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DYNAMICS OF THE ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF PERMANENT AND NON-PERMANENT MEMBERS OF THE UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL

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I. ABSTRACT

The primary responsibility for safeguarding world peace and security rests on the shoulders of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC). This analysis examines developments that affect members' duties and responsibilities, both permanently and in the short term. It examines the impact of power imbalances between 10 non-permanent members (NPMs) elected for two-year terms and five permanent members (P5) with trust rights.

This paper looks at the benefits of regular membership, ways for NGOs to make an impact, and ongoing discussions on reforming the UNSC to better represent contemporary geopolitics a key UN body with a mandate to create the world the protection of peace and security and the United Nations Security Council. Member states from regions with little or no representation in the Security Council (SC) have been attacked as undemocratic since the institution's founding in the mid-1940s.

This study examines how duties and responsibilities of various permanent and non-permanent members of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC). This gives them a unique ability to shape international policy and maintain geopolitical interests. In contrast, non-permanent members appointed for two-year terms do not have veto power but support the work of the Council by participating in decision-making processes, committees, and peacekeeping missions.

Within the context of worldwide peace and security, it examines the special roles, rights, and regulations of those member types. This examination examines the evolving roles and responsibilities of permanent and non-everlasting individuals of

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the United Nations Security Council³, highlighting the dynamics of power, choice-making, and affect inside the Council's framework and its impact on global governance. The effects of their responsibilities on conflict resolution, decision-making strategies, and the U.S.'s typical efficacy in maintaining international peace and balance are all examined in this article.

II. KEYWORDS

United Nations Security Council, Permanent Members, Non-Permanent Members, UNSC Roles and Responsibilities, Veto Power

III. INTRODUCTION

Within the United Nations system, the UN Security Council is the most powerful institution. It was established by the United Nations General Assembly and its core function is promoting world peace and security system.

The Council consists of 15 members, divided into two groups: the five permanent members (P5) - China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United States - who can exercise veto powers to prevent any decision, and the ten non-permanent members.

Permanent members are China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United States. These countries have a special status in the UNSC because of the central role they play in global affairs and historical events, especially their status as victors of World War II. The relationship between permanent and non-permanent members is complex and dynamic.

Although the P5 has considerable power due to its veto power, non-permanent members bring important perspectives and Elected members help ensure the legitimacy and representativeness of council actions.

Members are elected by the General Assembly on a regional basis to serve two-year terms. The influence of these members on council decisions is highly constrained and

³ Osita G. Afoaku and Okechukwu Ukaga, 'UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL REFORM: A CRITICAL ANALYSIS OF ENLARGEMENT OPTIONS' (*jstor*, 2001) <<https://www.jstor.org/stable/45193959>> accessed 13 July 2024

they have no veto power. The primary responsibility of the UNSC is to safeguard international peace and security. Ten temporary members appointed by the General Assembly to two-year terms form the organization in addition to five permanent members – China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United States. There are strong ties and are analyzed.

IV. HISTORICAL CONTEXT

The League of Nations' inability to prevent international hostilities led to the creation of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) in 1945. With veto rights⁴, the permanent membership of five members – often referred to as the P5 – was intended to represent the post-World War II power dynamics and guarantee some degree of stability.

The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) changed hooked up in 1945 following the failure of the League of Nations to save international conflicts. The structure of the USA, especially the inclusion of the 5 everlasting contributors (P5) with veto rights, became without delay motivated through the energy dynamics that emerged after World War II.

These P5 members – comprising the United States, the Soviet Union (now Russia), the United Kingdom, France, and China – have been the main Allied powers that emerged positively from the struggle. The primary subject in establishing this shape changed into making sure that those leading nations had a primary function in maintaining worldwide peace and stability, reflecting their repute as the maximum effective nations within the publish-war world.

The veto strength becomes added as a method to prevent unilateral decisions that might improve tensions among these key players, making sure that any sizable action by using the U.S. Could require consensus among the foremost powers, thereby aiming to save further international conflicts.

