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Economic Sanctions and their impact on State Sovereignty and Human Rights: A case study of The Islamic Republic of Iran.

By:

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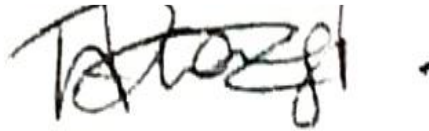
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2025.

DECLARATION.

I **WALUSUNGU DITWAYI**, do hereby declare that this dissertation titled **“ECONOMIC SANCTIONS AND THEIR IMPACT ON STATE SOVERIGNITY AND HUMAN RIGHTS: A CASE STUDY THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN”** which is hereby submitted to the School of Law at the University of Lusaka as part of the requirements for the award of the Bachelor of Laws (LLB) Degree, is solely of my own and that it has, to the best of my knowledge, not yet been presented for any academic purposes in Zambia or elsewhere. Other people’s work and sources used in the study have been duly acknowledged. I hereby declare that I have read and understood the regulations governing the submission of the Bachelor of Laws Degree (LLB) dissertation, including those relating to length and plagiarism, as contained in the rules of the University and that this dissertation conforms to those regulations.



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(STUDENT)

RECOMMENDATION.

RECOMMENDATION.

I **MWIKA MUSAKUZI** recommend that this dissertation prepared under my supervision by Buumba Mudenda, titled '**ECONOMIC SANCTIONS AND THEIR IMPACT ON STATE SOVEREIGNTY AND THE HUMAN RIGHTS; A CASE STUDY OF THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN**' authored by **WALUSUNGU DITWAYI STUDENT NUMBER LLB21211625**, under my supervision be accepted for examination. I have checked it carefully and I'm satisfied that it fulfills the requirement pertaining to the format laid down in the regulations governing directed research.

...



14/11/2025

MWIKA MUSAKUZI

(Supervisor)

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ARIGATO GOZAIMASU.

DEDICATION

I dedicate this dissertation to my mother, **Ms. JENNIPHER M'TONGA**, the personification of strength, patience, understanding and resilience. I love you so much Mum.

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Montevideo Convention (signed 26 December 1933, entered into force, 26 December 1934)

United Nations Charter (Signed 26 June, 1945. Entered into force 24th October 1945)

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The General Agreement of Tariffs and Trade (GATT 1947)

The Universal Declaration OF Human Rights

ABSTARCT

This Dissertation examined economic sanctions' intersection with the principle of state sovereignty and human rights, using Iran as a case study. The study outlined the multilateral legal framework (UN Security council sanctions authorized under Chapter VII of the charter) and contrasts it with the unilateral sanctions imposed by individual state parties or blocs. The study further revealed that economic sanctions particularly unilateral sanctions erode Iran's sovereign equality and violate the fundamental principle of non-intervention, while in turn inflicting server harms on the ordinary civilian population. The study with its findings concluded that while economic sanctions are intended as coercive diplomatic measures the produce server unintended socio-economic and human rights harms that violate international legal obligations. It advocates for policy reforms and legal reforms to reconcile the intent of the sanction to match with principles of sovereignty and human rights so as to mitigate the resultant harm and respect international law.

CHAPTER ONE.

INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The United Nations is the biggest organisation in the international arena and in its effort to uphold its principles, it may impose what are known as sanctions on a state that is in breach of its international obligations. The essential principles underlying the purposes and functions of the United Nations Organisation are listed in article 2 of the United Nations Charter¹ and include the following: members are to refrain from the threat or use of force in contravention of the purposes of the United Nations; each member must assist the organisation in any enforcement actions it takes under the Charter.

Economic Sanctions or Sanctions therefore refer to restrictive measures taken by the United Nations, states and international organizations to limit or entirely block trade, financial transactions, or diplomatic engagement with a target state. These measures can range from comprehensive embargoes to targeted restrictions on individuals, companies, or specific sectors and are authorized/ actioned by the United Nations Security Council under Chapter VII of the UN Charter in response to threats to international peace and security².

State Sovereignty on the other hand relates to the right that states/countries possess to exercise supreme authority over its territory and internal affairs without external interference as is provided for in Article 2(1) and Article 2(4) of the United Nations Charter³. This principle has its foundation deeply rooted in the Westphalian system of international relations and remains central to the legal architecture of the international community. Similarly, the principle of non-intervention further protects states from foreign influence in matters such as governance, economic systems, and national policy decisions. However, the imposition said sanctions, particularly those aimed at causing internal political or economic disruption, often contravenes these principles by interfering in the sovereign functions of the targeted state⁴.

¹ United Nations Charter (Signed 26 June, 1945. Entered into force 24th October 1945)

² Ibid

³ Ibid

⁴ M. Reisman, 'Unilateral Action and the Transformations of the World Constitutive Process: The Special Problem of Economic Sanctions' (1980) 11(3)

Furthermore, the legal framework governing international relations recognizes that human rights are universal, inalienable, and must be protected at all times be it during periods of political or economic conflict. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) and International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) establish key rights including the right to health, food, education, and an adequate standard of living⁵. With that been said it is noteworthy that when sanctions are imposed, especially without United Nations Security Council authorization, there is a risk that such measures may undermine these fundamental principles. Such outcomes have prompted calls for greater legal scrutiny over the use of sanctions and their alignment with international human rights obligations.

1.1 BACKGROUND OF STUDY.

Since the 1979 Iranian Revolution, the state of Iran has been the subjected to an array of sanctions, which include multilateral measures endorsed by the UN Security Council and extensive unilateral sanctions imposed by the United States and the European Union⁶. These measures have targeted and crippled key sectors of the Iranian economy including finance, oil, gas and transportation, the measures have also included individuals and entities alleged to be involved in nuclear proliferation, terrorism, or human rights violations. An example of such measure is that of The United States' "maximum pressure" campaign, this alone has had significant effects on Iran's economy and population, even after the country's temporary compliance with the 2015 Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA)⁷

Human rights organizations, United Nations agencies, and scholars have documented the severe social and economic consequences of these sanctions on Iran's civilian population. These reports have indicated shortages in essential medicines, inflation, unemployment, and reduced access to food, healthcare, and clean water⁸. According to a report submitted by the UN Rapporteur it was noted that while many of these sanctions may technically include humanitarian exemptions, in practice, it is seen that the over-

⁵ International Convention on Economic Social and Cultural Rights, (adopted 16 December 1966, entered into force 3 January 1976).

⁶ Parsi T, *Losing an Enemy: Obama, Iran, and the Triumph of Diplomacy* (Yale UP 2017).

⁷ United nations security council resolution (2015)

⁸ Human Rights Watch, "'Maximum Pressure': US Sanctions Harm Iranians' Right to Health' (29 October 2019)

compliance by banks and businesses has led to the indirect obstruction of aid and essential goods⁹. These consequences raise significant concerns under international human rights law and demand a reassessment of the legal basis and ethical justification of such sanctions.

Furthermore, the unilateral nature of many of the sanctions imposed on Iran particularly those not endorsed by the United Nations has reignited debates around the legitimacy of extraterritorial enforcement and coercive diplomacy¹⁰.

1.1.1 STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM.

The use of economic sanctions as a foreign policy tool has increasingly raised legal and ethical concerns, particularly when such measures result in significant humanitarian consequences or infringe upon the sovereignty of the targeted state.

Article 41 of the United Nations Charter¹¹ gives authority to the United Nations security Council to impose said sanction on any country that they deem has committed or threatens to commit violations under international law or national security. However, while economic sanctions are intended to influence the behaviour of governments, they often have significant and unintended consequences, particularly in respect to their impact on the principles of state sovereignty and human rights of the civilian population

The case of Iran presents a critical example of how economic sanctions would impact a state's political autonomy, economic stability and the overall well-being of its civilian population. Iran has faced extensive unilateral and multilateral sanctions that have been imposed by the United Nations Security Council, The European Union and the United States.

These sanctions imposed have resulted in asset freezes, travel bans, isolation from global financial networks and as of March 2025, they have exacerbated economic instability that's led to devaluation of the Iranian Rial, soaring inflation and reduced access to essential goods. Furthering concerns about violations of human rights of the civilian populations that are enshrined under the ICESCR and the UDHR.

⁹ United Nations Special Rapporteur, 'Report on the Negative Impact of Unilateral Coercive Measures on Human Rights' A/HRC/45/7 (2020).

¹⁰ Marc Bossuyt, 'The Adverse Consequences of Economic Sanctions' (2000).

¹¹ Ibid 1

This study seeks to critically examine the legal impact of economic sanctions on states, assessing their implications on sovereignty and the human rights of civilian populations. It's will further explore their effectiveness in achieving their stated objectives and explore potential legal and policy reforms to ensure international legal principles and minimize humanitarian harm.

1.1.2 OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY.

- I. To analyze the historical background of economic sanctions.
- II. To examine the legal framework governing unilateral and Multilateral economic sanctions under international law.
- III. To analyze the impact of economic sanctions on state sovereignty and the human rights, using the Iranian population as a case study.

1 RESEARCH QUESTIONS.

- I. What is the historical background of economic sanctions.
- II. What is the legal framework under international law that governs the imposition of unilateral and multilateral economic sanctions?
- III. How have the economic sanctions imposed on the state of Iran affected its territorial sovereignty and the civilian population's enjoyment of fundamental human rights?

SIGNIFICANCE OF STUDY.

