

# Study Guide

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## 1. Welcoming letter

“Trade, properly conducted, can be an engine for development, helping countries to grow and lift millions of people out of poverty.” – Kofi Annan.

Dear Delegates,

Welcome to the second edition of the United Nations Conference for Trade and Development. We are delighted to have you join us for a few days of learning, discussion, and reflection on the state of international trade and commerce.

This commission is a chance to explore important global issues that do not always receive the attention they deserve but have a real impact on vulnerable communities around the world. It is an opportunity to engage with new ideas, challenge your perspectives, and debate topics that shape economies and livelihoods.

As your presidents, we trust you will approach this with curiosity and dedication. We encourage you to dive into the agenda, lead thoughtful discussions, and collaborate with others to find ways countries can work together towards more sustainable and stable futures.

Beyond the academic compromise, we hope you enjoy the experience. CBEMUN is not just about debate. It is about connecting, growing, and gaining new insights that go beyond the sessions. Take this as a chance to make the most out of every moment.

We are looking forward to seeing the energy and ideas you bring to the table. Let us make this a meaningful and rewarding experience for everyone.

Sincerely,

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## **2. Introduction to the committee**

### **2.1 History**

The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) was established in 1964 with the aim of promoting international trade and development. Since its creation, UNCTAD has played an important role in addressing the challenges faced by developing countries in the global trade system and has been actively involved in various initiatives to support their economic growth and development.

Throughout its history, this organism has organised a series of conferences known as the "UNCTAD Conferences," providing member states with a platform to discuss and negotiate trade and development-related issues. These conferences have served as important forums for shaping global trade policies and fostering cooperation among nations.

In addition to its conference activities, UNCTAD publishes the annual "Trade and Development Report," which offers comprehensive analysis and policy recommendations on global economic trends, trade, and development matters. This publication has become a valuable resource for policymakers, researchers, and practitioners in the field.

Moreover, UNCTAD also provides technical assistance and capacity-building support to developing countries in various areas such as trade policy, investment promotion, debt management, and sustainable development. Through its initiatives, UNCTAD aims to promote sustainable development, address the technology gap, and advocate for inclusive and equitable trade practices.

### **2.2 Functions and powers**

The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development carries out several important functions and exercises specific powers in its pursuit of promoting international trade and development some of them are:

- **Research and Analysis:** It conducts extensive research and analysis on global economic trends, trade, and development issues. Its reports, including the flagship publication "Trade and Development Report," provide valuable insights and policy recommendations to member states, policymakers, and practitioners.



- **Policy Advice and Technical Assistance:** The conference offers policy advice and technical assistance to member states, particularly developing countries, in areas such as trade policy formulation, investment promotion, debt management, and sustainable development.
- **Capacity Building:** The UNCTAD plays a vital role in building the capacity of developing countries to participate effectively in international trade. This includes assistance in trade negotiations, enhancing trade-related skills, and promoting sustainable development practices.
- **Trade Facilitation and Promoting Inclusive Trade:** UNCTAD works towards facilitating international trade by addressing barriers and promoting inclusive and equitable trade practices. It focuses on enhancing market access, reducing trade costs, and promoting fair trade rules.
- **Consensus-Building and Policy Coordination:** UNCTAD provides a platform for member states to engage in discussions, negotiations, and consensus-building on trade and development-related issues. It helps coordinate policies among nations and fosters cooperation to address global challenges.
- **Forum for Debate and Knowledge Sharing:** UNCTAD's conferences serve as a forum for debate, knowledge sharing, and information exchange among member states, civil society, and academia. It brings together stakeholders to discuss emerging trade and development issues (*About UNCTAD*, 2015).

## 2.3 Tools

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- **Policy Advice and Technical Assistance:** The conference offers policy advice and technical assistance to member states, particularly



developing countries, in areas such as trade policy formulation, investment promotion, debt management, and sustainable development.

- **Capacity Building:** The UNCTAD plays a vital role in building the capacity of developing countries to participate effectively in international trade. This includes assistance in trade negotiations, enhancing trade-related skills, and promoting sustainable development practices.
- **Trade Facilitation and Promoting Inclusive Trade:** UNCTAD works towards facilitating international trade by addressing barriers and promoting inclusive and equitable trade practices. It focuses on enhancing market access, reducing trade costs, and promoting fair trade rules.
- **Consensus-Building and Policy Coordination:** UNCTAD provides a platform for member states to engage in discussions, negotiations, and consensus-building on trade and development-related issues. It helps coordinate policies among nations and fosters cooperation to address global challenges.
- **Forum for Debate and Knowledge Sharing:** UNCTAD's conferences serve as a forum for debate, knowledge sharing, and information exchange among member states, civil society, and academia. It brings together stakeholders to discuss emerging trade and development issues (*About UNCTAD*, 2015).

