

COMMITTEE - United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC)

AGENDA - The Impacts of Unilateral Coercive Measures on the Protection and Enjoyment of Human Rights

COUNTRY – France

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The Universal Declaration of Human Rights is the cornerstone of the wide ranging body promoting and protecting all **human rights** law created over the decades since the end of World War II. Articles 1 and 2 state that “all human beings are born equal in dignity and rights” and are entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth in the Declaration “without distinction of any kind such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status”.

The COVID-19 has shown, among others, the inequities of our world, in which developing countries are struggling with greater challenges in the fight against the disease. Countries subjected to **unilateral coercive measures** have an additional burden. Unilateral coercive measures refers to economic measures taken by one State to compel a change in the policy of another State. The present report submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution, entitled “Unilateral economic measures as a means of political and economic coercion against developing countries”. A Unilateral measure is imposed by a country without invoking **WTO (world trade organization)** dispute settlement procedures or other multilateral international rules and procedures, and is based solely upon the invoking country’s own criteria. In contrast to measures based on a multilateral system, unilateral measures are likely to prompt further retaliation from the targeted country, which in turn is likely to lead to a trade war of escalating retaliation. There are also broader implications for the growth of the world economy, which trade wars have shown to impede -- few dispute that it was the cycle of trade retaliation through tariff increases during the 1930’s that ultimately resulted in a sharp contraction in trade and stagnation of the world economy. Even where agreements are reached through the threat or use of **unilateral measures**, the multilateral system may still suffer. Based on economic or political theory, argues that credible threats of unilateral measures are effective in maintaining a free trading system from a strategic viewpoint.

France, with the official name of the **French Republic**, is situated in Western Europe and is prevalent member of the European Union. France has been one of the UN's members since its founding in 1945. It holds a permanent seat on the Security Council, alongside the United States, the United Kingdom, Russia and China, thus playing a leading role on many subjects. France is the sixth-largest contributor to the United Nations regular budget and to the peacekeeping operations budget. **France** has always played a particular role in the **human rights** field. It inspired the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, signed in Paris on 10 December 1948, the 70th anniversary of which was celebrated in 2018. France has been a **WTO member** since 1 January 1995 and a **member of GATT** since 1 January 1948. It is a member State of the European Union. As host and holder of the **COP21 Presidency** in 2015, France played a key role in the adoption of the **Paris Agreement**. France is at the forefront of the fight against global warming and preserving the environment. Today, France continues to fight for human rights worldwide, both through its driving role within the UN Human Rights Council, of which it is an elected member for the 2021-2023 mandate, and through its action at the Security Council. France feels that the United States is responsible of violating human rights, systematic racial discrimination and hindering development in countries it places **economic sanctions** on and to end the use of **unilateral sanctions**.

France firmly believes it wants to help boost growth, play its part, and build consensus for sustainable and fair development. Confronted with the **UCM problems**, France is enhancing the coherence and effectiveness of gender actions in its development assistance policies and external action. As a result of the economic benefits of trade, communities of France address major social needs, such as protecting human rights, improving working conditions, and achieving gender equality. Moreover, trade agreements and rules have the potential to serve as social safeguards. France highlights that the most common consequence of these measures, is the lack of access to essential goods and services such as food, medicines and health services, which always impacts greatly on most marginalized populations such as women, LGBT people and other marginalized groups.

France feels that important subtopics that must be addressed are Unilateral coercive measures rules and procedures concerning with the human rights, UCM's negative impacts for some countries. France attempts to find ways to reverse the damage that other nations have endured through UCMs and to create more no. of organizations that can help restore the countries that have been previously smart sanctioned and call upon countries to unite against the efforts of UCMs, supporting countries that have been targeted.