**“Submission for SR UCM-Study on impact of unilateral sanctions on human rights during the state of emergency in the context of COVID-19 pandemic”.**

1. **Do sanctions introduced by individual states or regional organizations without or beyond authorization of the UN Security Council targeting states and/ or non-state actors have an impact on enjoyment of human rights by the citizens of targeted states in the situation of natural and man-made emergency, including COVID-19 pandemic? Please, elaborate in details.**

The sanction on essential items such as food, medical supplies and equipment, medicine, necessary spare parts etc. will certainly have a tremendous negative effect, in times of pandemics and other times. These effects will mainly affect ordinary and disadvantage people. It is important to note that these unilateral sanctions and mostly targeting developing countries and most of these countries’ citizens are already affected by lack of human rights and these sanctions inflect even greater burden on those citizens.

1. **What specific aspects of human rights are affected by unilateral sanctions in targeted States during the pandemic? Can you give examples of particular rights most affected by unilateral sanctions and in what way? What steps were taken by the sanctioning States on one hand and in the targeted States on the other hand to address those human rights violations and remedy the situation?**

Unilateral sanction put a lot of burden on States budget and the services these States are providing, that why the most affect aspect of human rights are Decent jobs, health care, education. Housing and access to basic services such as food. Sanctioned States may resort to unconventional measures such as smuggling, black market. It is extremely important that the sanctioning and sanctioned States enter into an objective and serious dialogue to tackle these issues with the participation of the UN.

1. **Do sanctions have an impact on non-targeted third States and their citizens in the course of emergency, including the pandemic? Can you provide examples of this impact?**

The world is globalised and interconnected and any unilateral sanctions will affect other States, the sanctions on Iran is affecting the Gulf region States on the areas of security, trade, energy and social ties. The sanctions on North Korea causing tremendous peace and stability on South Korea and Japan.

1. **Do unilateral sanctions have an impact on the ability of States to react to emergency situations and to protect human rights especially of the most vulnerable categories of population? If yes, what areas/ spheres / types of activity/ vital infrastructure appeared to be the most affected in the course of COVID-19 pandemic? What groups of population are affected the most?**

Yes! Health care will certainly be affected and this will jeopardize the lives and wellbeing of the citizens. The labour market and business activities as a whole will also be severely impacted because of people unable to go to work and States in lockdowns.

1. **What types of sanctions have the most negative impact over the enjoyment of human rights in the course of COVID-19 pandemic? Please provide detailed information about obstacles, which were caused by the sanctions, in the implementation of the national health care system’s preparedness and response plan to combat COVID-19 pandemic.**

Medical items, equipment and spare parts, if included in sanctions, will have a tremendous impact. Travel restrictions to sanctioned States will have an impact since this will prevent medical staff, experts and airlines with necessary cargo to fight the pandemic to offer on sight help.

1. **Are humanitarian exemptions sufficient, effective and efficient to protect the life of people and to guarantee human rights especially of the most vulnerable groups in the course of natural and man-made disasters including COVID-19 pandemic?**

If there is a political will, cooperation and trust in these challenging times these exemptions will be sufficient and effective. It is very necessary the UN take a leading proactive role during natural disasters and including COVID-19 to come in between the two parties to facilitate the humanitarian efforts.

1. **Does the mechanism of getting licenses for purchase of medical equipment, its component parts and software, medicines, protective kits, food and other essential goods provide for the possibility to guarantee vital needs of the population? Has it been eased by the sanctioning States in the course of pandemic?**

This mechanism will help but during such crisis some States were competing with each other so take as much equipment as possible at the expense of other States. The crisis further encouraged some States to seize or even confiscate necessary medical equipment, and unfortunately other state sold faulty and not according to standard equipment.

1. **Have you faced any problems in delivery of humanitarian aid in the course of COVID-19 pandemic? If yes, please, specify.**

No. there was only shortages of protective materials for ordinary citizens such as sanitizers and face masks which ran out quickly.

1. **Please, indicate, what steps have been taken by the sanctioning States on one hand and in the targeted States on the other hand to alleviate possible human suffering caused by unilateral sanctions in the course of pandemic. What were the main obstacles created by sanctions to guarantee vital human needs and save lives in the course of pandemic?**

The steps are minimal and more work needs to be done. There must be a mechanism to ensure political differences are ignored in these situations, there have to be a third party agreed upon by sanctioning state and targeted state for channelling aid to alleviate the suffering of the ordinary citizens.

1. **What measures of international community do you consider to be vital to urgently enhance the ability of targeted states to resist pandemic?**

First there must be a reliable, trusted and urgent early warning system to alert Sates for these pandemics. States, all States, must cooperate in sharing of information and expertise in full transparency.

The procedures and management in WHO must be reviewed and strengthened to deal with these crises independently and transparently.