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**Statement by Prof. Alena Douhan**

**SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR ON THE NEGATIVE IMPACT OF  
UNILATERAL COERCIVE MEASURES ON THE ENJOYMENT OF  
HUMAN RIGHTS**

Side event on the Impact of Unilateral coercive measures on the right to development and implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals

28 March 2023



*Excellences, Distinguished delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,*

First of all, I would like to thank all the panellists and all of you for participation in this side event on the Impact of Unilateral coercive measures on the right to development and implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

On September 2015 the UN General Assembly approved a resolution 70/1 “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development” as a plan of action for people and the planet, which identifies 17 main sustainable development goals. The latter aim to eliminate poverty and hunger, reduce inequalities, ensure highest possible level of health, access to quality education, water and sanitation, affordable energy, descent work and economic growth and many other.

Unfortunately, a number of UN specialized agencies responsible for monitoring of state efforts to achieve relevant SDGs, publicly announced that the planned targets won’t be achieved by 2030. Moreover, many indicators dropped below the figures of 2014 – that is before the 2030 Agenda was adopted. Naturally this situation is induced by a number of reasons including the pandemic, military conflicts, insufficient cooperation and solidarity but also by the impact of coercive measures applied by states and regional organizations without or beyond authorization of the UN Security Council as well as over-compliance of the private sector and other stakeholders with such measures.

As a Special Rapporteur on the negative impact of unilateral coercive measures on the enjoyment of human rights, I observed a detrimental effect of unilateral sanctions and zero-risk policies / over-compliance of banks and other non-governmental actors on the right to development in general as well as the achievement of every particular goal, including health, food, security, education, clean water and energy and any other, during my country visits and thematic research. This aspect however, has been mostly neglected at the international fora with only some attention paid to the impact of UCMs to the right to development in general.

*Excellences, Distinguished delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,*

I strongly believe that the detailed analysis of the effect of the coercive measures applied by states and regional organizations unilaterally as well as over-compliance of the non-governmental stakeholders over the implementation of every

single sustainable development goal, and the availability of necessary resources, is vital for implementation of the Agenda 2030.

Therefore, I am happy to give the floor to our distinguished panellists, which represent all categories of stakeholders and will present different perspectives of the problem:

Dr. Mihir Kanade - Member of the Expert Mechanism on the Right to Development, Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights

H.E. Mr. Juan Antonio Quintanilla Román - Ambassador Permanent Mission of the Republic of Cuba to the United Nations Office at Geneva

Dr. Robert Huish – Professor, Department of International Development Studies, Dalhousie University

Dr. Michael Angastiniotis- Medical Advisor, Thalassaemia International Federation

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