

30th HRC Session
Statement by Pakistan
Panel Discussion on Unilateral Coercive Measures

Mr President,

At the outset, Pakistan aligns itself with the NAM statement. We also thank all the panellists for their useful contributions today.

Unilateral coercive measures contravene existing international law, norms and principles governing peaceful relations among States and the Charter of the United Nations. They also flagrantly violate the International Humanitarian Law and International Human Rights Law and put at risk the enjoyment of the fundamental rights of populations affected by such measures. From purely human rights point of view they are neither justified nor productive as they fail to achieve the goals for which they are essentially put in place. In fact, they are counter-productive. Numerous studies and our past experiences clearly highlight this fact.

The universality and indivisibility of Human Rights means that the realization of each category of rights is entirely dependent and interrelated with the realization of the other. Comprehensive sanctions and interruption of economic, trade, financial and international relations for a protracted period of time, particularly when not assessed and monitored, will cause shrinking national income, which in turn will reduce the ability of Member States to respect, protect and fulfill human rights of peoples and individuals including right to life, right to health, right to food, right to education and above all right to development.

The absence of any comprehensive sanctions monitoring mechanism to assess their negative impacts resulting in violation of Human Rights including the Right to Development is a serious concern which has been frequently expressed by a number of states. In our view, the Human Rights Council needs

to play a proactive role in formulation of such a mechanism. In this regard, we welcome the appointment of the Special Rapporteur on the negative impacts of UCM. In addition, the provision of technical assistance to the targeted states, upon their request, in order to resist the negative impacts of sanctions could be one of the ways to assist these states against the violation of human rights in this domain. We also call upon other Special Procedures of this Council to tackle the negative impact of UCM on the realization of all human rights in the context of their respective mandates.

We hope that today's discourse as part of an ongoing process to collectively respond to such unilateral coercive measures will be helpful in further adding richness, better understanding and rational thinking with logical outcome to this important debate.

I thank you.