**DELEGATE NAME:** Akshra Dubey **COUNTRY:** El Salvador **INSTITUTION:** Indian School Bousher **TOPIC:** Assessing the Effectiveness of Sanctions

*“The UN wasn’t created to take mankind into paradise, but rather, to save humanity from hell.” -Dag Hammarskjold*

Sanctions- a very important term in diplomatic relations. Sanctions are the measures that countries or organizations use to address security concerns, promote compliance with international laws, and safeguard international peace and security. UNGA, a body of UN, has always played a chief role in fostering and maintaining peaceful relations across the world along with addressing global challenges. It is the fundamental cognitive, policy making, and representative organ of the United Nations. It makes decisions based on the collective interests of the world. The mission of UNGA is to promote peace, development, human rights, and security. United Nations has sanctioned 13 countries across the world. This is done to change the behaviour of the sanctioned country’s regime or government, individuals, or groups in a direction that will improve the situation in that country. The 13 countries sanctioned presently are the Democratic Republic of Congo, Eritrea, Guinea-Bissau, Iran, Iraq, Lebanon, Libya, Mali, North Korea, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, and Yemen.

El Salvador is a democratic republic that maintains good diplomatic relations with countries all around the world. Faced with internal issues, the primary one being the presence of gangs, the Salvadorian government has quite efficiently controlled the issue. From being titled the ‘Homicide capital’ to achieving safety on par with those in European cities, El Salvador has come a long way. In 2014, the homicide rate in Salvador was 68.5 per 100,000 inhabitants. The peak was in 2015 when the homicide rate had reached 103. Finally in 2023 the statistics plummeted to 2.5. Sanctions, imposed by the state department, have played a very pivotal role in achieving this. The UN has played an important role in peacekeeping during the Civil War (1979-1992) by supporting in peace negotiations and implementing Peace Accords. El Salvador has always kept a stance on all the sanctions implemented by the UN. This fact is capable enough to self-explain that El Salvador believes in the fundamental mission and vision of UNGA.

While sanctions do possess some well-known merits, their implementation & aftermath force us to question whether the targeted individuals, nations or insurgents genuinely suffer. One solution to these demerits is compliance of the 193 members of the UN. As we have seen in the case of Libya and North Korea, due to the failure in compliance of a few countries, the targeted groups escaped from the motives of the sanction. It is important for all countries to take a stance against the sanctioned country and not focus on their own interests to prevent the latter from escaping the whims of the sanctions. For this to occur, we need to strengthen international cooperation and impose penalties for non-compliance. Only then, will the desired results of sanctions be observed. Thus El Salvador appeals to the UN to consider this remedy and implement it. Let’s work hand in hand and bring the change we want to see in the world.

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