

Excerpts of Malaysia's statement:

"At the outset, let me take this opportunity to express our appreciation to the OHCHR for conducting this Workshop. We view the convening of this Workshop as timely and very much relevant. Like others, allow me to also commend you, Mr. Chairman, in steering this Workshop very effectively. We are hopeful that a fruitful outcome could be achieved at the end of this Workshop today.

Mr. Chairman,

2. Like others, Malaysia too regrets that some countries have been persistent in imposing their unilateral sanctions against their targeted countries in order to achieve bilateral goals, among others. We view with concern the continued application of a unilateral policy in restricting the access to markets, capital, technology and investment in order to exert pressure on these targeted countries to change their political and economic system. This is indeed a flagrant violation of the principles of international law, the UN Charter, WTO and numerous General Assembly resolutions. It is discriminatory in nature and undermines the principle of the sovereign equality of States and fundamental human rights. The economic sanctions in particular violates the right of the people to life, to well-being and to development without distinction as to age, gender, race, religious belief, social situation or political ideology.

3. Clearly, unilateral coercive sanctions would always have a negative impact to the realization of the right to development of the people, as have been elaborated by the panellists this afternoon, regardless whether a states

4. I would have to agree with you Chair that resolutions to this issue is far-reaching, It is with this in mind that Malaysia believes that dialogue and engagement among countries and among civilizations, not isolation and confrontation, are the way to go. We urge all parties to continue negotiations or discussions without preconditions and in good faith to reach a just, lasting and mutual agreement on the negative impacts of unilateral sanctions. Further delay would only cause more suffering to the innocent people of the targeted country and hamper efforts to maintain international peace and security at large.

5. In this regard, Malaysia wishes to lend its full support to the NAM's decision 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"