## 2.3 Tools

The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development has multiple tools which allows the correct operation of its functions and powers that are mentioned above. According to the UNCTAD Toolbox<sup>1</sup>, its tools can be classified in 4 main categories, which are conformed by other actions; these categories are:

- a. Transforming economies, improving competitiveness

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<sup>1</sup> See the complete Toolbox: <https://unctad.org/projects/TOOLBOX>



- i. Investment Policy Reviews
  - ii. Services Policy Reviews
  - iii. Trade Policy Framework Reviews
  - iv. Science, Technology and Innovation Policy Reviews
  - v. E-Commerce and The Digital Economy
  - vi. Non-Tariff Measures
  - vii. Trade Negotiations and The International Trading System
  - viii. Sustainable Trade and The Environment
  - ix. Investment Promotion and Facilitation
  - x. Investment Guides
- b. Tackling vulnerabilities, building resilience
  - i. Support to Graduation from Least Developed Country Status
  - ii. DMFAS – Debt Management and Financial Analysis System
  - iii. UNCTAD Contribution to the Enhanced Integrated Framework
  - iv. Market Access, Rules of Origin and Geographical Indications for the Least Developed Countries
  - v. Breaking the Chains of Commodity Dependence
  - vi. Sustainable and Resilient Transport and Logistics Services
- c. Fostering economic efficiency, improving governance
  - i. Voluntary Peer Reviews of Competition and Consumer Protection Law and Policy
  - ii. Competition and Consumer Protection Policies and Frameworks
  - iii. Business Facilitation
  - iv. Trade Facilitation
  - v. ASYCUDA – Automated System for Customs Data
  - vi. Statistics
  - vii. Enabling Accounting and Reporting on the Private Sector's Contribution to Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals
  - viii. Investment and Public Health
  - ix. International Investment Agreements



- d. Empowering people, investing in their future
  - i. Trade, Gender and Development
  - ii. Entrepreneurship for Sustainable Development
  - iii. Train for Trade

## 2.4 Ground documents

- United Nations Charter:  
<https://treaties.un.org/doc/publication/ctc/uncharter.pdf>
- Establishment of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development as an organ of the General Assembly:  
<https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/203700?ln=en>
- Rules of Procedure of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and its Subsidiary Bodies:  
[https://unctad.org/system/files/official-document/issmisc2019d2\\_en.pdf](https://unctad.org/system/files/official-document/issmisc2019d2_en.pdf)



### **3. Topic A: Intellectual Property Rights vs. Public Health: Evaluating the Impact of IP Laws on Access to Medicine and Technology in Developing Countries**

#### **3.1. Introduction**

The intellectual property rights (IP rights) represents a legal framework designed to protect the intellectual creation of individuals and entities. These rights can range from patents and copyrights to trademarks and trade secrets. They also offer exclusive control over the production, use, distribution and commercialization of different innovations, in this case, of medicine and technology. By granting such protections, IP laws seek to foster creativity, and incentivize research by acknowledging the ownership of the innovations.

The IP rights play a major role in the development of medicines, treatments, pharmaceuticals, technologies and cutting-edge solutions to different problems. This pivotal role is due to the interest most organizations and research facilities have on the monetary profits that this innovation can reward them due to the advantage of having IP laws supporting them.

However, due to the greed of some of these entities that are in possession of the IP rights of important medicines and technologies. The price of these important resources skyrocket to amounts that cannot be paid by the average person in the developing world.

As the rights to production and commercialization are reserved and protected by law to be done only by the legal owners of such innovations, there is currently no other option for the developing countries than paying the price demanded by the owners and reselling them at a lower price so people can have access to important medicine and technology.

- **Advocates for IP protections:**

Developed countries, particularly those in North America, Europe, and parts of Asia, tend to be staunch supporters of stringent intellectual property protections. These nations have well-established industries that benefit from IP laws, such as pharmaceutical companies, biotechnology firms, and technology innovators. Consequently, these countries argue that strong IP protections are essential to incentivizing research and development

- **Advocates for Flexibility in IP Laws to Enhance Access to Medicines:**

These countries hold a more critical view of IP protections, particularly when it comes to access to essential medicines and healthcare technologies.

These nations often face significant public health challenges, including the prevalence of infectious diseases.

