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**COUNTRY:** DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

**SCHOOL:** INDIAN SCHOOL AL GHUBRA

**Topic:** Assessing the effectiveness of sanctions

"Sanctions embody the paradox of wielding influence through restraint, a nuanced art of diplomacy where the pursuit of justice must navigate the turbulent waters of unintended consequences. They serve as a reminder that true power lies not in domination, but in the ability to wield influence with empathy, wisdom, and a commitment to the greater good of humanity."

**-Russian businessman Mikhail Fridman**

Sanctions in simple terms mean, a strong action taken in order to make people obey a law or rule, or a punishment given when they do not obey. There are mainly three types of sanctions: Economic sanctions – typically a ban on trade, possibly limited to certain sectors such as armaments, or with certain exceptions (such as food and medicine) Diplomatic sanctions – the reduction or removal of diplomatic ties, such as embassies. Military sanctions – military intervention. UN in the previous years have given out many sanctions, even though sanctions are a tool of diplomacy they often destroy individual rights and, in some countries, lead to wars or revolutions. Overall, three types of sanctions were imposed: ban on provision of technology for oil and gas exploration, ban on provision of credits to Russian oil companies and state banks, travel restrictions on the influential Russian citizens close to President Putin and involved in the annexation of Crimea. UN has given sanctions which have even stopped.

The UNSC has imposed sanctions in relation to the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) since 2003, in response to acts of violence systematically perpetrated against civilians including violations of international humanitarian law and human rights. The sanctions regime has been amended and renewed by several subsequent UNSC resolutions. The UNSC’s Sanctions Committees for the CAR and the DRC have designated individuals and entities who meet the designation criteria determined by the UNSC for those sanctions’ regimes. The designated individuals are predominantly senior leaders (or former leaders) of armed groups and militias. The designated entities include the Lord’s Resistance Army (or LRA), M23 and entities involved in breaching the arms embargo. Australia implements the UNSC sanctions concerning the CAR and the DRC by incorporating them into Australian law.

As no country can tolerate the number of sanctions imposed such as done in DRC hence, DRC's response to sanctions should be multifaceted, combining diplomatic efforts, domestic reforms, economic diversification, regional cooperation, and international engagement to mitigate their impact and address underlying issues. The DRC could seek support from international organizations and allies to navigate the challenges posed by sanctions. This might involve seeking financial assistance, technical support for reforms, and advocacy for the removal of sanctions. If these all significant changes are brought about the human rights of the people of Congo wouldn’t be a major problem and many lives which are stolen from poverty, starvation and weak infrastructure may be saved.

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