

Resolution Against U.S. Coercive Economic Measures

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Whereas, the United States has imposed economic coercive measures, or sanctions, on countries that include approximately 28% of the world's population, and

Whereas, unilateral coercive measures, economic measures taken by one state to compel a change in policy in another state, are illegal under international law and a violation of sovereignty under the UN Charter, and

Whereas, multilateral coercive measures, adopted by the United Nations, have also been used to pursue unjust policies of regime change and wealth transfer, and

Whereas, the United States has used its policy of sanctions to target countries and peoples pursuing an independent path of development, for example, in Cuba, Zimbabwe, Venezuela, Haiti, Syria, Iran, Libya, Iraq, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Eritrea, and many other countries, *including Russia and China*, and

Whereas, there is a clear distinction between the unilateral coercive measures imposed by the U.S. as an imperialist power and popular campaigns to cut off the flow of arms and aid to apartheid and colonial regimes, as in the cases of Israel and apartheid South Africa, and

Whereas, the purpose of such economic measures are inherently violent structures of imperialism, inherently violent, designed to maintain economic inequality, continue the theft of wealth from the Global South, and preserve racial hierarchy in the international system, and are also an act of war, and

Whereas, coercive economic measures have a devastating impact on the populations of targeted countries across a wide range of sectors, with working-class and impoverished people suffering the worst impacts, and

Whereas, coercive economic measures are dangerous to public health, artificially depress the economy, cause poverty and displacement, coerce forced migration, and have particularly damaging impacts on workers, women, LGBT people and the environment, and create massive excess deaths around the world, and

Whereas, these are not side effects of coercive economic measures but are an intended outcome of sanctions, intended to create regime change through making life unlivable in targeted countries, and

Whereas, former U.S. Secretary of State, Madeleine Albright said, when asked about the death of 500,000 Iraqi children due to U.S. sanctions targeting Iraq's economy, society and health system, said. "the price, we think, the price is worth it," and

Whereas, the National Lawyers Guild has a long-standing policy of opposition to U.S. unilateral coercive measures, including in Iraq, Palestine, Cuba, Venezuela, Haiti, Korea and elsewhere, and

Whereas, the National Lawyers Guild is a co-sponsor of the International People's Tribunal on U.S. Imperialism: Sanctions, Blockades, Coercive Economic Measures, which concluded in New York on September 29-30, 2023, with a detailed verdict on the responsibility of the United States for war crimes and crimes against humanity, including genocide, for its coercive economic measures, and

Whereas, the Tribunal will be pursuing litigation, popular education and research to advance the campaign to confront, challenge and defeat coercive economic measures,

Therefore, Be It Resolved, that the National Lawyers Guild will participate in organizing, popular education and litigation to challenge U.S. sanctions and coercive economic measures, and

Be it further resolved, that the National Lawyers Guild will publicize the results of the International People's Tribunal on U.S. Imperialism widely through events, publications, and direct involvement in litigation, and

Be it finally resolved, that the National Lawyers Guild will continue to expand its work to bring U.S. coercive economic measures to an end, including ending the blockades of Cuba, Venezuela, Zimbabwe, Iran, Syria, Eritrea, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, and all other impacted countries.

Implementation of this resolution will be undertaken by the International Committee, which consents to this.