

International Conference on Sanctions, Business and Human Rights

21-22 November Geneva, Switzerland

Programme of work

Date: High-Level Conference (plenary session), 21 November, 10:00 – 13:00 CET
Humanitarian stakeholders, 21 November, 15:00 – 18:00 CET
Academics and Legal Professionals, 22 November, 10:00 – 18:00 CET

Venue: ROOM XXVI, Palais de Nations & ZOOM Online

The Special Rapporteur on the negative impact of unilateral coercive measures on the enjoyment of human rights, with the support of the Group of Friends of the Charter of the United Nations, pursuant to the *Human Rights Council resolution 55/7*, is pleased to invite all stakeholders to take part in the conference. This conference will address key issues related to the impact of unilateral sanctions, secondary sanctions, and over-compliance on human rights, while also discussing the development of the *Guiding Principles on Sanctions, Business, and Human Rights and the Commentary thereto*.

Moderator: Professor Alena Douhan, Special Rapporteur on the negative impact of the unilateral coercive measures on the enjoyment of human rights.

21 November 2024

High-Level Conference (plenary session)

- 10:00-10:20** **Opening Remarks**
- H.E. Ambassador Mr. Alexander Gabriel Yánez Deleuze, Permanent Representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela
 - Professor Alena Douhan, Special Rapporteur on the negative impact of unilateral coercive measures on the enjoyment of human rights
- 10:20-11:50** **Statements by key-note speakers**
- H.E. Mr. Yván Eduardo Gil Pinto, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela (video)
 - H.E. Mr. Osman Saleh Mohammed, Minister of Foreign Affairs, The States of Eritrea
 - Hon. Ziyambi Ziyambi, Minister of Justice, Legal and Parliamentary Affairs, Republic of Zimbabwe
 - H.E. Ms Anayansi Rodríguez Camejo, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs, Republic of Cuba
 - H.E. Mr. Miao Deyu, Assistant Minister of Foreign Affairs, People's Republic of China (video)

- H.E. Mr. Sergey Vershinin, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Russian Federation (video)
- H.E. Mr. Kazem Gharib Abadi, Deputy Minister for Legal and International Affairs, Islamic Republic of Iran
- H.E. Ambassador Mr. Marcel Robert Tibaleka, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Uganda to the United Nations Office at Geneva
- H.E. Ambassador Mr. Haydar Ali Ahmad, Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations Office at Geneva

11:50-12:50 **Dialogue and discussion by other States (3-5 minutes each)**

12:50-13:00 **Closing remarks**

- Professor Alena Douhan, Special Rapporteur on the negative impact of unilateral coercive measures on the enjoyment of human rights
- H.E. Ambassador Mr. Alexander Gabriel Yáñez Deleuze, Permanent Representatives of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela

21 November 2024

Humanitarian stakeholders

15:00-15:15 **Opening Remarks**

- Professor Alena Douhan, Special Rapporteur on the negative impact of unilateral coercive measures on the enjoyment of human rights

15:15-16:45 **Statements by keynote speakers**

- Ms. Elena Gentili, Humanitarian, Economist and International Cooperation Professional
“Unilateral Sanctions and Human Rights: cross-cutting implications for populations most in need”
- Mr. Karam Abi Yazbek, MENA Regional Coordinator, Caritas Internationalis
“Coping with the humanitarian impact of sanctions”
- Dr. Maria Mercedes Rossi, main representative of the Associazione Comunità Papa Giovanni XXIII (APG23) to the United Nations
“The adverse impact of sanctions on human rights and the realization of the right to development”
- Prof. Sonia Boueiri Bassil, Director of International Relations, Fundalatin
“Derechos humanos y víctimas de las MCU contra Venezuela”
- Ms. Jennifer Philpot-Nissen, World Council of Churches Programme Executive for Human Rights and Disarmament

“An assessment of the challenges of sanctions to the humanitarian work of churches and their organisations”

- Ms. Anna Cervi, Researcher, co-founder of the Italian Initiative for International Mediation

“A comparative analysis of EU and US restrictive measures and humanitarian exemptions: Syria, Lybia, Myanmar, Sudan, Afghanistan, Mali, Ukraine and Iraq”

- Dr. Marianna Leite, Global Advocacy and Development Policy Manager of ACT Alliance

“Legal repercussions and de-risking: Operational Challenges of Humanitarian Action in Sanctions Environments”

- Mr. Emmanuel Tronc, Syria Mission Country Director at HEKS/EPER

“Direct and indirect impact of UCMs on the delivery of humanitarian aid in Syria: Beyond operational challenges”

- Mr. Moutaz Adam, Oxfam Syria Country Director(video)

“The unaddressed effects of UCMs on humanitarian action – Case from Syria”

16:45-17:50

Dialogue and interventions by other humanitarian stakeholders (3-5 minutes each)

17:50-18:00

Closing remarks

- Professor Alena Douhan, Special Rapporteur on the negative impact of unilateral coercive measures on the enjoyment of human rights

