

Contact information

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

1. Country (or organization):

Syrian Arab Republic

2. Department/Division/Unit

Permanent Mission of Syria to the UN

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

The Syrian Arab Republic strongly opposes the imposition of unilateral economic measures, as these measures impede the provision of basic needs to the targeted people. Unilateral Coercive Measures are a practice that contravenes the rules of international law, and the principles and purposes contained in the Charter of the United Nations, including the principle of equal sovereignty and the principle of non-interference in the internal affairs of States. On this basis, the achievement of the 2030 Agenda's goals and objectives for Sustainable Development will be hindered as long as these economic measures persists to be imposed.

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

For many years, the Syrian Arab Republic has been subject to multiple layers of unilateral coercive measures in response to the oppressive Assad Regime, particularly economic and financial measures imposed by the United States, the European Union, and some other Western countries, including the United Kingdom, Canada, and Australia on Syrian public and private Sectors and even third parties that conduct financial transactions with sanctioned entities. The United States and the EU issued a general license and eased some of Unilateral Measures imposed on Syria, although a welcomed step, but the Syrian Arab Republic looks forward to the full lifting of these measures as the reason of its imposition no longer exists.

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 the Syrian Arab Republic hindered the humanitarian response in the country including disaster risk reduction, it has also directly targeted vital services and sectors such as health, water, fuel, petroleum supplies, energy, transportation, telecommunications, and technology. UCMs imposed on Syrian banks, including the Central Bank, have led to the freezing or severing of financial relations with foreign banks, which has led to the inability to carry out the necessary financial transactions for all the vital sectors. UCMs imposed on public and private hospitals in Syria, including children's specialized hospitals, and the prevention of international companies from selling medicines and necessary medical equipment to Syria have exacerbated the vulnerability of the health sector in Syria. UCMs imposed on importing oil and its derivatives to Syria have caused an acute shortage of fuel used for heating, transportation, and electric power generation. The measures that affected the electricity sector have led to extensive damage to other vital sectors and basic services and to the deterioration of the humanitarian situation of citizens, which has negatively impacted their daily lives, including the need for electricity for studying and education, the provision of needed medical care, and the operation of critical equipment in health facilities, such as incubators for newborns. In addition, the lack of electricity affected the operation of water pumping stations for drinking and household use and for irrigation, which has negatively impacted the quality of water and led to the spread of many diseases due to the use of polluted water. UCMs imposed on the import of fertilizers needed for agricultural food production, or requirements for their local production, have caused damage to Syria's agricultural production capacity, contributed to a sharp rise in the cost of locally produced food, undermined food security for Syrians

Please enter at most 2000 characters

11. Please include any additional comments and suggestions.

max. 1000 characters

Unilateral coercive measures have deeply affected the government's ability to properly provide basic services to its citizens and address their social, economic, and health impacts and severely hinder reconstruction plans. The Syrian government is exerting efforts to secure basic supplies for its citizens and to provide health-care services, as well as basic needs. The United Nations should have a stronger position against the imposition of unilateral economic measures, which contradict its Charter, and must exercise its power to call upon countries that impose unilateral coercive measures to lift them without any preconditions

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