

Qs- Define United Nation? Critically examine the Powers and voting procedure of the UN Security Council?

### United Nations:-

Start with the introduction of the qs

The UN is an international organization founded on 24 October 1945 following the conclusion of World War II. Its primary objectives as outlined in its Charter are to promote international cooperation, maintain peace and security, foster social and economic development, protect human rights and provide a forum for member states to address global issues collectively.

World War I (1914-1918)	⇒	League of Nations (1919)	⇒	World War II (1939-1945)	⇒	UN (1945)
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Key factors/features of the United Nations include:

### (1) Membership:-

The UN has 193 member states, as of my knowledge cutoff in January 2022. Each member state is represented in the General Assembly, where decisions on important matters are made.

(2) Principal Organs:- The UN consists of six principal organs each with specific functions. These are the

(i) General Assembly.

(iv) The Secretariat

(ii) The Security Council

(v) Economic and Social Council.

(iii) The International Court of Justice.

(vi) Trusteeship Council.

Leave a line space between headings for neatness



(3) General Assembly :-

It serves as a forum of a member state to discuss and coordinate on international issues. Each member has a one vote and decision on non-security matters are made by a two-thirds majority.

The General Assembly meets annually in regular sessions.

(4) Security Council :-

It is responsible for maintaining international peace and security. The Security Council has 15 members, including 5 permanent members (China, France, Russia, UK and US) with veto powers. The other ten members are elected for two-year terms.

(5) International Court of Justice (ICJ) :-

The principal judicial organ of the UN, the ICJ settles legal disputes between states and provides advisory opinions on legal questions referred to it by the General Assembly, the Security Council and other UN organs and specialized agencies.

(6) Secretariat :-

Headed by the Secretary-General, the Secretariat carries out the day to day work of the UN. The Secretary-General is appointed by the General Assembly on the recommendation of the Security Council.



(7) Economic and Social Council: (ECOSOC)

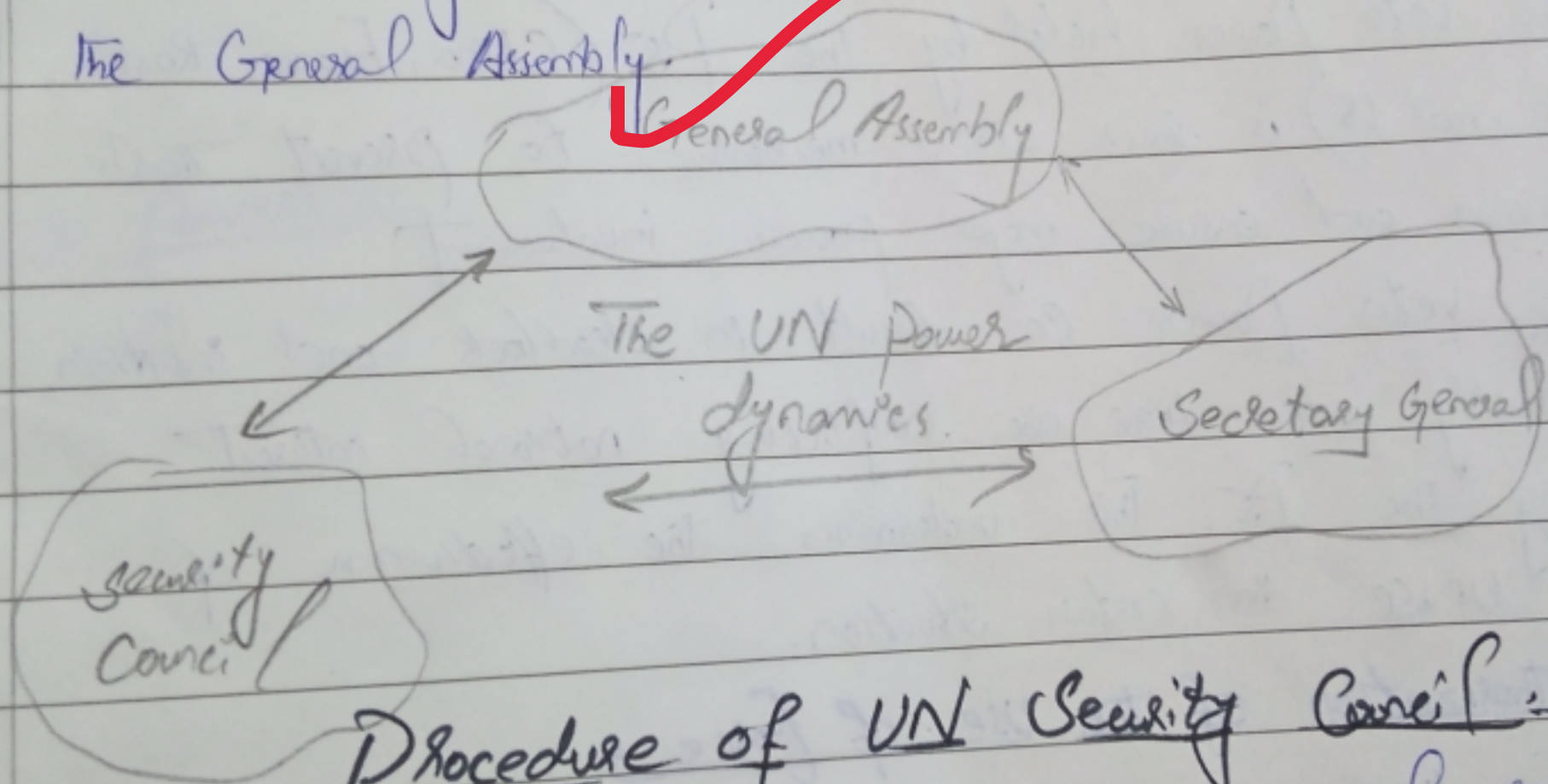
It promotes international economic and social cooperation and development. ECOSOC has 54 members, which are elected by the General Assembly for 3 years terms.

