

Oral Statement

Human Rights Council 48th Session

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

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The World Evangelical Alliance is a representative body for our member Evangelical alliances and organizations in over 140 countries.

In the regions that bear the brunt of Unilateral Coercive Measures (UCMs), our members have shared that UCMs, or sanctions, are a factor in hindering human flourishing and the enjoyment of human rights. They contribute to widespread impoverishment and increased reliance on humanitarian aid. Further, UCMs hamper the ability of Church-based organizations to deliver essential aid. Banks are increasingly reluctant to transfer funds donated for humanitarian aid to NGOs and local Church-based organizations.

The extensive use of sanctions has a detrimental impact on the civilian population disproportionately to their stated objectives. This is especially true in countries simultaneously suffering from wars, internal violence, systemic corruption, droughts or flooding, and the COVID-19 pandemic.

We call on the United States, the European Union and other governments to reconsider the extensive use of UCMs and prioritize the well-being of civilians, dialogue, and political solutions.