This study is important as it will contribute to the growing body of legal scholarship on the intersections between Economic Sanctions, State Sovereignty and Human Rights. It will offer a focused and nuanced analysis of the state of Iran that has been subject to sanctions both multilaterally and unilaterally and further illustrate how said sanctions have affected the social economic rights of civilians, and the state's quiet enjoyment of their sovereignty and the principle of non-intervention.

SCOPE OF STUDY

This research is an examination of the legal framework surrounding the imposition of economic sanctions as a coercive measure by the UN, international agencies and other states, focusing particularly on sanctions imposed on the state of Iran. However, it is worth noting that other states that have had sanctions imposed on them may be mentioned briefly so as to buttress the certain points of fact and law. This study will refer to the United Nations Charter, the Universal Declaration on Human rights and resolutions passed by the United Nations Security Council in relation to economic sanctions.

LITERATURE REVIEW.

The scholarly discourse on economic sanctions reflects growing concern about their compatibility with international legal principles, particularly those relating to state sovereignty and human rights. This literature review examines key contributions to this field and considers how they align with or differ from the focus of this study.

Cynthia Chimpanga and Torque Mude¹² in their study critiqued the effectiveness of economic sanctions in achieving their desired outcome by stating that they do not affect the elites they are intended for but rather the innocent civilian population. They further highlighted how economic sanctions imposed on Southern Rhodesia (herein referred to as Zimbabwe) led to human rights violations and breach of international law.

Joy Gordon¹³ In her article, characterizes sanctions as being a “peaceful, silent, deadly remedy” and further highlighted their disproportionate humanitarian consequences, particularly when they target essential civilian needs.

Her work aligns closely with this dissertation’s aim of exploring the humanitarian implications of sanctions, especially in terms of their compliance with international human rights obligations. However, her work fails to answer the question of how said sanctions affect the sanctioned states’ enjoyment of its sovereignty and immunity and how they may

¹²Chimpanga C and Mude T “An analysis of the effectiveness of sanctions as a law enforcement tool in international law: A case study of Zimbabwe from 2001 to 2013” (October 2015) volume 5 Midlands state university

¹³ Joy Gordon, ‘A Peaceful, Silent, Deadly Remedy: The Ethics of Economic Sanctions’ (1999) 5(3) Ethics and International Affairs 123.

alter the overall autonomy of said state. Which is what this researcher seeks to highlight and bring to focus with this study.

Larissa van den Herik¹⁴ scholarship focuses on the United Nations Security Council's role in shaping a rule-based approach to sanctions³ While her work largely supports the use of multilateral sanctions as legally valid measures under Chapter VII of the UN Charter, she cautions against the erosion of legal standards when states act unilaterally. This aligns with this study's objective of interrogating the legality of unilateral sanctions on Iran, particularly those imposed outside the UN framework.

Erica Moret¹⁵ has contributed significantly to the assessment of humanitarian impacts of targeted sanctions, particularly on Iran and Syria. Her research provides empirical evidence showing that sanctions often restrict access to essential goods, medical supplies, and financial services, disproportionately affecting civilian populations. This research supports the human rights dimension of this dissertation, reinforcing concerns that economic sanctions may breach obligations under instruments such as the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR)¹⁶.

Mwila M Justina¹⁷ in her dissertation sought to analyze the effectiveness of economic sanctions as a coercive tool adopted by the United Nations and international organizations.

This study is similar to the above authors work as it seeks to interrogate the effectiveness of economic sanctions as a coercive measure, however this study will also investigate and highlight the effects economic sanctions present from International and Human Rights law lenses.

¹⁴ Larissa Van den Herik, UN Sanctions and the international Rule of Law

¹⁵ Erica Moret, 'Humanitarian impact of Economic Sanction on Iran and Syria' (2015) 24(1) European Security 120.

¹⁶ Ibid 5

¹⁷ Mwila M Justina, AN ANALYSIS THE EFFECTIVENESS OF SANCTIONS AS AN ENFORCEMENT MECHANISM UNDER INTERNATIONAL LAW. A CASE STUDY OF RUSSIA. University of Lusaka 2024

Likando Mutafela¹⁸ opined that sanctions with regards to their usefulness have had damaging effects on nations, have been unsuccessful in their implementations and have had negative impacts on innocent civilians.

This shows that the effects of sanctions on human rights is still a concern and will be discussed further in chapter three of this current dissertation.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

A. RESEARCH APPROACH

A qualitative approach is ideal for this topic as it allows for a nuanced exploration of the diverse perspectives and complexities involved with Economic sanctions, State Sovereignty and Human rights. Through methods like interviews, case studies, books, and journals, qualitative research can capture rich, context-specific data and uncover insights that quantitative methods might overlook. This approach enables a deeper understanding of the impact of Economic Sanction from an International Law lens and thus foster an environment for policy refinement and overall policy change¹⁹.

B. RESEARCH DESIGN

The research design that will be used will be one under qualitative due to the fact that the research methodology and approach being used are of a qualitative nature. The specific design that will be used is evaluative and case study. This dissertation will evaluate sanctions that have been imposed on Iran and other states thus ensuring that this paper's findings are fact based and actionable²⁰.

C. RESEARCH TYPE.

¹⁸ Mutafela L "The application and effectiveness of sanctions under international law" (2010) University of Namibia

¹⁹ Creswell, J. W. (2014). Research Design: Qualitative, Quantitative, and Mixed Methods Approaches. Sage Publications.

²⁰ Ibid.

This research is a descriptive type of study. It will describe how Economic Sanctions affect a state's autonomy (sovereignty) and the human rights of its civilian population.

D. STUDY POPULATION.

This dissertation is focused on all the states that make up the world's population and for that reason, the study population is approximately 8 000 000 000 people according to the United Nations estimates²¹. Particular focus will be given to The Islamic Republic of Iran which has a population of approximately 92.2 million people²².

E. DATA COLLECTION.

Data will be collected in a qualitative perspective through interviews that will be conducted by the researcher.

F. DATA ANALYSIS.

Due to the qualitative character of the research methodology employed for this study, all collected data (both primary and secondary) will be analyzed using the content analysis method and the thematic analysis method²³. This approach allows for a comprehensive exploration of the above process outlined above enable to collect information and explore the textual and narrative data which enables the identification of patterns, themes and insights into the relevant research objectives.

G. ETHICAL CONSIDERATION.

In order to ensure ethical and moral integrity, permission to conduct the research shall be obtained from the university of Lusaka and from the institutions relevant to the research. In addition, consent will be sought from by any individual research subject who participates in the study. This research pledges to ensure that the correct procedure is followed in conducting academic interviews and data collected will not be used to misrepresent subjects.

²¹ Worldometer "Current world retrieving data" Available at <https://www.Worldometers.info#google-vignette> (accessed on 14th April,2025).

²² Ibid.

²³ Ibid 21

CHAPTER OVERVIEW

CHAPTER ONE is the introduction of the research; it gives the statement of the problem, the background as well as the objective of this research.

CHAPTER TWO

Discusses the historical background of economic sanctions.

CHAPTER THREE

Discusses the legal framework under international law relating to unilateral and multilateral economic sanctions

CHAPTER FOUR investigates the extent of which economic sanctions imposed the Islamic republic of Iran have impacted state sovereignty and human rights.

CHAPTER FIVE summarizes the contents provided in the previous chapters of this research as well as draw conclusions or insights on the

CHAPTER TWO

THE HISTORICAL BACKGROUND OF ECONOMIC SANCTIONS AS A COHESIVE MEASURE

2.0 INTRODUCTION

Economic sanctions are among the most prominent tools used in international relations to influence the behavior of states and other entities without resorting to the use of military force. These sanctions include trade embargoes, financial restrictions, asset freezes, and other measures aimed at coercing a target country to change certain policies or actions. Over the centuries, sanctions have evolved from isolated acts of economic coercion to being embedded in multilateral frameworks such as the United Nations Charter. They serve as cohesive measures that allow states and international organizations to collectively maintain peace, enforce laws, and promote international norms.

This chapter aims at tracing the evolution of economic sanctions throughout history so as to show what drove the international community to adopt them as peaceful alternatives to conflict.

2.1 THE ANCIENT AND EARLY USES OF ECONOMIC SANCTIONS.

The concept of economic sanctions can be traced back to antiquity. One of the earliest recorded sanctions is the "Megarian Decree" in 432 BCE, when Athens banned traders from the city-state of Megara from accessing its markets. This effectively strangled the economic lifeline of Megara and was used as a political weapon during the Peloponnesian War. Sanctions in the form of trade embargoes and naval blockades have since been recurrent features in warfare and diplomacy, serving to weaken enemies economically before or during conflicts with the most current depiction of such blockade being the Israel-Palestine blockade in Gaza.

Despite their use in ancient times, economic sanctions remained largely ad hoc and unilateral until the 19th century. The Napoleonic Wars (1803–1815) provide one of the

more comprehensive early uses of sanctions in modern history, notably through Napoleon's Continental System, which aimed to cripple Britain economically by prohibiting European nations from trading with it. Although enforcement failures limited its effectiveness, this represented an early instance of coordinated economic pressure as a tool of statecraft²⁴

2.2 ECONOMIC SANCTIONS IN THE EARLY 20TH CENTURY (THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS AND THE UNITED NATIONS)

The devastation after World War 1 led to the increased interest of the international community in using sanctions as alternatives to armed conflict. The League of Nations, established in 1920, sought to maintain international peace through collective security arrangements, including the use of economic sanctions. The League's Covenant explicitly permitted sanctions in cases of aggression or treaty violations. This marked a turning point where sanctions became institutionalized as cohesive, collective measures sanctioned/authorized by international agreement.

