

**Statement by the representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran**

**On behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement**

**Before**

**Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening  
of the Role of the Organization**

**Working Group: Maintenance of International Peace and Security**

**21 February 2024-New York**

**Thank you Mr. Chair.**

With your indulgence, on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement, I would like to reiterate the position of the Non-Aligned Movement delivered yesterday through its general statement. We wish to request that this position be reflected in the final report of the Special Committee.

1. The Charter Committee provides a channel of communication between Member States and the UN Secretariat regarding all aspects of the introduction and implementation of sanctions imposed by the United Nations in accordance with the guidelines contained in the Annex to General Assembly resolution 64/115 of 16 December 2009.
2. It is important to note that this document is the product of the Charter Committee and provides a comprehensive as well as balanced approach to the issue of UN sanctions. We expect that the briefing by the Secretariat will preserve such a balanced approach. In particular, we are interested in ascertaining more regarding the perceived objective assessments of the short-term and long-term socioeconomic and humanitarian consequences of sanctions by the Security Council's Sanction Committees and the methodology used for the assessment of the humanitarian implications of sanctions.
3. We also expect to hear information elaborating the humanitarian consequences of the introduction and implementation of sanctions, including those which have a bearing on the basic living conditions of the civilian population of the target State,

as well as on its socio-economic development, and on third States which have suffered or may suffer as a result of their implementation.

4. In this regard, we call on the UN Secretariat to develop its capacity on the proper assessment of the unintended side effects of sanctions imposed by the Security Council. We note that the capacity of the Secretariat has not been sufficiently developed in the past to fully assess the short-term and long-term socio-economic and humanitarian consequences of UN sanctions. There is a need to enhance the expertise and capacity of the UN Secretariat in order to enable its ability to properly assess the unintended consequences of UN sanctions on civilian populations.
5. In this regard, the Security Council's imposed sanctions still remain an issue of serious concern to the Member Countries of the Non-Aligned Movement. It is the Movement's view that the imposition of sanctions should be considered as a last resort. Targeted sanctions may be imposed only when there exists a threat to international peace and security or an act of aggression in accordance with the Charter. They are not applicable as a preventive measure in any and all instances of violation of international law, norms or standards.
6. Sanctions are blunt instruments, the use of which raises fundamental ethical questions as to whether they are a legitimate means of exerting political pressure when suffering is ultimately inflicted on vulnerable groups in the target country as a result of said sanctions. The objectives of sanctions are not and should not be to punish or otherwise exact retribution on the entire populace.
7. Sanctions regimes should avoid exacting unintended consequences in the target State or third States which may lead to violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms, nor should they hinder humanitarian assistance from reaching the civilian population. In this regard, the objectives of sanctions regimes should be clearly defined, based on tenable legal grounds, and their imposition should be delineated for a specified timeframe with sanctions lifted as soon as the objectives are achieved.
8. The conditions demanded of the State or party on which sanctions are imposed should be clearly defined, subject to monitoring its impact and periodically reviewed. The Movement also expresses its deep concern at the imposition of laws and other forms of coercive economic measures, including unilateral sanctions,

against developing countries which violate the Charter of the United Nations and undermine international law and the rules of the World Trade Organization. Moreover, the Movement calls on countries that imposed unilateral sanctions to put an end to these sanctions effective immediately.

**I thank you.**