

Keeping in view the Powers of Security Council what suggestions can you give for improving its structure as a dominant body within UN?

### 1 Introduction:

Security Council is one of the principal organs of UN responsible for maintaining international peace and security in the world. It is empowered to take military actions against any country which violate international law. It can also impose sanctions and initiate investigation. However, due to powers concentrated in the hands of its permanent members, it has become debatable in term of its relevancy. Therefore, it is crucial to reform Security Council by enhancing membership seats to make it fit for its purpose to stay relevant in the modern world.

2. The Powers of Security Council under Chapter V: A Comprehensive Guide  
Security Council is a key organ of UN. It is mainly responsible for ensuring international peace and security. Under Chapter V of UN Charter, following are some of the powers of security council in case of occurrence of international conflict:

2.1 Leverage to initiate investigation  
Security Council is empowered — under article 34 of the UN Charter — to start investigation of any dispute which threatens international peace and security. The council has the authority to look into it.

2.2 Power of recommending peaceful resolution  
Moreover, it can also recommend peaceful settlement of dispute.

2.3 Power to impose sanctions  
Article 41 grants Security Council the power to impose sanctions.

2.4 Authorized to take military actions  
The council is also authorized to take military actions against any country which destroys international peace. For instance, during Gulf wars in 1990-1991, in response to Iraq's

invasion of Kuwait-

3. An overview of issues in the structure of Security Council:

According to article 93, the Council is comprised of 5 permanent members and 10 non-permanent members. These permanent members including, China, Russia, UK, USA, and France possessed veto power—which means they can reject any resolution agreed upon by other 14 members of the Council. This impedes smooth functioning of the UN overall due to the unjustified use of veto power several times in history.

4. Recommendations for Improving Structure of Security Council:

Although, misuse of veto power has been bone of contention and has aroused many questions on the relevancy of UN, yet following actionable measures can be helpful to improve the Council's output.

4. Structural Reforms by Increasing seats of permanent membership: Enhancing permanent representation can help in making the Council more pluralistic. Since veto power

is concentrated in few hands, countries of Middle East and Africa have been deprived of their due rights in the council. If the permanent membership is given to them, there would be more flexibility in the council and equitable power would be ensured. In this regard, the proposed: African Group and Arab Group must be taken under consideration for instance, enlarging the council to 26 members and permanent membership ~~case~~ respectively.

4.2 Strengthening its principal Organ the General Assembly:

Apart from bringing structural reforms in security council, it is imperative to empower General Assembly by amending A.1 which state that it can only recommend solutions in case of any conflict between or among its member states.

Therefore, it is suggested to give General Assembly more powers.

5. Conclusion:

Security Council performs one of the major role of UN. However, it has not been reformed since 1965.

As a result, the Council has been questioned and labelled as an unfair body of the UN running on the whims of five permanent members. Hence, it is suggested that it must be reformed to serve its purpose in a more just way. First, it needs to enlarge its permanent members by bringing African Union and Gulf states into it. Secondly, General Assembly also needs to be more empowered as it is the sole body in which all the nations have equal votes i.e. one vote for one nation. This shows that structural reforms are need of hour both in veto power and membership.