⁴ Kirgis, Frederic L, 'UN Security Council Reform and the Right of Veto: A Constitutional Perspective' (*ProQuest*, October 2001) <<https://www.jstor.org/stable/45193959>> accessed 13 July 2024

V. FUNCTIONS OF MEMBERS WHO ARE PERMANENT

The authority to veto substantive measures pertaining to sanctions, peacekeeping operations, and the UN Secretary-General's appointment is the most significant privilege of permanent members. They have a great deal of influence over the decisions and agendas of the Council thanks to their authority.

As veto-wielding nuclear powers, the permanent members bear primary responsibility for upholding global security. It is anticipated that they will assist with disarmament campaigns, peacekeeping missions, and conflict resolution.

The P5 contributors of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) play a crucial function in authorizing peacekeeping operations, enforcing sanctions, and overseeing the appointment of the Secretary-General, as mentioned in the UN Charter. According to Chapter VII, Article 39 of the UN Charter, it has the authority to determine the existence of any danger to peace, breach of peace, or act of aggression, and to decide on measures to restore worldwide peace and safety. This includes the authorization of peacekeeping operations, where the P5's settlement is essential because of their veto strength.

Furthermore, under Article 41, the United States can impose sanctions, starting from financial measures to travel bans, as a manner to put in force its choices. The P5's veto energy lets them block any sanctions they disagree with, giving them giant manipulation over global responses to conflicts.

Regarding the appointment of the UN Secretary-General, Article 97 of the UN Charter states that the Secretary-General is appointed by means of the General Assembly upon the recommendation of the Security Council. Here, the P5 members' veto power performs a decisive function, as any one of them can block a candidate, hence shaping the management of the UN.

The P5's reputation as nuclear powers and their responsibility for worldwide protection, in addition, decorate their impact, as they are anticipated to steer disarmament efforts, help peacekeeping missions, and make a contribution to battle decision tasks worldwide.

VI. NON-PERMANENT MEMBERS' ROLES

Non-permanent members take part in the UNSC's decision-making procedures, casting votes on resolutions and participating in debates on a range of global concerns. Non-permanent members frequently contribute a variety of viewpoints and represent regional interests to the Council, which broadens its scope and improves its representativeness⁵.

Non-permanent members discuss and vote on resolutions and other decisions of the council. They help develop peacekeeping policies and other measures aimed at preventing war and establishing a peaceful world order. They provide a platform for local perspectives, ensuring that Council decisions take into account the concerns of different parts of the world.

While non-everlasting individuals of the U.S. Play a critical role in selection-making through balloting on resolutions, collaborating in debates, and representing local hobbies, their effect is constrained as compared to that of the everlasting individuals (P5). Unlike the P5, non-everlasting individuals do not own veto electricity, which considerably constrains their capacity to dam selections they disagree with.

This loss of veto energy approach is that whilst non-permanent participants can make a contribution of various perspectives and advice for local worries, their ability to shape the very last consequences of the Council's choices is limited. As a result, the effect of non-everlasting members is regularly overshadowed via the P5, who maintain the last choice-making authority through their veto rights.

A. Difficulties and Dynamics

As seen by the times when differences among the P5 have resulted in protracted disputes or impasses, the veto power of permanent members can cause power imbalances and impede prompt action on important topics. Discussions over permanent membership expansion and veto power limitations in the context of UNSC

⁵ Eduards Gailiņš, 'Small powers as non-permanent members of the United Nations Security Council: A case study of the Baltic states' (Security Defence, 2024) <<https://securityanddefence.pl/Small-powers-as-non-permanent-members-of-the-United-Nations-Security-Council-A-case,172983,0,2.html>> accessed 17 August 2024

reform⁶ underscore the continuous difficulties in striking a balance between the interests of various member states.

