**POSITION PAPER**

NAME: Anoushka Lamba

COMMITTEE: United Nations Human Rights Council

AGENDA: The Impacts of Unilateral Coercive Measure on the Protection and Enjoyment of Human Rights

COUNTRY: Russia

On 21st November 2019 the Second Committee introduced 16 draft resolutions and approved two, including one calling on the international community to condemn unilateral economic, financial or trade measures impending development. The report submitted to General Assembly resolution 52/120 of 12 December 1997 urged all states to refrain from implementing any unilateral measure not in accordance with international law and Charter of the United Nations, in particular those of a coercive nature.

**Russia identifies the UN Human Rights Council as the appropriate decision making body and emphasizes with the longstanding principle that it is their responsibility of States to protect and promote human rights and fundamental freedom.**

The Russian Federation has imposed several measures in response to the unilateral coercive measures applied by the United States, the European Union and other countries following the events in Crimea and eastern Ukraine. The Government of the Russian Federation argues that its sanctions represent a legitimate form of retaliation. The federal customs service released a list of products that had been banned from importation into the Russian Federation from Canada, the United States and the European Union.

The Russian Federation fully endorses the principles of UNHRC and also stresses on the following imperatives:

1. We believe primary responsibility rests with the individual government while the international community bears the secondary responsibility.
2. Russia urges that military enforcement only be considered in cases where there is a certainty about a state’s unwillingness to protect its citizens.
3. Unilateral sanctions on the Russian Federation qualify as “third-party countermeasures” under international law, to the extent that we aim at responding to grave violations of obligations owed to the international community.

Russia recognizes the ill effects of unilateral coercive measures on the enjoyment of human rights and believes that the convocation needs to take place in an effective, well-structured and participatory manner.