One such notable case was the League's sanctions against Italy following its 1935 invasion of Ethiopia (Abyssinia). While the League imposed embargoes on arms and financial resources, critical omissions such as the failure to sanction oil supplies or close strategic trade routes undermined their effectiveness. The limited international cooperation and Italy's continued conquest highlighted inherent weaknesses in early multilateral sanctions regimes and foreshadowed the challenges faced today of ensuring collective enforcement²⁵

Following World War II, the League of Nations was replaced by the United Nations (UN) in 1945, and with its introduction an expanded and more robust framework to implement sanctions. The UN Charter explicitly differentiates between military enforcement actions and non-military measures like sanctions to maintain or restore peace, this has been codified under Article 41 of the United Nations Charter which authorizes the Security Council to decide on measures "not involving the use of armed force"²⁶.

²⁴ A Brief history of economic sanctions, Carter Ruck (29th November, 2021). <https://www.carter-ruck.com/insight/abrief-history-of-economic-sanctions> Accessed 20th August 2025.

²⁵ Rebecca Perugia, 'Economic Sanctions as a Tool of War from the Historical Origins to...' (Luiss Guido Carli University Thesis)

²⁶ United Nations Charter (Signed 26 June, 1945. Entered into force 24th October 1945), art 41.

In the Cold War era, economic sanctions became more common and sophisticated, with the United States often leading unilateral but also multilateral sanction campaigns against communist states like the Soviet Union, Cuba, and Vietnam.

During this time, the sanctions were usually trade and arms embargoes intended to topple governments or discourage military aggression. For instance, one of the most enduring and long lasting unilateral sanctions is the US embargo on Cuba, which was started in the late 1950s and has since expanded over time. Although controversial and debated in effectiveness, one of the key characteristics of cold war geopolitics was the use of economic isolations as a tool to influence political systems²⁷.

Post-Cold War era, the UN Security Council increasingly relied on sanctions in response to threats to international peace and security. For example, comprehensive sanctions against Iraq (1990–2003) sought to reverse its invasion of Kuwait. While initially effective in pressuring Iraq, these sanctions had devastating humanitarian impacts, prompting debates about the ethics of broad-based sanctions²⁸.

As a result “**smart sanctions**” also known as **targeted sanctions**, were developed with the goal of reducing harm to civilians by concentrating on financial assets, weapons, and political elites. These policies have been implemented in places like Iran, North Korea, and The Democratic Republic of Congo. This led to the development of “smart sanctions”²⁹.

2.3. THE EXPANSION OF ECONOMIC SANCTIONS (Late 20th Century – Present)

From the late 20th century till date, the scope and complexity of economic sanctions has broadened significantly. Sanctions against South Africa during Apartheid, sanctions against Iraq following the Gulf War, and sanctions against Iran for its nuclear programme all demonstrate how sanctions have become more comprehensive in nature, combining trade, financial/ asset freezes, travel and diplomatic restrictions.

Multilateral institutions, such as the United Nations and the European Union, have also expanded their roles in sanction enforcement, enhancing cooperation among allies. Following the devastation of 9/11, the world saw the expansion of sanctions against

²⁷ Gary Clyde Hufbauer et al, 'Economic Sanctions: Evolution, Consequences, and Challenges' (American Economic Association Journal of Economic Perspectives).

²⁸ Joy Gordon, *Invisible War: The United States and the Iraq Sanctions* (Harvard University Press 2010).

²⁹ Thomas J Biersteker and Sue E Eckert, *Targeted Sanctions: The Impacts and Effectiveness of United Nations Action* (CUP 2006).

terrorism networks, individuals, and financial support systems. The United States and its allies established legal authorities to freeze assets and restrict financial transactions of suspected terrorists, indicating a new dimension of sanctions in counterterrorism.

Challenges accompanying these changes include humanitarian impacts, enforcement difficulties, and debates over the ability of sanctions to effect political change. Nonetheless, sanctions remain central to international diplomacy, offering a non-violent mechanism to pressure states while maintaining global order³⁰

Economic sanctions' effectiveness depends on their design, enforcement, and international cooperation. Historical examples reveal mixed outcomes; sanctions failed to prevent Italy's Abyssinia conquest but have constrained nuclear proliferation in some cases most notably in North Korea and Iran. Criticisms of sanctions include the resultant humanitarian suffering, unintended strengthening of regimes under siege, and difficulties in enforcement in a globalized economy.

Recent sanctions, such as those on Russia following its actions in Ukraine, illustrate evolving strategies involving broad-based economic restrictions on powerful economies, indicating that sanctions continue adapting as cohesive geopolitical tools.

2.5. CONCLUSION

The evolution of economic sanctions from unilateral trade bans to multilateral, legally codified instrument essential to contemporary international relations is depicted in their historical context. Sanctions which had their origins as instruments of political coercion in antiquity, were formalized and codified under the League of Nations before being institutionalized in the UN Charter. The fundamental characteristics of economic sanctions and how they adhere to international norms will be covered in the following chapter.

³⁰ Council on foreign relations, 'what are economic sanctions?' (9 March 2015) <https://www.cfr.org/background/what-are-economic-sanctions> accessed on 20th August 2025.

CHAPTER THREE.

EXAMINING THE LEGAL FRAMEWORK GOVERNING UNILATERAL AND MULTILATERAL ECONOMIC SANCTION UNDER INTERNATIONAL LAW.

3.0 INTRODUCTION.

The previous chapter delved into the historical background on economic sanctions as alternatives to the norm of the use of force in settling of international disputes it also further showed how modern-day economic sanctions have evolved with the times post world-war II. This evolution however comes with the question of whether the imposition of said economic sanctions, be it unilaterally or multilaterally conform with international law and its norms.

This chapter will examine the comprehensive legal framework that governs unilateral and multilateral sanctions under international law. It will evaluate the legitimacy, normative foundations and

3.1 ECONOMIC SANCTIONS UNDER THE UNITED NATIONS CHARTER.

3.1.1 THE LEGAL BASIS OF MULTILATERAL SANCTIONS

The United Nations charter provides the primary legal basis for Multilateral economic sanctions. Chapter VII of the charter in **article 39** awards the security council the authority to determine the existence of any threat to peace, breach of peace or act of aggression and also the authority to decide on measures to address such threats and maintain or restore international peace and security"³¹.

The charter further provides in **article 41** the express authority of the security council to employ measures not involving armed force, which may include the complete or partial

³¹ UN Charter, art 39

interruption of economic relations e. g (trade agreements) and complete severance of diplomatic ties³².

Once the measures stated in **article 41** are adopted, they are binding on all member states pursuant to **art 25** of the charter, **article 103** further provides that these measures are to override any treaty obligations³³. This binding nature of multilateral sanctions is one of the most distinguishing features from unilateral sanctions, in that states who have diplomatic ties with a country that has been sanctioned by the security council are bound to adhere to said sanctions and ignore any and all diplomatic ties with the sanctioned state whereas with unilateral sanctions the non-sanctioned state can still maintain said ties with the sanctioned state.

The role of the security council ensures collective decision making and implements procedural safeguards such as periodic review, humanitarian exemptions, and oversight by sanctions committees³⁴. This consequently translates to multilateral sanctions being considered as lawful coercive measures within the international legal order, forming part of the United Nations Collective Security Framework³⁵.

3.2 The Legality and Controversies Surrounding Unilateral Sanctions

Unilateral sanctions, which are those imposed by individual states or regional blocs without Security Council authorization, occupy a controversial position in international law. With critics arguing that such measures contravene the principles of sovereignty, non-intervention, and sovereign equality enshrined in **Articles 2(1), 2(4), and 2(7) of the UN Charter**³⁶. The United Nations General Assembly and The Human Rights Council (HRC) have been key player in repeatedly condemning unilateral coercive measures as being “contrary to **international law**, the **United Nations** and the **norms** and **principles** governing peaceful relations among States³⁷.”

For instance, **HRC Resolution 27/21 (2014)** explicitly stated that unilateral sanctions undermine the Charter and international human rights law, impeding the enjoyment of

³² Ibid, art 41

³³ Ibid, art 25 and art 103

³⁴ L Van den Herik, ‘Research handbook on UN Sanctions and International Law’ (2017)

³⁵ A Abass, ‘Complete International law: Texts, Cases and Materials’ (2nd edn OUP 2014)

³⁶ United Nations Charter (Signed 26 June, 1945. Entered into force 24th October 1945), art 2(1), 2(4), 2(7)

³⁷ UNGA Res 74/200 (19 December 2019) UN Doc A/RES/74/200.

rights such as health, food, and development³⁸. Similarly, **General Assembly Resolution 74/200 (2019)** reaffirmed that no state may apply or encourage the use of economic, political, or other coercive measures to compel another state to act against its sovereign will³⁹.

However, state practice reveals that unilateral sanctions are not universally regarded as illegal. In ***Nicaragua v United States***, the International Court of Justice (ICJ) held that the United States' economic embargo against Nicaragua, though politically coercive did not constitute a breach of the customary international law principle of non-intervention⁴⁰. The Court observed that states are not obligated to maintain trade or aid relations with others, implying that mere economic restrictions, absent force, do not amount to unlawful coercion⁴¹.

3.2.1 Principles Governing the Legality of Unilateral Sanctions

The legality of unilateral sanctions in international law is also determined by their conformity with general principles of international law: non-intervention, proportionality, and non-discrimination.