B. Effect on International Peace and Security

The actions and interactions of permanent and non-permanent residents have a direct bearing on the effectiveness of the Council in resolving conflicts, peacekeeping, conducting peace operations, and dealing with crimes. Despite obstacles, the UN remains a place of its own importance for diplomacy, communication, and consensus among member states.

As this structure is established, P5 interacts dynamically with NPMs. P5 is highly influential due to its veto power over policies and procedures developed by the council. However, NPMs representing a wide range of countries and perspectives are needed to advance local issues and build greater confidence in Council policies.

VII. MEMBERS OF THE UNSC

In the United Nations Security Council, there are members who are permanent in the United Nations Security Council, and members who are not. The Council has fifteen members in total, ten of whom are non-permanent⁷ and five of them are serving as permanent. They are China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United States.

Albania, Brazil, Gabon, Ghana, India, Ireland, Kenya, Mexico, Norway, and the United Arab Emirates are the ten non-permanent members. The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) elects the non-permanent members for two-year terms. Each year the General Assembly replaces five of the non-permanent members.

Members are chosen from every corner of the globe. Africa accounts for three of the members, with two each from Asia, Western Europe, Latin America, and the Caribbean. There are six groups in all: two from Asia-Pacific, two from Latin America

⁶ Manish S. Dabhade, 'India's pursuit of United Nations Security Council reforms' (*OBSERVER RESEARCH FOUNDATION*, 24 December 2017) <<https://www.orfonline.org/research/india-s-pursuit-of-united-nations-security-council-reforms>> accessed 13 July 2024

⁷ Merve Aydogan, 'UN General Assembly elects 5 non-permanent members to UN Security Council' (*aa.com*, 6 June 2024) <<https://www.aa.com.tr/en/world/un-general-assembly-elects-5-non-permanent-members-to-un-security-council/3242326#>> accessed 13 July 2024

and the Caribbean, two from Western Europe, one from Eastern Europe, and three from Africa.

VIII. INDIA SELECTED TO JOIN AS A NON-PERMANENT MEMBER

India received 184 of the 193 votes at the UNGA, and as a result, was chosen as a non-permanent member of the UNSC in June 2020. The period⁸ of membership is 2021–2022. For the years 2021–2022, India was the only contender from the Asia-Pacific region.

India has served eight terms at the UNSC. India had previously served as a member in 1950–1951; 1967–1968; 1972–1973, 1977–1978; 1984–1985; 1991–1992; and 2011–2012. A Few Crucial Points About India's Status as a Non-Permanent UNSC Member. India is dedicated to advancing multilateralism and responsible, inclusive solutions to global peace and security through this non-permanent membership.

A. INDIA'S 5S APPROACH

- **Samman** – Respect
- **Samvad** – Dialogue
- **Sahyog** – Cooperation
- **Shanti** – Peace
- **Samridhhi** – Prosperity

B. OBSTACLES TO OBTAINING A PERMANENT SEAT AT THE UNSC

Despite its simplicity on the surface, that is complicated by protests of certain of the permanent members of the Security Council in particular. China has put a spoke in India's wheel where the Council is concerned. China, and its sidekick Pakistan to whom it has given a veto over Chinese policy towards India, believes that if India gets

⁸ Alka Jain,'UNSC non-permanent member for 2028-29'(Live mint, 16 December 2022) <<https://www.livemint.com/news/world/jaishankar-declares-india-s-candidature-as-unsc-non-permanent-member-for-202829-11671160464259.html>> accessed 13 July 2024

a permanent seat on the UN High Table as happened with Japan after it became industrialised. It will move to assert itself in sub-continental geopolitics. Moreover, India is seen as an expanding nuclear power⁹.

India faces several significant hurdles in its quest for a permanent seat on the United Nations Security Council (UNSC). For the first time, the permanent members, especially China, opposed the Council's expansion. China, for example, has historically opposed India's bid because of its geopolitical rivalry. Moreover, the amendment process itself requires a two-thirds majority in the UN General Assembly, including the consent of all permanent member states now, making it difficult to achieve any amendment.

