

## **BELARUS**

### **Remarks for the intervention at the Workshop on the impact of unilateral coercive measures on the enjoyment of human rights**

5 April 2013

Mr. Chairperson,

Belarus aligns itself with the statement made by the Islamic Republic of Iran on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

Furthermore, we would like to make additional comments on various aspects of the theme.

Belarus welcomes the opportunity to participate in today's workshop on the impact of the application of unilateral coercive measures on the enjoyment of human rights, which is organized pursuant to resolution 19/32 entitled "Human rights and unilateral coercive measures".

Belarus is proud to be among traditional co-sponsors of this resolution both in New York and in Geneva. We consider this resolution as an important one as it creates a solid basis for the opposition to all unilateral coercive measures.

Belarus expresses grave concern over the increasing tendency by certain States to resort to unilateralism and unilateral coercive measures, which are nothing but an emerging threat to the global peace and security.

Belarus, being among countries that suffer from unilateral coercive measures, condemns in the strongest terms the use of such measures. We emphasize that unilateral coercive measures are illegal and are used in violation of the UN Charter, principles and norms of international law, including international human rights law. Such measures also constitute pattern of gross violations of human rights – civil, political, social and economic, as well as the right to development – as they affect the rights of population of targeted countries.

In many instances unilateral coercive measures were imposed under far-fetched political pretexts and they continue to be used by certain States as tools for political, economic and financial pressure against sovereign states. In this sad context we should mention the European Union, the United States, Norway, Switzerland, Liechtenstein and some other countries.

We deeply regret that the resolution entitled "Human rights and unilateral coercive measures" has been put to the vote by those states that introduced unilateral coercive measures or laws. Such states should fulfill their international obligations and therefore we recommend them to revoke

all unilateral coercive measures immediately and unconditionally.

Mr. Chairperson,

In our view, it is important to ensure further consideration by the Human Rights Council and its mechanisms the issue of the impact of unilateral coercive measures on the enjoyment of human rights. In this context we recall the decision adopted in the Final Document of the 16<sup>th</sup> Summit of Heads of State or Government of the Non-Aligned Movement "to consider establishing an appropriate special procedure mandate-holder of the Human Rights Council to monitor various aspects relating to the impact of the application of unilateral coercive measures on the enjoyment of human rights by the affected populations of targeted States". This idea already enjoys broad support of States and we believe that it should be reflected in the outcome document of the workshop as one of results-oriented recommendations and the way forward.

We also think that the issue of unilateral coercive measures needs to be addressed within the United Nations in broader context in view of their illegal nature and a scope of the problem as such. Therefore we invite distinguished speakers to share with us their thoughts about what kind of UN mechanisms could effectively address the issue of unilateral coercive measures.

Finally, we would like to wish all participants a successful exchange of ideas and many fruitful discussions.

Thank you.