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## Changing Role of UNO in Contemporary World

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### ARTICLE DETAILS

**Research Paper**

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**Keywords:**

*Democratization, sovereign independence, fundamental human rights*

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### ABSTRACT

The UN is the only worldwide intergovernmental organization dedicated to serving the needs of all individuals worldwide. It achieves this by advocating for universal human rights, fostering friendly relations among states based on equality and the right to self-determination, and maintaining global security and peace. It has been giving its members access to an international platform where they may coordinate their efforts to achieve the shared goals. Its contribution to preserving world stability and security has been far from satisfying since years due to Cold War and the (dis)United Nations. Still, it has played a significant role in resolving issues facing the poor in the global South, fostering socio-economic growth, and advocating decolonization. The "first UN" collaborates with the "second and third UN" to carry out coordinated actions that lead to these outcomes. If the UN is democratized and reformatted, its full potential can be realized. The rapidly developing governments of Africa, Asia, and Latin American nations are pushing for the United Nations Security Council to be expanded to reflect the geopolitical conditions of the modern world. The UN cannot mature and secure a prosperous future for itself if it does not adjust to the shifting global reality.

## INTRODUCTION

On October 24, 1945, the United Nations was founded. It has been the focal point of international administration since World War II. Its purpose includes the widest number of issues related to governance and it is the only highly global and universal intergovernmental institution established to date with a virtually universal membership and a worldwide scope. It came into existence with 51 countries. There are now 193 member states in the organization. The UN is still the only international institution and player on a global scale with a program covering the widest variety of governance-related topics. The (UN), being the sole truly world-wide organization, has become the primary forum for addressing issues that transcend national boundaries and cannot be resolved by a single country acting independently. With the UN General Assembly at its centre, it is a sophisticated system that acts as the focal point for international diplomacy. Every year, at the beginning of the General Assembly session in September, a three-week long general debate attracts heads of state and foreign ministers from both big and small states, who seize the chance to address the world's nations and engage in active politicking. The UN was once referred to as a "stage set for an ongoing dramatization of world history" by Conor Cruise O'Brien, a Special Secretary of the UN Secretary-General (1968). "The UN is frequently viewed as solely a 'arena' in which nation-states can present their opinions and ideas in a free and open forum," says Clive Archer, who may provide a better explanation of this metaphorical approach. UN functions as a "arena" for Member States, observers, and non-governmental organizations to express their views and lay out their agendas (1983).

## UN FAMILY AND ITS OBJECTIVES

The United Nations family of organizations is what makes up the UN system. The UN's funds and programs, the secretariat, the fifteen specially designated agencies, and other relevant organizations are all included. The General Assembly's subsidiary bodies include the funds, programs, and offices. The Social and Economic Council and/or Assembly receive reports from the specialized agencies, which are connected to the UN by separate agreements. Legislative bodies and finances are separate for related organizations including the WTO, IAEA, and IOM. The UN System is made up of these initiatives, funds, and specialized organizations in addition to the UN itself. The UN system's members work in all fields of social, scientific, cultural, and economic endeavour. Four purposes in the Charter explained by UNO that it has:

- i) To preserve world peace and security
- ii) to promote friendship among states by upholding the values of equality of rights and peoples' right to self-determination
- iii) to work together to promote respect for fundamental freedoms and human rights as well as to solve global economic, social, cultural, and humanitarian issues. additionally
- iv) to serve as a hub for coordinating international efforts to achieve these shared objectives.

Stated differently, the United Nations has been mandated to protect peace and security "to save the coming generations from the curse of war," as well as to uphold international law, support social progress and higher levels of living, and reiterate belief in fundamental human rights. The United Nations' initial vision was based on four pillars, the first three of which are peace, development, and human rights. These pillars have grown more interconnected over time and provide a coherent framework for both domestic and global goals. The fourth tenet of the UN, sovereign independence, is currently under examination due to concerns about reasonable restrictions on state sovereignty, despite having been mainly attained by decolonization during the organization's first 20 years. The following guiding principles guide how the UN operates in pursuit of its goals:

- It is based on each member's sovereign equality.
- Each member shall fulfill their commitments under the Charter in good faith.
- Their international problems must be resolved peacefully, without threatening global justice, security, or peace.
- They must refrain from threatening or employing force against another state. They don't get involved in the internal affairs of any State, nor does any other member of the UN.

### **EVOLVING ROLE OF THE UN SYSTEM: THE UN'S FUNCTIONS, SUCCESSES, AND OBSTACLES**

The United Nations has spent the last 70 years attempting to address the socioeconomic issues of the "Peoples of the United Nations" by becoming a worldwide democratic organization as opposed to a government. The UN Charter does not mention "democracy" as an obligation for membership or as an objective of the organization. But most of the UN's current activity is based on the notion of democratic governance. The UN was established with the idea that peaceful, stable internal environments would

support peaceful, stable external relations between member states, in addition to serving as an alliance against aggression. Additionally, rather of the names of the High Contracting Parties, "We the Peoples of the United Nations" wrote the Charter. The UN Charter does contain elements of democracy as, like any democratic state, it was written with the welfare of all people in mind. The UN Charter's Article 55 outlines its commitment to promoting the socioeconomic development of nations.

## **DEMOCRATIZATION OF UN SYSTEM**

The United Nations has been working to democratize its system. Let's first talk about what we mean when we talk about "democratization." "Demokratization is a process which leads to a more open, more participatory, less authoritarian society," according to former Secretary-General Boutros Boutros Ghali. Democracy is a form of government that implements the goal of popular will-based political authority through a range of institutions and procedures (1996). According to Boutros-Ghali, member nations are becoming more and more interested in and demanding that the UN be made more democratic. A significant number of speakers, which includes 128 heads of government or state, addressed this critical subject at the Special Anniversary Meeting of the UN United Nations General Assembly, which was held from October 22–24, 1995, in honor of the UN's 50th anniversary.

