Position Paper

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TOPIC: Assessing the effectiveness of sanctions

“The freedom to criticize judges and other public officials is necessary to a vibrant democracy. The problem comes when healthy criticism is replaced with more destructive intimidation and sanctions”.

- Sandra Day O'Connor

As the delegate of Greece, we are closely examining how sanctions work and regularly checking if they are doing what they are supposed to do. As a member of the UN and the EU, Greece is bound to implement restrictive measures (sanctions) by the UN Charter (Arts. 25 and 41), the EU Treaties and L. 92/1967. A violation of sanctions implemented by presidential decree carries a sentence of up to five years imprisonment, a monetary fine, or both.

Greece, in the context of combating terrorist financing, implements UN Resolutions imposing sanctions into domestic law. Greece has adeptly navigated U.S. sanctions, particularly those targeting Iran, by diversifying its energy sources through projects like the Trans Adriatic Pipeline, thereby reducing reliance on Iranian oil. It has also maintained trade routes with countries unaffected by U.S. sanctions and engaged in diplomacy to uphold positive relations with the U.S. while pursuing its own economic interests. In terms of other sanctions, Greece has balanced its commitments to EU sanctions against Russia with bilateral economic cooperation, seeking to mitigate tensions while advancing its strategic interests. Amidst tensions with Turkey over territorial disputes, Greece advocates for EU solidarity while engaging in diplomatic efforts to de-escalate conflicts and prevent further sanctions or military confrontation. Overall, Greece's approach involves a careful balancing act between upholding international norms, safeguarding economic interests, and maintaining diplomatic relations with key stakeholders.

From my perspective, assessing sanctions' effectiveness entails considering their impact on populations and leadership. Sanctions, a common tool in international relations, carry both intended economic pressure and unintended consequences. Policymakers must carefully weigh objectives and potential harms, emphasizing multilateral cooperation and adherence to international norms. Continual evaluation of efficacy and ethics is essential for minimizing harm and maintaining stability.

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