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including the right to development**

Report of the Special Rapporteur on the negative impact of unilateral coercive measures on the enjoyment of human rights, Alena Douhan, on her visit to the Islamic Republic of Iran

Comments by the State*

* The present document is being issued without formal editing.



**Comments of the Islamic Republic of Iran on the Report of Alena
Douhan, the Special Rapporteur on the Negative Impact of Unilateral
Coercive Measures on the Enjoyment of Human Rights, Following Her
Country Visit, 7 to 18 May 2022**

In the Name of God, The Compassionate, The Merciful

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I. Introduction

1. The Islamic Republic of Iran would like to pay gratitude to Alena Dohan, the Special Rapporteur on the Negative Impact of Unilateral Coercive Measures on the Enjoyment of Human Rights, for accepting the invitation extended thereto by the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran and undertaking an official State visit from 7 to 18 May 2022, and for her sincere efforts and those of her colleagues. Conducted within the framework of her mandate, the visit provided a suitable opportunity for an independent evaluation and observation of the unfortunate realities pertaining to the negative and destructive impacts of unlawful unilateral coercive measures on the enjoyment of human rights of the Iranian people, especially people in vulnerable situations.
2. The invitation extended to the Special Rapporteur is clearly emblematic of the Government's commitment to cooperation and the transparent and constructive approach taken by the Islamic Republic of Iran vis-à-vis international human rights mechanisms, including the special procedures of the Human Rights Council. The Islamic Republic of Iran has devoted rapt attention to all the requests submitted by the Special Rapporteur and provided her a completely suitable platform to conduct an independent and undisturbed activity.
3. The Islamic Republic of Iran appreciates all relevant stakeholders, especially non-governmental organizations, who engaged in the dialogue and fact-finding process in a responsible manner, and tried to produce an image of the irreparable impacts of unilateral coercive measures by providing reliable information. Furthermore, the Islamic Republic of Iran expresses regret at the politically-motivated and inhumane measures implemented by certain foreign-based, so-called non-governmental organizations to prevent the Special Rapporteur from traveling to Iran.
4. The Special Rapporteur's findings divulge more than ever the need for the international community to adopt a responsible and committed approach towards the States imposing and enforcing unilateral coercive measures, especially the United States. The lack of effective measures by the international community against deprivation of the people of a land of their fundamental rights by imposing an economic blockade thereagainst constitutes a flagrant violation of general and specific international obligations.
5. The Special Rapporteur's documented report clearly depicts the destructive impacts of unilateral coercive measures on all aspects of the human rights of Iranian people. The Islamic Republic of Iran, however, is of the view that the calamitous impacts of sanctions are much more extensive than thought, which cannot be described in a short-term visit and a multi-page report.

II. Negative Impacts of UCMs on Human Rights of Iranian People

6. Ever since the victory of the Islamic Revolution, the Islamic Republic of Iran has been affected by the negative impacts of various forms of unilateral and multilateral sanctions on human rights. Albeit the Special Rapporteur's report, which has been prepared within the framework of the mandate assigned thereto, places its' focus on examining the negative impacts of unilateral coercive measures on human rights, it is clear and evident that the people of Iran have been deprived of their fundamental human rights as a result of all forms of unilateral and multilateral sanctions.
7. The illegal compliance of certain third parties, companies and individuals with sanctions serves as a key point in increasing the effectiveness of the United States' unlawful and unilateral sanctions. As pointed out by the Special Rapporteur, the negative impacts of secondary sanctions sometimes exceed the primary unilateral ones. In this framework, the European Union, the United Kingdom, Australia, Canada, the Republic of Korea and certain other States started to implement the United States' unilateral sanctions.
8. Human rights are interdependent and indivisible. It is obvious that the imposition of unilateral coercive measures, with any purpose whatsoever, have negative impacts on all

components of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran and other target States. Those imposing measures of such nature cannot claim that they have no impact on human rights or that impacts thereof are limited to rights such as the right to health – the responsibility of which they can abdicate by issuing so-called humanitarian licenses. Unilateral coercive measures have direct and indirect impacts on the realization of or States' abilities to realize human rights.

