

**Statement by Ali Nasimfar
The Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran
Before
the Sixth Committee of the
75st Session of the United Nations General Assembly**

On:

"Report of the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization"

(Agenda Item 82)

New York, 23 October 2020

In the Name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful

Mr. Chairman,

The Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization is the only enduring mechanism within the UN framework to discuss issues related to the UN Charter and strengthening of the role of the Organization as well as addressing the challenges toward UN principles.

With this in mind, this year my delegation proposed a new subject matter to be included in the agenda of the Special Committee entitled "Obligations of Member States in relation to unilateral coercive measures" and proposed that the Committee develop a guideline on the ways and means to prevent, remove, minimize and redress the adverse and inhumane impact of unilateral coercive measures.

I draw the attention of the Sixth Committee to the proposed guideline contained on page 27 of the Report of the Special Committee in document A/75/33. It is an effort to strengthen the legal framework and assist Member States in acting properly against such unlawful measures while mitigating their adverse impact.

Those who live under unilateral coercive measures know firsthand that such measures are an abundant source of suffering, pain and death. Among the many limitations imposed by unilateral coercive measures is the close of financial channels for trade in humanitarian goods and medicine thereby violating the human rights of the affected population. Such measures also hinder humanitarian assistance in the event of disasters, cause the arbitrary and unlawful detention of innocent persons around the world as well as deprive patients in life-threatening conditions access to critical and lifesaving medicine as well as advanced machinery for the diagnosis of their illness.

Unfortunately, the objectives behind these measures mainly seek to impose hunger and create social unrest in line with the corrupt policy of regime change. Due to the severe humanitarian consequences and malign intentions behind their imposition, they can only be categorized as criminal acts.

Morally wrong and ethically unjustified, these measures both defy the rule of law at the international level as well as infringe upon the right to development thereby

leading to the violation of basic human rights. Moreover, the evidence on the destructive nature of UCMs is abundantly clear. The Special Rapporteur on the negative impact of Unilateral Coercive Measures on the enjoyment of human rights categorized UCMs as unjust and harmful measures that not only make imported goods unaffordable thereby severely reducing access to much needed supplies but also result in the destruction of the economy and currency of Iran ultimately driving millions of people into poverty. They kill, and they may amount to war by another name. However, the defining point is that, unlike conventional wars, these measures solely target civilians and indiscriminately kill them in large numbers.

We commend the delegation of Mexico and the Syrian Arab Republic for their important proposals; particularly, the latter proposal which is intended to address an immediate and urgent violation of Article 105 and 100 of the UN Charter by the Host Country of the United Nations.

By imposing punitive measures, such as inhumane movement restrictions, on certain countries, including my delegation, the Host Country has seriously jeopardized the independent exercise of the functions of certain Missions in NYC and, at the same time, disregarded the international character of the Secretariat of the UN by imposing selective movement restrictions on UN staff from certain countries as a means of retaliation against their native countries.

In view of these flagrant violations, a review by the Charter Committee is urgently needed regarding Article 105 and 100 of the UN Charter in order to formulate concrete recommendations with the aim of strengthening the organization.

Mr. Chairman,

Unlawful threat or use of force is a violation of a peremptory norm of international law and questions the credibility of the organization. We are of the view that clarification and re-affirmation of Charter Provisions in this respect could contribute to strengthening the organization, therefore we support the proposal submitted by the Russian Federation and Belarus to seek, through the General Assembly, the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice on legal consequences of the resort to the use of force without authorization by the Security Council, except in the exercise of the right to self-defense.

Finally, the specific proposals on the agenda of the Special Committee deserve in-depth consideration, and we invite all Member States to engage in a constructive dialogue to advance the long-standing issues included in the agenda of the Committee and put forward new proposals to address emerging challenges to the UN Charter.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.