

## **Briefing to the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization**

Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA)

21 February 2024, Conference Room 2

Mr. Chair,  
Distinguished Delegates,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am very pleased to brief this Special Committee on the implementation of the provisions of the Charter related to assistance to third States affected by the application of sanctions by the Security Council of the United Nations.

As this Committee is aware, all sanction regimes imposed by the Council are targeted, as opposed to comprehensive. The current targeted sanctions include personal assets freezes, visa-based travel restrictions, and exclusion from international forums. These sanctions seek to deprive ruling elites of important values, bringing about the required policy changes without hurting the civilian population in the target country or affecting the economies of third States.

The shift to targeted sanctions requires detailed assessments of the possible adverse impact on individual countries, both targeted and affected third countries. The impact of sanctions would need to be evaluated by various methods, such as time series of balance of payments changes, stratified sample survey of firms and other entities, regression equation of income shocks, and gravity model of bilateral trade flows. These methods are outlined in the Report of the Secretary-General (A/53/312) from 1998.

In the same Report, DESA also explored remedial assistance to affected third States. It examined international assistance available to third States and explored innovative yet practical measures of assistance that could be provided to third States affected by the application of sanctions.

Mr. Chair,  
Distinguished Delegates,

The shift from comprehensive to targeted sanctions during the first decade of the new Millennium has significantly reduced the possibility of unintended consequences to third States. In fact, no official appeals by third States to monitor or evaluate unintended adverse impact on non-targeted countries have been conveyed to DESA since 2003.

DESA continues to explore effective assistance measures to affected third States. As the nature of targeted sanctions and their likely unintended economic consequences on third States vary by country and require case studies, it is difficult to update the information on measures of assistance.

The present Secretariat arrangement is that the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs, in consultation with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, and at the requests made by the Security Council and its organs, would assess the effects of sanctions regimes on third States, and provide advice to the Security Council and its organs on specific needs or problems of those third States.

DESA continues to remain committed to collaborate with DPPA and other relevant parts of the Secretariat, international organizations, and academic institutions, on providing technical advice and keeping abreast of similar methodologies and to improve the sanctions monitoring framework and sanction assessment methodology.

DESA remains at your disposal to assist and support your deliberations, should there be any request from the Security Council and its organs on these issues.

Thank you very much for your attention.