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Biennial panel discussion on the issue of unilateral coercive measures and human rights

We welcome the report on Unilateral coercive measures. It is certainly a comprehensive compendium of information on unilateral coercive measures.

Likewise, we thank the Special Rapporteur for her efforts.

However, we are saddened to see how states and regional organisations make use of these measures without taking into account the Security Council, which is the main organ responsible for the maintenance of international peace and security. This, unfortunately, is a deterioration in the rule of law.

At the forefront of the states that apply these measures are mainly Western countries, which often claim to be the champions of liberal democracy. However, this group of countries has been joined by others belonging to the Global South. With regard to unilateral economic measures, it seems urgent to recall that, according to the definition given in article 7 of the Rome Statute, financially blocking a state is a crime against humanity.

Coercive practices used during armed conflict have been regulated at the international level over time in order to protect the civilian population. However, the regulation of non-forcible coercion outside armed conflict; in other words, economic coercion, is still in an embryonic state.



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It is, therefore, necessary to work towards establishing clear and forceful legal limitations to unilateral economic measures as well as to work together for constructive dialogue solutions at the international level.