22 November 2024

Academics and Legal Professionals, Session I

10:00-10:15

Opening Remarks

- Professor Alena Douhan, Special Rapporteur on the negative impact of unilateral coercive measures on the enjoyment of human rights

10:15-11:45

Statements by keynote speakers

- Prof. Mohamed Abdel-Moneim, Member of the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and Member of its Working Group on Individual Communications

“Culture of punishment: Sanctions, unilateral coercive measures and the international system”

- H.E. Mr. William Castillo, Vice Minister of Anti-Blockade Policies, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela

“Methodologies for Recording Unilateral Coercive Measures and their impacts: the experience of the Anti-Blockade Observatory of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela”

- Prof. Cecilia M. Bailliet, UN Independent Expert on human rights and international solidarity, Professor at the Law Faculty of the University of Oslo
“International Solidarity and the principle of proportionality in relation to UCMs”

- Prof. Antonios Tzanakopoulos, Professor of Public International Law at the Faculty of Law of the University of Oxford and Fellow in Law at St Anne's College
“The role of coercion in the international legal order”

- Prof. Raúl Rodríguez Rodríguez, professor of North American History and International Relations and currently the Director of the Center for Hemispheric and United States Studies at the University of Havana
“U.S. unilateral coercive measures on Cuba: terminology, enforcement and overcompliance”

- Dr. Ksenia Kirkham, Lecturer in the Department of War Studies, King's College London
“Effects of sanctions on third parties and sender states”

- Prof. Pouria Askari, Professor of Public International Law at Allameh Tabataba'i University and Secretary-General of the Iranian Association for UN Studies
“International law double standards in the case of unilateral coercive measures”

- Dr. Ali Rastbeen, founder and president of the Paris Academy of Geopolitics (AGP) and director of publications of the Journal *Géostratégiques*
“The challenge of sanctions to international law”

- Prof. Gilles-Emmanuel Jacquet, Vice-President of the Geneva International Peace Research Institute and President of the Youth Center for Dialogue and Peace
“Unilateral coercive measures, the private sector, and the Sustainable Development Goals”

11:45-12:45 **Dialogue and discussion (interventions from the floor 3-5 minutes)**

12:45-13:00 **Responses from the Speakers**

13:00-15:00 **Lunch break**

22 November 2024

Academics and Legal Professionals, Session II

15:00-15:10

Opening Remarks

- Professor Alena Douhan, Special Rapporteur on the negative impact of unilateral coercive measures on the enjoyment of human rights

15:10-16:50

Statements by keynote speakers

- Prof. Alfred de Zayas, professor of international law at the Geneva School of Diplomacy, former UN Independent Expert on International Order (2012-2018)

“UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights in the context of UCMs proliferation”

- Prof. Joy Gordon, the Ignacio Ellacuría, S.J. Chair in Social Ethics in the Philosophy Department at Loyola University-Chicago

“Overview of overcompliance and risk assessment”

- Prof. Wei Zhang, Professor of Human Rights Law and the Co-Director of Institute for Human Rights at the China University of Political Science and Law

“Unilateral sanctions confronting technology companies ---- Taking a human rights based approach”

- Mr. Michael Swainston KC, Barrister at Brick Court Chambers, UK

“Economic warfare and civilian casualties”

- Prof. Attiya Waris, UN Independent Expert on Foreign Debt and other related international financial obligations of States on Human Rights, Professor of Fiscal Law and Policy

“Debt, tax, and IFFs: implications on sanctions”

- Prof. Alena Douhan, Special Rapporteur on the negative impact of unilateral coercive measures on the enjoyment of human rights

“Impact of unilateral sanctions and over-compliance on the Access to Justice”

- Dr. Vladislav Starzhenetskiy, Associate Professor at the Faculty of Law of the National Research University ‘Higher School of Economics’(HSE)

“Access to justice in disputes affected by economic sanctions”

- Mr. Lupicinio Rodriguez, lawyer and managing partner at Lupicinio International Law Firm

Prof. José Luis Iriarte, Professor of Private International Law and Jean Monnet EU Chair

“Risk for legal professionals in sanctions cases”

- Mr. Alexey Anischenko, Partner at Anischenko Laptev
Dr. Vitaliy Vabischevich, Head of the Department of Legal Support and Digital Technologies of the Belarusian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BelCCI)

“Sanctions as a ground to refuse contractual performance or to escape from liability for failure to perform”

- Ms. Maryna Pogibko, Advocate and Public International Law Specialist
Mr. Rafat Rizvi, Investment Banking and ESG Specialist

“Towards fair adjudications: establishing independent mechanisms for the review of sanction designations”

16:50-17:40

Dialogue and discussion (interventions from the floor 3-5 minutes)

17:40-17:55

Responses from the Speakers

17:55-18:00

Closing remarks

Professor Alena Douhan, Special Rapporteur on the negative impact of unilateral coercive measures on the enjoyment of human rights