9. In addition to issues raised in the Special Rapporteur's report pertaining the negative impacts of unilateral coercive measures, the Islamic Republic of Iran considers it necessary to draw attention to some of the most important examples as a supplementary comment. The most important impacts of such illegal and inhumane measures can be seen on the realization of the right to health, the right to life, the right to adequate housing, the right to development, the right to a healthy environment, the right to education, the right to work, the right to enjoy social welfare and the like – the examples and statistics of which are enumerated as hereinunder:

- **Right to Life & Health**

- Death of 15 people suffering from epidermolysis bullosa following termination of cooperation by Mölnlycke, a Swedish company, to provide special bandages for butterfly patients in 2020. The number of deaths has unfortunately increased;
- Death of 148 thalassemia patients due to non-cooperation of Novartis, a Swiss-based company, to send Desferal (used to treat iron overload caused by blood transfusions) between 2018 and 2020. The number of deaths has unfortunately increased to 618;
- Unilateral coercive measures have created obstacles aplenty for the supply of equipment, medicine and vaccine needed to deal with the COVID-19 pandemic; and
- Unilateral coercive measures have seriously disrupted the import of medical equipment urgently needed to diagnose, control and cure COVID-19 such as: ventilators, computerized tomography, dialysis, continuous renal replacement therapy, extracorporeal membrane oxygenation, digital radiology, electroconvulsive therapy, reverse transcription polymerase chain reaction, video laryngoscope and portable econosography equipment as well as all personal protective equipment – including N95 and 3-ply masks and protective gowns, all of which were desperately needed upon the outbreak of the pandemic.

- **Right to Food**

- Price hike for imported basic goods;
- Lack of quality agricultural inputs;
- Failure to attract investment in the agricultural sector;
- Countless problems in providing equipment and machinery needed for planting, growing and harvesting agricultural products and spare parts thereof, as well as price hikes and disruption of new agricultural technologies development process;
- Obstacles in importing quality seeds, pesticides and fertilizers;
- Disruption in equipping, renovating, updating and developing greenhouses, cold storages, process and supplementary agricultural industries;
- Problems in providing pharmaceuticals, vaccines as well as veterinary and fisheries equipment; and
- Problems in providing livestock inputs, goods needed to regulate the market (chicken, meat, oil, etc.), challenges in supply, bank transactions, transportation and clearance.

- **Right to Access Humanitarian Aid & Equipment**

- Non-provision of humanitarian licenses to receive humanitarian goods and services as well as ineffectiveness of humanitarian exemptions due to over-compliance;
- UN agencies' undermined efforts to provide technical or humanitarian assistance following challenges caused by sanctions, especially due to over-compliance of banks, suppliers and other external actors (public and private) therewith;
- Obstacles in providing special machines and equipment needed to demolish or remove debris of high-rise buildings in metropolitan cities, thereby disrupting reconstruction operations;
- Lack of equipment and support facilities for the injured rehabilitation;
- Obstacles in providing snow removal as well as fire-fighting equipment such as long ladders;
- Obstacles in providing early warning equipment needed for meteorology;
- Obstacles in providing satellite equipment and non-enjoyment from top-notch technologies for natural hazards forecast;
- Unfeasibility of equipping helicopters used in natural hazards with fire extinguishing and night vision capabilities;
- Problems in providing logistics equipment used in the response phase including but not limited to PIR sensors;
- Unfeasibility of buying equipment and spare parts needed for accelerometers, seismographs, etc.;
- Inability to purchase communication equipment including but not limited to wireless and satellite communication;
- Infeasibility of establishing online access to aerial and satellite maps in order to monitor the Country's natural hazards;
- Significant obstacles in the way of transferring international cash donations for victims of accidents due to SWIFT being blocked; and
- Prohibition of importing rescue devices and equipment, RIP sensors or life detectors, telecommunication equipment, communication satellites as well as helicopters and medical air ambulances.