Another challenge lies in the lack of consensus among other UN member states regarding which countries should be granted permanent seats. While India has strong support from countries like the United States, Russia, and France, other potential candidates for permanent seats, such as Brazil, Germany, and Japan, also have significant backing, leading to competing interests and proposals. Furthermore, there are concerns about regional representation. Some countries in South Asia, including Pakistan, oppose India's bid, fearing it would lead to regional dominance.

Similarly, African and Latin American countries are also pushing for their own representation, complicating the negotiation dynamics. According to analysts, this is the main obstacle impeding India's hopes of joining the UNSC. It is a futile exercise to give him a permanent seat without requiring any measures to limit his nuclear capabilities. France, among others, is the latest country to advocate for permanent residency of the UN Scheduled Castes. But with the other five permanent members believing that India must give up its nuclear weapons in order to join, the goal of India becoming a permanent member of the United Nations seems out of reach.

⁹ Dr. Ashok Sharma, 'India's quest for UN Security Council permanent membership: A holy grail of its foreign policy' (*Times Of India*, 1 April 2024) <<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/blogs/ashoks-statecraft/indias-quest-for-un-security-council-permanent-membership-a-holy-grail-of-its-foreign-policy/>> accessed 13 July 2024

C. UNSC AND INDIA

India has been attempting, but has not been able, to be onto the UNSC's permanent membership list. India is not a permanent member of the UNSC, despite having a sizable population, a developing economy, and nuclear power. Being a member of the G4 (Brazil, Japan, Germany, India) provides India a leg up in the race to become a permanent member of the UNSC. The list of allegations made by India to secure its position as a permanent member of the UNSC is provided below:

- India's economy is expanding at the quickest rate in the world.
- India became a Nuclear Weapons State not too long ago.
- India is the world's largest liberal democracy and second-most populous country.
- The nation contributes significantly to UN Peacekeeping Operations and has a high purchasing power parity rating.
- India would not only need to get the required votes from other UN members but India has got to better its relation with every UN member state in order to get the votes needed for permanent membership.

IX. INDIA'S CAMPAIGN FOR UNSC PERMANENT MEMBERSHIP: HISTORICAL BACKGROUND AND HIGHLIGHTS

India's bid for a permanent seat on the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) is a long and strategic task. The journey began in the early years after India's independence when interest in global leadership roles first surfaced. The campaign gained momentum in the 1990s, especially after the end of the Cold War, when geopolitics began to change.

A. Special Features

- **1994:** Formation of the G4: A key moment was the formation of the G4 alliance in 2004, which included India, Brazil, Japan, and Germany. The G4 countries support each other's efforts to secure permanent seats at the United Nations

and jointly recommend expanding the council to reflect contemporary global realities

- **1998:** Nuclear test: India's nuclear test in 1998 marked India's emergence as a nuclear-armed state despite global sanctions. This established India as a military superpower and strengthened its claim to a permanent throne.
- **2005:** UN General Assembly Resolution 60/1: India received overwhelming support from the global South, particularly at the 2005 World Summit, where UN General Assembly Resolution 60/1 recognized the need for Security Council reform but no concrete steps were taken to expand the membership of the council in permanent membership.
- **2010:** U.S. aid: During his visit to India in 2010, then-U.S. President Barack Obama expressed support for India's bid for a permanent settlement. This approval of a key P5 member was an important diplomatic breakthrough, even if it did not lead to immediate action.
- **2021:** India Election Period: India became a non-permanent member of UN Scheduled Castes in 2021-2022. India has actively contributed during this period.

X. ANALYTICAL EXAMINATION OF INDIA'S ATTRIBUTES AND COUNTERARGUMENTS

A. Expanding Economy

- **Strengths:** India's rapidly growing economy, now one of the largest in the world, makes it a key player in global trade and finance. This financial prowess lends weight to his claim to a permanent seat, as economic power is an important factor in global influence.
- **Counter-argument:** Critics argue that economic growth alone precludes a responsible global leadership role. They highlight issues like poverty, inequality, and domestic challenges that India still faces.