(8) Human Right Council:

It promotes international economic and social cooperation and development. ECOSOC has 54 members.

It Established in 2006, it addresses human rights issues and makes recommendations to the General Assembly.

The Human Rights Council has 47 members elected by the General Assembly.



Procedure of UN Security Council:

The UNSC is one of the six principal organs of the UN and is responsible for maintaining international peace and security. The Powers and voting procedure of the UNSC are outlined in the UN Charter, they reflect the complex dynamics of international relations.



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## Powers of United Nations Security Council

### (1) Primary Responsible for Peace and Security:-

The UNSC has primary responsible for maintaining international peace and security. The emphasizes the importance of a centralized body in addressing global conflicts.

The dominance of P5 (Permanent members with veto powers) can lead to selectively in addressing conflicts, potentially based on their national interest.

### (2) Veto Powers:-

The veto power held by the P5 (China, France, Russia, UK and US) is seen as a mechanism to prevent rash decision and ensure major power involvement.

- The veto power can result in deadlock and inaction, especially when there are conflicting national interest among the P5. This undermines the effectiveness of the UNSC in certain situation.

### (3) Authorization of the use of force

The UNSC can authorize the use of force to maintain or restore international peace and security, providing a legal basis of collection/collective security actions.

Controversies arises when interventions are perceived as a selective or influenced by the geopolitical interests of a certain members.



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Highlight the important parts and references (5) page

## Powers of UNSC :- Continue

### (4) Peacekeeping Operation :-

The UNSC can deploy peacekeeping forces to areas of conflict, contributing to the stabilization and rebuilding of the post conflict societies.

Peacekeeping missions face challenges in terms of effectiveness, impartiality and resource allocation.

There is also criticism of the lack of enforcement capabilities.

## Voting Procedure of UNSC :-

### (1) Permanent members and veto powers :-

The inclusion of permanent members recognizes the post world war II geopolitical reality and aims to prevent unilateral action by any single country.

The veto power can lead to gridlock and hinder timely responses to crises, raising questions about the democratic nature of the decision-making process.

### (2) Non-Permanent members :-

Non-Permanent members are elected for two-year terms, bringing regional representatives and diverse perspectives to the UNSC.

Non-Permanent members lack the same level of influence as permanent members, limiting their impact on critical decisions.



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(3) Two-Thirds majority :-

Certain decisions, such as amendments to the Charter, require a two-thirds majority fostering consensus and preventing hasty or ill-considered actions.

Achieving a two-thirds majority can be challenging, especially on contentious issues, leading to prolonged debates and inaction.

Criticism and Reforms Proposals :-

(1) Exclusivity and Lack Representation :-

Critics argue that the UNSC does not adequately represent the current global distribution of power and influence. There are calls for the inclusion of new permanent members, especially from Africa, Latin America and other regions.