- **Non-Intervention**

The principle of non-intervention, as earlier expressed is enshrined in Article 2(7) of the Charter, expressly prohibits interference in matters within domestic jurisdiction. Therefore, unlawful intervention occurs when coercive measures by one state to another deprive the state of the freedom to determine its own political, economic, or cultural system and as such those sanctions aimed at regime change or political realignment are therefore incompatible with this principle.

- **Proportionality**

³⁸ HRC Res 27/21 (26 September 2014) UN Doc A/HRC/RES/27/21.

³⁹ Ibid 37

⁴⁰ Case concerning Military and Paramilitary Activities in and against Nicaragua (Nicaragua v United States of America) Merits (27 June, 1986) ICJ Rep 14, paras 245–46.

⁴¹ Ibid

Countermeasures must be proportionate to the wrongful act committed. The International Law Commission's Articles on State Responsibility provide that counter measures "shall be commensurate with the injury suffered"⁴². Measures that impose sweeping or indefinite restrictions are disproportionate. This is why the UNSC increasingly favours targeted sanctions over blanket embargoes.

- **Non-Discrimination**

Discriminatory sanctions undermine both international law and trade law. Under Article I of GATT, WTO members must extend any trade benefit granted to one member to all others (Most Favored Nation clause)⁴³. Selective embargoes violate this unless justified by exceptions such as Article XXI or UNSC obligations⁴⁴. The principle also reflects international law's broader prohibition of arbitrary or unjustifiable discrimination.

Together, these principles underscore that sanctions particularly unilateral sanctions must be narrowly tailored, justified, and respectful of international legal limits.

3.4 REGIONAL AND HYBRID FRAMEWORKS

Sanctions particularly those of a unilateral nature are not only implemented by individual states parties. Regional organisations have developed their own sanctioning regimes, which have been justified as either being complementary to Security Councils measures or as autonomous instruments of regional governance.

a) The European Union (EU)

The EU has emerged as one of the most active regional actors in sanctions. Under the Treaty on European Union, **Article 29** of the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) framework empowers the EU to adopt "restrictive measures" against third countries, governments, or individuals⁴⁵. **Article 215** of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU) then provides the legal basis for implementing said economic sanctions⁴⁶.

⁴² ILC, Articles on State Responsibility for Internationally Wrongful Acts (2001), arts 49–54.

⁴³ GATT 1994, article 1

⁴⁴ GATT 1994, arts XX, XXI.

⁴⁵ Treaty on European Union (Consolidated Version, 2012) art 29.

⁴⁶ Treaty on the functions of the European Union

The legal tensions between EU sanctions and international law, was illustrated in the **Kadi case**, where the Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU) annulled EU regulations implementing UNSC sanctions because they violated fundamental rights guaranteed by EU law⁴⁷. The judgment demonstrated the EU's willingness to subject even multilateral sanctions to constitutional rights review, thereby shaping international sanctions practice.

b) The African Union (AU)

The AU also has explicit sanctioning powers under **Article 23** of the Constitutive Act of The African Union, allowing the Union to impose sanctions on member states that fail to comply with AU decisions, particularly in cases of unconstitutional changes of government⁴⁸. This provision has been invoked in Mali, Guinea, and Burkina Faso, where suspension from AU institutions and targeted restrictions were imposed following military coups. Unlike the UNSC, the AU frames sanctions not only as tools for peace and security but also for enforcing democratic norms.

c) The Organization of American States (OAS)

The Organisation of American States Charter, particularly Articles 1 and 2, emphasizes democracy and non-intervention⁴⁹, however, sanctions have been used in practice, with a notably example being the suspension of Honduras after the 2009 coup⁵⁰. The OAS regime is distinctive because it blends sanctions with broader mechanisms of collective diplomacy and mediation.

d) Hybrid Sanctions

Hybrid sanctions occur when multiple actors (the United Nations, international organisations and states) combine measures. For example, sanctions against North Korea involve UNSC resolutions, which have been reinforced by the European Union and United States of America unilateral measures. This layering of regimes creates complex compliance challenges for businesses and states, and raises questions of fragmentation

⁴⁷ Yassin Kadi and Al Barakaat International Foundation v Council and Commission [2008] ECR I-6351

⁴⁸ Constitutive Act of the African Union (2000), art 23

⁴⁹ Charter of the organisation of American States (1948, amended 1997), articles 1 and 2

⁵⁰ Suspension of the Right of Honduras to Participate in the Organisation of American States' AG/RES. 2531 (XXXVII-E/09)). OXIO 396. AVAILABLE AT <https://opil.ouplaw.com/display/10.1093/law-oxio/e396?prd=OPIL> Accessed on 16th September 2025

in international law. Fragmentation refers to division and lack of coherence among the multiple regimes and the parties involved in imposing and regulating economic sanctions⁵¹

Regional frameworks thus demonstrate the increasing pluralism of sanctions regimes. However, they also raise questions about consistency with the UN Charter, particularly Article 52, which requires regional arrangements to act in harmony with the Security Council's mandate⁵².

3.5 SANCTIONS AND INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS LAW

3.5.1 Human Rights Obligations Under Sanctions Regimes

Another critical dimension of the legal framework governing sanctions that ought to be explored is how compatible they are with international humanitarian law. This compatibility is not only with respect to unilateral sanctions but also multilateral sanctions, this is due to the severe humanitarian consequences that affect the civilian populations, irrespective of the mode of imposition.

Either of these scenarios can have severe humanitarian consequences, affecting the enjoyment of economic, social, and cultural rights, including the rights to health, food, education, and an adequate standard of living⁵³

The International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), to which most states are parties, obligates states to respect, protect, and fulfill these rights⁵⁴.

Article 11 of the ICESCR recognizes that every human has "the right of everyone to an adequate standard of living for himself and his family, including adequate food, clothing and housing" and "the fundamental right of everyone to be free from hunger⁵⁵. Article 12 on the hand recognizes the right to "the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health'. The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights has emphasized that

⁵¹ Anne Peters, 'The refinement of international law: from fragmentation to regime interaction and politicization, *International Journal of Constitutional Law*, volume 15, issue 3, July 2017, pages 671-704. Available at <https://doi.org/10.1093/icon/mox.056> accessed on 16th September 2025.

⁵² The United Nations Charter, article 52.

⁵³ Ibid

⁵⁴ Ibid 38

⁵⁵ Mitigating Humanitarian Impact in a Complex Sanctions ... <https://www.sipri.org/publications/2021/policy-reports/mitigating-humanitarian-impact-complex-sanctions-environment-european-union-and-sanctions-regimes>

these rights obligations apply even in the context of economic sanctions. In General Comment No. 8, the Committee stated that:

"Whatever the circumstances, sanctions should always take full account of the provisions of the ICESCR. The inhabitants of a given country do not forfeit their basic economic, social and cultural rights by virtue of any determination that their leaders have violated norms relating to international peace and security."⁵⁶

Similarly, the Committee further noted that sanctions must respect the principles of necessity, proportionality, and discrimination, ensuring that vulnerable populations are protected and that humanitarian needs are met.

3.6 CONCLUSION

The legal framework governing economic sanctions reflects a fundamental tension between sovereign equality and collective security, between the rule of law and the realities of global politics.

Multilateral sanctions, authorized by the United Nations Security Council under Chapter VII of the UN Charter, represent the only form of coercive measures that enjoy a firm legal foundation in international law. They are binding, universally recognized, and implemented in pursuit of international peace and security. Nevertheless, they raise persistent questions of proportionality, legitimacy, and humanitarian consequence, particularly when their design and enforcement lack adequate safeguards.

By contrast, unilateral sanctions remain legally controversial. While often justified under domestic legislation such as the United States they lack a basis in the UN Charter and are frequently viewed as violations of the principles of non-intervention, proportionality, and non-discrimination.

Regional sanctions frameworks notably within the EU, AU, and OAS occupy an intermediate position, demonstrating innovation and adaptability but also contributing to the fragmentation of international law. The growing overlap between UN, regional, and unilateral regimes underscores the need for greater coherence and normative alignment.

⁵⁶ The Legitimacy of Economic Sanctions against Islamic Republic of Iran in the Light of International Economic Law: Legal Effects and Economics Consequences
<https://www.mcser.org/journal/index.php/mjss/article/download/9212/8895>

Ultimately, the legitimacy of sanctions cannot be measured solely by their legal formalities but by their consistency with broader principles of international justice. Sanctions must be proportionate, non-discriminatory, and aligned with humanitarian standards to maintain credibility as lawful instruments of global governance. The next chapter will explore the ethical and human rights impacts further.

CHAPTER FOUR

THE IMPACT OF ECONOMIC SANCTIONS ON STATE SOVEREIGNTY AND HUMAN RIGHTS: THE CASE OF THE ISLAMIC STATE OF IRAN

4.1 Introduction

Economic sanctions imposed on the Islamic Republic of Iran represent one of the most comprehensive and prolonged sanctions regimes in contemporary international relations. Since the 1979 Islamic Revolution, Iran has been subjected to various forms of economic restrictions, which have intensified significantly since 2012 when multilateral and unilateral sanctions targeted the country's nuclear programme. The objective of this chapter is to critically analyse how these economic sanctions have impacted Iran's state sovereignty and the human rights of its civilian population, thereby addressing the third research objective of this dissertation.

