

A Research Agenda Options for Enhancing Sanctions Coordination

Convene expert working group meetings on coordination issues

Bring together former sanctions committee chairs, present and former Secretariat staff, representatives of Interpol and other international organizations, and independent researchers to provide support and guidance for the research outlined below. The research team will be led by the Sanctions and Security Research Program of the Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies at the University of Notre Dame and the Fourth Freedom Forum, in cooperation with the Watson Institute at Brown University, the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies in Geneva, and the Department of Peace and Conflict Research at Uppsala University.

The working group sessions will prioritize research tasks and provide feedback and support for the ongoing research effort. They will critique and refine research findings and policy recommendations for next steps in international efforts to enhance coordination efforts. Three working group meetings are anticipated: an initial session at the March 20 meeting at the Canadian mission to the UN in New York, another session in approximately six months to review research results, and a final session after the completion of the research to review and approve final papers and policy recommendations.

Assess the coordination role of Sanctions Committee chairs

Evaluate the experience of sanctions committee chairs from a variety of sanctions cases. Conduct structured focused interviews with current and former chairs, Security Council permanent members, the Secretariat, and members of expert groups. Examine the efforts of chairs to engage with relevant states, international organizations, the Secretariat, and expert groups to encourage implementation. Determine methods used and results achieved, the level of engagement of permanent members, whether the chairs traveled to relevant states and regions, if diplomatic or institutional constraints made such efforts more difficult, and whether external engagement efforts generally were considered useful. Evaluate the efforts of chairs to enhance implementation of the recommendations of expert groups. Gain insights into the role of the Secretariat and other UN agencies in providing support for the work of the sanctions committees and their monitoring groups. Formulate recommendations and general observations about the coordination role of the sanctions committee chairs and propose improvements.

Evaluate whether sanctions are integrated with other instruments of UN peacemaking and diplomacy

Assess past and present Security Council sanctions cases (Angola, Democratic Republic of the Congo, former Yugoslavia, Liberia, Sudan) to evaluate the role of sanctions in relation to other instruments of peacemaking policy. Conduct structured focused interviews with Secretariat officials, peacekeeping missions, expert group members, the staff of special courts, and the permanent missions of Security Council member states. Determine whether Security Council sanctions are integrated into a holistic conflict transformation strategy in the various cases. Examine the reports of Security Council missions, the reports of the Secretary-General, and transcripts of open meetings of the Security Council to assess the level of integration of sanctions. Evaluate the degree of cooperation among UN agencies at headquarters and in the field. Obtain recommendations and general observations regarding the integration of sanctions into holistic policy approaches.

Assess information mechanisms and methods of articulating the goals and purposes of sanctions at all levels: Secretariat-wide, peacekeeping missions, among member states, and with neighboring countries, civil society, and target country populations.

Examine the role of Special Representatives of the Secretary-General in cases where they have intersected with Security Council sanctions. Interview several present and former SRSs to determine how Security Council sanctions play a role in diplomatic representations. Assess whether the presence of sanctions and the prospect of their imposition or lifting influence the prospects for achieving peace settlements, and whether such calculations are incorporated into UN conflict transformation strategy.

Analyze and evaluate Security Council, Sanctions Committee, and Secretariat coordination efforts with key international organizations

Review the history and current status of cooperation between key international organizations (Interpol, ICAO, IMO, FATF, WCO) and the Security Council, committees, Secretariat, and expert groups. Construct a timeline of evolving cooperation on sanctions-related issues and identify the categories of support and assistance provided by the international organization. Specify the role of Interpol and IMO in helping with the monitoring of implementation and the identification of violations of Security Council sanctions. Conduct focused interviews to gain assessments of the present status of coordination, and to identify possible additional forms of coordination and mutual support that could address continuing challenges to sanctions implementation.