of national revenue, has been negatively impacted



Unilateral Coercive Measures had a harmful effect on the people, especially the most vulnerable, such as women, children, older persons, persons with disabilities, serious or chronic diseases, and indigenous people

2 <https://cepr.net/press-release/report-finds-us-sanctions-on-venezuela-are-responsible-for-tens-of-thousands-of-deaths/>

3 <https://insoencovi.ucab.edu.ve/indicador-pobreza/>

4 <https://www.wola.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Oliveros-report-summary-ENG.pdf>

by the sanctions as well as all other imports and exports, imposing a double pressure on the realization of the right to food.

The country is facing limitation of budget to provide the **education** system with sufficient support. The reduction of allocated financial support to the education sector has led to limitation of students' access to school clothing, meals and accessories such as

laptop, tablet and internet coverage especially during the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic. In addition to the school students, the academia have also been impacted by sanctions travel restrictions, because of the visa and money transfer issues. They find attendance in international conference and academic gatherings difficult if not impossible.



The country imports about 75% of the required food stuff while, oil export, as the main source of national revenue, has been negatively impacted by the sanction

Zimbabwe

Zimbabwe has been subject to the United States restrictive policies for over 2 decades – beginning in 2001 and severing in 2018. The sanctions have interfered with financial exchanges between Zimbabwe and international financial institutions, including the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the World Bank and the African Development Bank.

Sanctions imposed on banking transactions coupled with a multitude of sanctions imposed on individuals and entities has led to a range of secondary sanctions, and different forms of over-compliance by foreign banks and companies negatively impacting the population and the Government, exacerbating pre-existing economic and humanitarian challenges.

While the country has been struggling with climate change challenges including drought as well as some domestic unrests, the negative policies of international institutions such as the IMF and the World Bank were harmful to the country and sanctions increased foreign debts and decreased the national revenues to make the whole situation deteriorate. The government has emphasized that the sanctions have made the country – that was mostly reliant on international trade - lose over US\$42 billion in revenue over the past 18 years¹.

1 <http://www.zimfa.gov.zw/index.php/component/k2/item/49-impact-on-zimbabwe-and-the-region-of-the-unilateral-sanctions-imposed-by-the-united-states-of-america-and-the-european-union>

Impacts on Human Rights

Zimbabwe sanctions have adversely impacted the basic human rights of the population, including the right to life, health, food, water, education, an adequate living standard and the right to work.

The country was reliant on agriculture, while sanctions imposed on prominent agricultural companies resulted in reduced production of farm products. In addition, while droughts and environmental incidents such as cyclones left other harms on the sector. The situation contributed to **food** insecurity in the country for the past two decades.

The sanctions have interfered with maintenance of **water** and sewage infrastructures, limiting people access to clean water and sanitation, leading to outbreak of epidemics, such as cholera and typhoid in the country.

The unilateral sanctions have seriously undermined the public **health** system, including the expenditure on the system, the available infrastructure such as the supply of essential and life-saving medicines, vaccine, the available medical equipment, ambulances and the qualified personnel, making access to health difficult for the people.

The unilateral measures have sharply increased poverty, undermining efforts to aiming at eradication of poverty. The



Sanctions imposed on banking transactions coupled with a multitude of sanctions imposed on individuals and entities has led to a range of secondary sanctions, and different forms of over-compliance by foreign banks

outbreak of the coronavirus (COVID-19) further added to the complications with almost half of the population having been estimated to be in extreme poverty in 2020².

In the **education** sector, the sanctions directly impacted the delivery of quality education, the cost of transportation and accommodation for the school staffs, the cost of school material, uniforms, computers and other technology for students. The situation has increased the students' dropout rate, in all levels of education, as well as the rate of the vacancies in the education personnel. The unilateral measures have also negatively impacted the students and teachers in the higher education levels. The educational institutions staff, professors and researchers have confronted impediments in seeking grants or paying membership fees in international professional associations, due to their nationality. In addition, there has been high dropout rates for university students who have been unable to pay tuition fees.

The targeted sanctions imposed on the members of the government and over-compliance of banks and businesses with the sanctions have led



The country was reliant on agriculture, while sanctions imposed on prominent agricultural companies resulted in reduced production of farm products

² <https://www.unicef.org/zimbabwe/press-releases/half-zimbabweans-faced-extreme-poverty-2020-due-covid-19-rapid-poverty-income>

to **high vacancy rates** in public institutions, making the country losing a significant portion of its qualified personnel. On the other hand, the undermined economy has led to closure of many companies, making thousands of workers redundant, over the past 15 years.

The civilian **infrastructure** is also harmfully affected by unilateral sanctions. The expansion and maintenance of public transportation and the network of roads, railways and airports is affected by limitation of access to technology, equipment, spare parts and the required budget.

The sanctions have also adversely impacted the population forcing many people to move irregularly into other countries in the form of Migrants and refugees, becoming subject to difficult and sometimes slavery living conditions.