- **Neutral ground:**

These nations simultaneously recognize the importance of intellectual property in fostering innovation while also acknowledging the need for access to affordable healthcare. Some of these nations have growing pharmaceutical and biotechnology industries and, in some cases, act as significant suppliers of generic medicines to the global market.

According to all the previously stated, the international community has agreed that solutions must be proposed to focus on a balance. Balance between the respect of the IP laws and the needs of countries and its citizens. While highly enforced IP rights may lead to monopolization practices, they are also necessary to promote the growth of the research organizations that depend on this income to continue their investigations. On the other hand, more flexible IP laws may help countries that are in great need of the needs provided by these entities. It is mandatory to discuss the importance of laws and financial income against the health and welfare of the citizens.

### **3.2. Historical Background**

The tension between the Intellectual Property (IP) rights and public health has been a long-standing issue. especially in developing countries where access to important medicine and technology is restricted due to the high prices driven by IP protection. Over the last decades, the global debate on this topic has tried to set the balance between encouraging innovation with IP laws and ensuring that life-saving medicine and important technology are accessible to everyone, particularly in low-income nations.

The starting point in the global landscape of IP laws and public health started with the adoption of the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) in 1995, under the World Trade Organization. TRIPS established the standard for IP protection among the WTO members. In the beginning, this agreement was intended to foster global innovation by protecting creators rights, However, it led to issues and concerns regarding the access to affordable medicine.

For many countries the implementation of TRIPS meant that big companies could patent their products, monopolizing the production and increasing the price of their medicine to the point where most of the people couldn't afford it. An example of this is seen during the



global HIV/AIDS epidemic in the late 1990s and early 2000s, when the high cost of antiretroviral drugs (ARVs) kept them out of reach for millions of people in Africa and Asia.

The situation caused the discomfort of many developing countries which led to the movement for “access to medicine” that gained a lot of attention and resulted in the 2001 *Doha Declaration on the TRIPS Agreement and Public Health*. Which dictated that the IP laws shouldn't prevent countries from protecting public health. The declaration stated that the countries could override the patents through compulsory licensing, this was considered a great victory for the health advocates. Many countries, specially in the middle east and Asia, used this opportunity to start producing generic medicine.

In 2012, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights issued a report calling for a review of IP law's impact on global health. The report increased the concerns that the current global IP system undermines the ability of developing countries to address public health needs.

### 3.3. Current situation

In recent years, the COVID-19 brought back the debate between IP laws and public health, it highlighted the importance of equal access to vaccines and treatments for the pandemic. In 2020, the WTO was under pressure to waive IP protections on COVID-19 vaccines and treatments. This led to the TRIPS waiver proposal, an initiative given by **India** and **South Africa** that proposed a temporary suspension of the IP protections for COVID-19 vaccines and treatments. The proposal was supported by more than 100 countries, however some developed countries with strong pharmaceutical companies remained in opposition, prioritizing the income given by the IP laws on top of the lives of millions of citizens from all over the world.

In 2022, the WTO agreed to a limited waiver on COVID-19 vaccines, this represents a big step in the duel between IP laws and public health. Sadly, the waiver only applies to vaccines and treatments for COVID-19 and the problematic for the access to medicine for other diseases continues unsolved

Many states experience different issues with the IP laws, some example of these countries are:

### **United States:**

Although it is known that the public health in the United States is not as good as it could be, another problem that affects US citizens are the high prices for medicine, a well-known case of this is insulin. which price in the US is one of the highest in the world, even to the point where the price per unit was almost three times more expensive than other developed countries. A life-saving medicine such as insulin is extremely overpriced, due to the lack of regulation in medicine prices that are used by the manufacturing organizations to charge excessive prices using the investigation financing as an excuse.

However, even with all these problems US citizens are experiencing, the US stands as a major advocate for IP protection, in both domestic and international agreements. As seen with its strong patent laws, The United States has constantly pushed for stricter IP protection, and has been vocal in supporting the enforcement of IP laws. This is due to the large pharmaceutical industry in the US, which gets great benefit from the IP laws, but is the one who also has a negative impact on the public health of its citizens.

### **India:**

Known as the pharmacy of the world due to its high importance in the **production of generic medicine**. The Republic of India plays one of the most, if not, the most important role in the landscape of medicine and IP laws, as its pharmaceutical industry has been **crucial** in supplying affordable generic medicine, particularly to low-income countries. In addition to this, India has been a vocal critic of the patents of pharmaceutical companies that try to monopolize the medicine industry.

India is one of the leaders in the proponent of public health above IP laws, especially when it comes to pharmaceuticals, but has a neutral position in the impact of IP rights in other fields.