B. Nuclear Weapons State

- **Strengths:** As a recognized nuclear power, India has significant strategic capabilities, essential for a permanent member of the UNSC responsible for maintaining global peace and security.
- **Counter argument:** Some countries, especially non-nuclear powers, see India's nuclear status as a destabilizing factor rather than a suitable candidate for a permanent UNSC seat. India's efforts are also strongly opposed by nuclear-armed rivals such as Pakistan.

C. Liberal democracy and largest population:

- **Strengths:** India's status as the world's largest democracy with a population of 1.4 billion supports its claim to represent a significant proportion of the global population.
- **Arguments against:** Critics may argue that membership of the UNSC should not be determined solely by population. In addition, India faces criticism over domestic issues such as human rights and political divisions that some say weaken its democratic credentials.

D. UN contributions to peace:

- **Strengths:** India's substantial contribution to UN peacekeeping operations reflects its commitment to global peace and stability. This operational experience highlights its ability to fulfill the responsibilities of a permanent member of the UNSC.
- **Counterargument:** While contributions to peace are important, they are often seen as instruments of soft power. Some argue that India's military involvement should be complemented by diplomatic leadership in conflict resolution, where it has had mixed success.

E. The importance of global diplomatic consensus:

- **Challenge:** In addition to demonstrating its strength, India needs to seek wider international support, especially from influential countries like the P5. This

requires sustained diplomatic efforts, addressing the concerns of regional neighbours, and navigating strong global agreements.

XI. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF UN SECURITY COUNCIL MEMBERS

The maintenance of international peace and security is the responsibility of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC), which makes the roles and obligations of its members vital in world affairs¹⁰. The following summarizes the responsibilities of various jobs for members who are not permanent:

A. Permanent Members (P5)

The veto power is the most important right and obligation of permanent members. Any substantive resolution, including those pertaining to sanctions, peacekeeping operations, and the UN Secretary-General's appointment, is subject to veto power by each of the P5. They have a great deal of influence over the Council's choices and decisions because of this authority.

As big nations with the ability to veto decisions, permanent members are mostly responsible for maintaining international security. It is required of them to actively participate in peacekeeping missions, disarmament campaigns, and conflict resolution. Their choices and actions have a big influence on how well the Council handles global crises.

The P5 frequently takes the lead in UNSC diplomatic initiatives. They lead endeavours to resolve complicated international problems and participate in high-level talks and dialogues between disputing parties. It is required of permanent members to respect and advance international norms and laws. They play a crucial role in maintaining respect for international accords and Security Council resolutions, which promote an international order based on norms.

¹⁰ Madeleine O. Hosli, 'Squaring the circle? Collective and distributive effects of United Nations Security Council reform' (*Springer*, 29 March 2011) <<https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s11558-011-9101-1>> accessed 13 July 2024

B. Temporary Participants

Regular non-members actively participate in UN decision-making processes. They can participate in debates and vote on resolutions on international issues such as humanitarian crises, sanctions, and peace efforts. Non-permanent members of the Council often speak for specific regional interests. They ensure that local concerns are addressed effectively and strengthen the cohesion of the Council by bringing different perspectives, experiences, and objectives to the negotiations.

Non-permanent members have the ability to encourage mediation efforts, advocate for specific measures, and help disagreeing parties negotiate for effective conflict resolution. They play an important role in nonviolent conflict resolution processes and in the perception. The non-permanent membership of the United Nations acts as a bridge between regional groups and ideologies. They are essential in promoting cooperation, consensus, and bridging differences to achieve winnable solutions.

C. Joint Accountability

Preserving international peace and security is the primary duty of both permanent and non-permanent members. In order to handle new challenges, avert confrontations, and advance international stability, they must cooperate, engage in dialogue, and act as a group. It is the duty of all UNSC members—permanent and non-permanent—to carry out Security Council resolutions.