(2) Veto Powers Concern :-

The misuse of veto powers by some permanent members has been a source of criticism. Proposals for limiting or reforming the use of the veto have been suggested to prevent abuse and ensure more responsible decision-making.

(3) Democratic Deficit :-

Some argue that UNSC's structure with its emphasis on the P5, lack democratic legitimacy. Calls for increased transparency, accountability and more representative composition have been made.



# United Nations Security Council

Attempt in detail by giving subheadings

## Functions and Powers of UNSC

Under the "United Nations Charter" the functions and powers of the Security Council are as follows:

- (1) To maintain international peace and security in accordance with the principles and purposes of the UN.
- (2) To investigate any dispute or situation which might lead to international friction.
- (3) To recommend method of adjusting such disputes or terms of settlements.
- (4) To formulate plans for the establishment of a system to regulate armaments.
- (5) To determine the existence of a threat to a peace or act of aggression and to recommend what action should be taken.
- (6) To call on members to apply economic sanction and other measures not involving the use of force to prevent or stop aggression.
- (7) To take military action against an aggressor.
- (8) To recommend the admission of new Members.
- (9) To exercise the trusteeship functions of the UN in 'Strategic areas'.

(10) To  
appoint  
Judge  
of

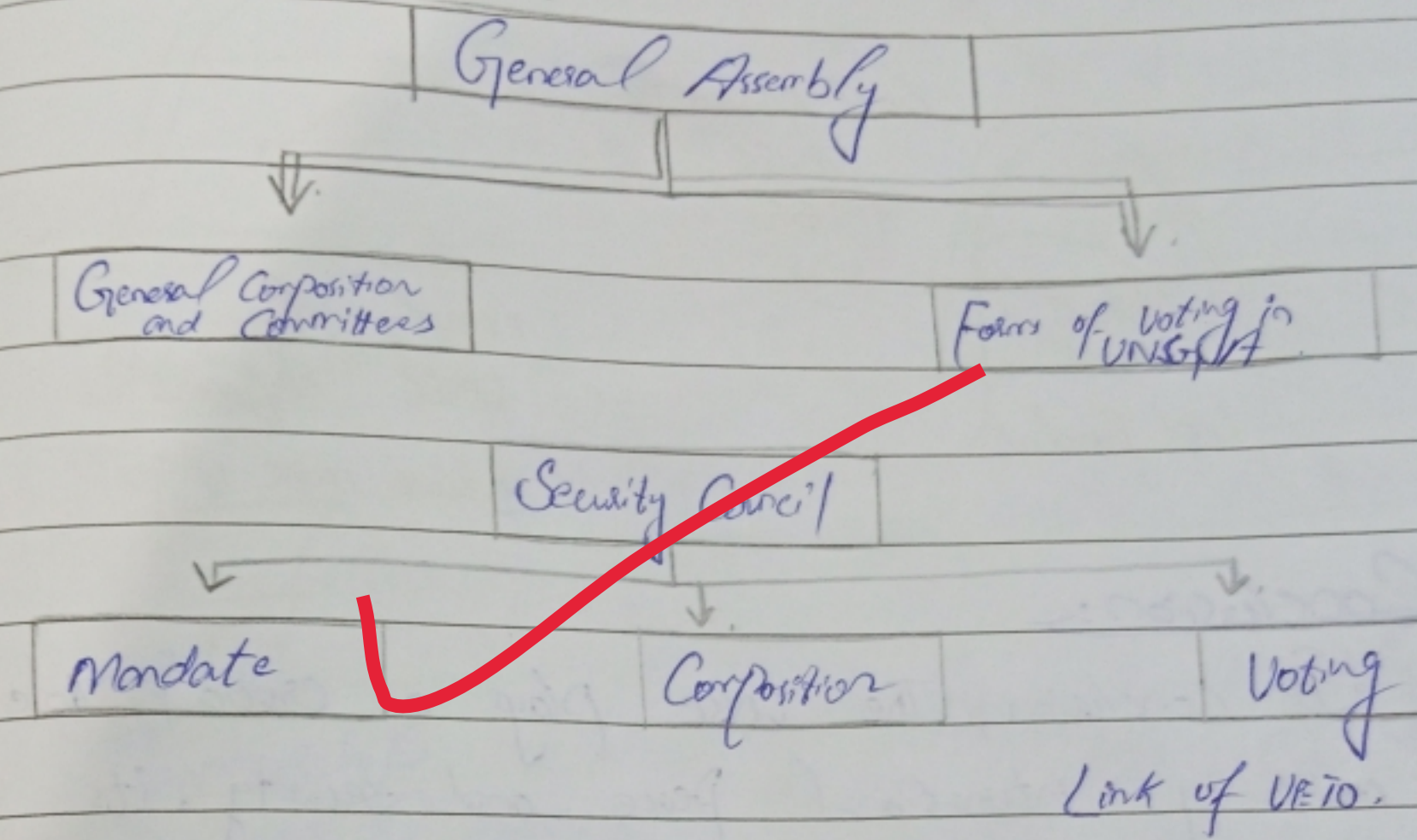


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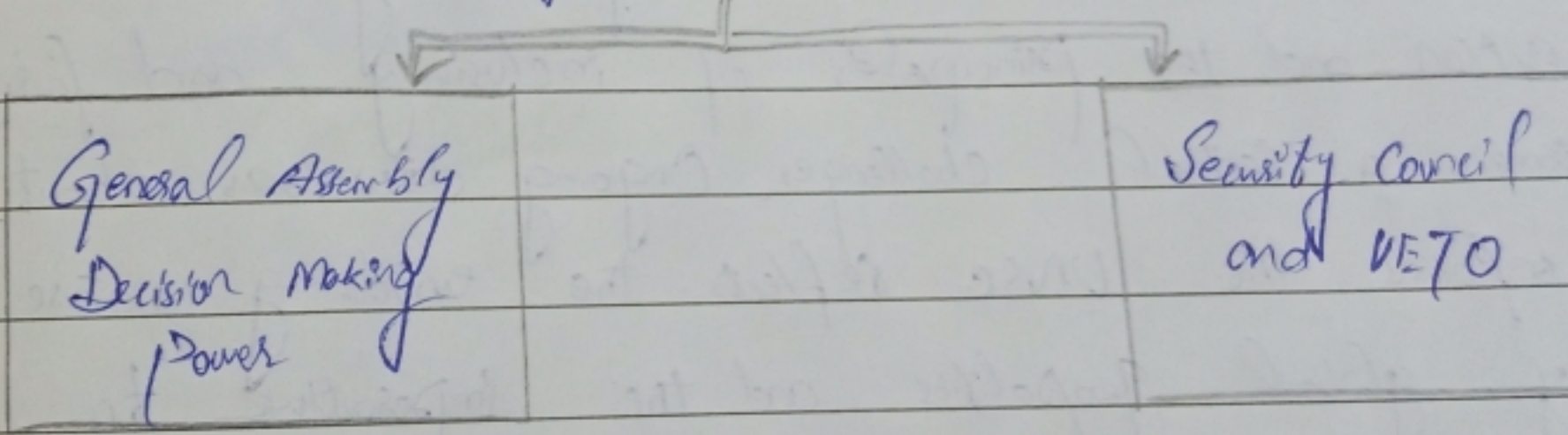
(10) To recommend to the General Assembly that appointment of the Secretary - General and together with the Assembly, to elect Judges of the ICJ (International Court of Justice)



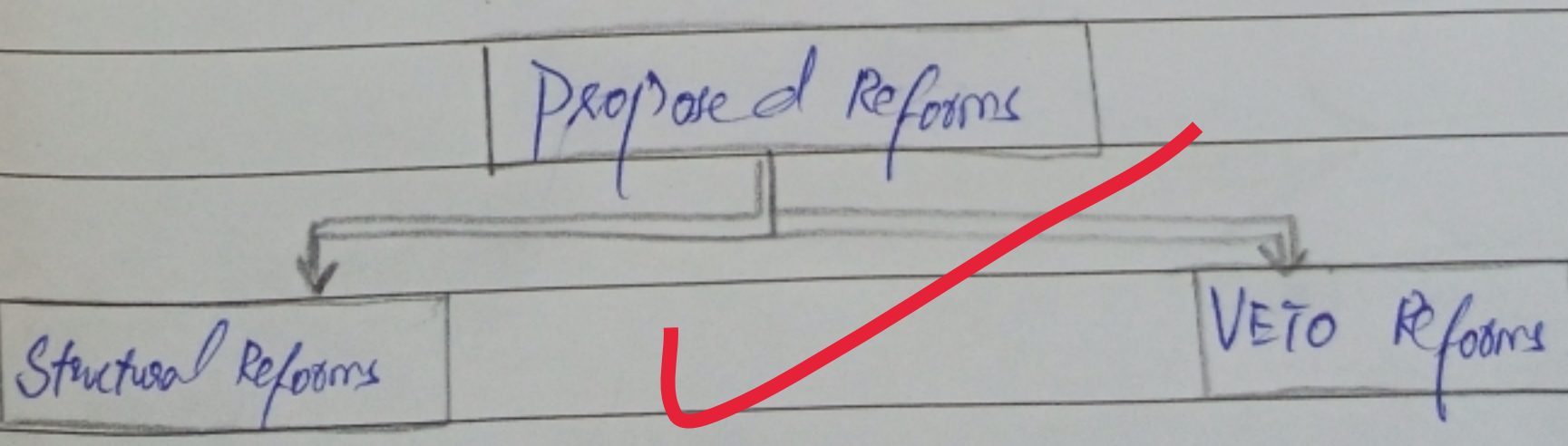
# Organizational Structure:



## Shortcomings / Issues of UN



## Security Council



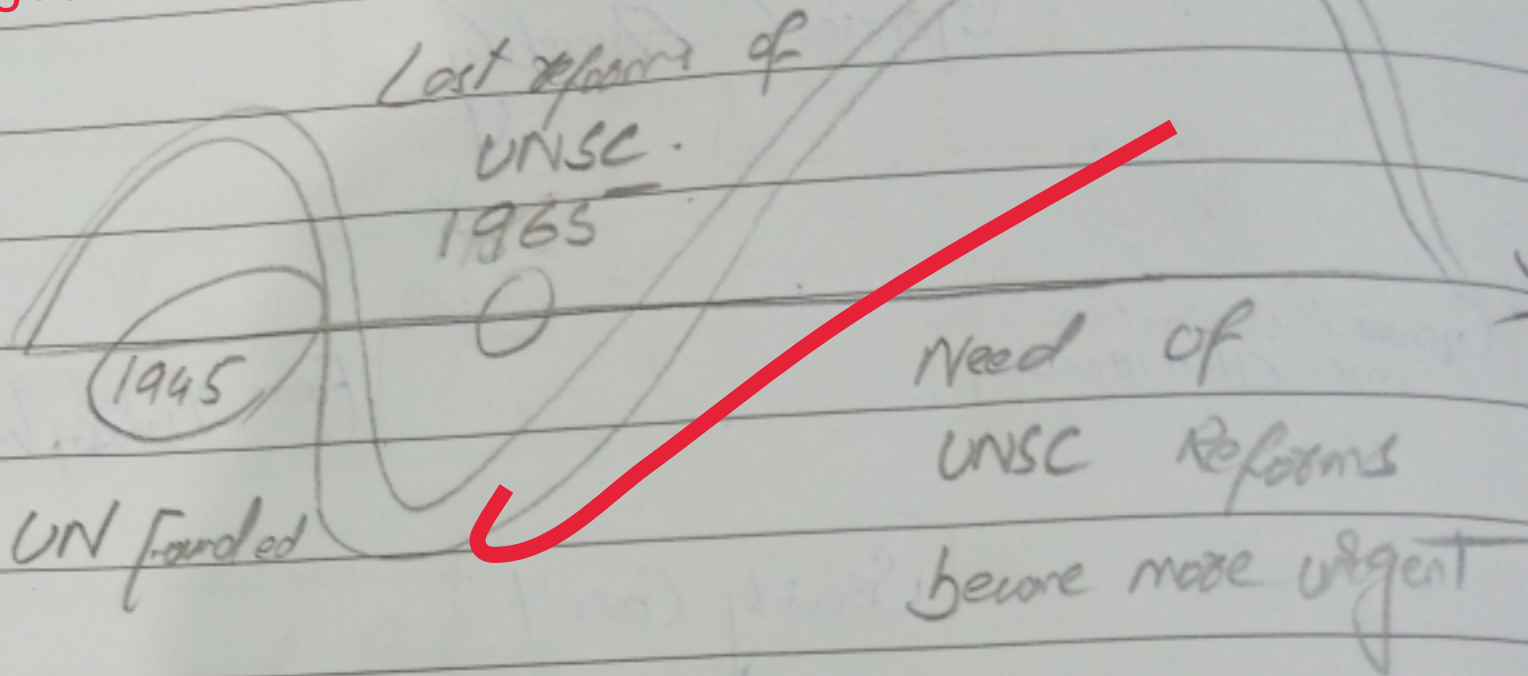


Work on the structure of the answer.