### Japan:

Historically, The State of Japan views intellectual property as a **main pillar** and a critical component of its **economic success**. With major technological companies, Japan is a defendant of the IP laws as a way of fostering innovation and economic growth. Japan is a strong advocate of IP laws, however it does not ignore the public health need, as it has participated in discussion to find a balance between IP regulations and public health, even to the point of supporting compulsory licensing in cases of health emergencies .

As the country recognizes the importance of public health, it holds a strong defensive position, advocating for IP laws, as Japan's economy is highly **benefited** by patents and companies with a strong need for monopolization of products.

### South africa:

One of the main protectors of public health, that has defended the need for access to affordable medicine alongside **India**. Although it does not have an important position in the production of generic drugs, South Africa has been constantly involved in initiatives to help the citizens in the access to important medicine.

The strong position of this country heavily relies on the impact that high price medicine has on its population, and the prioritization of public health on top of any law that often ends up leading to tension between the country and IP-enforcing entities.

South Africa's position is one of the most firm positions, as defending IP laws does not represent any benefit for the country (Although it may **change** in the close future), and the only interest it has is in helping ensure the **sustainability of its public health sector**, even if it may constrain innovation in the future.

### Brazil:

Having rather a neutral position, Brazil considers that ensuring the access to affordable medicine has to be correctly balanced with the IP laws in the need of innovation.

As a developing country, Brazil has faced many public health challenges, as part of the nature of **Brazil's public health system**, especially in diseases like HIV/AIDS. To tackle

this issue, the country has used tools like compulsory licensing in order to produce cheaper **generic medicine**, which sometimes creates tension with **pharmaceutical companies**

However, Brazil supports IP protection in a neutral way, as it believes that the importance of public health is above the one of IP laws. The country has advocated flexibility of IP regulations, as seen in the **TRIPS agreement**. On top of that Brazil highly supports the **production** of generic medicine in the **country** to reduce its reliance on expensive **imports**.

### **South Korea:**

With an interesting position, as it is one of the countries that get more benefit from patents, it still has advocated for public health and the need for flexibility in IP laws (for **medicine**) and even took action by allowing the use of **parallel imports**, which can help lower the cost of imported medicines. In other fields, it holds a strong support towards the protection of intellectual property, and relies on it to foster the research in the country as it is based on a **innovation-driven economy**.

South Korea's approach to IP has been aligned with the position of other fellow developed countries that support robust IP protections under international frameworks. As the country has a great pharmaceutical and biotechnology sector that relies heavily on IP rights to safeguard its innovations and attract investment. This causes that South Korea views IP protection as essential for maintaining its competitive edge in its different industries that supports the country's economy

### **Germany:**

As one of the world leading economies, Germany places significant importance in the protection of IP for important sectors of the country as it is in the case of its pharmaceutical and biotechnological sectors, which are key factors for the economy of Germany.

Even with the great importance patents and IP laws have in the economy of the country, Germany is one of the few countries that have been actively promoting different solutions, as it did in the mechanism of **tiered pricing**. This shows a great interest in the



problematic situation that developing countries are facing and a strong will to set the ground for agreements.

Germany stands in protection for IP laws, but is concerned in the public health problematic and is in active search for solutions

### **3.4. Guide questions**

- What is the impact of IP laws in medicine?
- What is the impact of IP laws in technology?
- What is the impact of IP laws in your country?
- Does your country benefit from the current IP laws?
- Is your country affected by IP laws?
- Have your country expressed their position in the IP conflict?
- How dependent is your country and its population on generic drugs?

### **3.5. Recommendations**

Due to the nature of the topic, it is important to emphasize that the delegates are partially able to apply their own critical thinking into the position they want to take, and move without the usual problems of being binded by the country's position. This can be possible due to monopolization of IP laws, this causes that only a few countries have to maintain their position of defense in the patents of medicine and technology, while on the other hand, even in the affected countries, not many have taken a strong opposition against the IP laws.

This leaves the majority of the countries in a free, neutral state. However, as the topic requires strong positions to adapt and propose solutions that benefit the international community, it is imperative for all delegates to take a side as soon as possible.

To make the best decision in the position taken in the debate, delegates may support on the guide questions to reinforce their choice.