- **Right to Movement: An Emphasis on Safe Medivac**

- The right to life is the most important right for human beings. In addition to the fact that the United States' unilateral coercive measures pose safety threats to Iran's aviation industry and endanger the physical and mental health of passengers, they also have highly destructive impacts on other areas where air transportation is used to help save human lives. As far as maintaining flight safety is concerned, although the safety of flights – which has been confirmed by the international supervisory bodies – is ensured by measures beyond and more expensive than the usual routine in the world, unilateral coercive measures cause an increase in costs and limitation of any services that can be provided, thus restricting people's movement for educational, medical, welfare and recreation purposes.
- One of the major restrictions created by the United States for the Iranian people concerns helicopters. There is one air ambulance for every one million people in many countries; however, the figure is very much lower in Iran. Unfortunately, with regards to rescue and emergency helicopters, the manufacturing and supplying companies openly refuse to provide services and support due to the U.S. sanctions; and, the regulatory organizations – in response to correspondences communicated thereto – declare inability to

fulfil obligations thereof under the Chicago Convention. Iranian pilots are even denied access to simulator training to practice emergency situations in air ambulances.

- On average, there are 3 airplanes for every one million people in the world. Given the economic, cultural and geographical conditions in Iran, its' natural needs are estimated to be more than this number. This index in Iran is nearly one-eighth of the plane per one million people. According to the studies, the index corresponding to the basic need of movement in Iran is 4 airplanes per one million people.

- **Right of Access to Information**

- Shutting down IRIB domains and accounts in cyberspace and websites such as YouTube, Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, channels websites, etc. for unreasonable reasons and creating extensive restrictions;
- Creating obstacles in the supply of studio equipment and secondary problems for foreign companies that are parties to the contract with the IRIB, thereby reducing the level of international cooperation as well as cultural and artistic productions;
- Non-cooperation of content production and distribution companies, such as international sports coverage companies, with Iran for fear of being fined or targeted by punitive measures by the orchestrators of sanctions;
- Suspension and restriction of satellite broadcasting of IRIB World Service channels;
- Seizure of .com domains belonging to IRIB World Service;
- Imposing sanctions against Shahid Beheshti University and Sharif University of Technology by the European Union;
- Preventing Iranian students from pursuing their studies abroad;
- Blocking bank accounts of Iranian students studying abroad due to Iranian nationality;
- Restrictions on access to scientific resources;
- Non-consideration and non-evaluation of articles and writings produced by Iranian authors in world-renowned journals; and
- Unfeasibility of making payments to buy books and articles from international websites.

- **Right of Iranian People to Own Assets: Negative Impacts of Sanctioning Banking Network Thereon**

- As a result of the maximum pressure exerted by the United States on the Islamic Republic of Iran, a large part of foreign exchange assets and international securities belonging to the Central Bank of Iran in other countries have been blocked, and access thereto has become almost impossible. This has sharply decreased the CBI's available assets, forcing the Country to supply and allocate currency for the purchase of basic goods, medicine and medical equipment, raw materials needed by production units, as well as import of consumer and capital goods. On the other hand, the lack of currency supply caused by the United States' hostile measures have – in different periods – caused upward pressure on the exchange rate, leading to multiple depreciations in foreign exchange rate in the free market. Albeit the CBI managed to minimize the damage caused by currency shocks with preventive measures, the United States – by making maximum use of propaganda outlets against the Country's economic system – waged a full-scale economic war, the results of which have been nothing but recurrent jumps in the foreign exchange rate, the closure of economic enterprises due

to a lack of raw materials, a rise in inflation and a decrease in purchasing power of a large part of the society.

- Following the freeze of assets belonging to the Islamic Republic of Iran, the CBI and the Government made constant efforts in order to unfreeze them. The endeavors undertaken by the CBI and the Country's diplomatic apparatus to benefit from foreign exchange resources failed to bear fruit; and, a large part of Iran's foreign exchange resources remains frozen and unavailable.
- The United States' economic sanctions did not target the CBI and other state-owned banks; they have actually been enforced against the entire banking system, including private and specialized banks such as Bank of Agriculture and Bank Maskan¹, which are responsible for providing services to farmers and housing builders. The sanctions led to a drop in production of agricultural products, a lack of basic goods and an unprecedented housing prices hike due to a lack of supply, greatly reducing access of ordinary people to affordable food and shelter. The average price of food and beverages skyrocketed by more than 406%, with the average price of housing in Tehran shooting up by more than 487% during the period under review (21 April 2018 to 20 March 2022).
- Following the U.S. withdrawal from the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, which was followed by Washington's decision to set a period of 3 to 6 months for foreign companies to cease cooperation with Iran, all foreign companies that were active therein even prior to the JCPOA were unfortunately forced to leave due to repeated threats imposed by the United States. Therefore, many infrastructure projects, especially in the field of oil and gas, were suspended, causing a sharp drop in investment. The dramatic decrease in investment, in addition to increasing the unemployment rate which damages the livelihood of tens of thousands of workers employed in the aforementioned projects, has caused a drop in the gross domestic product and per capita income of the Iranian people.

