

Organization for Defending Victims of Violence

Item 3: BIENNIAL PANEL ON UNILATERAL COERCIVE MEASURES

Mr. President, Distinguished Panelists

We welcome the convening of this panel on unilateral sanctions and their devastating impact on global food security. The Global Report on Food Crises 2025 highlights a worsening humanitarian crisis, with millions facing acute food insecurity.

Unilateral sanctions inflict severe harm on people's access to food and other necessities by disrupting supply chains, reducing household purchasing power, inflating import costs, and crippling national infrastructure. Even when directed at specific individuals or entities, their consequences ripple across entire economies, worsening hunger and poverty on a massive scale.

As UN human rights experts emphasized in March 2022, access to food, water, sanitation, medicine, vaccines, and other services essential for survival and the functioning of critical infrastructure must never be obstructed by unilateral sanctions.

The Special Rapporteur's latest report underscores the human cost of these measures. In countries such as Iran, Venezuela, and Syria, sanctions have intensified food insecurity and deepened dependence on humanitarian aid. Under the worn-out excuse of targeting governments, they deprive civilians of medicine, food, and dignity, violating the fundamental right to live free from hunger.

We urge the UN Member States to urgently nullify restrictions on food and agricultural goods, implement Special Rapporteur's recommendations, and safeguard civilians' right to food.