### 3.6. Useful links

[https://www.wto.org/english/docs\\_e/legal\\_e/27-trips\\_01\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/docs_e/legal_e/27-trips_01_e.htm)

[https://www.wto.org/spanish/tratop\\_s/trips\\_s/pharmpatent\\_s.htm#:~:text=Decisi%C3%B3n%20de%20la%20CM12%20relativa%20al%20Acuerdo%20sobre%20los%20ADPIC&text=Tambi%C3%A9n%20proporcion%C3%B3%20un%20mecanismo%20flexible,la%20licencia%20obligatoria%20especial%20existente.](https://www.wto.org/spanish/tratop_s/trips_s/pharmpatent_s.htm#:~:text=Decisi%C3%B3n%20de%20la%20CM12%20relativa%20al%20Acuerdo%20sobre%20los%20ADPIC&text=Tambi%C3%A9n%20proporcion%C3%B3%20un%20mecanismo%20flexible,la%20licencia%20obligatoria%20especial%20existente.)

[https://www.wto.org/english/thewto\\_e/glossary\\_e/glossary\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/thewto_e/glossary_e/glossary_e.htm)

### 3.7. Glossary

**Intellectual Property rights (IP rights):** Ownership of ideas, including literary and artistic works (protected by copyright), inventions (protected by patents), signs for distinguishing goods of an enterprise (protected by trademarks) and other elements of industrial property.

**Parallel imports:** Refers to branded goods that are imported without the manufacturer's (trademark owner) consent, this allows that the product is sold at a lower price. Also known as gray market goods

**Tiered pricing:** Selling medicine at a different price in each country, the price depends on the country's income level, this allows companies to recoup their development costs in wealthier markets while offering lower prices in low- and middle-income countries.

**Compulsory licensing:** For patents: when the authorities license companies or individuals other than the patent owner to use the rights of the patent — to make, use, sell or import a product under patent (i.e. a patented product or a product made by a patented process) — without the permission of the patent owner.

## 4. Topic B: Addressing the Impact of Economic Sanctions in the Development of Emerging Nations

### 4.1 Introduction

In order to maintain order and peace around the world, there has been an understanding between nations to punish those who break international agreements or harm the international community. Most people believe that sanctions were created with the establishment of the United Nations. Nonetheless sanctions have been used even before the



creation of the United Nations in order to limit a country's capacity to trade or even cut its business relationships (Heliyon, 2023). Nevertheless their main purpose is to avoid the use of military forces to settle international disputes, which means they are considered the pacific, non-violent way to sanction those nations who do not fulfill their obligations.

When the UN became an organization, the Security Council became the only UN subsidiary organ that can legally impose sanctions against any nation. Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter introduces sanctions as measures to punish states in a non-violent way. Nevertheless a more complete definition of what UN sanctions are, can be: "restrictive measures imposed by the United Nations Security Council to enforce international law, maintain or restore peace and security, and compel states or entities to comply with its decisions." (Abrams, 2024).

However, there are multiple ways the UN can impose sanctions over another state; for that we have to take into account article 41 of the UN Charter, which states that the Security Council has free will to take measures against any nations only if they do not involve armed forces. These sanctions can be: "complete or partial interruption of economic relations and of rail, sea, air, postal, telegraphic, radio, and other means of communication, and the severance of diplomatic relations." (United Nations, 1945).

Throughout the years, economic sanctions are the ones that have been used the most, since they have caused various effects in different countries - especially in developing ones. The simplest example of how a nation can be affected by economic sanctions is Russia. Country that as times goes by has been imposed with several economic sanctions, which have significantly harmed the state's economy. Sanctions such as: importation and exportation restrictions, which according to the European Union it has meant a loss of over €91.2 billion in only imports to Russia. (*EU Sanctions Against Russia Explained - Consilium*, n.d.)

Nevertheless, the sanctions that affect most underdeveloped countries, are those which are imposed illegally (without the Security Council's consent). These are known as unilateral coercive measures. A study titled "Human Consequences of Economic Sanctions" by Francisco Rodriguez, studied over 32 countries, where most were third-world and in precarious economic situations. Nowadays over 54 countries suffer from unilateral coercive measures, and the main impact of those measures are poverty, inequality, child mortality, trade decrease and violation of human rights. Since most of the sanctions that affect underdeveloped countries, leaves them in precarious humanitarian and economic situations. (Rahman, 2023)

