



Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the
United Nations Office and other international organizations

Statement
By
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Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations Office
and Other International Organizations in Geneva
Before
ECOSOC Humanitarian Affairs Segment

Item 76 (a)
Strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian and disaster relief assistance of the
United Nations, including special economic assistance

Geneva, 25 June 2021

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

Madam President,

My delegation would like to begin by thanking you and your co-facilitator in the ECOSOC Humanitarian Affairs Segment for all the efforts put into negotiating and concluding this draft resolution.

The Islamic Republic of Iran associates itself with the statement delivered by the Republic of Guinea on behalf of the Group of 77 and aligns itself with the reservation registered by the Group on latter part of preamble paragraph 6 of the resolution.

We would also like to register our understanding of the word ‘gender’ as ‘sex’.

Madam President,

The draft resolution on “Strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations” is of great significance for shaping humanitarian action worldwide. It is everyone’s hope that the resolution would offer another momentum for enhanced cooperation through genuine and practical solidarity. This is all the more imperative during the ongoing pandemic that has affected all nations.



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Madam President,

As highlighted in the UNSG report (A/76/74–E/2021/54), “The COVID-19 pandemic exposed inequalities and expanded humanitarian needs.”

The global pandemic was supposed to bring a shared understanding for promoting international solidarity through enhanced empathy and cooperation. However, 18 months into the crisis, we are facing increasing inequalities, including health inequities and health nationalism, as well as continuing unilateralism.

Health policies that are isolationist and preferential in nature by radically prioritizing ones’ own citizens at the cost of leaving the majority of the populations in the developing world behind, negate solidarity and undermine basic humanitarian principles.

Likewise, policies and actions that are exclusionist, coercive and confrontational in essence generate discord, undermine solidarity and hamper cooperation resulting in unprecedented shrinking of humanitarian space and compromising humanitarian principles across the continents.

The continuing unilateral coercive measures against developing nations remains the single most destructive deliberate obstruction to humanitarian action worldwide. Unilateral sanctions have only been intensified during the pandemic in bold defiance of all international norms and standards and in breach of the obligation to cooperation. The UNSG call for ‘solidarity not exclusion’ in March 2020 was simply ignored by then US administration, and the new administration persists in imposing the same inhuman and cruel sanctions against the targeted nations with impunity. The UN humanitarian agencies should not shy away from speaking out about the extremely negative implications of unilateral sanctions on humanitarian action and to set up workable ways and procedures to shield humanitarian space against such transgressions.

Madam President,

Protracted conflicts, military interventions and occupations, such as occupied Palestine and in Yemen, populist nationalism at home and unilateralist policies abroad, the accelerating impacts of climate change and natural disasters, rise in displacement and refugees, etc., continue to further stress the humanitarian capacity in many parts of the world. New and emerging challenges are only adding to the existing ones.

Addressing these complex host of challenges requires a thorough understanding of the depth and width of challenges and a true determination to deal with the underlying causes as well.



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The Islamic Republic of Iran reiterates that in providing humanitarian assistance, all principles and purposes of the UN Charter, notably respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity of States, should be strictly observed by all countries as well as humanitarian aid organizations. In response to humanitarian emergencies, the primary role and responsibility of respective States, national ownership and leadership in coordination of humanitarian assistance for ensuring an effective humanitarian aid delivery must be respected.

Humanitarian calamities could not be invoked to revive conceptual excuses for military intervention and aggression, under whatever name or notion, in breach of the UN Charter

The Islamic Republic of Iran underlines that the sanctity of humanitarian assistance activities, including the credibility of the United Nations humanitarian response system, must be preserved by upholding its purely humanitarian nature through the observation of the *principles* of humanity, neutrality, impartiality and independence. Legitimate concerns on the deviation of humanitarian aid as well as non-humanitarian activities under the guise of providing humanitarian aid must be addressed swiftly by thorough and independent investigations.

I thank you.