Is UN still fit for the purpose? Discuss with reference to the ongoing Russia-Ukraine and Palestine-Israel conflict. Suggest measures to reform the body.

1 Introduction:

A coin has always two sides: despite dysfunctioning of United Nations in Russia-Ukraine and Israel-Hamas war. UN is working tirelessly in other mandates such as socio-economic services. Although, many resolutions have been failed in Security Council and General Assembly due to multiple factors. UN have been continuously putting efforts to maintain peace and security globally through peace-keeping forces and sanctions etc. The UN is as relevant today as at any time in its history, but it needs reform. First and foremost, permenant membership which possess veto power and use it unfairly needs to be rotated as per General Assembly purposal. Moreover, inclusion of African union can also be helpful. Hence, the need of hour is to bring structural reforms.

2. An Overview of UN Mandates:

United Nations mandates are including: maintaining international peace and security. (chapter I of the UN charter) Moreover, it is

one of the largest organization carrying out socio-economic services. It also fosters international relations by diplomacy. Furthermore, it encourages peaceful resolutions of global conflict or any conflict erupts between its member country. Lastly, UN is responsible for the provision of platform to discuss world issues etc.

3. Inability of UN to Prevent Russia-Ukraine War:

Despite a huge mandate of maintaining global peace and security, UN has been unable to prevent bloody war in Europe. Russia-Ukraine war is going on since 2022-it is the deadliest conflict in Europe after world war II. In this context, UN relevancy is being question due to ineffective resolution passed by UN General Assembly. For instance, in March 2022, UNGA passed resolution with 144 votes in favour of Ukraine, however, the conflict is not stopped yet. Therefore, inability of UN to prevent the war in Ukraine is factor that put question mark on

UN relevancy.

4. **Violation of UN Resolution in Israel-Palestine Conflict:**

Another example of UN failure to prevent conflict internationally is ongoing Israel-Palestinian war. Despite UN resolution number 181 which says divide Palestine into separate Jewish and Arab states with Jerusalem under international administration, it remained a far-flung dream. Israel has been violating international law and UN resolutions with impunity. The war and illegal occupation is going on in Palestine for more then a month now and international community is deaf to the cries of Palestinians.

5. **Why UN relevancy is questioned?**

Abovementioned two major conflicts that are impacting the world socio-economically are clear indications of ineffectiveness of United Nations. As a result of its inability to prevent these conflict its relevancy is being questioned. Recently. at 78th session of UNGA in New York, Albanian President who chaired UNSC raised a question about UN effectiveness. He asked

why its key members are violating its laws.

5.1 Weak Role of UN General Assembly:

One of the reasons behind UN stagnant is weak role of United Nations General Assembly. Article 11 of the UN charter states: UNGA can only recommend solutions to security Council its decisions would not be implemented mandatorily. Hence, this result in weakness of overall orgnization.

5.2 Misuse of Veto Power:

Another reason of UN weakness is undue use of veto power by the permenant members of security Council. Reportedly, US and USSR or Russia have been frequently using veto power in favour of their national interests. Hence unfair representation in UN security Council pose challenge to its relevancy.

5.3 Lack of Reforms:

It has been long that UN has reformed its structure. Last reforms were made in 1965. since then on the world has transformed significantly. Therefore, it can be said that absence of reforms is the reason behind UN weak role.

6. Is UN Fit for the Purpose:

Despite a number of weaknesses, UN is the only orgnization comprises of 193 members committed to maintain global peace and security. In this regard, Therefore, to achieve a realistic goal of UN, it is necessary to reform the body to stay relevant and fulfill its purposes. United Nations is one of the largest orgnizations that gather nearly all the countries of the world on a single platform, hence it is called the world parliament. Some of the achievements are given below:

6.1 Successfully Prevented world war III:

United Nations is still fit for the purpose which can be observed from its success of preventing world war III or any other massive conflict involving more than six to seven countries. For instance, it has successfully passed more than hundreds of peaceful resolutions between its member states. Hence, preventing great war is one of the efforts of UN which makes it fit for the purpose of maintaining global peace and security.

6.3 Enormous Socio-Economic Services:

One of the laudable services of UN is provision of socio-economic assistance to developing countries. Its mandate is being fulfilled by Social and Economic council which serve world largest refugees and cater millions of people by providing food and shelter. Therefore, its other mandates can not be denied which stating UN relevancy in present times.

6.4 Peace-Keeping Missions in War-Ridden Countries:

Sending peace-keeping forces to conflict-zones is also UN praiseworthy role which illustrates that UN is still fit for the purpose. This can be ascertained from peace-keeping missions in Rwanda, Somalia and Kosovo. As a result of it UN had been successfully assisted vulnerable civilian in war times. Hence, UN seems to be fit for the purpose.

7. Recommendations to Increase UN Effectiveness:

To make UN more efficient it is imperative ~~that~~ to first agree on what kind of reforms it will be. According

to geopolitical analyst following measures would be better serve the purpose:

7.1 Strengthening United Nations General Assembly:

It is one of the important organ of UN which mandates sovereign equality of all the member states. Hence, by amending article 11 of the UN Charter its decision-making power can be more empowered. It will not only ensure sovereign equality of all members but also reduce manipulation of major resolutions.

7.2 Reforming the Security Council:

Another step can be helpful to improve UN image is bringing structural reform in security Council. In this regard, various purposals have been under consideration among which following would be helpful if taken:

7.3 African-Union Inclusion in Security Council:

One of the crucial purposals is inclusion of African-Union in Security Council. According to it, member structure can be increased to 25. Enlarging the council would

contribute to the council from developing countries. Therefore, representation from African accounts for approximately 1.2 billion of the world population would be an effective step.

7.4 Rotating Permenant Membership:

In order to ensure accountability and equietable representation in one of the largest organization, it is necessary to consider, open-ended purposal by UN General Assembly. It not only favours increasing members of the council, but also will ensure fair treatment in times of conflict.

8. Conclusion:

United Nations is one of the most important intergovernmental orgnizations in the world. However, the world has evolved while global institutions have not kept pace, potentially making them part of the problem rather than the solution. To peacefully resolve Russia-Ukraine and Israel-Palestinanian conflict it is crucial to reform security council by removing or expanding portions of veto power. Lastly, it is also important to empower General Assemby in order to ensure transparency.