4.2 Impact on State Sovereignty

The principle of state sovereignty most notably enshrined in the jurisprudential theory of positivism denotes that every state should have autonomy over all of its affairs and should not be subject to the whims and wishes of another state. To better understand this principle, one has to understand what a state is and what it relates to. The principle of statehood refers to the legal status of an entity that qualifies as a state under international law, the Montevideo Convention⁵⁷ provides that a state is an entity with **i)** a permanent population, **ii)** a defined territory **iii)** a government, **iv)** and capacity to enter into relations with other states.

4.2.1 Violation of the Principle of Non-Intervention

⁵⁷Montevideo Convention (signed 26 December 1933, entered into force, 26 December 1934)

The principle of state sovereignty, which is also enshrined in Article 2(1) and Article 2(4) of the United Nations Charter, grants each state the right to exercise supreme authority over its territory and internal affairs without external influence⁵⁸. The principle of non-intervention, recognized and enshrined by the International Court of Justice in the **Nicaragua v. United States case**, prohibits states from interfering in matters where each state is permitted on the basis of sovereignty to decide freely, including the choice of political, economic, and social systems, and the formulation of foreign policy⁵⁹.

Unilateral economic sanctions imposed on Iran, particularly those not endorsed by the United Nations Security Council, have been characterized by scholars and international legal experts as violations of the principle of non-intervention⁶⁰. The Iranian envoy to the United Nations in Geneva, Ali Bahreini, denounced unilateral sanctions as violations of international law and attacks on national sovereignty, stating that sanctions framed as promoting democracy or human rights are pretexts for interference in the internal affairs of other nations⁶¹.

The legality of unilateral sanctions remains contested under international law. While some scholars argue that states possess the freedom to alter their economic relations, others contend that unilateral economic sanctions constitute coercive measures that violate the prohibitions laid out in UN General Assembly resolutions, primarily the Friendly Relations Declaration of 1970. The primary grounds for illegality rest on the principles of state sovereignty and non-intervention, a position supported by a significant majority of UN member states.

4.2.2 Erosion of Economic Sovereignty

Economic sanctions have fundamentally undermined Iran's economic sovereignty by restricting its ability to engage in international trade, access global financial systems, and exercise control over its economic policies. The sanctions regime has targeted key sectors of the Iranian economy, including oil and gas exports, banking and financial

⁵⁸ The legality of unilateral economic sanctions in international law available at <https://journals.yzu.am/index.php/state-and-law/articles/view/11536>

⁵⁹ Nicaragua v United States of America

⁶⁰ Ibid 54

⁶¹ Unilateral sanctions undermine sovereignty, says Iranian envoy available at <https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/506604/Unilateral-Sanctions-Undermine-Sovereignty-says-iranian-envoy>

services, and transportation⁶². These measures have effectively isolated Iran from the international economic system, depriving the state of its sovereign right to manage its economic affairs.

The **impact on Iran's oil sector**, which constitutes approximately a quarter of the country's GDP, has been particularly severe. Despite selling oil to China at discounted prices, the reimposed global sanctions threaten to stifle this vital source of income. According to energy strategists, every dollar shaved off the price of oil translates into roughly half a billion dollars in lost annual revenue for Iran⁶³.

The **devaluation of the Iranian rial** demonstrates the extent to which sanctions have eroded economic sovereignty. The rial lost approximately 37% of its value against the US dollar in 2024, leading to capital flight, widespread dollarization, and growing reliance on informal financial channels⁶⁴. Statistics show that by October 2025, the currency has plummeted to 1.1 million per US dollar, down from 920,000 in August⁶⁵. This currency collapse has undermined the government's ability to implement effective monetary policy and maintain economic stability⁶⁶.

4.2.3 Extraterritorial Application of Sanctions

The extraterritorial reach of US sanctions against Iran represents a particularly problematic aspect of the sanction regime from the perspective of state sovereignty⁶⁷. Following the US withdrawal from the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) in

⁶² Special Eurasia, 'Iran's Struggle Against Inflation, Sanctions, Capital Flight' (13 October 2025) <https://www.specialeurasia.com/2025/10/14/iran-sanctions-inflation-economy/> accessed 29 October 2025

⁶³ Modern Diplomacy, 'Iran Faces Economic Freefall and Rising Unrest as UN Sanctions Return' (21 October 2025) <https://moderndiplomacy.eu/2025/10/22/iran-faces-economic-freefall-and-rising-unrest-as-un-sanctions-return/> accessed 29 October 2025

⁶⁴ Ibid 58

⁶⁵ Clingendael Institute, 'Approaching the Precipice: Near-term Prospects of Iran's Economy' (29 January 2025) <https://www.clingendael.org/publication/approaching-precipice-near-term-prospects-irans-economy> accessed 29 October 2025

⁶⁶ Ibid

⁶⁷ Julia Schmidt, The Legality of Unilateral Extra-territorial Sanctions under International Law, *Journal of Conflict and Security Law*, Volume 27, Issue 1, Spring 2022, Pages 53–81 available at <https://doi.org/10.1093/jcsl/krac005> accessed on 29 October 2025

2018, the United States reimposed economic and financial sanctions that contain extraterritorial provisions prohibiting non-US nationals and companies from trading with and investing in Iran⁶⁸.

These extraterritorial sanctions have been characterized by legal scholars as violations of customary international law principles of jurisdiction and the principle of non-intervention. The international community argue that unilateral extraterritorial sanctions interfere with the sovereign foreign policy choices of states and international organisations such as the European Union, who support legitimate trade with Iran. The extraterritorial application of US sanctions effectively forces third party states to align their foreign policy with American preferences, thereby undermining their sovereign decision-making authority⁶⁹.

The legality of such extraterritorial measures has been questioned on multiple grounds. First, the US assertion of extraterritorial jurisdiction is not justified under any principle of jurisdiction recognized in customary international law, Second, the international community has explicitly rejected US claims to extraterritorial jurisdiction. Third, US sanctions policy constitutes an attempt to assert control over other states' foreign policies through coercion, which violates the principle of non-intervention⁷⁰.

4.3 Impact on Human Rights

The imposition of economic sanctions is often masqueraded as being peaceful resolutions to actions that the international community views as being threats to human rights and state security but in the implementation of said sanctions human rights infringements are amplified. The following are some of the human rights infringements that the Iranian civilian population has been left to grapple with.

4.3.1 Right to Health

The impact of economic sanctions on the right to health of Iranian civilians has been extensively documented by human rights organisations, United Nations agencies, and

⁶⁸ Ibid

⁶⁹ Ibid

⁷⁰ Ibid

academic researchers⁷¹. The right to health, enshrined in **Article 25** of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and **Article 12** of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, includes access to essential medicines, medical equipment, and healthcare services.

Reports show that **patients** with rare diseases and conditions requiring specialized treatment have been particularly affected. Individuals with leukaemia, epidermolysis bullosa (a disease causing fragile, blistering skin), or epilepsy, and those with chronic eye injuries from exposure to chemical weapons during the Iraq and Iranian war, have been unable to acquire previously available medicines or supplies. The consequences have been catastrophic: people with severe forms of epidermolysis bullosa are unable to access specialized bandages and face significantly increased risk for bacterial infections, sepsis, and joint contractures. Individuals with drug-resistant epilepsy who cannot access foreign-made medicines suffer frequent, uncontrolled seizures that risk injury and result in severe, permanent brain damage⁷².

A systematic review by **Kokabisaghi**⁷³ using the Human Rights Impact Assessment (HRIA) tool found that sanctions on Iran caused a fall in the country's revenues, devaluation of national currency, and increase in inflation and unemployment, all of which resulted in deterioration of people's overall welfare and lowered their ability to access necessities such as nutritious food, healthcare, and medicine. The sanctions on banking, financial systems, and shipment led to scarcity of quality lifesaving medicines, with impacts more immense on the lives of the poor, patients, women, and children⁷⁴.

The UN Special Rapporteur on the negative impact of unilateral coercive measures, expressed concerns that the complex set of unilateral sanctions, coupled with secondary sanctions against third-parties and overcompliance by businesses and financial institutions, exacerbate existing humanitarian and economic challenges and negatively

⁷¹ Human Rights Watch, "'Maximum Pressure': US Economic Sanctions Harm Iranians' Right to Health' (29 October 2019) available at <https://www.hrw.org/report/2019/10/29/maximum-pressure/us-economic-sanctions-harm-iranians-right-health>

⁷² The experiences and perceptions of people with chronic and rare diseases during political-economic sanctions in Iran: a qualitative study available at <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC10913614/>

⁷³ Kokabisaghi, Fatemeh. "Assessment of the Effects of Economic Sanctions on Iranians' Right to Health by Using Human Rights Impact Assessment Tool: A Systematic Review." *International Journal of Health Policy and Management* 7 (2018): 374 - 393.

⁷⁴ *ibid*

affect the lives of people, particularly the most vulnerable⁷⁵. Accounts from patients suffering from rare diseases and people with disabilities regarding challenges they faced in accessing medicines and assistive equipment were also recorded in the report.

A 2024 study on the impact of economic sanctions on population health in Iran found that sanctions have had adverse effects on various aspects of public health, resulting in reduced availability and access to life-saving medications. The study demonstrated that sanctions have contributed to lowering life expectancy, increasing mortality rates (particularly child mortality), and malnutrition⁷⁶.

4.3.2 Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

Every human being has the inherent right to the free and uninterrupted enjoyment of their fundamental human rights that are enshrined in the universal declaration of human rights. However, the imposition of economic sanctions has been noted to threaten the very rights that the declaration codifies and protects.

Beyond the right to health, economic sanctions have violated a broad spectrum of economic, social, and cultural rights protected under the International Convention on Economic Social and Cultural Rights, including the rights to food, work, education, and an adequate standard of living.

