

United Nations Security Council Open Arria Formula Meeting

“Enhancing the Design Process of UN Sanctions: Perspectives from All Stakeholders”

5 July 2017

Conference Room 3, 10:00 am -1:00 pm

Background:

Over the past two decades, the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) has increasingly employed UN sanctions as a tool for the maintenance of international peace and security. As a matter of fact, and since 1966, the UNSC has established 26 sanctions regimes, targeting countries and non-state actors.¹

Throughout those years, UN sanctions have considerably evolved, both in terms of their design and their scope. On one hand, UN sanctions have evolved from being comprehensive to become more targeted. On the other hand, sanctions have extended beyond the original focus on states to being imposed on non-state actors, and as opposed to being initially focused on war and non-proliferation, sanctions regimes are today much broader and encompass principal objectives such as conflict resolution, counterterrorism, and protection of civilians.

Although the UN recently engaged in system-wide review processes of peacekeeping, peacebuilding architecture, and women, peace and security, the question of UN sanctions and their effectiveness have not received the same attention. This is of particular concern, since UN sanctions often have unintended consequences, on both targeted and neighboring countries, such as adverse humanitarian effects and the emergence of criminal networks, in turn raising serious concerns over their continued effectiveness. In addition, the sanctions design process have often times lacked transparency, and is subject to political dynamics that have to a great extent affected the effectiveness of these regimes in achieving and sustaining peace.

¹ Since 1966, the UN Security Council has established 26 sanctions regimes, in Southern Rhodesia, South Africa, the former Yugoslavia, Haiti, Iraq, Angola, Sierra Leone, Eritrea, Liberia, DR Congo, Cote D'Ivoire, twice in Sudan, Lebanon, North Korea, Iran, twice in Libya, Guinea-Bissau, Central African Republic, Yemen and South Sudan as well as against ISIL and Al Qaida and Taliban.

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In light of the above, it is crucial for UN sanctions to be integrated within a wider approach to international peace and security, one that takes into consideration the wide spectrum of prevention, resolution and management tools of conflict, and that includes regional organizations such as the African Union (AU) and League of Arab States (LAS). Moreover, as the vision of the new Secretary-General Antonio Guterres stipulates that the UN system must demonstrate readiness to “change and adapt,” there is a pressing need to enhance the design process of UN sanctions based on the lessons learned from implementing countries, as to increase the UNSC capacity to mitigate adverse effects and increase effectiveness of targeted sanctions.

In this context, the Egyptian permanent Mission to the United Nations in New York is organizing an Arria formula meeting, titled:

“Enhancing the Design Process of UN Sanctions: Perspectives from All Stakeholders”

Purpose of the Meeting:

This meeting will provide a unique opportunity for a discussion on the enhancement of UN sanctions design process, including perspectives of previously or currently targeted countries. It will also bring together representatives from permanent and non-permanent members of the UNSC, wider United Nations membership, and Regional Organizations.

The meeting will discuss the following pertinent issues:

- Implementation process and lessons learned from implementing countries.
- Mitigating the adverse effects of UN sanctions on civilian populations of targeted countries as well as wider economic/social impact on neighboring countries.
- Enhancing the design process of UN sanctions, based on lessons learned.
- The role of regional organizations in imposing UN sanctions.
- Aligning UN sanctions with regional peace and security instruments to better support regional priorities.

Panelists:

- H.H.E. Mr. Ignace Gata Mavita wa Lufuta, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Permanent Representative of Democratic Republic of the Congo.
- H.E. Mr. Lewis G. Brown, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Permanent Mission of the Republic of Liberia

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- H.E. Mr. Amadu Koroma, Ambassador Deputy Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of the Republic of Sierra Leone
- Mr. Kelvin Ong, Chief of the Security Council Subsidiary Bodies.
- Academic Panelist (TBC)