- **Economic Rights**

- **Increase in Inflation Rate:** The average inflation rate during the 2015-2017 period stood at 8.7 percent. Had the U.S.-orchestrated sanctions not been imposed and the 2016 situation continued for the following years, the inflation rate would have been between 8 and 10 percent; however, the sanctions caused the inflation rate in 2020 to experience a 26.6 percent shoot-up compared to the normal inflation.
- **Decrease in GDP Growth Rate:** The growth rate of Iran's real GDP in 2017, 2018, 2019 and 2020 was 8.3, 6, 8.6 and 5.1 percent respectively. Iran's economy has experienced negative growth as a result of the U.S. pull-out from the JCPOA in 2018.
- **Negative Impact on Business Climate Index:** As far as the ease of doing business index is concerned, the Country managed to move up 32 spots to 120th in the 2013-2017 period. However, upon the snapback of sanctions, Iran's ranking in the ease of doing business index plummeted. The demotion rate in 2020 compared to 2017 is 7 spots.
- **Decrease in GDP Per Capita:** Iran's GDP per capita constantly plummeted from 2012 to 2015. The GDP per capita, during the JCPOA period (2015 to 2017), enjoyed an increasing trend; however, following the unilateral withdrawal of the United States from the nuclear deal, it began to decrease again. In 2020, the GDP per capita reached its lowest level in recent years. Sanctions imposed against the Islamic Republic of Iran have made it difficult for the Country to attain objectives set out by development programs. The

¹ Bank Maskan is also known as the Housing Bank.

results are indicative of the fact that the per capita income decreased by 44 percent in 2020 following the intensification of sanctions during the Trump administration.

- **Creating Numerous Obstacles in Foreign Investment:** Foreign direct investment inflows increased consistently from 2015 to 2017 (from 2,050 billion dollars in 2015 to 5,019 billion dollars in 2017). However, with the exacerbation of the impacts of cruel sanctions imposed against Iran following the U.S. withdrawal from the JCPOA, the inflow of foreign direct investment during the 2018-2020 period experienced a non-stop decrease from 2,373 billion dollars in 2018 to 1,342 billion dollars in 2020.
- **Reduced Access to International Financing:** Credit lines are one of the most common financing tools for implementing infrastructure projects in developing countries. Although the Sixth Development Plan has anticipated the allocation of an average of 30 billion dollars annually for the required financial resources through foreign banks' credit lines and foreign financing, given the fact that sanctions have practically prevented provision of the expected financial resources, the implementation of part of the Country's development programs has faced serious problems. The United States' unilateral withdrawal from the nuclear agreement and creditors' reluctance to continue cooperation with Iran due to Washington's maximum pressure campaign has made it difficult to attract credit lines.
- **Reduced Access to International Development Loans:** Despite the World Bank's approval of loans and grants prior to and after the Islamic Revolution for the Islamic Republic of Iran, the aforesaid Bank refrained from approving facilities in favor of the Country from 2005 to 2017. However, during the 2020-2021 period and due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Bank in question approved two emergency loans for the Islamic Republic of Iran in order to provide financing for medical equipment and items needed to deal with the deadly respiratory disease.
- **Negative Impact on Tourism Industry:** The re-imposition of sanctions has also led to a sharp drop in tourism and a loss of thousands of jobs, both in the tourism industry and among women who work in rural areas and produce handicrafts. Furthermore, payment problems have deprived foreign tourists of visiting Iran's rich cultural heritage, which is among the oldest civilizations. Unilateral coercive measures have negatively affected the culture and art of Iran.

