



WHSMUN 2022



6th Legal Committee

Topic: Legitimacy of Economic Sanctions under International Law

TABLE OF CONTENT:

<i>Chair Introductions</i>	2
<i>Background</i>	4
<i>UN Involvement</i>	6
<i>Country Blocs</i>	7
<i>Questions to Consider</i>	8
<i>Works Cited</i>	9

CHAIR INTRODUCTIONS:

Hello everyone,

My name is Inaam Zafar and I am excited to be the Head Chair for this committee! I am a junior here at Whitney and this will be my fourth year in Model UN. Outside of MUN, I love playing chess (though I'm quite bad at it) and reading. After a hectic year of online MUN conferences, I'm looking forward to seeing how everything will play out in an in-person crisis committee!

See you in committee,

Inaam Zafar

Hello everyone! My name is Swetha Chidambara Ganesh and I am your Vice Chair for this committee. I am a senior at WHS and this is my 5th year in MUN. I enjoy hiking, camping, yoga, cooking, and binge-reading manga. I love all things space and am excited to see how our committee plays and what decisions you all make. Make sure to do research on your country's policy so that every action of your country in committee fits their beliefs. I cannot wait to see you all in person rather than through a screen! Good luck to everyone. :)

Swetha Chidambara Ganesh

Hi everyone! I'm Diya Bhardwaj, and I am so excited to be your legal for this committee. This is my fourth year in MUN at Whitney High School. Over the years I have become more confident in my speaking skills, engaged in entertaining conversations with fellow MUNers, and learned more about world issues than I would have if it were not for this experience. My favorite thing about MUN is coming to a place surrounded by passionate and intelligent students who are curious to learn and formulate solutions for the complex problems faced by nations all around the globe. My advice for you all is to have an open mind, listen to others, and learn from as many people as you can in order to have a truly enlightening experience.

BACKGROUND:

Economic sanctions are commercial, and financial-based limitations or penalties meant to address groups or areas that have imposed humanitarian, social, political, or military issues. More specifically, these sanctions are used to address human rights, illegal smuggling, and extremist groups while also promoting peace, keeping governments in order, or demobilizing troops. The UN Charter allows the Security Council to enforce several of these non-weapon-based measures such as “interruption of economic relations or rail, sea, air...radio, and other means of communication”.

The very first sanctions were set in 1966 on Rhodesia, now known as Zimbabwe. These economic sanctions were used to bring down the oppressive white supremacist government. In addition, the UN Security Council imposed military and economic sanctions against the Rhodesian government. Several other countries also imposed economic sanctions on the country, such as Britain and the United States.

In the 1990s, more than fifty sanctions were imposed internationally, including twelve from the UN Security Council alone. Financial and trade embargos were imposed on Iraq after Iraq’s invasion of Kuwait with the purpose of forcing Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait, pay for damages, and reveal and destroy any weapons of mass destruction. Though there were several advantages to the sanctions being able to reduce Iraq military and settle the political border dispute, countless civilians were affected by lack of medical supplies, disease, and lack of clean water. During the Yugoslav Wars, sanctions, including one from the UN, were a key solution to the conflict. Since these sanctions did not allow the EEC (European Economic Community) to import textiles and aid packages to Yugoslavia, they significantly impacted the economy of Serbia and Montenegro. The end of sanctions in these areas decreased business and access to imported medications, which was consequential in many ways.

The United States enacted the Comprehensive Iran Sanctions Accountability and Divestment Act (CISADA) in 2010, which imposed sanctions on Iran. The action blocks

significant transactions and services to Iranian banks that support terrorism. In 2012 Obama signed another set of sanctions that initiated the usage of creative tools to combat human rights abuse, block Iran's access to the international financial market, and hinder Iran's oil and gas operations.

UN INVOLVEMENT:

Under Article 41 of the United Nations Charter, the Security Council of the United Nations has the authority to enforce sanctions. Throughout history, different international sanctions have been made in pursuit of different goals. Though highly different in nature, these sanctions fall into two distinct categories: to enforce cooperation with international law and to contain a threat to peace.

The first category is to enforce cooperation with international law. For example, resulting in an invasion of Kuwait, an international sanction was placed on Iraq through UN Resolution 661, passed on August 6, 1990. The purpose of this sanction was to coerce Iraq into recognizing Kuwait's sovereignty and abiding by international law.

The next category of international sanctions is to suppress a threat inside of a designated geographic boundary. A recent example of this category of sanction is the 2010 Iran nuclear proliferation, in which nations including the United States imposed sanctions in response to Iran's continued illicit nuclear activities. On June 9, Resolution 1929 was passed to provide restrictions on weaponry materials that could subsequently be used for the creation of weapons to contain further Iranian aggression with neighboring countries.

COUNTRY BLOCS:

1. **Western bloc:** Western countries think it's imperative to regulate for economic sanctions to help substantive world peace. For example, under the Obama presidency the United States and other western countries opposed other countries with sanctions when they oppressed international law.
2. **European bloc:** European nations believe that the economy's sanctions need to be pressed to maintain the flow of the world's economy. The European sanctions tool aims to help the European companies in determining whether European sanctions apply to their exports, imports, and business with Iran.
3. **Asian bloc:** Asian countries face a neutral stance on the idea of economic sanctions being established. With the exception of multilateral UN sanctions, few countries in Asia rely on sanctions and export controls as a tool of foreign policy.
4. **African bloc:** The African block informs that economic sanctions stand on a neutral point of view. Africa and Southeast Asia have had a conflicting usage of interpreting sanctions.

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER:

1. What steps can be taken to ensure world powers do not abuse economic sanctions?
2. How can sanctions be held in check when going against international law?
3. How can sanctions be harmfully used for nations to gain a monopoly in a designated field?
4. When sanctions are ineffective to ensure cooperation with international law, what other actions can be taken to ensure peace?
5. In what ways can sanctions be effective without harming the citizens of the country that the sanctions are imposed on?

WORK CITED:

2003, Richard Garfield June. "Sanctions and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia: Assessing Impacts and Drawing Lessons." *Humanitarian Practice Network*,
odihpn.org/magazine/sanctions-and-the-federal-republic-of-yugoslavia-assessing-impacts
-and-drawing-lessons/.

Chantal de Jonge Oudraat, P.J. Simmons. "Sanctions Decade: Assessing UN Strategies in the 1990s." *Carnegie Endowment for International Peace*,
carnegieendowment.org/2000/04/18/sanctions-decade-assessing-un-strategies-in-1990s-
event-50.

"Fact Sheet: Sanctions Related to Iran." *National Archives and Records Administration*, National
Archives and Records Administration,
obamawhitehouse.archives.gov/the-press-office/2012/07/31/fact-sheet-sanctions-related-i
ran.

Friedman, Uri. "Smart Sanctions: A Short History." *Foreign Policy*, 23 Apr. 2012,
foreignpolicy.com/2012/04/23/smart-sanctions-a-short-history/.

"Sanctions Security Council." *United Nations*, United Nations,
www.un.org/securitycouncil/sanctions/information.

"UN Sanctions: What They Are, How They Work, and Who Uses Them || UN News." *United Nations*, United Nations,
news.un.org/en/story/2016/05/528382-un-sanctions-what-they-are-how-they-work-and-wh
o-uses-them.

"University of Central Arkansas: UCA." *Political Science*,
uca.edu/politicalscience/dadm-project/sub-saharan-africa-region/rhodesia-zimbabwe-196
4-present/.