



UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER  
FOR HUMAN RIGHTS



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**Adverse consequences of economic sanctions on the enjoyment of human rights**

**Sub-Commission resolution 1997/35**

The Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities,

Affirming the need to respect the principles of the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenants on Human Rights and the relevant provisions of the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 and the two Additional Protocols thereto,

Concerned about the adverse consequences of economic sanctions, such as embargoes and blockades, on human rights,

Recognizing that such coercive measures should be adopted by or under the authority of the Security Council only in accordance with Article 24 and Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations,

Convinced that such measures should always be limited in time,

Aware, moreover, that such measures most seriously affect the innocent population, in particular the weak and the poor, especially women and children,

Concerned that such measures have a tendency to aggravate the imbalances in income distribution already present in the countries concerned,

Noting that in many cases they may give rise to smuggling and trafficking which greatly benefit mala fide businesspeople often close to the oppressive government authorities which are insensitive to the suffering of their people,

1. Appeals to all States concerned to reconsider their adoption of or support for such measures, even if the legitimate goals pursued are not yet attained, if after a reasonable period they appear not to be bringing about the desired changes in policy, regardless of the nature of that policy;

2. Decides to consider the adverse consequences of economic sanctions on human rights at its fiftieth session under the agenda sub-item entitled "Implications of humanitarian activities for the enjoyment of human rights".

37th meeting

28 August 1997

[Adopted without a vote. See chap.XIV.]

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