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A 20 marks answer should have around 15 subheadings and be on 9-10 pages



### Conclusion:-

In conclusion, the UNSC plays a crucial role in maintaining international peace and security, its powers and voting procedure are subject to criticism. The tension between the need for strong, decisive action and the principles of inclusivity and fairness remains a central challenge. Ongoing discussions about reforms to the UNSC reflect the evolving nature of global geopolitics and the imperative to adapt international institutions to contemporary realities.

Improve the paper presentation and the references part.



Attempt and upload a single qs at a time. Work on the pointed mistakes and then upload the

Qs Highlights the factors and forces, which have contributed to sideline the UN in terms of Peace and Security?

UN - The UN is an international organization founded on 24 October 1945 following the conclusion of World War II. Its Charter are to promote international cooperation, maintain the peace and security.

- The UN Security Council is composed of 15 members.
  - The seats are divided between 5 permanent members and 10 non-permanent members.
  - The 10 non-permanent members are elected by the UN General Assembly.
  - Every year, 5 non-permanent members are elected by the UN General Assembly.
  - One seat from either the African Group or the Asia-Pacific Group goes to Middle East country, often referred to as the "Arab swing seat" (Alternative of these group, each odd-year election).
- Several factors and forces have contributed to sidelining the UN in terms of its peace and security functions. While the UN plays a crucial role in global governance, there are challenges that have limited its effectiveness in addressing certain conflicts and

crises -



## Key Factors of UN:

### (1) VETO Power of Permanent Members:

The veto power held by the five (5) permanent members (P5) of the Security Council

- (China, France, Russia, UK and US) can lead to paralysis and inaction. When there is a lack of consensus among the P5, the Security Council may be unable to authorize necessary interventions, even

in the face of severe humanitarian crises.

### (2) Geopolitical Interest of Major Powers:

The geopolitical interest of major powers often shapes the decision and the action of the UN.

National interests can take precedence over collective Security Council concerns, leading to selective engagement in conflicts and crises. This selective approach undermines

the credibility and impartiality of the UN.

### (3) Ineffectiveness in High-Stakes Conflicts:

The UN has faced challenges in dealing with high-stakes conflict, particularly when powerful states are involved. In instances where geopolitical considerations are paramount, the UN may struggle to assert its authority and influence outcomes.



#### (4) Limited Enforcement Capacities :-

The UN's capacity to enforce its decisions, especially those related to the use of force, is limited. Peacekeeping missions may lack the necessary resources, mandates or capabilities to effectively address complex and volatile situations, leading to a perception of ineffectiveness.

#### (5) Rising Power of Regional Organization :-

Regional organizations have increasingly taken on peace and security roles, sometimes sidelining the UN organization such as African Union (AU) and European Union (EU) have conducted peacekeeping operation and crises management efforts in their respective regions, often without direct UN involves.

#### (6) Proliferation of Non-State Actors :-

The rise of non-state actors, including terrorists groups and insurgencies has created challenges for traditional UN peacekeeping operations. These actors often operate outside the conventional state-centric framework, making it difficult for the UN to effectively engage and mediate.

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### (7) Erosion of Consensus among Member States:

Consensus among member states on critical peace and security issues has become increasingly elusive. Deep divisions among major powers and regional blocs hinder the UN's ability to formulate and implement coherent and robust responses to conflict.

### (8) Resources Constraints and Bureaucratic Challenges:

The UN faces resources constraints and bureaucratic challenges that affect its ability to respond swiftly and decisively to evolving crises. Delays in decision-making processes and resources shortages can impede effective peacekeeping and humanitarian efforts.