To fulfill the objectives of the Council, this includes supporting peace efforts, supporting sanctions, and cooperating with United Nations agencies. Members of both parties must endorse the goals and ideals articulated in the UN Charter. This includes maintaining national sovereignty, promoting human rights, and avoiding actions that threaten global peace and security.

XII. THE PERMANENT FIVE CHALLENGE AND THE REFORM OF THE UNSC

Reforming the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) has long been a problem, with special emphasis on resolving the issues raised by the Permanent Five (P5)

members¹¹. We now examine the reform initiatives and their approaches to addressing the Permanent Five challenge:

A. Reform of the UNSC

The international community has been debating and discussing reform of the UNSC (United Nations Security Council). Reform initiatives are mostly directed at resolving concerns about the Council's membership, procedures for making decisions, and general efficacy in preserving world peace and security. A few of the most important reform ideas include raising the number of permanent members, decreasing the Permanent Five's (P5) veto power, strengthening the position of non-permanent members, and promoting accountability and transparency within the Council.

B. The Everlasting Five Challenge

- **Structural barriers:** The term "Permanent Five" refers to the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC): The United States, the United Kingdom, France, Russia, and China. The challenges faced by the "permanent five" lie in their entrenched position and the difficulty of adjusting UN structures to include additional permanent members.
- **Political impediments:** The veto power of each of the "Eternal Five" allows each of them to block any major decisions. This not only gives them greater influence over Council decisions, but also makes it more difficult to implement any amendments that could undermine their powers or alter the UN structure. The five permanent states have their own geopolitical interests and rivalries, often leading to disagreements on important global issues. This rivalry extends to the question of UNSC reform on the whole. For example, China's opposition to India's claim to a permanent seat stems from their strategic rivalry in Asia. The Permanent members are now more likely to stand for changes that could reduce their power in the UN. They benefit from privileged positions and have

¹¹ Aderemi Opeyemi Ade-Ibijola, 'The United Nations Security Council Reforms and The Permanent Five Challenge: A Historical Perspective' (*Research Gate*, January 2020) <https://www.researchgate.net/publication/343648089_The_United_Nations_Security_Council_Reforms_and_The_Permanent_Five_Challenge_A_Historical_Perspective> accessed 13 July 2024

no incentive to support reforms that would bring in new permanent members, potentially shifting the balance of power.

- **Diplomatic hurdles:** Amendments to the Composition of the United Nations require a two-thirds majority in the UN General Assembly, all five permanent members. Those two limitations make it very difficult to get the necessary attention for any significant change. With veto and permanent status, the United States, China, France, Russia, and the United Kingdom are the five most influential permanent members (P5) of the United Nations, but this privilege has attracted criticism and opposition. A few issues of concern are the potential abuse of veto powers to restrict actions, disproportionate powers in the Council, growing disregard for rights, and uncertainty about decisions by states. Little has happened is appropriate, and ongoing discussions on UNSC reform address these issues.
- **INDIA in the UNSC:** India strongly opposed racial inequality in South Africa and actively participated in the 1947–1948 drafting of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR). India has contributed to the decision-making process on a number of problems, including tackling the Middle East's violent conflicts, preserving peace in Africa, and admitting former colonies to the UN. It has made significant contributions to the UN, especially in the area of upholding global security and peace. India has been an active participant in the United Nations Security Council (UNSC)¹² since its inception, contributing to various peacekeeping missions and advocating for the interests of developing countries. As a non-permanent member, India has been elected to the UNSC for eight terms, with the most recent term being from 2021 to 2022. Throughout its tenure, India has emphasized the need for reforms within the UNSC to better reflect the contemporary global realities, advocating for a more inclusive and representative council. This includes India's long-standing demand for a permanent seat in the council, supported by its significant contributions to

¹² Manjiri Chitre, 'Not beyond India's capacity': UNGA president on bid for permanent UNSC seat (Research Gate, 10 October 2023) <<https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/not-beyond-indias-capacity-unga-president-on-bid-for-permanent-uns-c-seat-101696909323999.html>> accessed 13 July 2024

international peace and security, its large population, and its status as the world's largest democracy. India's role in the UNSC has been marked by its commitment to multilateralism, counter-terrorism, and promoting sustainable development. India has sent more than 160,000 troops and a sizable number of police personnel to 43 peacekeeping operations. India's demand for a permanent seat in the UNSC is quite reasonable given its population, territory, GDP, economic potential, legacy of civilization, cultural diversity, political system, and previous and current contributions to UN activities.

