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**Topic:** Assessing the Effectiveness of Sanctions

**"Sanctions are a double-edged sword, and the question is: do the benefits outweigh the costs?"**

**- Joseph E. Stiglitz**

Sanctions are a powerful tool used by the international community to enforce compliance with international law and norms. However, they can also have unintended consequences, particularly for vulnerable populations in targeted countries. The United Nations has imposed numerous sanctions over the years as part of its efforts to maintain or restore international peace and security. This position paper explores its challenges and proposes unique solutions to optimize sanctions' effectiveness while minimizing unintended harm to civilians.

Egypt remains dedicated to promoting peace, justice, and human rights both domestically and globally. Egypt has ratified numerous international human rights treaties including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Egypt has also established entities like the National Council for Human Rights and National Council for Childhood and Motherhood to promote human rights and protect vulnerable populations. According to a report by the Egyptian Initiative for Personal Rights, since 2011, the Egyptian government has implemented targeted measures such as travel bans on over 300 individuals including politicians, activists, and journalists, for their involvement in human rights violations and political dissent, illustrating a commitment to accountability while prioritizing humanitarian concerns.

As a member of the UNGA, Egypt proposes the following unique solutions to combat the negative effects of sanctions:

1. **Targeted and Smart Sanctions**: Implement sanctions aimed specifically at violators, such as travel bans, asset freezes, and diplomatic actions, to avoid harming innocent civilians. These "smart sanctions" that are designed to minimize collateral damage and maximize impact have proven more effective, achieving goals with a 71% success rate compared to 40% for broad sanctions, according to the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute.
2. **Humanitarian exemptions:** Ensure that sanctions include humanitarian exemptions for essential goods and services, such as food, medicine, and medical equipment. This can help to prevent unnecessary suffering and hardship for vulnerable populations.
3. **Dialogue and diplomacy:** Prioritize dialogue and diplomacy as the primary means of resolving conflicts and disputes and use sanctions as a last resort. This can help build trust and promote peaceful resolution while avoiding the negative consequences of sanctions. According to a report by the United Nations, dialogue and diplomacy have been found to be more effective in resolving conflicts and disputes than economic sanctions, with a success rate of 82% compared to 38% for economic sanctions.

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