



Additional background on the 2030 Agenda and human rights

With the adoption of the transformative and universally applicable 2030 Agenda, Member States challenged themselves to ensure that the SDGs are implemented in accordance with international law (para. 18), through an integrated and universal approach (para. 5). They further committed to “leave no one behind” and to “reach the furthest behind first” (para. 4).

Moreover, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development sets out a vision for sustainable development grounded in international human rights standards (paras. 10, 18, 19, 67, 74), putting equality and non-discrimination at the centre of its efforts (paras. 3, 4, 48, 74) and encompassing not only economic and social rights but also civil, political, and cultural rights, as well as the right to development (paras. 13, 18, 55, 74).



Section A: Background

A1. Name of institution responding to the survey

Organization for Defending Victims of Violence (ODVV)



A2. Name of the respondent and contact email address of the respondent

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Section B: Integrated approaches to promote and protect human rights and implement the 2030 Agenda

B1. In your view, have we made progress in ensuring that national level SDG action is guided by human rights norms and standards including with regard to fighting discrimination and inequality and leaving no one behind? Please explain and share promising practices, lessons learned and remaining challenges.

What ODVV would like to highlight here is that the Unilateral Coercive Measures (UCMs) push all the world population residing in sanctioned countries behind in the process of achieving the SDGs, creating and deepening discrimination both at the domestic and international levels. UCMs meddle in with all national programs to achieve the SDGs including eradication of poverty; providing equal education for all; ensuring the right to health and sustainable environment in all target countries including the Islamic Republic of Iran. Blocking of all formal channels of international trade leads to devaluation of national currency and rise of inflation that diminish the efforts to eradicate extreme poverty and hunger or provide the disadvantaged groups with effective and inclusive social protection. Also, UCMs challenge the provision of equal, inclusive and quality education for all, by negatively affecting student's access to online academic sources and financial transfers. Most online libraries are blocked for students living in sanctioned countries. In addition, UCMs block formal interbank transactions and create obstacles on financial transfers for students studying in foreign countries who need to pay university fees or maintain a living abroad.

B2. Faced with the COVID-19 pandemic, countries have adopted economic and financial policies and measures to limit human rights setbacks and to bring countries back on track to achieve the SDGs? Can you share examples of promising practices where COVID-19 responses and recovery plans aimed at resuming SDG progress have been linked with human rights? What are key challenges and lessons learnt?

Since 2020, the Covid-19 has multiplied the effects of already imposed sanctions. In Most countries of the world, even developed economies, governments have been criticize for mismanagement of the pandemic, however, sanctioned countries found the fight against Covid-19 a more arduous journey, due to their limited capacity to offer effective and timely Covid response, due to limitation of timely access to medicine, medical equipment and vaccine under trade sanctions, as well as the restrictions on allocating budget to support businesses while their economy was affected by sanctions. The high rates of inflation caused by UCMs coupled with Covid-19 negatively affected all businesses and employment in sanctioned countries and the numerous UN calls by the UN SG, the UN HC and the UN Special Rapporteurs of the right to food, the right to health, international solidarity, water and sanitation, international order and more specifically by the UN Special Rapporteur on Unilateral Coercive Measures to lift or ease sanctions during the pandemic to protect human lives fell on deaf ears. ODVV announces that UCMs are responsible for loss of many lives during the pandemic because of the obstacles created by the unilateral measures on access to pharmaceuticals and essential social services.

B3. In your view, is progress being made to secure more meaningful and active participation of civil society and other stakeholders in SDG national level action (design, implementation and reporting)? Please share examples of promising practices as well as lessons learned and remaining challenges.

Financial security is the main factor that determines active participation of civil society toward achievement of the SDGs, while UCMs completely diminish the financial capacity. In Iran, the NGOs that support patients, including people with autism, thalassemia and physical and mental disability have expressed serious concerns over the accessibility and affordability of quality medicine, medical equipment and medical care as a result of sanctions. NGOs who support refugees, migrants and asylum seekers have expressed worries over the effect of UCMs on the health and living standard of their clients as well as on their organizations' financial capacity. Similar concerns have been voiced by NGOs who work for protection of other vulnerable groups including the disadvantaged, the female-headed households, and the street children. The NGOs have witnessed the harmful effect of UCMs on the life quality as well as mental and physical health of their clients. Additionally, the NGOs active in the field of education struggle with the increasing rate of school dropouts in disadvantaged communities, following the rising inflation and the surging of prices. And the NGOs that work for protection of environment, challenge limitation of access to green technologies and the necessary software.



B4. Is there any other information on integrated approaches to achieve the SDGs and the protection and promotion of human rights that you would like to share with us? Have you issued any recent publications on the issue that you would like to draw our attention to?

ODVV publications on the challenging effects of UCMs on human rights and achievement of SDGs are available here: <https://www.odvv.org/product-category-4-Book>

Thank you for your contribution!