- **Right to Healthy Environment**

- Non-allocation of special credits for the Country in the Global Environment Facility during three consecutive GEF-5 periods;
- Non-provision of credit for the final phase of the Global Environment Facility project entitled: "Capacity Building for the Implementation of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety", and failure to respond to Iran's correspondences;
- International organizations and institutions' reluctance to implement environmental projects and unfeasibility of using other sources and international credits such as the Green Climate Fund, the Adaptation Fund and the World Bank;
- Disruption in the activities of the Basel and Stockholm Conventions Regional Center due to unlawful sanctions. The said Center has in recent years had several opportunities to obtain financial resources through international projects (SP, SGP, PWP). However, it has been unable to enjoy international financial resources despite obtaining the required and appropriate points and being equal with privileges offered by projects belonging to other States;

- Non-transfer of technical knowledge and technology for measurement and monitoring equipment.

- **Negative Impacts of UCMs on Industry & Mining**

- Considering the fact that creation and modernization of industries hinges upon imported machinery and equipment, and as a result, is dependent on start-up and training services for production lines, be advised that sanctions, in addition to creating disruptions in the import of this group of goods, have disrupted the receiving of foreign services, leading to non-fulfilment of obligations by some foreign companies for various reasons. Therefore, the process of creation, renovation and reconstruction of industries in the Country has been affected.
- As a result of countless problems arising from sanctions that plagued Iran's industrial sector, the performance of such companies was affected in various ways; and subsequently, they were burdened with bank, insurance and tax debts. The formation of facilitating working groups tasked with surmounting obstacles of such nature and assisting continuation of production – in addition to carrying a financial burden for holding such meetings, granting various types of reliefs, exemptions and payment deferrals – placed a tremendous financial burden on both the Country's banking system and budget.
- Sanctions and the ensuing problems have led to closure of production or activity less than production capacity, retrenchment and reduction of production level, plaguing Iran's production sector. Despite all the efforts made by the Government, the rights of people to have easy access to goods and services, jobs, etc. have been violated.
- Moreover, problems related to currency transfer, provision of raw materials and required spare parts and equipment, restrictions on export markets, reduction in people's income and domestic demand for goods, decrease in demand for goods by other economic sectors (including but not limited to oil, gas and housing sectors), have all been directly and indirectly caused by the sanctions, and have had negative impacts on production level in the industrial sector.
- Slapping sanctions on the Country's automotive industry which dealt a hefty blow to continuation of vehicle production, in addition to creating many problems for accommodating the ever-increasing market demands, has led to an increase in production costs and consequently, a dramatic rise in prices.
- With regards to the negative impacts of unilateral coercive measures on construction projects, given the non-realization of oil revenues due to the imposed sanctions which have made it difficult for the Country to sell oil, the share of public sources of income has practically decreased and funds allocated to construction projects and capital asset acquisition plans have been reduced, as a result of which, the goals related to the implementation of the said projects have not been achieved.

- **Negative Impacts of Sanctions on Housing & Rural Development**

- Stagnation in process of completing construction projects;
- Affecting purchase of spare laboratory and research devices, certain laboratory consumables, repair and maintenance services, implementation of obligations and installations in housing and road construction;
- Failure of certain companies to send experts and engineers in order to fulfill obligations;
- Problems related to non-participation of the Iranian specialists and engineers in some international training workshops;

- Non-responsiveness of States manufacturing specialized equipment and tools from rendering software and hardware support services;
- Non-existence of after-sales service representatives to provide necessary services for new equipment, as well as a lack of timely support and swift response;
- Inability to send defective parts for repair and maintenance in order to update the equipment;
- Non-supply of fleet, spare parts, equipment, passenger transportation services as well as international transportation drivers;
- Significant reduction in transportation of bulky and heavy foreign goods and equipment as well as domestic products;
- Restrictions on loading and transporting goods to Iran, non-delivery of cargo to the Iranian fleet and inability to compete with foreign fleets;
- Problems in supplying spare parts for weather radars, suspension of radar network development, difficulties in receiving calibration instruments and radiosonde equipment, infeasibility of supplying spare parts and equipment needed for automatic and non-automatic meteorological systems for airports, roads, sand and dust storms in agriculture, forests, pastures, fisheries, aviation industry and shipping sectors;
- Non-participation of foreign companies in financing and investment in construction of railway lines (inter-city train) and non-supply of equipment needed for railway lines, thereby increasing the prime costs of equipment and travel; and
- Sanctions on foreign companies that export construction equipment and items, as well as companies that supply elevators for high-rise buildings and spare parts used for producing heating packages and radiators, have led to an increase in prices and made the projects' much-needed items scarce.

