



1. What are the main challenges to maintaining and strengthening international peace and security at the global level, for instance in relation to needed structural reforms of United Nations organs, global disarmament, the realization of the right to peace, accountability, etc.?

ODVV considers resort to unilateralism a serious threat to 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.

However, increasing resort to unilateralism including the imposition of unlawful Unilateral Coercive Measures (UCMs), beyond the authority of the United Nations, is an extreme form of unilateralism that destructively undermines the global authority of the UN and the international rule of law because:

- UCMs form a massive blow to international security and international order as they hamper peaceful economic relations among states that contribute to promotion of friendly trade relations, mutual understanding and de-escalate global tension and unrest. UCMs obstruct economic interdependence that can pave pathways to sustained peace and contributes to States' recognition of the value of trading over the alternative of aggression.
- The sustained disregard for numerous UN resolutions<sup>1</sup> that condemned imposition of UCMs and unilateral coercion undermines

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<sup>1</sup> . HRC Res. 15/24, 6 October 2010, paras 1–3, available at: <https://undocs.org/en/A/HRC/RES/15/24> ; HRC Res. 19/32, 18 April 2012, paras 1–3, available at: <https://undocs.org/en/A/HRC/RES/19/32> ; HRC Res. 24/14, 8 October 2013, paras 1–3, available at: <https://undocs.org/en/A/HRC/RES/24/14> ; HRC Res. 30/2, 12 October 2015, paras 1–2, 4, available at: <https://undocs.org/en/A/HRC/RES/30/2> ; HRC Res. 34/13, 24 March 2017, paras 1–2, 4, available at: <https://undocs.org/en/A/HRC/RES/34/13> ; HRC Res. 45/5, 6 October 2020, Preamble, available at: <https://undocs.org/en/A/HRC/RES/45/5> . UNGA Res. 69/180, 18 December 2014, paras 5–6, available at: [www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/UCM/Res/A-RES-69-180.pdf](http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/UCM/Res/A-RES-69-180.pdf); UNGA Res. 70/151, 17 December 2015, paras 5–6, available at: [www.un.org/en/ga/search/view\\_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/70/151](http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/70/151); UNGA Res. 71/193, 19 December 2016, paras 5–6, available at: [www.un.org/en/ga/search/view\\_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/71/193](http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/71/193) .

international order and the pillars that established the United Nations based on multilateralism.

- Inaction toward the repeated UN calls<sup>2</sup> on the sanctioning countries to lift or at least ease sanctions sets a menacing precedence in the UN that discredits UN legitimacy.
- Another harmful consequence associated with UCMs is their role in widening both domestic and global inequalities, in terms of income, access to social services and enjoyment of all human rights. Even worse, is the proven deadly impact of UCMs on humanitarian responses of countries, causing large-scale devastation and death<sup>3</sup>, leading to consideration of sanctions as economic terrorism, crimes against humanity<sup>4</sup> or genocide.
- Presently, UCMs are imposed on 39 countries<sup>5</sup> 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.

We believe that, at the moment, all over the world, there are serious requirements for rebuilt of global trust and renewed global commitment to a rules-based international order focused on the pivotal role of the United Nations. Because multilateralism is the only viable response to the growing chaos and confusion in the world.

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<sup>2</sup>. 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](http://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](http://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>; 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>

<sup>3</sup> . 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>

<sup>4</sup> . A/HRC/39/47/Add.1

<sup>5</sup> . List of 39 countries targeted by economic sanctions, available at: <https://sanctionskill.org>

## 2. What solutions do you deem necessary to overcome those challenges?

Considering the ineffectiveness of the re-occurring UN calls and UN resolutions on sanction lifting, ODVV believes 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-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.