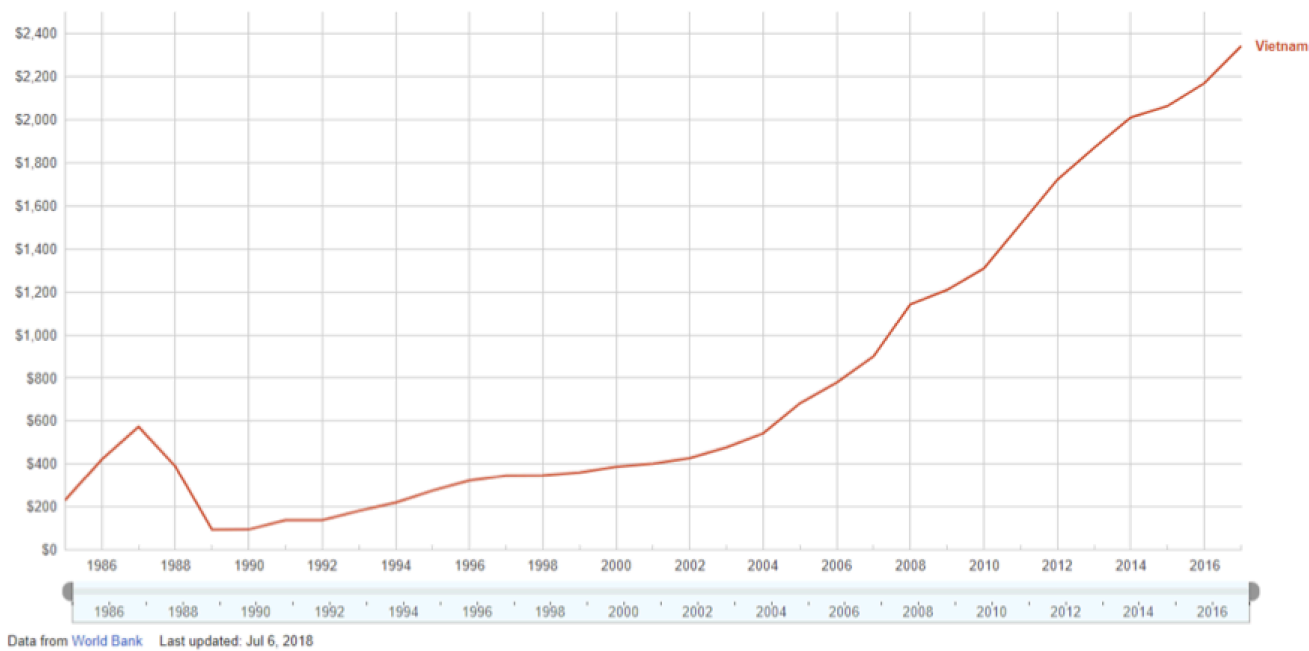
## 4.2 Historical Background

Even though the concept of economic sanctions might seem rather novel. It is a term that its use was first recorded in 432 BC, when the Athenian Empire banned traders from Megara in their territory, which made Megara struggle with their economy. However, it was not until the 20th century that the use of economic sanctions became common within the international community with the creation of the League of Nations, and later the United States. Nonetheless they were often imposed measures to pressure countries into accepting foreign political objectives. Due to the latter, country-based sanctions became common in the world, creating an enormous economic and humanitarian crises in various of the countries these sanctions were imposed on.

In 1997 the former Secretary General of the UN, Kofi Annan, recognized that country-based sanctions have a greater impact on vulnerable communities than on the state itself. Given the concern, at the beginning of the 21st century the concept of “targeted” sanctions. Targeted sanctions are imposed on organizations or guilty individuals, so populations or third countries do not receive as much collateral damage. They were also created because of the need for individual accountability, so a community does not seem as affected by a state’s action, as it can be seen in the following quote: “Targeted sanctions were born out of a growing emphasis in international law on individual accountability of those in power for the unlawful acts of states.” (Abughris Solicitor, n.d.).

In 2021 at the 48th session of the Human Rights Council. Michelle Bachelet (UN Commissioner for Human Rights) made a call for governments to reconsider their use of the sanctions since they were having adverse impacts on human rights. She explained how the impact of economic sanctions which target an entire state, usually have the most repercussions on vulnerable populations. She also stated her concern for the lack of due process when imposing sanctions to a specific country.

An example of how economic sanctions have affected developing countries is Vietnam. When the Vietnam War ended, the United States believed that the country had violated the Paris Peace Accords that had ended the war in 1973 and that they did not take accountability for the American prisoners of war; so Washington imposed a trade embargo on Vietnam until 1994 (Atreides, 2025). As it can be seen in the following graph, this left Vietnam’s economy in a crisis.