III. Legal Basis of UCMs: An Evaluation

10. The Islamic Republic of Iran reminds that achieving peace and security, economic and social progress and development, and respect for human rights, which are the three pillars of the United Nations mission as set forth in the UN Charter, are indivisible. Maintaining international peace and security is unfeasible without respecting human rights. All subjects of international law are bound and limited to observe the rules of the Charter and international law. Undoubtedly, the imposition of sanctions that encroach upon human rights – some of which such as the right to life is of jus cogens nature – constitutes a flagrant violation of the provisions of international law and have no legal standing whatsoever. The imposition of unilateral coercive measures and consequences thereof, including the need to bring back the situation into its' previous state and compensation for damage, entails international responsibility for States.

11. The Islamic Republic of Iran is of the view that the imposition of any unilateral coercive measures runs contrary to the goals and principles set forth in the UN Charter. In practice, slapping measures of such nature weakens the rule of law, world order, international solidarity, multilateralism and ultimately the UN authority.

12. The imposition of unilateral coercive measures, in all its forms and manifestations, is in flat contradiction with the basic principles of the UN-based international system, including the principles of sovereignty, non-intervention, self-determination, non-discrimination and peaceful settlement of disputes. Irrespective of the fact that States are free to choose their economic partners, they – on the strength of international law – are not allowed to forcibly intervene in the economic relations of others.

13. The United Nations General Assembly and the Human Rights Council have in resolutions galore clearly rejected all unilateral coercive measures and explicitly called upon

the Member States to refrain from exploiting political, economic or any other measures to force another State to comply with their sovereign rights so as to bring changes to economic, social and trade policies thereof.²

14. The extraterritorial negative impacts of laws and regulations imposing unilateral coercive measures remains a matter of great concern. Extraterritoriality contradicts the principle of State sovereignty, as it clearly seeks to undermine the rule of law and deprive States of exercising legal and judicial jurisdiction thereof.

15. The recognition or implementation of unilateral coercive measures by other States lacks any legal justifications. On the strength of international law, states which aids or assists others in the commission of an internationally wrongful act are internationally responsible. Furthermore no State shall recognize as lawful a situation caused by wrongful acts, no render assistance for maintenance thereof.

16. The United States violates international laws and norms. Such illegal behavior is neither legitimate nor lawful, and the international community shall not hesitate to tolerate it. Considering the predictable and costly consequences of unilateral coercive measures, they shall be considered weapons and tools of aggression. Unilateral coercive measures against trade and economy are in conflict with the goals and objectives of human rights.

17. The Islamic Republic of Iran reminds that the International Court of Justice issued an interim order to the United States, dated 3 October 2018, to spell an end to implementation of unilateral coercive measures in the fields of medicine, food, humanitarian equipment, and air transportation services. Turning a blind eye to the interim order issued thereto, the United States has instead pressed ahead with its' inhumane violations, even during an emergency situation caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

18. The Islamic Republic of Iran believes that the establishment, implementation and continuation of the most extensive system of unilateral coercive measures against the Iranian nation as part of the "policy of maximum pressure" violates the principles of international law – *absque dubio*. The imposition of such "organized" sanctions on a "wide scale" with the "purpose of inflicting severe suffering and serious damage upon the physical and mental health" of the Iranian people, is considered "inhumane" and constitutes a "crime against humanity" – it entails criminal responsibility of the orchestrators, supporters and perpetrators of such measures. On multiple occasions, the U.S. authorities have openly acknowledged to having imposed the most painful and extensive sanctions in the history of the United States against the Iranian people.

19. Given the evolving structure of the sanctions regime, the expanding policy of "maximum imposition of sanctions", the procedure of "over-compliance" and "de-risking", the Islamic Republic of Iran believes that "sectoral" and "targeted" sanctions act so much analogous to comprehensive sanctions with similar impacts, causing unjust pain and suffering to almost all people, especially people in vulnerable situations.

20. Access to justice and compensation of damage are among the fundamental human rights. The victims of unilateral coercive measures are basically deprived of real and effective access to the human rights referred to hereinabove following the complex structures of the legal system and the interest-oriented approach of sanctions-imposing States, especially the United States.

