

Statement by the Islamic Republic of Iran

On behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement

**Workshop on the impact of unilateral coercive measures
on the enjoyment of human rights**

5 April 2013, Geneva

Mr Chairman

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the NAM.

The Movement renews its commitment to defend, preserve and promote the UN Charter and international law. We oppose unilateralism and unilaterally imposed measures by certain States in violation of the UN Charter and international law.

The NAM rejects the adoption and implementation of extra-territorial or unilateral coercive measures or legislation, including unilateral economic sanctions, other intimidating measures, and arbitrary travel restrictions, that seek to exert pressure on Non-Aligned Countries, threatening their sovereignty and independence, and their freedom of trade and investment, and preventing them from exercising their right to decide, by their own free will, their own political, economic and social systems.

The NAM believes that these measures, laws and regulations constitute flagrant violations of the UN Charter, international law, the multilateral trading system as well as the norms and principles governing friendly relations among States. In this context, we are committed to persevere with efforts to effectively reverse them and urge other States to do likewise, as called for by the General Assembly, Human rights Council and other UN organs. The NAM requests States applying these measures or laws to revoke them fully and immediately.

Mr Chairman

We restate our opposition to all unilateral coercive measures, including those measures used as tools for political or economic and financial pressure against any country, in particular against developing countries. We maintain that under no circumstances should people be deprived of their own means of subsistence and development. We are of the view that the continued imposition of such measures hinder the well-being of population of the affected countries and that create obstacles to the full realization of their human rights.

The NAM reiterates that democracy and good governance at the national and international levels, development and respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms, in particular the right to development, are

interdependent and mutually reinforcing. Hence, adoption, for any cause or consideration, of coercive unilateral measures, rules and policies against the developing countries constitute flagrant violations of the basic rights of their populations.

The NAM reaffirms the objective of making the right to development a reality for everyone as set out in the UN Millennium Declaration, and give due consideration to the negative impact of unilateral economic and financial coercive measures on the realization of the right to development;

We further reaffirm that, bearing in mind the UN Charter, economic and financial sanctions always have a negative impact on the rights recognized in the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in particular the realization of the right to development. They often cause significant disruption in the distribution of food, pharmaceuticals and sanitation supplies, jeopardize the quality of food and the availability of clean drinking water, severely interfere with the functioning of basic health and education systems, and undermine the right to work, and they are serious obstacles to development of the targeted States

The NAM echoes that food should not be used as an instrument for political and economic pressure. The NAM also reaffirms the importance of international cooperation and solidarity as well as the necessity of refraining from undertaking such unilateral coercive measures that endanger food security and are not in accordance with international law and the UN Charter.

Mr Chairman

As reaffirmed by the Heads of State and Government of the Non Aligned Movement, at their Summit Conference held in Tehran in August 2012, the Movement continues promoting the rejection of and the adoption of concrete actions against the enforcement of unilateral coercive economic measures at the several multilateral fora where NAM and G-77 are involved.

To this end, the NAM decided 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;

In conclusion, then NAM calls upon all countries to refrain from exerting pressure or coercion on other countries, including resorting to aggression or other acts involving the use of direct or indirect force, and the application and/or promotion of any coercive unilateral measure that goes against International Law or is in any way incompatible with it, for the purpose of coercing any other State to subordinate its sovereign rights, or to gain any benefit whatsoever.

Finally, I would like to express my appreciations to the OHCHR for organizing this Workshop. I also wish to thank ambassador Jazairy and other distinguished speakers for their presence and contributions that undoubtedly will help us to have very fruitful and successful discussions.