



FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE

AUSTRALIAN PERMANENT MISSION

GENEVA

17 March 2021

Ms Alena Douhan
Special Rapporteur on the Negative Impact of Unilateral Coercive Measures on the
Enjoyment of Human Rights
Palais des Nations
CH-1211 Geneva 10
By email: sazizov@ohchr.org; ucm@ohchr.org

Dear Ms Douhan

I write on behalf of the Australian Government to provide information on Australia's autonomous sanctions regime in response to the 24 November 2020 call for submissions regarding your study on the "Notion, characteristics, legal status and targets of unilateral sanctions". I thank you for your flexibility in accepting a late submission.

Autonomous sanctions are a foreign policy tool intended to limit the adverse consequences of a situation of international concern, and influence and deter the behaviour of those responsible. Australia's autonomous sanctions framework is set out in the Autonomous Sanctions Act 2011 and the Autonomous Sanctions Regulations 2011. The Minister for Foreign Affairs is responsible for deciding on the application of autonomous sanctions in response to situations of international concern. Specific measures differ with each regime, and include travel bans and targeted financial sanctions.

Australia's position is that autonomous sanctions are appropriate, effective and legitimate measures that are consistent with international law, including the United Nations Charter. Australia's autonomous sanctions measures are highly targeted and not directed at the general population. Australia does not agree with claims that autonomous sanctions have adverse consequences for ordinary civilians. For example, the existence of autonomous sanctions has not prevented the Australian Government from providing humanitarian funding and essential emergency goods such as personal protective equipment to countries to assist with their COVID-19 response.

Further information on Australia's sanctions framework, including specific sanctions regimes and measures, may be found on the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade's website.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sally Mansfield".

Sally Mansfield
Ambassador and Permanent Representative
Australian Permanent Mission to the United Nations
Australian Delegation to the Conference on Disarmament