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Agenda item 18 (a)

**Macroeconomic policy questions: international trade
and development**

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 17 December 2021

[*on the report of the Second Committee (A/76/531/Add.1, para. 13)*]

76/191. Unilateral economic measures as a means of political and economic coercion against developing countries

The General Assembly,

Recalling the relevant principles set forth in the Charter of the United Nations,

Reaffirming the Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Cooperation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations,¹ which states, *inter alia*, that no State may use or encourage the use of unilateral economic, political or any other type of measures to coerce another State in order to obtain from it the subordination of the exercise of its sovereign rights,

Bearing in mind the general principles governing the international trading system and trade policies for development contained in relevant resolutions, rules and provisions of the United Nations and the World Trade Organization,

Recalling its resolutions 44/215 of 22 December 1989, 46/210 of 20 December 1991, 48/168 of 21 December 1993, 50/96 of 20 December 1995, 52/181 of 18 December 1997, 54/200 of 22 December 1999, 56/179 of 21 December 2001, 58/198 of 23 December 2003, 60/185 of 22 December 2005, 62/183 of 19 December 2007, 64/189 of 21 December 2009, 66/186 of 22 December 2011, 68/200 of 20 December 2013, 70/185 of 22 December 2015, 72/201 of 20 December 2017 and 74/200 of 19 December 2019,

Gravely concerned that the use of unilateral coercive economic measures adversely affects the economies and the development efforts of developing countries in particular and has a general negative impact on international economic cooperation

¹ Resolution 2625 (XXV), annex.



and on worldwide efforts to move towards a non-discriminatory and open multilateral trading system,

Recognizing that such measures constitute a flagrant violation of the principles of international law as set forth in the Charter, as well as the basic principles of the multilateral trading system,

Noting with great concern the severe negative impact on human health, safety and well-being caused by the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, as well as the severe disruption to societies and economies and the devastating impact on lives and livelihoods, and that the poorest and most vulnerable are the hardest hit by the pandemic, reaffirming the ambition to get back on track to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals by designing and implementing sustainable and inclusive recovery strategies to accelerate progress towards the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and to help to reduce the risk of and build resilience to future shocks, crises and pandemics, including by strengthening health systems and achieving universal health coverage, and recognizing that equitable and timely access for all to safe, quality, effective and affordable COVID-19 vaccines, therapeutics and diagnostics are an essential part of a global response based on unity, solidarity, renewed multilateral cooperation and the principle of leaving no one behind,

Considering that the enactment and application of unilateral coercive economic measures that are inconsistent with the principles of international law and the Charter have a negative impact on the capacity of targeted countries to respond efficiently, including in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, specifically in the acquisition and distribution of COVID-19 vaccines, medical equipment and supplies to adequately treat their populations in the face of this pandemic and to promote post-pandemic recovery, and welcoming the appeal by the Secretary-General for the waiving of sanctions imposed on countries to ensure access to food, essential health supplies and COVID-19 medical support,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;²

2. *Urges* the international community to adopt urgent and effective measures to eliminate the use of unilateral economic, financial or trade measures that are not authorized by relevant organs of the United Nations, that are inconsistent with the principles of international law or the Charter of the United Nations or that contravene the basic principles of the multilateral trading system and that affect, in particular, but not exclusively, developing countries;

3. *Takes note* of the Bridgetown Covenant, adopted at the fifteenth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, held in Barbados from 3 to 7 October 2021, in which States are strongly urged to refrain from promulgating and applying any unilateral economic, financial or trade measures not in accordance with international law and the Charter, in the light of concerns over the constraining nature and development implications of such measures that negatively impact the well-being of the populations and can impede the full achievement of economic and social development in the concerned States, as well as impair their trade relations;

4. *Calls upon* the international community to condemn and reject the imposition of the use of such measures as a means of political and economic coercion against developing countries that impedes the full achievement of economic and social development;

5. *Also calls upon* the international community to condemn and reject the imposition of unilateral coercive economic measures that are inconsistent with the

² A/76/310.

principles of international law and the Charter, which impede the capacity of targeted countries to respond efficiently in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic, and to promote post-pandemic recovery;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to monitor the imposition of unilateral economic measures as a means of political and economic coercion and to study the impact of such measures on the affected countries, including the impact on trade and development;

7. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-eighth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution, with a particular focus on the impacts of unilateral economic measures on the achievement of sustainable development.

*54th plenary meeting
17 December 2021*