



# General Assembly

Distr.: General  
1 February 2024

English only

---

## Human Rights Council

Fifty-fourth session

11 September–13 October 2023

Agenda item 3

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

### **Written statement\* submitted by Maryam Ghasemi Educational Charity Institute, 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.

[21 August 2023]

---

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



# Effects of Sanctions on Employment and the Growth of Startups

## Introduction

We express our deep concern about the detrimental effects of sanctions on employment and the growth of startups. Employment generation and the development of startups are crucial factors for economic advancement and creating job opportunities for youth and innovators, which hold paramount importance for us.

Sanctions lead to reduced economic activity, decreased employment, and financial challenges. This limits the pursuit of job opportunities and poses multiple hurdles for the growth of fledgling businesses. Furthermore, sanctions have significant negative impacts on:

1. **Diminished Opportunities in Related Sectors:** Different sectors of the economy are interconnected. Reduced trade and international collaborations can lead to decreased job opportunities in related sectors as well.
2. **Decline in Foreign Investment:** Sanctions can discourage foreign investments, consequently reducing job creation opportunities in developing countries.
3. **Limited Business Growth Capacity:** Sanctions may limit the growth capacity of both local and foreign businesses, which could otherwise generate employment opportunities.
4. **Challenges for New Industry Development:** Sanctions can hinder the development and growth of new and emerging industries that could have created new job prospects.
5. **Negative Impact on Agriculture:** Sanctions can lead to reduced agricultural exports and the deterioration of the agricultural sector, which is a significant source of employment in developing countries.
6. **Reduced Self-Employment Opportunities:** Sanctions can create obstacles for establishing and running small businesses, limiting self-employment opportunities.
7. **Restricted Access to Financial Resources:** Sanctions can limit startups' access to financial resources, investment, and essential capital needed for growth.
8. **Limited Access to New Technologies:** Sanctions may restrict startups' access to new technologies and technological innovations crucial for their growth and development.
9. **Issues with Exports and Imports:** Sanctions can lead to difficulties in exporting and importing goods and services necessary for startup activities.
10. **Reduced International Trade:** Sanctions result in reduced international trade and collaborations, which are important for startups' growth.
11. **Hindrance to Foreign Investment:** Sanctions impede or reduce foreign investment, negatively impacting startups' growth potential.
12. **Eroded Market Confidence:** Sanctions erode market confidence in startups, making it harder to attract customers and partners.
13. **Difficulty in Attracting Top Talent:** Sanctions make it challenging for startups to attract top talent and dedicated individuals.
14. **Limitations in International Networking:** Sanctions hinder the development of international collaboration networks and partnerships.

Startups are recognized as vital sources of innovation and technological advancements. Sanctions have adverse impacts on the establishment and growth of these companies, consequently affecting their ability to create job opportunities and deliver economic value.

We emphasize the creation of an environment conducive to economic development without any restrictions for startups and small businesses. Governments and international communities should strive to mitigate sanctions with proper balancing and supportive measures to preserve and foster employment, promote innovative technologies, and facilitate emerging economic sectors.

We urge governments to seriously consider the potential effects of sanctions on employment and startup growth and base their decisions on these concerns. Through collaboration and collective effort, we are committed to creating an environment that fosters economic development and employment opportunities, enabling all individuals and businesses to realize their potential.

## **Suggestions**

The Human Rights Council and the United Nations can undertake various actions to mitigate the negative impacts of imposed sanctions on developing countries, their right to work, and employment generation. These actions include:

1. **Preventing Inappropriate Sanctions:** Encouraging sanctioning countries to adhere to international law and human rights principles and avoid sanctions that directly lead to the destruction of the right to work and employment.
2. **Promoting Economic Diplomacy:** Enhancing economic diplomacy by the United Nations and the Human Rights Council to promote trade and economic interactions, contributing to employment generation.
3. **Providing Financial Facilities:** Creating financial facilities for developing countries by the United Nations and the Human Rights Council to partially compensate for the financial impacts of sanctions.
4. **Encouraging Trade Agreements:** Encouraging the signing of trade agreements and economic interactions with other countries to support employment and economic development.
5. **Development Projects:** Promoting and supporting development projects and achieving sustainable development goals in developing countries.
6. **Enhancing Education and Skill Training:** Improving human capital through education and skill training to enhance individuals' employability.
7. **Facilitating Technology Transfer:** Facilitating the transfer of technology and technical knowledge from sanctioning countries to developing countries.
8. **Monitoring Sanctions:** Continuous monitoring of sanctions by the Human Rights Council, evaluating their impact on the right to work and employment generation.

These actions may help safeguard the right to work, employment generation, and mitigate the adverse effects of sanctions on developing countries.

## **Conclusion**

In conclusion, we advocate for a holistic approach that encompasses targeted support, international cooperation, and the removal of barriers to promote employment and the growth of startups. Let us work together to create an environment where innovative ideas flourish, job opportunities abound, and economic progress is shared by all, regardless of geopolitical considerations.

Furthermore, it is essential to promote an atmosphere of international cooperation and dialogue. Collaboration between governments, industry experts, and international organizations can lead to the creation of frameworks that safeguard employment and startup growth while addressing global concerns. Innovation knows no boundaries, and startups often thrive in an environment of openness and collaboration. Therefore, we call for the removal of barriers that hinder cross-border knowledge exchange, technology transfer, and investment. By fostering an interconnected global network, we can ensure that startups have access to the expertise and resources needed for sustainable growth.

---