### (9) Contemporary of Complexity Conflicts:

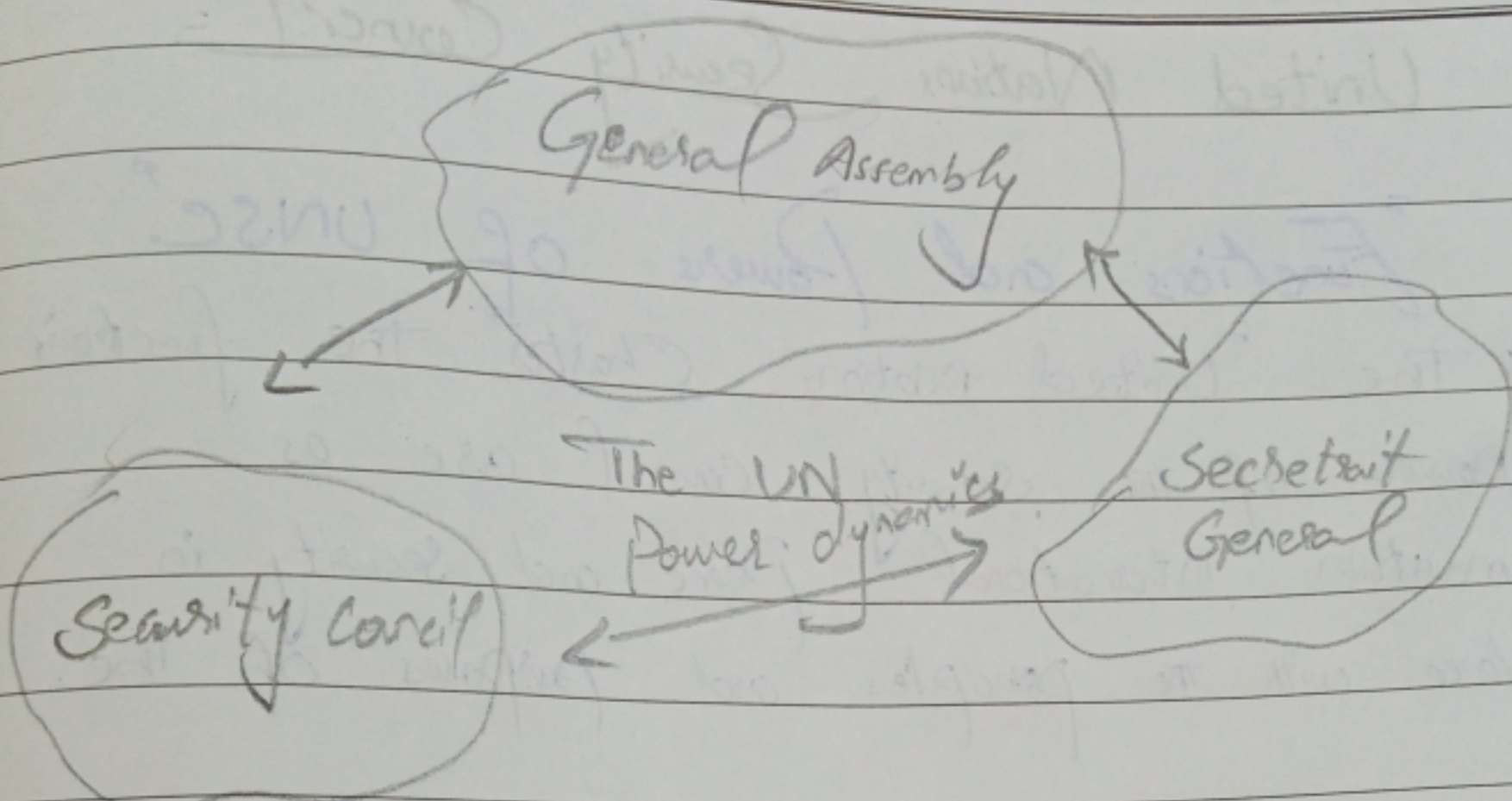
Contemporary conflicts often involve multiple layers of political, ethnic and religious dimensions. The complexity of these conflicts makes it challenging for the UN to design and implement interventions that address root causes and build sustainable peace.

### (10) Lack of Trust and Confidence:

In some cases, the UN has faced criticism for its perceived inability to prevent or resolve conflict. This lack of trust and confidence among key stakeholders including member states and local populations can undermine the UN's legitimacy and impact.



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The following factors are involved in the UN

- |                      |                                   |
|----------------------|-----------------------------------|
| (i) Membership       | (v) General Assembly              |
| (ii) Principal organ | (vi) Security Council             |
| (iii) ICJ            | (vii) Economic and Social Council |
| (iv) Secretariat     | (viii) Human Rights Council       |

### Conclusion

Efforts to address these challenges often involve calls for UN reforms, including the change to the structure of the Security Council, revisiting the veto power and enhancing the organization's overall effectiveness in responding to contemporary peace and security issues.

