

Statement by the Islamic Republic of Iran
On biennial panel on UCM

30th session of the HRC
17 September 2015

In the name of God

Mr. President,

At the outset my delegation would like to seize this opportunity to welcome the holding of biennial panel discussion on unilateral coercive measures and human rights during the current session of the HRC. Our thanks also go to the distinguished panelists for their illuminating ideas and fruitful discussions on the adverse impact of UCM.

We do anticipate that debates during the panel would result in development of basic principles and guidelines as well as the identification of mechanisms to assess and mitigate the adverse impact of unilateral coercive measures on the enjoyment of human rights, and to prevent occurrence of such measures ultimately.

As it is rightly stipulated in the resolution 27/21 of the Human Rights Council, unilateral coercive measures and legislation are contrary to international law. A number of provisions of the Universal Declaration on Human Rights are especially important as far as sanctions are concerned. These provisions include: the right to life (art. 3), the right to freedom from inhuman or degrading treatment (art. 5),

Furthermore, the HRC resolution expressed its concern at negative impact of UCM on human rights, development, as well as international relations, trade, investment and cooperation. The Human Rights Council has further recognized that these measures, in the form of economic sanctions, may have far-reaching implications for human rights; disproportionately affecting the poor and the most vulnerable populations, and may result in social problems and raise humanitarian concerns.

Mr. President,

We firmly believe that, no State can use or encourage the use of any type of measure, including but not limited to economic or political measures, to coerce another State in order to obtain from it the subordination of the exercise of its sovereign rights and to secure from its advantages of any kind.

In this connection, part I, paragraph 31 of VDPA has also called upon all States "to refrain from any unilateral measure not in accordance with international law and the Charter of the United Nations that create obstacles to trade relations among States and impedes the full realization of the human rights set forth in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and international human rights instruments in particular the right of everyone to a standard of living adequate for their health and well-being including food and medical care, housing and the necessary social services". In addition, In a number of adopted resolutions, the Human Rights Council and the General Assembly have called "upon all States to stop adopting, maintaining or implementing unilateral coercive measures not in accordance with international law, international humanitarian law, the Charter of the United Nations and the norms and principles governing peaceful relations

among States, in particular those of a coercive nature with extraterritorial effects, which create obstacles to trade relations among States, thus impeding the full realization of the rights set forth in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other international human rights instruments, in particular the right of individuals and peoples to development.

Hence, my delegation firmly believes that, any unilateral coercive measure imposed on a country, necessarily runs counter to some provisions of the International Bill of Human Rights or peremptory norms and other provisions of customary law and such measures entail, to different degrees, adverse consequences on the enjoyment of the human rights of innocent people.

Mr. President,

we are also deeply disturbed by the negative impacts of the unilateral coercive measures and sanctions on the full enjoyment of basic human rights as well as indiscriminate human costs on the civilian population, in particular women and children, in targeted countries, in this regard, we call upon the international community to unequivocally condemn such destructive measures, which are imposed by certain western countries on the basis of their political considerations.

I thank you