The **right to food** has been compromised as sanctions have led to inflation, unemployment, and reduced purchasing power for Iranian families. A 2021 study found that in the absence of sanctions, Iran's average annual growth could have been around 4 and 5 percent, compared to the 3 percent realized, and sanctions have had adverse effects on employment and labour force participation. The economic hardship has pushed millions of Iranians below the poverty line, limiting their ability to access nutritious food⁷⁷.

⁷⁵ Iran: Unilateral sanctions and overcompliance constitute serious threat to human rights and dignity, available at <https://www.ohcr.org/en/press-releases/2022/05/iran-unilateral-sanctions-and-overcompliance-serious-threat-human>

⁷⁶ Mohammad Karamouzian et al., 'The Impacts of Economic Sanctions on the Performance of Hospitals in Iran: Implications for Human Rights' (2022) 12(8) Healthcare 1280

⁷⁷ Ibid 69

The **right to work** has been severely impacted by the economic downturn caused by sanctions. Unemployment rates rose to 9.5% in 2025, up from 8% the previous year, with companies shedding jobs at an alarming rate following escalating tensions. The International Monetary Fund anticipates unemployment will rise further to 9.2% by the end of 2025. Young, educated demographics feel particularly frustrated as employment opportunities diminish⁷⁸.

The **right to education** has been affected through multiple channels. Sanctions have disrupted Iran's health research system, causing difficulty in supplying laboratory materials and equipment, and disrupting international research collaboration and activities. Iranian scholars have faced financial issues and increased stress impacting their work. Additionally, the economic pressure has forced families to prioritize basic necessities over education expenses⁷⁹.

The **right to an adequate standard of living** has been fundamentally undermined by the macroeconomic consequences of sanctions. Inflation levels reached 40 to 50% by 2025, eroding household purchasing power. The World Bank forecasts that Iran's economy would contract by 1.7% in 2025 and 2.8% in 2026, which is a sharp decline from earlier growth projections⁸⁰. This economic contraction, combined with currency devaluation and inflation, has dramatically reduced and will continually reduce living standards for ordinary Iranians if not addressed⁸¹.

The **right to environmental wellness and intergenerational justice** is a frequently overlooked dimension of sanction impact. Sanctions have restricted Iran's access to clean technology, modern environmental remediation equipment, and expertise necessary for environmental protection and climate mitigation⁸². The technology gap, widened by

⁷⁸ CNN, 'How Western Sanctions on Iran Have Hurt the Same Middle Class the West Claims to Support' (19 October 2025) <https://www.cnn.com/2025/10/19/middleeast/how-western-sanctions-iran-hurt-middle-class-intl> accessed 29 October 2025

⁷⁹ Ibid74

⁸⁰ Modern Diplomacy, 'Iran Faces Economic Freefall and Rising Unrest as UN Sanctions Return' (21 October 2025) <https://moderndiplomacy.eu/2025/10/22/iran-faces-economic-freefall-and-rising-unrest-as-un-sanctions-return/>

⁸¹ ibid

⁸² Have International Sanctions Impacted Iran's Environment?' (2021) 9(5) Sustainability 3485; United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), 'Environmental Consequences of Economic Sanctions: Focus on Iran' (2021)

sanctions related restrictions on imports and technical cooperation, has forced Iran to increase reliance on environmentally damaging practices. Most notably, sanctions have pushed Iran toward greater dependence on natural resource extraction and exploitation, thus increasing environmental degradation. The restriction on accessing modern desalination and water purification technologies have exacerbated Iran's severe water scarcity crisis⁸³. Environmental cleanup projects have been delayed or abandoned due to lack of funding and inability to procure specialized equipment. These environmental harms carry transboundary implications that may affect neighboring states and contributing to regional climate and environmental crises⁸⁴.

4.3.3 Impact on Vulnerable Populations

Research has consistently demonstrated that the humanitarian impact of sanctions disproportionately affects vulnerable populations, including the poor, women, children, elderly, and persons with disabilities⁸⁵.

Women: have experienced amplified adverse effects from sanctions. A 2025 study employing a feminist international political economy perspective found that sanctions have created crises affecting gendered regimes of labour and survival in Iran. The economic hardship has forced many women to enter informal labour markets under exploitative conditions, while simultaneously reducing their access to healthcare, including maternal health service⁸⁶.

Children: have suffered particularly severe consequences. Research by the World Health Organization has linked sanctions to higher rates of child mortality and malnutrition⁸⁷.

⁸³ Jens Bartelson, 'Making Exceptions: Sovereignty, Extraterritoriality, and the Problem of Justification' (2010) 1(1) European Journal of International Relations 7-32

⁸⁴ The ICJ Advisory Opinion on Climate Change: A Business and Human Rights Perspective [https://opiniojuris.org/2025/08/04/the-icj-advisory-opinion-on-climate-change-a-business-and-human-rights-perspective/#:~:text=The%20International%20Court%20of%20Justice%20\(ICJ\)%20issued,do%20not%20contribute%20to%20harmful%20climate%20impacts](https://opiniojuris.org/2025/08/04/the-icj-advisory-opinion-on-climate-change-a-business-and-human-rights-perspective/#:~:text=The%20International%20Court%20of%20Justice%20(ICJ)%20issued,do%20not%20contribute%20to%20harmful%20climate%20impacts)

⁸⁵ Alena Douhan, 'Report on the Negative Impact of Unilateral Coercive Measures on Human Rights' <https://www.ohchr.org/en/documents/country-reports/ahrc5133add1-visit-islamic-republic-iran-report-special-rapporteur>

⁸⁶ *ibid*

⁸⁷ *ibid*

Shortages of essential medicines have affected children with chronic conditions, and the economic downturn has forced many families to remove children from school or reduce their nutritional intake.

The middle class; historically a force of political moderation and economic stability, has shrunk rapidly under sanctions pressure. A study published in the European Journal of Political Economy employed synthetic control methods to assess the impact of sanctions on Iran's social structure, revealing a shrinking middle class and increasing numbers of Iranians struggling with low incomes while a small elite thrives. Between 2012 and 2019, the Iranian middle class was 28% smaller than projected in the absence of sanctions, with an estimated 9 million individuals losing their middle-class status⁸⁸.

Patients with chronic and rare diseases face substantial healthcare costs, restricted access to medications, and availability of only low-quality medications. A 2024 qualitative study found that over-compliance by banks and businesses has led to the indirect obstruction of aid and essential goods, despite technical humanitarian exemptions⁸⁹.

Refugees: Afghan refugees, already marginalized within Iranian society, have experienced deepening economic precarity as access to humanitarian assistance has contracted⁹⁰.

4.4 Economic and Social Consequences of Economic Sanctions

4.4.1 Macroeconomic Impact

The macroeconomic consequences of sanctions on Iran have been severe and multifaceted. The Iranian economy has experienced simultaneous challenges of high inflation, currency depreciation, capital flight, and economic contraction.

- I. **GDP contraction:** The World Bank reported that Iran's economy, once projected to grow modestly, is now expected to contract by 1.7% in 2025 and 2.8% in 2026. The nominal GDP is expected to drop below \$400 billion in the current Iranian year

⁸⁸ Farzanegan, Mohammad Reza and Habibi, Nader, The Effect of International Sanctions on the Size of the Middle Class in Iran (2024). CESifo Working Paper No. 11175, Available at SSRN: <https://ssrn.com/abstract=4882432>

⁸⁹ Ibid 72

⁹⁰ Nadia Kanaan et al., 'Impacts of Sanctions on Afghan Refugees in Iran' (2022) 18(4) Journal of Refugee Studies 512-531.

ending March 2025, reflecting continued weak economic performance. In US dollar terms, Iran's nominal per capita GDP decreased from \$4,741 in 2022 to \$4,501 in 2023⁹¹.

- II. **Inflation:** Inflation rates have reached 40-50% according to recent estimates, creating a stagflation scenario characterized by high instability combined with protracted stagnation⁹². This hyperinflation has devastated household purchasing power and savings.
- III. **Currency devaluation:** The rial has experienced dramatic devaluation, declining by 56% between January 2012 and January 2014 during earlier sanctions periods. The currency crisis has continued, with the rial losing approximately 37% of its value in 2024 and plummeting to 1.1 million per US dollar by October 2025⁹³.
- IV. **Oil sector impact:** Iran's oil exports, the country's main revenue source and approximately a quarter of GDP, have been severely constrained. The inability to sell oil at market prices and the threat of further reductions in Chinese purchases pose existential threats to government finances. Every dollar reduction in oil prices translates to approximately \$500 million in lost annual revenue⁹⁴.
- V. **Foreign investment:** Sanctions have scared off foreign and domestic investors, with foreign direct investment severely restricted. The inability to access international banking systems and the risks associated with over-compliance have created insurmountable barriers to investment⁹⁵.

⁹¹ Clingendael Institute, 'Approaching the Precipice: Near-term Prospects of Iran's Economy' (29 January 2025) <https://www.clingendael.org/publication/approaching-precipice-near-term-prospects-irans-economy> accessed 29 October 2025

⁹² *ibid*

⁹³ Council on Foreign Relations, 'International Sanctions on Iran' (updated 2025) <https://www.cfr.org/background/international-sanctions-iran>

⁹⁴ *ibid*

⁹⁵ United Nations Human Rights Council, 'Iran: Unilateral Sanctions and Overcompliance Constitute Serious Threat to Human Rights and Dignity – UN Expert' (19 May 2022) <https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2022/05/iran-unilateral-sanctions-and-overcompliance-constitute-serious-threat-human>

4.4.2 Humanitarian Consequences

The humanitarian consequences of sanctions extend far beyond macroeconomic indicators, affecting the daily lives and fundamental rights of Iranian civilians.

