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**Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil,
political, economic, social and cultural rights,
including the right to development**

Written statement* submitted by Network of Women's Non- governmental Organizations in the Islamic Republic of Iran, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[5 February 2024]

* Issued as received, in the language of submission only.



The Impact of Sanctions on People with Disabilities

The right to health is one of the fundamental human rights and it means the rights of individuals to achieve the highest standard of physical and mental health. In order to provide healthy living conditions for citizens, governments are required to take measures in various fields, including passing domestic laws and regulations and joining international conventions.

In Article 25, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights has emphasized the right to health of individuals and has identified the relationship between health and other human rights, such as: the right to food, housing, social services.

The "Covenant of Economic, Social and Cultural" in paragraph 1 of article 12, declares: "The countries that are parties to this covenant recognize the right of everyone to enjoy the best possible state of physical and mental health". Article 29 of the Constitution recognizes the right to health and the right of all people to enjoy social security in terms of retirement, unemployment, old age, disability, unemployment, being on the road, accidents and accidents, the need for health care services and medical care. has considered the insurance form etc. as one of the duties of the government; Also, according to paragraph 12 of the third article of the constitution, it is one of the government's duties to establish a correct and fair economy to create prosperity and eliminate poverty and eliminate any type of deprivation in the fields of nutrition, housing, work, and health.

One billion people, equivalent to 15% of the world's population, have experienced some form of disability during their lifetime, which is more serious in developing countries. From this population, between 110 and 190 million people have obvious disabilities. Disabled people benefit from health, economic, educational, occupational and social facilities to a lesser extent than "normal" people.

Disabled people have citizenship rights like normal citizens of the society, and on the other hand, due to the fact that they have special physical and mental limitations compared to others, therefore they need more attention in order to enjoy their rights. Urban management, by applying the rules and regulations of urban development, in addition to systematizing all urban activities, including civil, economic, social and cultural activities, must be able to provide the necessary welfare platforms for all citizens, especially vulnerable groups, including the disabled, and by formulating appropriate regulations for quality improvement. their lives take action.

According to Article 1 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, disability includes those who have long-term physical, mental, intellectual, or sensory disabilities that, in interaction with various obstacles, make it possible for them to participate fully and effectively in equal conditions with others in society. be stopped The general principles of the convention are: respect for inherent dignity, individual autonomy including freedom of choice and independence of individuals; Nondiscrimination; Full and effective participation and entry into society; Respecting differences and accepting people with disabilities as part of human diversity and humanity; equality of opportunities; access; equality between men and women; Respecting the transformative capacities of children with disabilities and respecting the rights of children with disabilities to preserve their identity.

More than other ordinary citizens, disabled people need to pay attention to different dimensions of health, including physical, mental, spiritual and social health. Proper nutrition, health, mobility and exercise are among their most important needs so that they do not suffer from illness, isolation, depression and other possible complications of disability and live with high spirits and vitality.

Article 25 of the "Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities" obliges the member states to recognize the right of the disabled to enjoy the highest accessible health standards without discrimination and obligates them to take the necessary measures to ensure the access of the disabled to health services. A major part of the health and physical and mental health rights of the disabled in the field of urban rights depends on the realization of their other rights and ensuring their proper security in different urban spaces.

According to paragraph 1 of Article 9 of the Convention, governments are obliged to take appropriate measures on an equal basis with others to enable people with disabilities to live independently and fully participate in all aspects of life for their access to the physical environment, transportation, information and communication, and other facilities and services. presented in urban and rural areas.

In all human rights documents, they emphasize the equality of human rights, the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities tries to oblige governments to provide special facilities for disabled people to achieve their rights, and by joining this convention, governments are committed to actions Do the necessary in this regard. Although governments recognize the rights of disabled people by approving laws and joining international documents and try to realize them theoretically, it goes without saying that in practice this has not happened as it should. Several factors are involved in realizing the right to the health of disabled people, and in order to achieve it, their other rights must be realized first. Rights that may not have much relation to the health of disabled people at first glance, but with a little attention we find out that the more these rights are realized, the more the health of disabled people is guaranteed. Rights such as the right to enjoy rehabilitation services, the right to benefit from adapted urban facilities and spaces, the right to recreation and entertainment, the right to access urban information, the right to education and the right to participate in urban planning are rights that are directly and indirectly related to The right to the health of the disabled is intertwined and has an undeniable impact on their physical or mental health. For example, the lack of facilities on urban roads threatens the health of the disabled and they may be harmed at any moment, and then another point is their mental health. This leads to them not achieving their other rights and further isolates them, which ultimately causes them many mental and psychological problems.

Unfortunately, sanctions have limited and made it difficult for hundreds of thousands of people with disabilities to have access to rehabilitation aids.

The right to health is recognized as one of the fundamental human rights in the international human rights system, which can be seen for the first time in Article 55 of the United Nations Charter in 1945, and although the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which was ratified in 1948, The United Nations General Assembly has played the greatest role in the development of international human rights, including the right to life, the right to freedom and security, the right to a standard of living suitable for ensuring the health and well-being of the individual and family, but following this declaration, Article 12 The International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights obliges governments to recognize the right to enjoy the best possible standards of health and physical and mental health and mentions the necessary measures to fully fulfill this right. In this regard, despite the fact that governments cannot guarantee the correctness and desirability of people's health, but they can provide conditions that people's health and health are supported. The importance of this matter is so great that the establishment of the World Health Organization for the convergence and consensus of governments as an international organization was put on the agenda of the United Nations. Therefore, health is the science and art of preventing diseases and prolonging life and promoting health through social efforts. Health rights are access to basic health care and basic health care that should be accessible to all people, and the purpose of providing these cares is to preserve, maintain and improve the health level of people in the society. At least these services and basic rights are: public education in the field of health, improvement of nutrition, provision of safe and sufficient water, immunization against infectious diseases, prevention of common local diseases, proper treatment of diseases and accidents, forecasting and provision of basic medicines and providing services Mother and child health and family planning. Therefore, health and well-being is the indisputable right of the people, and providing it is considered a duty on the shoulders of governments, and this is the basic infrastructure of sustainable development and economic, social and cultural development in general.

All governments are responsible for securing and guaranteeing this right in relation to their nationals, and the Iranian government is no exception to this rule. Although governments are not responsible for the right to health to the citizens of other governments, their actions should not cause harm to the citizens of other governments.

Sanctions, unfortunately, in addition to the many negative effects on government policies and plans, directly and indirectly have a negative impact on Iranian citizens and their right to health, which is contrary to the general and universal principles and values of human rights.
