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**COUNTRY**: KUWAIT

**INSTITUTION**: INDIAN SCHOOL AL GHUBRA

**Topic**: Assessing the effectiveness of sanctions

“Sanctions always hurt the poor, the weak, the children.” - Brian May

Targeted sanctions have been utilised by the UN as a non-military approach to combat a wide range of threats to international peace and security. Sanctions are used to encourage the selected subjects to change their behaviour, or to limit their ability to carry out harmful activities. Targeted sanctions usually involve freezing of financial assets, arms embargoes, and bans on foreign travel. It's like putting someone in a timeout, but on a global scale.

There are currently no sanctions enforced against Kuwait. The absence of sanctions allows it to trade freely without restrictions. The Arab League, of which Kuwait is a member, has approved imposing sanctions on Syria, such as cutting off transactions with the Syrian central bank, ban on senior Syrian officials from travelling to other Arab countries, a freeze on assets related to the Syrian government and a halting of funding by Arab governments for projects in Syria. However, there have been no cases in which Kuwait has sanctioned another party. In 1990, the UNSC imposed sanctions on Iraq to compel them to withdraw from Kuwait and pay reparations. These sanctions banned trade and financial resources with both Iraq and occupied Kuwait, making it difficult for Iraq to export oil, leading to a significant decline in its economy. In contrast, Kuwait benefited from the sanctions on Iraq, which helped it recover with international aid and the eventual lifting of sanctions.

Even though Iraq was hit with sanctions that put their economy in shambles, they were quite ineffective as the Iraqi army remained in Kuwait. The imposition of sanctions coupled with the war in this case led to a significant increase in child mortality due to malnutrition. Iraq still didn’t leave Kuwait. In the case of Syria, sanctions have had indirect humanitarian outcomes, but their impact on the regime's behaviour has been limited. As the Delegate of Kuwait, we would like to make a statement that may seem reckless. Why sanction in dire times when military power is readily available? In the case of North Korea, economic sanctions have not effectively halted its nuclear development due to its ability to evade them. Sanctions can easily be circumvented by clever parties. Military action is a direct approach. Even though it may be quite aggressive, we are dealing with scenarios in which civilians are the ones taking the damage. Whether the method is violent or not isn’t the question. The only objective is to neutralize or capture those causing harm to innocent lives. Additionally, military intervention can be conducted safely without harming civilians. This is why we believe it is better to act using military means rather than sanctions.

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