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Permanent Mission of the Arab Republic of Egypt

**The Human Rights Council
30th Session**

**Biennial Panel on Unilateral Coercive Measures
and Human Rights**

(Geneva, 17th September 2015)

Mr. President,

- 1- The delegation of Egypt welcomes the holding of the first Human Rights Council Panel discussion on unilateral coercive measures and human rights pursuant to the Council's resolution 27/21 presented by the Non-Aligned Movement.
- 2- Today's panel is a landmark on a long path of work at the United Nations on this subject and to preserve collective work and multilateralism including through a series of Human Rights Council and United Nations General Assembly resolutions, an OHCHR organized workshop in May 2013 and most recently the appointment of the first Special Procedure Mandate-Holder on the impact of unilateral coercive measures on human rights.
- 3- Egypt is unequivocally against the imposition of unilateral coercive measures which are on most occasions being used to politically and economically target developing countries. These measures are in breach of the principles and purposes of the Charter of the United Nations and international law at large, including the principles of States' sovereignty and political independence. This position is clearly expressed in the consecutive communiqués of the Summits of the Heads of States and Governments of the Non-Aligned Movement, including most recently in the 16th Summit held at Tehran in 2012.
- 4- Moreover, unilateral coercive measures are associated with adverse impact on vital sectors and services; a situation that ushers in direct negative consequences on the enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms by the population in the affected country, particularly vis-à-vis the realization of economic, social and cultural rights and the right to development. Such measures usually result in marginalizing the already marginalized and affect their basic needs and human right.
- 5- Egypt renews its appeal to all States to refrain from recognizing and adopting such illegitimate measures and supports the entitlement of the affected individuals to effective remedy including through reasonable reparations.

- 6- My delegation attaches particular importance to the aspect of quantitative and qualitative documentation of the violations resulting from the illegitimate and illegal use of unilateral coercive measures in relation to ensuring lack of impunity, the accountability of those responsible for these violations, and allowing enhanced access for redress for victims including with regard to compensation and stronger guarantees for non-recurrence.
- 7- Our question to the panelists is concerning their views on the possible means and ways to further observe and assess the impact of unilateral coercive measures on the enjoyment of all human rights as well as ensuring accountability, bearing in mind the important first step taken on this path by the creation of the relevant Human Rights Council mandate.

I thank you.