International cooperation and delivery of humanitarian aid is also harmfully affected by sanctions.

In brief, lifting unilateral sanctions in line with the principles of international law; avoiding de-risking policies and over-compliance and engaging in meaningful structured discussions on political reform, the rule of law and human rights are the measures that significantly contribute to improvement of all human rights in the country.

Conclusion

The resort to unilateralism pose a serious threat to all human rights to life, health, education, adequate standard of living, the right to work, the right to food, the right to development and attainment of all sustainable development goals including the eradication of extreme poverty, access to clean sources of energy and sustainable environment. UCMs widen both domestic and global inequalities, in terms of income, access to social services and enjoyment of all human rights. Even worst, is the proven deadly impact of UCMs on humanitarian responses of countries, causing large-scale devastation and death¹, leading to consideration of sanctions as economic terrorism, crimes against humanity² or genocide.

Presently, UCMs are imposed on 39 countries³ round the world and the population affected by the unilateral measures amount to over one billion people. The staggering figure proves the widespread scale and scope of sanctions that destructively affect all human rights.

1. According to a report by CEPR, in Venezuela, sanctions death toll was recorded to amount to 40,000 lives in a one-year period, available at: <http://cepr.net/publications/reports/economic-sanctions-as-collective-punishment-the-case-of-venezuela>

2. A/HRC/39/47/Add.1

3. List of 39 countries targeted by economic sanctions, available at: <https://sanctionskill.org>

In addition to adverse impacts on all human rights, UCMs threaten international peace and security. The institution of the United Nations was established based on multilateral values and the organization has been making significant decisions to stabilize a peaceful and predictable world by encouraging states to cooperate for the common good rather than competing for national advantage. The development of international treaties and agreements aim at encouraging global peace.

This is while, increasing resort to unilateralism including the imposition of unlawful Unilateral Coercive Measures (UCM)s, beyond the authority of the United Nations, is an extreme form of unilateralism that destructively undermine the global authority of the UN and the international rule of law, while subjecting the target populations to collective punishments and wide scoped violation of all their human rights.

Considering the ineffectiveness of the re-occurring UN calls⁴ and UN resolutions⁵ on sanction lifting, it is believed that a UN mechanism, such as compensation mechanism for the UCM victims needs to be established to hold the sanctioning countries accountable for the large-



The resort to unilateralism pose a serious threat to all human rights to life, health, education, adequate standard of living, the right to work, the right to food, the right to development and attainment of all sustainable development goals

scale violation of human rights being committed by UCMs, so that the sanctioning countries would think twice before abusing economic powers and culminating unilateral sanctions on other States.

4. António Guterres, “Remarks at G-20 Virtual Summit on the COVID-19 Pandemic”, 26 March 2020, available at:

www.un.org/sg/en/content/sg/speeches/2020-03-26/remarks-g-20-virtual-summit-covid-19-pandemic; António Guterres, “We Are All in This Together: Human Rights and COVID-19 Response and Recovery”, 23 April 2020, available at: www.un.org/en/un-coronavirus-communications-team/weare-all-together-human-rights-and-covid-19-response-and; “COVID-19 Shows ‘Urgent Need’ for Solidarity, UN Chief Tells Nobel Forum”, UN News, 11 December 2020, available at: <https://news.un.org/en/story/2020/12/1079802>. See also UNGA Res. 74/270, “Global Solidarity to Fight the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)”, 3 April 2020, available at: <https://undocs.org/en/A/RES/74/270>.

UN Experts: Sanctions proving deadly during COVID pandemic, humanitarian exemptions not working, available at: <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=26155&LangID=E>; OHCHR, “An immediate human rights response to counter the COVID-19 and the global recession ahead is an urgent priority,’ says UN expert”, 20 March 2020, available at: <https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2020/03/immediate-human-rights-response-counter-covid-19-and-global-recession-ahead>; OHCHR, “UN rights expert urges Governments to save lives by lifting all economic sanctions amid COVID-19 pandemic”, 3 April 2020, available at: <https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2020/04/un-rights-expert-urges-governments-save-lives-lifting-all-economic-sanctions>; OHCHR, “UN experts: sanctions proving deadly during COVID pandemic, humanitarian exemptions not working”, 7

August 2020, available at: <https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2020/08/un-experts-sanctions-proving-deadly-during-covid-pandemic-humanitarian>; OHCHR | Over-compliance with US sanctions harms Iranians' right to health, <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=27665&LangID=E>; <https://www.ohchr.org/SP/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=27931&LangID=E>; UN experts urge States to consider humanitarian impacts when imposing or implementing sanctions, 25 March 2022, available at: <https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2022/03/un-experts-urge-states-consider-humanitarian-impacts-when-imposing-or> 5. e.g., HRC Res. 15/24, HRC Res. 19/32; HRC Res. 24/14; HRC Res. 30/2; HRC Res. 34/13; HRC Res. 45/5; Res. 69/180; UNGA Res. 70/151; A/RES/70/151; UNGA Res. 71/193.



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