The Security Council is accused by member states of being selfish, covert, and anti-democratic, but change is resisted by the veto powers. Meanwhile, the UN's efficacy is still being undermined by strong nations' breaches of the UN Charter. So, when the Berlin Wall fell and the Soviet Union broke up, the push to democratize the UN was launched. Global discussion on the UN System's reform has commenced since the Security Council's Heads of Government meeting on January 31, 1992. In this regard, several ideas have been presented. The fundamental goal of these reform suggestions is to increase the UN's democracy, effectiveness, and adaptability to the shifting global environment, particularly with regard to the Security Council. It is essential to redesign the UN organization in order for it to be capable of handling the problems of the twenty-first century, since its duties and concerns have grown to encompass almost every aspect of human endeavor on a global scale.

A proposal suggested expanding the United Nations Security Council (SC) from 15 to 23 or 24 permanent members. This plan includes five industrialized nations (Japan and Germany) and three major developing countries (Brazil, India, and Nigeria). Additionally, Egypt and South Africa are being considered for permanent membership in the Council. Over 25 years have gone since the discussion on enlarging the Security Council started, and the P5 (the five policemen of the world) with the most veto

power, have yet to reach an agreement because of their existing privileged status. They oppose the inclusion of newly rising countries in the UN executive body and the extension of the Security Council. Up to now, it has been impossible to resolve the problem. There is disagreement on the procedure or method that ought to be applied to choose the recipients of newly created permanent seats. Three African nations—Nigeria, Egypt, and South Africa—are prominent candidates for permanent membership. Pakistan and other nations that are aware that their rivals, like India, are more likely to run for office, often oppose the addition of any permanent seats. Thus, Argentina opposes Brazil's candidacy and Italy opposes Germany's seat. In 2010, the US supported India's bid for a permanent seat; China, on the other hand, is against seats for Japan and India. The Chinese stance underscores how the concerns of all five P5 members obstruct Security Council reform. China supports participation from South America and Africa as a sign of its support towards developing nations, but it is against further involvement from Asia. China naturally resists all reforms associated with democratization. To summarize, China wants to be the only representative of a large continent, preserve its veto for historical reasons, and keep the Council small.

In summary, the lack of consensus stems from the critical importance of representation in the Security Council. As Edward C. Luck noted:

It involves deep and enduring disagreements about which countries should be at the table, how many should be there, whether permanent membership should be extended, how groups and regions should be balanced, whether veto power should be kept, changed or eliminated, how action should be taken, and whether the organization's current working methods need to be enhanced. The fact that there is still no resolution demonstrates the different viewpoints and interests of the member nations as well as the importance that each places on the Council's work (2005).

The problem still exists, even if the 2005 conversation was fruitless, which disappointed and frustrated several people. “It would be a grave error for those who think that Security Council reform will go”, Nirupam Sen of India said. “They predict that it will be similar to the Cheshire cat, in which case you would have the smile but the cat would have nine lives”(The New York Times, Nov 2005). The lesson here is that implementing formal reforms like this will probably be challenging and time-consuming. However, under Kofi Annan and Ban Kimoon's administrations, certain administrative improvements were implemented by reducing the size of the Secretariat.

## THE FUTURE OF THE UN SYSTEM

The UN System's ability to change and grow in order to meet the challenges that the world's peoples face is a critical factor in its future. Naturally, this flexibility is only achievable when UN members collaborate to revive the UN System. Let us now discuss the report that was distributed on December 2, 2004, by the High-Level Panel, which was composed of sixteen distinguished individuals nominated by the UN Secretary-General. The UN has seven significant flaws, according to this assessment, including:

- The General Assembly has becoming less active.
- In the future, the Security Council must take the initiative.
- A significant institutional deficit exists when it comes to helping stressed-out and post-conflict nations.
- The Security Council hasn't fully tapped into the benefits of collaborating with sub-regional and regional bodies.
- New institutional frameworks are required to handle the social and economic risks to global security.
- The Secretariat needs to be more structured and professional.

Significant efforts have been made in the past few years to rectify these shortcomings, reinvigorate the United Nations, combat injustice and inequality, combat international terrorism and criminality, and safeguard the environment worldwide. It should be emphasized that the 2005 World Summit Goal The General Assembly resolution 60/1, and the recommendations in the Report of the High-Level Panel were developed over several months of discussions and deliberations, incorporating the viewpoints of global leaders, academics, and concerned individuals.

The UN might not be capable to fulfill the rigorous goals it faces in serving humanity if it doesn't go through a comprehensive overhaul. The ideas and recommendations in this unit aim to improve the UN's effectiveness in resolving contemporary international issues, such as the Security Council's reform and reinstatement of its place in international affairs. The proposed change aims to fortify the decision-making process, establish multilateral agreements, enhance the United Nations' capacity for collective action, and prevent unilateral impulses to employ force without authorization from the Security Council. We believe that two changes to the UN Charter that honor Article 3 are particularly important: expanding the Security Council and significantly limiting the veto power. Furthermore, the States'

involvement in UN activities and the political shifts that have occurred since World War II ought to be represented in the Security Council's membership. It would be essential and reasonable to add one State from each of Africa, Asia, and Latin America, as well as Japan and Germany, to the Council's permanent seat count.

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