**Figure 1** (World Economic Forum, 2018)

As perceived in the graph, Vietnam's GDP per capita was barely \$230 when it was under the embargo, nevertheless it became 10 times more in 2017. The latter affected mostly the population, since they had no essential education, no jobs, access to the internet or infrastructure. Meanwhile all of these issues were taking place, Vietnam was facing a rapidly growing population, which worsened the humanitarian situation that was happening at the time. (World Economic Forum, 2018)

There are other states which believe economic sanctions should not be reformed, and that they are essential to correct another nation's behaviour. An example is the United States which in the constant search to expand to an international level its policies, so they justify the constant imposition of sanctions with the excuse that they are 'a tool of first resource' when it comes to address an issue of international security. They have used unilateral coercive actions which to the day have given them over \$3 million dollars only with the Israel conflict. These being one of the little examples of how sanctions have been extremely beneficial to the country that sanctions, nonetheless they can be as harmful to the country who is receiving them. (Drezner, 2024)

### 4.3 Current Situation

As of now the United States has imposed over 36 different sanctions worldwide, becoming the state that has imposed the most unilateral coercive measures and sanctions with the permission of the security council. The most known and affected states from sanctions and unilateral coercive measures are:

## **Sudan:**

Sudan is a country which has suffered from political, economic and social instability for decades. In 2001 The UN Security Council decided to impose sanctions because of the on-going humanitarian crisis happening in Sudan's territory which has affected its neighbouring countries. The state has received sanctions from the US and the European Union. The sanctions have been:

- Limited access to international trade and financing
- Restrictions to development and international cooperation.

All the latter have made Sudan's situation worsen, leaving the state in multiple economic crises and with no infrastructure within the country. Currently Sudan is struggling with a bad health system and precarious education conditions; all which have made development unsustainable. In 2021 Sudan's GDP per capita was \$1,330 making them one of the most underdeveloped countries in Africa. (World Bank, 2021).

To the day some of the sanctions have been removed, nonetheless it does not remove the fact that the sanctions did not improve the situation. But rather worsened it in regards to how it was before the sanctions

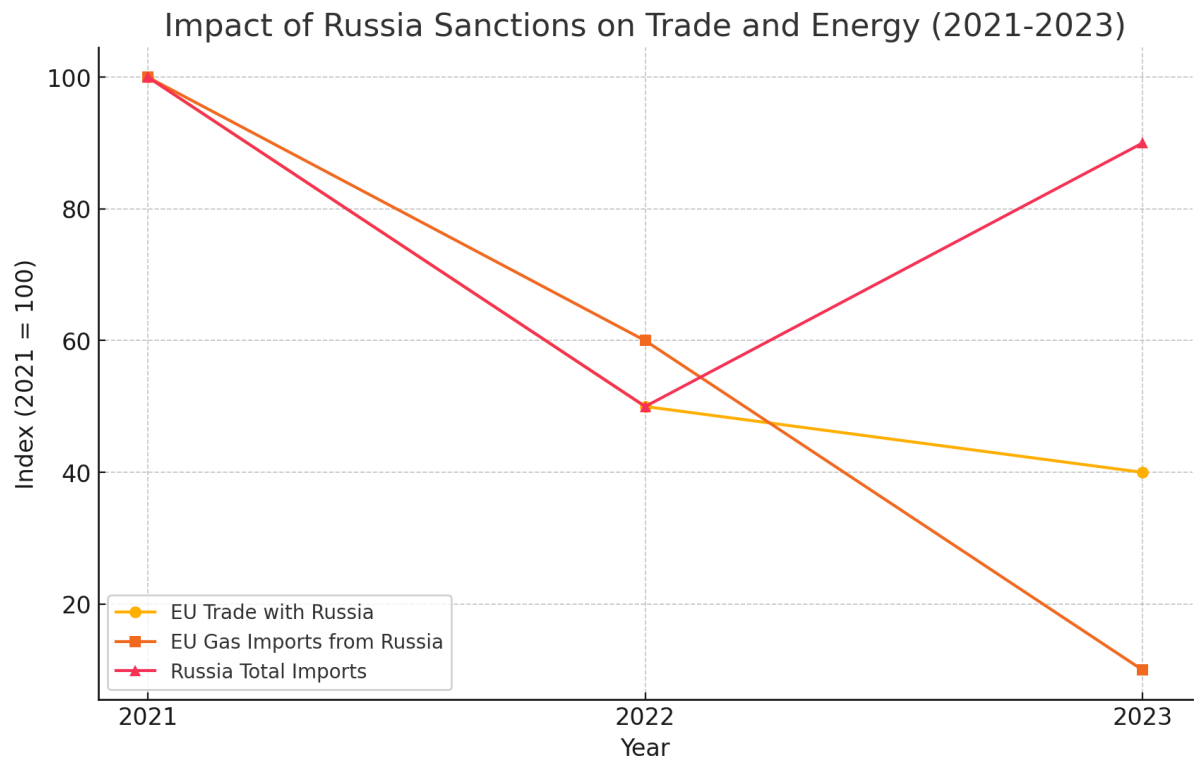
## **Russia:**

Back in 2014, the region of Crimea, Ukraine was invaded by Russia. Russia took advantage of the sociopolitical conflict happening in Ukraine to succeed with its invasion. This situation was 'in control' until 2022, until president Putin decided to launch its troops to Ukraine's border with Russia. There were bombings, which destroyed almost every form of communication, and most of the state's infrastructure.