- **Problems with the UNSC:** Missing Meeting Minutes and Records: The UNSC does not keep meeting minutes or follow standard UN procedures when deliberating. There is also no "text" of the meeting available for review, modification, or objection. Power Play in the UNSC: In this day and age, the five permanent members of the UNSC's veto authority are out of date. The UNSC in its current configuration has turned into a barrier to comprehending global shifts and dynamics concerning human security and peace. Divides Among the P5: The UN membership¹³ is deeply polarized, which prevents decisions from being made or from being taken seriously. Important decisions are sometimes obstructed by recurring differences among the UNSC P-5. Example: The UN, UNSC, and World Health Organization did not effectively assist countries in managing the spread of the coronavirus epidemic. An Underrepresentation Organization: It is concerning that the four major world powers – India, Germany, Brazil, and South Africa – are not represented on the UNSC. The UNSC has ten non-permanent members chosen by the General Assembly to serve two-year terms in addition to its five permanent members. As mentioned earlier in the chapter, the SC is the only UN body with the authority to make decisions that will be binding on all UN members and is

¹³ Madeleine O. Hosli, 'The United Nations Security Council: The Challenge of Reform' (*Research Gate*, January 2015)
<https://www.researchgate.net/publication/304861877_The_United_Nations_Security_Council_The_Challenge_of_Reform> accessed 15 July 2024

tasked with upholding international peace and security in accordance with the UN Charter.

In light of this, this section will look at the attempts to change the UN Charter that have been undertaken since the late 1960s. The attempt of the UN Permanent Five members to maintain the status quo in terms of the UN's structure is also covered in this section.

XIII. UNSC FROM THE 1960s TO THE MID-2000s

From the 1960s to the mid-2000s, the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) experienced tremendous changes and encountered several difficulties. Here's a quick rundown of the major breakthroughs and events that occurred during this time:

- **1960s:** A wave of decolonization in the 1960s brought newly independent African and Asian nations into the UN, drastically changing the makeup of the Council. The US-Soviet competition during the Cold War had a significant impact on UNSC dynamics. The P5's use of veto power frequently led to deadlocks, especially on matters pertaining to the conflicts in the Middle East and Vietnam.
- **1970s–1980s:** The UNSC was instrumental in peacekeeping operations, which included missions in Africa, the Middle East, and Cyprus. Yet, the effects of Cold War hostilities persisted throughout the decision-making process. The UNSC's response to humanitarian crises in the 1980s, including the famine in Ethiopia and the conflicts in Central America, demonstrated the Council's growing influence beyond conventional security issues.
- **1990s:** The early 1990s saw the end of the Cold War, which created new avenues for UNSC intervention. During the Yugoslav Wars and the Kosovo crisis in particular, the Council was crucial in resolving problems in the Balkan region. The UNSC approved major peacekeeping operations, such as those in Rwanda,

Somalia, and Cambodia¹⁴. On the other hand, implementation and coordination issues were visible, most notably during the genocide in Rwanda.

- **2000s:** Resolutions on counterterrorism initiatives and interventions in Afghanistan and Iraq resulted from the UNSC's reorganization of priorities following the 9/11 attacks. The effectiveness and legitimacy of these activities became hotly debated topics. The idea of humanitarian intervention became well-known as a result of discussions on the duty to protect (R2P) populations against crimes against humanity, war crimes, genocide, and ethnic cleansing.