IV. Conclusion & Recommendations

21. The Islamic Republic of Iran appreciates the visit of the Special Rapporteur to assess the negative impact of the United States' unlawful unilateral coercive measures on the enjoyment of human rights by the Iranian people. The documents to which the Special Rapporteur's report has made reference clearly show some of the negative impacts of unilateral coercive measures on the Iranian people's enjoyment of human rights.

² HRC/27/2, HRC/36/10, A/RES/74/154.

22. The Islamic Republic of Iran is fully committed to promoting and protecting human rights based upon the philosophy behind the 1979 Islamic Revolution. Notwithstanding all the challenges caused by unilateral coercive measures and terrorism, the Country has never stopped its efforts and endeavours to respect, guarantee and implement human rights. Among the most important measures implemented by the Government to reduce damages caused by unilateral coercive measures are: allocating drug subsidy for patients suffering from refractory diseases, allocating preferential currency or subsidized exchange rate to procure medicine for all people, introducing various universal insurance plans in cities and villages, allocating cash subsidy, expanding welfare support and support for less-privileged groups and female heads of households, providing marriage and housing loans including for buying and renting a house through an obligatory budget line dedicated to banks, building cost-effective houses, setting minimum wages for workers as a vulnerable group, providing State-owned compulsory education at elementary and university levels, building State-owned hospitals and the like. These are only a few examples of an extensive list of measures taken by the Islamic Republic of Iran to minimize the impacts of sanctions on the people. Nevertheless, the impact of unilateral coercive measures on investment, modernization, transfer of technology and knowledge, reconstruction, provision of medical and pharmaceutical devices and necessities, including for people diagnosed with refractory diseases, is undeniable. This process has had a significant impact on the Government's ability to deal with the oppressive impacts of unilateral coercive measures.

23. A serious defender of multilateral mechanisms, the Islamic Republic of Iran continues to help promote and protect human rights and human dignity through international cooperation. The Government sounds the alarm about the efforts that lead to the erosion of norms and principles of international law, especially respect for sovereignty and non-interference in the internal affairs of other States. Human rights are being exploited as political leverage for coercion and blackmailing; and, that is a matter of grave concern.

24. Respectful dialogue and constructive engagement shall form the core of human rights debates. The Islamic Republic of Iran continues its' constructive dialogue with many stakeholders as part of our bilateral engagement to promote human rights for all. The Government's fruitful engagement with human rights mechanisms, including the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, will continue.

25. We believe that international dialogue, mutual respect between nations and full respect for the UN Charter constitute the main requirements for the promotion and protection of human rights. The unlawful unilateral coercive policies shall not exist in a world governed by international law.

26. Undoubtedly, the findings of the Special Rapporteur – scheduled be presented to the 51th Session of the Human Rights Council – shall be taken into consideration by the abovenamed Council and other international human rights mechanisms, which shall, in line with the framework of agenda thereof, appropriately examine and reflect more than ever the irreparable impacts of unilateral coercive measures. In this framework, the Secretary General of the United Nations, the High Commissioner for Human Rights as well as the Special Procedures Mandate Holders shall be required and feel responsible to assess the negative impacts of unilateral coercive measures on all aspects of human rights, and present the necessary recommendations with the purpose of allaying the existing concerns when examining issues related to human rights.

27. Unfortunately, certain States with purely political goals have left no stone unturned to take any action against the reporting mandate assigned to the Special Rapporteur to investigate the negative impact of unilateral coercive measures on the enjoyment of human rights; they express their opposition openly, even by voting against the resolution to extend the mandate of the Special Rapporteur. The Islamic Republic of Iran calls upon these States to show their sincere and real support for human rights by putting aside their opposition, and start cooperating with the Special Rapporteur.

28. The Islamic Republic of Iran calls upon the UN Member States, especially the orchestrators of such inhumane measures, those complying therewith as well as the commercial companies and businesses, to seriously implement the recommendations presented by the Special Rapporteur according to international obligations thereof.

29. The Islamic Republic of Iran believes that the Human Rights Council shall establish an effective mechanism to compensate for the damages caused by unilateral coercive measures in the target States and victims therein.