Due to the already mentioned, Russia has received multiple sanctions from different entities such as: the US government, the European Union, the United Nations and NATO. Some of the sanctions have been:

- Importation and exportation restrictions from the EU towards Russia
- The removing of the privilege of being a most-favoured nation in the WTO (World Trade Organization)
- Sanctioned goods
- Limited ship-to-ship transaction

Russia's economic situation has worsened since 2021 by forbidding oil, energy and trade exports and imports. As it can be seen in the following graph.



Even though Russia has always been a powerful country, it can also be affected by economic sanctions. A clear proof that any state's development and economic status can change and worsen by the sanctions imposed from the international community.

### **Kingdom of Thailand**

Hence Thailand being Russia's ally, it has received the consequences of the country's economic sanctions. Affecting the state's economic status. As an example, Thailand's oil and energy tariffs have increased to the point it has perjured its citizens daily lives.

Even with Thailand's attempt to maintain neutrality regarding the different geopolitical situations, it has been impossible for the country to not be affected - especially if we take into account its nearness with countries such as Russia which are in an active conflict. To this day, Thailand has lost thousands of dollars trying to compensate for the different resources it has been losing from its allies' economic sanctions.

To summarize, even with strategies such as Thailand's one, it is impossible for a country to not be economically affected by sanctions despite its efforts to minimize the negative consequences.

Currently, most developed countries believe imposing sanctions is the most efficient non-violent way to solve the violation of a treaty or agreement between countries. Since a sanction does not necessarily involve violence or vulnerability to a community.

However there are countries -mostly those which are underdeveloped- which believe that sanctions can indirectly affect a community. The latter according to those countries can be done by prohibiting resources, development and basic needs to enter certain territory, which is the purpose of sanctions, to limit a state's capacity.

The United Nations has tried and failed at the attempt to reduce the way economic sanctions affect the vulnerable communities worldwide. Nonetheless they have not succeeded to find a global consensus which still punishes the state but does not affect the population.

#### **4.4 Guide Questions**

- Has your country received any economic sanctions? If it has, how has it affected the country?
- Has your country received unilateral coercive measures from a more powerful country?
- Has your delegation imposed economic sanctions/unilateral coercive measures on another state?
- Is your country affected by another country's economic sanctions?

#### **4.5 Recommendations**

The chair recommends for delegates to take into account how economic sanctions affect each state and whether they are the optimal way to impose sanctions on another nation, according to their delegation. Furthermore there are other factors which are relevant to consider for this topic such as the imposition of unilateral coercive measures, each state's external debt and how much the economic sanctions/unilateral coercive measures might affect the economic development of each state. Having considered the previously mentioned, each delegate must investigate its nation's condition and opinion in regards to the topic to find solutions, so the economic sanctions do not deteriorate the economic development of emerging countries.





The solution, whether it is to reform how the international community imposes sanctions on states or to remove economic sanctions due to their negative consequences or to maintain the current system as it is the correct way to sanction nations that violate international agreements or treaties, depends on each delegation's stance on the issue.

In order for the recommendations to be accomplished, delegates may answer the guide questions to make the best decisions in the committee.

#### 4.6 Useful links

- <https://main.un.org/securitycouncil/en/sanctions/information>
- <https://ofac.treasury.gov/sanctions-programs-and-country-information>
- <https://www.piie.com/commentary/testimonies/evidence-costs-and-benefits-economic-sanctions>

#### 4.7 Glossary

- Country-based sanctions: “a form of restrictive measure imposed by one country or entity on another with the aim of limiting the target country’s trade and business relations.” (Abughris Solicitor, n.d.)

### 5. List of delegations

1. United States of America
2. Russian Federation
3. French Republic
4. Dominion of Canada
5. Kingdom of Netherlands
6. Swiss Confederation
7. Republic of Singapore
8. United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
9. Federal Republic of Germany
10. Commonwealth of Australia





11. State of Japan
12. South Korea
13. Kingdom of Spain
14. Republic of South Africa
15. United Mexican States
16. Arab Republic of Egypt
17. Argentine Republic
18. Socialist Republic of Vietnam
19. People's Republic of China
20. Federative Republic of Brazil
21. Kingdom of Thailand
22. Republic of India

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