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COUNTRY: Panama

SCHOOL: The Sultans’ school

Topic: Assessing the effectiveness of sanctions

Sanctions are measures that organizations and countries take to ensure cooperation, security and peace is maintained. While Panama recognizes the role of sanctions as a diplomatic tool to address various issues including but not limited to, human rights abuses and terrorism, it is imperative to realize that implementation of sanctions could lead to unintended economic, and humanitarian consequences on the targeted country's population. For instance, a country may experience a rise in poverty, a lack of access to basic necessities, and humanitarian crises. This could lead to criticism of the penalizing governments and reduce the effectiveness of the sanctions. Panama addresses the prospect of sanctions could be useful in maintaining security and safety, but stresses the need for caution and an in-depth evaluation of their effects. In the past The Security Council has formed committees to examine the effects of sanctions in particular circumstances, like arms or targeted financial measures.

In the past Panama has faced economic sanctions imposed by The United States which included: suspension of all economic and military assistance to Panama, elimination of all official loans from multilateral lending institutions, suspension of trade preferences and more. These sanctions worsened Panama's already declining economy by 20 percent in 1988, with unemployment doubling to 23 percent. All sectors of Panamas economy was affected. The magnitude of the debts suggested that recovery would take several years.

Panama thinks that coming up with practical answers to this is crucial, and improving monitoring systems is one way to do this. Panama advocates boosting monitoring efforts to make sure sanctions are followed and to stop illegal activity. This may involve strengthening the capacity of UN expert panels, promoting better information exchange, and offering member states technical support. Additionally, Panama believes that conducting analysis of the sanctions' effects could help avoid unforeseen events and impacts and better guarantee the sanctions' efficiency.