In the 2000s, there was a surge in requests for the UNSC to be reformed to better align with modern geopolitical landscapes. These recommendations included addressing veto powers and considering a larger permanent membership base.

XIV. CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS

The initiatives to restructure the UNSC from the 1960s to the mid-2000s have been covered in this study. It maintained that the UNSC reform initiative was essentially doomed because of the institutional landmines that had been established by virtue of the veto powers granted to the Permanent Five members. Even current viewpoints on this matter make it abundantly evident that the biggest obstacle to the realization of the goals of those nations vying for permanent membership in the UNSC is still the makeup of the veto club.

The roles and responsibilities of permanent and non-permanent members of the United Nations are distinct but interdependent. Permanent members wield considerable power, primarily through their veto powers, while non-permanent members contribute primarily to the representation and legitimacy of the Council. Interactions between these two groups are crucial for the functioning and effectiveness of the United Nations Security Council to maintain world peace and security¹⁵.

¹⁴ Courtney J. Fung, 'Historical Overview of China and Intervention at the UN Security Council' (*Oxford Academic*, July 2019) <<https://academic.oup.com/book/35182/chapter-abstract/299517268?redirectedFrom=fulltext>> accessed 15 July 2024

¹⁵ CFR.org Editors, 'The UN Security Council' (*cfrr.org*, 26 February 2024) <<https://www.cfr.org/backgrounder/un-security-council>> accessed 15 July 2024

Thus, his article concludes that the UN itself does not appear to be inclined toward implementing the critical SC reforms. In accordance with the UN Charter, prospective countries seeking permanent membership must receive the approval of at least two-thirds of the total UN membership as well as the votes of all Permanent Five members to ratify a proposed amendment to the UN Charter. Only then will the requirements for the expansion of the SC permanent seats be met.

Studies have identified several key suggestions to address these challenges. First, expanding the number of permanent members to include emerging powers and important regional players would increase the representation of the Council. Second, modifying deterrence capacity, perhaps by introducing restrictions or requiring higher thresholds for its use, may prevent its frequent use to deter necessary actions third, strengthen the role and capacity of non-permanent members in the long term or through increased participation in special committees could empower them to contribute effectively. These reforms would not only improve the legitimacy of the United Nations but also better reflect contemporary geopolitics and better address global security challenges.

When the time comes to expand council seats, the six permanent UN members will still have the final say, jeopardizing the aspirations of candidates. But UN reform remains conceivable considering that China was not invited to join the UN as a permanent member rather than a new Chinese Taiwan in the 1970s consequently aspiring states' permanent representatives play a role in the UNSCs using whatever diplomatic and political agenda they have. It can also be built if China can.

To make UNSC expansion more possible, it is vital to keep in mind unique proposals that bridge the space among the contemporary permanent and non-everlasting club categories. One such thought should contain the advent of a brand new membership category, every now and then known as "semi-everlasting" individuals.

These participants will be granted longer phrases than the current non-permanent individuals, in conjunction with enhanced privileges, which include a confined veto energy or improved an effect on choice-making processes. This could permit for

greater representation of emerging powers and key regional players without diluting the electricity of the present permanent individuals.

The risks of inaction in reforming the U.S. Are large. The contemporary shape, in large part unchanged considering the fact that its inception in 1945, is increasingly viewed as old and unreflective of the geopolitical realities of the 21st century. This notion undermines the legitimacy and effectiveness of the UN as an entire, as it fails to symbolize the interests of a broader range of nations. Public opinion in many countries supports the idea that the United States is now not geared up to handle global demanding situations effectively, with calls for reform developing louder.

World leaders, such as those from emerging economies and regions like Africa and Latin America, have repeatedly pressured the want for a greater inclusive and representative UNSC to hold its relevance and authority on the global stage. Without reform, the United States dangers turning into an increasing number disconnected from the worldwide community, weakening the UN's capability to maintain peace and security in a hastily converting international.