Medicine shortages: Despite humanitarian exemptions, sanctions have created severe shortages of essential medicines, particularly for complex and rare diseases. Iranian hospitals have reported running out of anesthetics, cancer treatments, and other life-saving medications⁹⁶.

Healthcare system deterioration: Sanctions have weakened medical infrastructure and strained the ability of the health system to provide services and respond to medical emergencies. The restriction on medical equipment imports has forced healthcare providers to use substandard alternatives, compromising patient safety⁹⁷.

Food insecurity: The economic crisis has limited access to nutritious food, particularly for low-income families. The combination of inflation, unemployment, and currency devaluation has pushed millions of Iranians into poverty, where they struggle to afford basic necessities⁹⁸.

Social fabric erosion: The shrinking middle class and widening wealth disparity have led to escalating societal discontent. The economic transformation has altered the nature of political engagement, shifting focus from middle-class demands for rights and reforms to working-class pleas for survival and basic needs⁹⁹.

⁹⁶ Sanctions against Iran: The Impact on Health Services <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC4419179/>

⁹⁷ ibid

⁹⁸ Assessment of the Effects of Economic Sanctions on Iranians' Right to Health by Using Human Rights Impact Assessment Tool: A Systematic Review http://www.ijhpm.com/article_3454_413e7c40127a45913385d0def29682a6.pdf

⁹⁹ Sanctions and the shrinking size of Iran's middle class <https://theforum.erf.org.eg/2025/09/30/sanctions-and-the-shrinking-size-of-irans-middle-class/>

4.4.3 Long-term Structural Effects of the sanctions imposed

The sanctions regime has created long-term structural distortions in Iran's economy that will persist even if sanctions are lifted.

Dependence on informal economies: Sanctions have forced Iran to develop parallel economic structures, including informal financial channels, cryptocurrency networks, and grey market trade routes. While these mechanisms have provided some economic resilience, they have also increased systemic opacity, corruption, and criminal activity.

Technological lag: Restrictions on technology transfers and scientific cooperation have hindered Iran's technological development and innovation capacity. The isolation from global scientific networks has affected research and development across multiple sectors.

Institutional degradation: The economic crisis has weakened state institutions' capacity to provide public services, maintain infrastructure, and respond to emergencies. Furthermore, a notable increase in corruption has been noted as economic desperation creates incentives for rent seeking behaviour.

Social stratification: The sanctions-induced economic crisis has created a widening gap between a small sanctions-resistant elite and an increasingly impoverished majority. This stratification undermines social cohesion and creates conditions for instability.

4.5 Legal Analysis Under International Law

4.5.1 Breach of Human Rights Obligations

The extensive humanitarian consequences of sanctions on Iran constitute violations of multiple human rights obligations under international law. Systematic reviews have concluded that countries which imposed economic sanctions against Iran have violated Iranians' right to health, and that the international community should have predicted probable humanitarian effects and used necessary means to prevent them¹⁰⁰.

Under **Article 2(1)** of the International Convention on Economic Social and Cultural Rights, state parties undertake to take steps, including through international assistance

¹⁰⁰Ibid 91

and cooperation, to achieve progressively the full realization of economic, social and cultural right. The imposition of sanctions however deliberately or foreseeably undermines these rights and violates this obligation¹⁰¹. **Article 12** of the International Convention on Economic Social and Cultural Rights recognizes the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, which includes access to essential medicines and healthcare services.

The UN Special Rapporteur on unilateral coercive measures has expressed concerns that unilateral sanctions constitute a serious threat to human rights and dignity, violating obligations arising from universal and regional human rights instruments, many of which have peremptory character. They called on sanctioning states, particularly the United States, to observe principles and norms of international law and lift all unilateral measures in areas affecting human rights and the lives of people in Iran¹⁰².

The United Nations Declaration on Human Rights and the International Convention on Economic Social and Cultural Rights establish that human rights are universal, inalienable, and must be protected at all times, including during periods of political or economic conflict. The fact that sanctions have caused deaths, permanent disabilities, and severe suffering to Iranian civilians demonstrates a fundamental incompatibility between the interplay of sanction regimes and human rights law.

4.5.2 Incompatibility with UN Charter Principle

The unilateral nature of many sanctions imposed on Iran, particularly those not endorsed by the United Nations Security Council, have raised serious questions about their compatibility with the UN Charter.

Article 41 of the UN Charter, AS alluded to in the previous chapter is what vests the Security Council with exclusive authority to impose sanctions as enforcement measures to maintain or restore international peace and security. When states act unilaterally outside this framework, they risk undermining the collective security system and establishing a politically motivated, disjointed international order.

¹⁰¹ International covenant on economic, social and cultural rights(adopted 16 December 1966)

¹⁰² United Nations Human Rights Council, 'Iran: Unilateral Sanctions and Overcompliance Constitute Serious Threat to Human Rights and Dignity – UN Expert' (19 May 2022) available at <https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2022/05/iran-unilateral-sanctions-and-overcompliance-constitute-serious-threat-human>

The US withdrawal from the JCPOA in 2018 and subsequent reimposition of sanctions occurred despite UN Security Council Resolution 2231, which endorsed the JCPOA and urged its full implementation. Legal scholar Marcin Menkes argues that the JCPOA's normative content was transformed into a legally binding act of the UN Security Council, and that reimposed US sanctions in contradiction to the JCPOA would violate a legally binding obligation. The unilateral sanctions in such a scenario violate the loyalty obligations owed by UN member states to the UN according to Article 2(5) of the UN Charter.

Furthermore, the principle of sovereign equality enshrined in Article 2(1) of the UN Charter prohibits states from using coercive economic measures to interfere in the domestic affairs of other sovereign nations. The International Court of Justice held in *Nicaragua v. United States* that intervention is wrongful when it uses methods of coercion in regard to choices that must remain free, including the choice of political, economic, and social systems.

4.5.3 Failure of Humanitarian Exemptions

Despite the technical inclusion of humanitarian exemptions in most sanction regimes, the practical reality has been that these exemptions have failed to prevent severe humanitarian harm. Financial institutions, fearing secondary sanctions and penalties, have adopted risk-averse policies that go far beyond legal requirements, effectively blocking legitimate humanitarian trade. This over-compliance has been characterized as a form of zero-risking that violates the spirit and intent of humanitarian exemptions.

The failure of humanitarian exemptions raises questions about the good faith implementation of human rights obligations by sanctioning states. International human rights law requires states to guarantee that any activity under their jurisdiction or control does not result in human rights violations¹⁰³. The foreseeable consequence of over-compliance suggests that sanctioning states have failed to take adequate measures to protect the human rights of Iranian civilians¹⁰⁴.

¹⁰³United Nations Human Rights council, Iran: Unilateral sanctions and overcompliance constitute serious threat to human rights and dignity available at <https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2022/05/iran-unilateral-sanctions-and-overcompliance-constitute-serious-threat-human>

¹⁰⁴ *ibid*

4.6 Conclusion

The analysis presented in this chapter demonstrates that economic sanctions imposed on Iran have had profound and detrimental impacts on both state sovereignty and human rights. From a sovereignty perspective, the sanctions regime violates the principle of non-intervention, erodes economic sovereignty, and employs extraterritorial measures that interfere with the foreign policy choices of third-party states. These actions contravene fundamental principles of international law, including those enshrined in the UN Charter and customary international law.

From a human rights perspective, the case study illustrated that sanctions have caused severe humanitarian consequences affecting the rights to health, food, work, education, and an adequate standard of living. Vulnerable populations, including women, children, the elderly, and persons with chronic illnesses, have borne a disproportionate burden. The failure of humanitarian exemptions to prevent these harms, due to over-compliance by financial institutions and businesses, demonstrates a systemic violation of human rights obligations.

Whereas the unilateral nature of many sanctions, imposed outside the UN Security Council framework, undermine the collective security system and violates principles of sovereign equality and non-intervention.

The final chapter will seek at highlighting reforms that may be implored during the imposing of both multilateral and sanctions so as to provide safeguards from further humanitarian effects being experienced.

CHAPTER FIVE.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMENDATIONS

5.0 INTRODUCTION.

This chapter summarizes the content provided in the preceding chapters of this dissertation, offering a comprehensive overview of the content covered thus far. It not only summarizes the key points explored but also endeavors to provide actionable recommendations aimed at addressing the central issue identified in this study: **Economic Sanctions and their impact on state sovereignty and human rights; A Case Study of The Islamic Republic of Iran.**

5.1 GENERAL CONCLUSION

In light of the foregoing discourse that aimed at analyzing the impact that Economic Sanctions have on state sovereignty and the realization of human rights of civilian populations. The study looked at the historical development of economic sanctions, tracing the reason as to why they are adopted and in turn highlighting the core principles on which they were and are to be founded. The study also examined the legal frameworks governing the imposition of economic sanctions be it in a multilateral context or in a unilateral sense, focusing on their legalities and controversies under International Law. It has been found that there are a lot of grey areas in the legal framework governing the impositions of said sanctions particularly the underlining political influences that the security council members may have also the extra territorial reach that sanctions imposed unilaterally promote. The study went further and examined how when imposed Economic Sanctions alter the very fabric of the sanctioned state's sovereignty and as such undermine the principle of nonintervention, the study further explored and highlighted the human rights violations against the civilian population that are exacerbated due the imposition of these economic sanctions. The study explored the sanctions that have been imposed on the Islamic state of Iran and used this as a stencil of sorts used to give and nuanced take on this topic. This study illustrated that the imposition of economic sanctions is a necessary evil however there is need of reworking the legal frameworks that

governing said impositions particularly the nature of the sanctions, the duration that the sanctions will run for and lastly.

