

This response was received through an online questionnaire

Contact information

Please provide the contact information of the person responsible for answering this questionnaire.

1. Country (or organization):

Ethiopia

2. Department/Division/Unit

International Organisations Affairs Directorate General, Ethiopian Ministry of Foreign Affairs

3. Name of contact person:

[Redacted]

4. Title:

[Redacted]

5. Email:

[Redacted]

6. Does your country (or, does your organization) agree with the imposition of unilateral economic measures as instruments of political and economic coercion against developing countries?

☒ Yes

☐ No

7. Please provide a brief explanation for your answer to question 6:

max. 2000 characters

Ethiopia has persistently objected to the imposition of unilateral coercive measures (UCM) as political and economic instruments against developing countries. Unilateral coercive measures are a violation of the UN Charter and the set of international laws and norms adopted by the community of states. In December 2023, Ethiopia reaffirmed its stance against unilateral coercive measures by voting in favor of United Nations General Assembly Resolution A/RES/78/135. Ethiopia aligns itself with the core principles of the UN Charter, including sovereign equality of states, non-intervention in internal affairs, and the promotion of international cooperation and development. Ethiopia co-sponsored and supported Human Rights Council Resolution 55/7(2024), which denounces the use of unilateral coercive measures, especially when they are used to exert political or economic pressure on developing nations. As has been pronounced by the African Union resolutions, unilateral coercive measures and legislation are contrary to international law, international humanitarian law, the African Union Constitutive Act, the United Nations Charter and the norms and principles governing peaceful relations among States. UCMS are rife with double standards, and constitute clear violation of the spirit of the Charter of the United Nations. Ethiopia also joined the broad consensus reflected under Human Rights Council resolution which denounces the use of unilateral coercive measures, and emphasizes their harmful effects on vulnerable populations and their obstruction of basic human rights and development. Ethiopia highlights these actions frequently worsen poverty, increase inequality, and thwart attempts to fulfill the SDGs under the 2030 Agenda. Ethiopia reiterates that the imposition of UCMS violates the right to development, as enshrined in the Declaration on the Right to Development (1986). It negatively affects the principles of fair trade and international solidarity.

Please enter at most 2000 characters

8. Has your country been affected by (or, has your organization observed countries been affected by) unilateral economic measures during the period 2021-2023?

☒ Yes☐ No (please go to Question 11)

9. If yes (question 8) please explain target countries, the nature of the measures, country imposing the measures, dates when measures were imposed, and whether the measures are still binding.

max. 2000 characters

Over the years, Ethiopia has been singled out for unilateral coercive measures. All of the measures are taken with flagrant violation of international law and on the basis of the internal affairs of the country. The measures are also imposed during periods where international cooperation and solidarity are most needed to preserve peace and security, development and human rights. The UCMS Ethiopia have faced include suspension of mutual security cooperation, suspension of trade and financial activities. The suspension from trade arrangements has reversed Ethiopia's efforts to expand and diversify its exports and hasten economic growth and poverty alleviation. Ethiopia's suspension affected those industries, especially in manufacturing and textiles.

Please enter at most 2000 characters

10. If yes (question 8) please briefly describe the impact of the unilateral economic measure(s) on the country, including on its achievement of sustainable development and trade.

max. 2000 characters

UCMs imposed on Ethiopia have had negative impacts on the country's employment, trade relations, and economic development. Workers particularly women have lost their jobs, and many factories have closed. Consequently, supply chains were disrupted, and Ethiopia's export capacity was reduced. By undermining Ethiopia's industrialization efforts, such unilateral measures pushed back the gains Ethiopia has made in poverty reduction and economic diversification, further exacerbating existing vulnerabilities. Ethiopia's suspension since January 2022 affected the continuous efforts towards economic reform, sustainable peace, and prosperity.

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11. Please include any additional comments and suggestions.

max. 1000 characters

Ethiopia remains committed to fostering peace, stability, and economic progress. However, we strongly believe that constructive engagement rather than punitive economic isolation serves as the most effective means to achieve sustainable development and lasting global cooperation. Adherence to the principles and objectives of the Charter of the United Nations, including respect for sovereignty, sovereign equality of states, non-interference in internal affairs of states and peaceful resolution of disputes must be upheld by all states at all times. Ethiopia underscores, all UN member states, should work together in ensuring that economic measures are used as instruments of growth rather than as tools of coercion. The international community should reject the use of economic coercion as a means of influencing sovereign states and to instead foster inclusive economic partnerships that contribute to shared prosperity.

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