5.2 SUMMARY OF CHAPTERS

The submission of findings and conclusions shall be given in line with the specific chapters outlined in this study.

5.2.1 CHAPTER 1

This chapter was a general introduction highlighting the statement of the problem, purpose and core of the study as well as the objectives and scope of this study. Furthermore, this chapter provided research questions, literature review and the methodology of the study.

5.2.2 CHAPTER 2

a walk through the past as it traces the evolution of economic sanctions from ancient times, with early examples like the Megarian Decree in 432 BCE, through to modern institutionalized frameworks like the League of Nations and the United Nations. It explores the transformation of economic sanctions from ad hoc, unilateral actions to multilateral, legally sanctioned measures. Key moments include sanctions during the Napoleonic Wars, the League of Nations' ineffective sanctions on Italy, and the expanded role of the UN Security Council under the UN Charter. The chapter also discusses sanctions during the Cold War, post-Cold War targeted sanctions, and recent examples such as sanctions on Iran, North Korea, and Russia, illustrating the development of increased sophistication and complexity in sanctions regime

5.2.3 CHAPTER 3

This chapter explored the international legal basis of sanctions and the frameworks on which they are grounded. Multilateral sanctions are legally grounded and codified in the UN Charter, particularly Articles 39, 41, 25 and 103, making them binding on member states and thus ensuring collective decision making that comply with procedural safeguards. Unilateral Sanctions by individual states or collective blockades by international organisations remain controversial and arguably violate principles of

sovereignty non-intervention, proportionality, and non-discrimination as enshrined in the UN Charter and international law. It further discusses the general rejection of unilateral sanctions by international organisations like the UN Human Rights Council and General Assembly and contrasts this with jurisprudence such as the ICJ's ruling in *Nicaragua v. United States*. Regional and hybrid sanction regimes by entities such as the EU, AU, and OAS are also analyzed, noting legal tensions and the challenge of fragmentation in sanctions law.

5.2.4 CHAPTER 4

And finally, Chapter 4 critically analyses the impact of sanctions imposed on Iran since 1979, with intensified sanctions post-2012 targeting Iran's nuclear program. It demonstrates how sanctions have violated state sovereignty by breaching non-intervention principles, eroding economic sovereignty through restrictions on trade and financial systems, and through extraterritorial application of sanctions primarily by the US. The chapter exposes the severe human rights implications, including the right to health, food, work, education, and adequate living standards, disproportionately harming vulnerable populations such as women, children, and patients with chronic diseases. It highlights the failure of humanitarian exemptions due to over-compliance by businesses and banks, leading to devastating humanitarian consequences. Economically, Iran faces GDP contraction, hyperinflation, currency collapse, and diminished foreign investment, with long-term structural damage to the economy and social fabric. The chapter concludes that unilateral sanctions on Iran breach international law and human rights obligations fundamentally.

5.3 RECOMENDATIONS

1. The strengthening of international legal frameworks and Due Processes

Having highlighted the fact that economic sanctions interfere with a state's sovereignty and exacerbates the human rights violations of the civilian population, it is recommended that there should be new legal frameworks put in place that speak to sanction intentions while also ensuring that those intentions do not infringe on the sanctioned states

sovereignty and the human rights of the civilian population. This can be done through the establishment of a robust international instrument or treaty that would not only govern the imposition and enforcement but would also call for the periodic review of the sanction. The strengthening of said framework would mean the alignment and clarity of not only multilateral sanctions but also unilateral sanctions¹⁰⁵.

2. Enhancement of Humanitarian Exemptions and Compliance Mechanisms

Although humanitarian exemptions exist, practical obstacles such as the fear of penalties often prevent essential goods and aid from reaching affected populations. Therefore, the strengthened enforcement, clear guidelines and accountability will ensure humanitarian needs are met without compromising sanction objectives. On such notable example is the Un security council Resolution 2664 (2022) which introduced a general humanitarian exemption, which has enhanced the monitoring and prevention of overcompliance by financial organisations and intermediaries that block humanitarian aid¹⁰⁶.

3. Promotion of Multilateral Cooperation and Transparency

The research has illustrated the importance of multilateral sanction frameworks, like those administered by the United Nations Security Council, citing their collective decision making and oversight as essential to balancing coercion with humanitarian concerns. Therefore, the prioritization of multilateral sanctions over unilateral sanctions increases sanction transparency through the publication of clear criteria, objectives, impact assessments and timelines for imposed sanctions¹⁰⁷.

4. Incorporation of Impact Assessments and Periodic Reviews

The imposition of sanctions should be accompanied by rigorous social, economic, and human rights impact assessments to ensure sanctions do not disproportionately harm civilian populations. Periodic reviews (like sunset reviews implored by the world trade

¹⁰⁵ Elena Chachko 'Due process is in the details: Targeted Economic Sanctions And international human rights law' published online by Cambridge university press <https://doi.org/10.1017/aju.2019.25>

¹⁰⁶ UN Humanitarian Exemptions Un security council Resolution 2664 (2022) available at <https://globalsanctions.com/sanctioning-states/un/un-humanitarian-exemption/>

¹⁰⁷ Cristine koehier Zanella, the road taken; the institutionalization of economic sanctions as an instrument at service of collective international security' rev carta inter belo horizonte, v 11, n.2, 2016, p. 53-73

organisation) and adjustments should be mandated to mitigate adverse effects, with the integration with avenues for humanitarian relief integrated into sanction regimes.

5. Support for Vulnerable Populations and Socioeconomic Resilience Mechanisms

Sanctioning bodies and humanitarian agencies should develop targeted support for vulnerable groups disproportionately affected by sanctions, such as women, children, and patients with chronic diseases, to uphold human rights and reduce societal harm from indirect sanction effects.

6. Organisational and legislative reforms in major sanctioning states

Sanctioning states like the United States and the European union ought to modernize their sanction legislation so as to enhance enforcement efficiency, reduce bureaucratic bottlenecks and in turn improve inter agency coordination. legislative reforms ought to balance flexibility with due process and transparency¹⁰⁸. One notable example of such legislative reform is the proposed Dutch sanctioning Act which has introduced administrative enforcement expansions to improve sanction compliance¹⁰⁹

¹⁰⁸ CGEP, Colombia University, the elements of sanctions ripe for reform,” 2025

¹⁰⁹Dutch International Sanctions Act Proposal, 2024

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WALUSUNGU DITWAYI, do hereby declare that this dissertation titled 5 "ECONOMIC SANCTIONS AND THEIR IMPACT ON STATE SOVERIGNTY AND HUMAN RIGHTS: A CASE STUDY THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN" 5 7 which is hereby submitted to the School of Law at the University of Lusaka as part of the requirements for the award of the Bachelor of Laws (LLB) Degree, is solely of my own and that it has, to the best of my knowledge, not yet been presented for any academic purposes in Zambia or elsewhere. Other people's work and sources used in the study have been duly acknowledged. I hereby declare that I have read and understood the regulations governing the submission of the Bachelor of Laws Degree (LLB) dissertation, including those relating to length and plagiarism, as contained in the rules of the University and that this dissertation conforms to those regulations. WALUSUNGU DITWAYI (STUDENT) RECOMMENDATION. 5 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT First and foremost, I would like to thank the Almighty God, whose abundant blessings and mercies have made this achievement possible. 2 Special appreciation is reserved for



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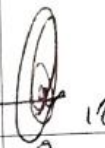
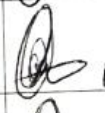
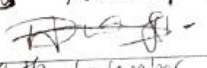
SCHOOL OF LAW

L400B / Dissertation II – DIRECTED RESEARCH (OBLIGATORY ESSAY)

RESEARCH CLEARANCE FORM

NAME: HAKUSUNGU DITWATI STUDENT NUMBER: LCB21211625
SUPERVISOR: MR M. MUSAKUZI TOPIC: ECONOMIC SANCTIONS
AND THEIR IMPACT ON STATE SOVEREIGNTY AND HUMAN
RIGHTS: A CASE STUDY OF THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN.

Stage	Supervisor's Comments	Supervisor's Signature & Date	Student's Signature & Date
Research Proposal		 01/08/25	1 August 2025
Chapter 1 – Introduction	Amend the Research Questions, the Research objectives and include a Chapter Overview.	 08/08/25	8th August 2025
Chapter 2 –	Make minor changes to the subheadings.	 19/08/25	19th August 2025
Chapter 3 –	This looks okay	 13/09/25	13th September 2025
Chapter 4 –	make minor changes and include footnotes to your overall work.	 03/11/25	3rd November 2025

Chapter 5 – Conclusions & Recommendations	Proceed.	 12/11/2025	12 th November 2025 
Abstract, Table of Contents, Bibliography and Appendices	This looks Good	 12/11/25	12 th Nov 2025 
First Draft	This looks Good	 13/11/25	13 th November 2025 
Second Draft	n/	 14/11/25	14 th November 2025 
Final Draft	n/	 14/11/25	14 th November 2025 

***NOTE:** Please attach this form to the back of your dissertation at the end of the research, before submission of the dissertation via the Moodle e-learning platform.