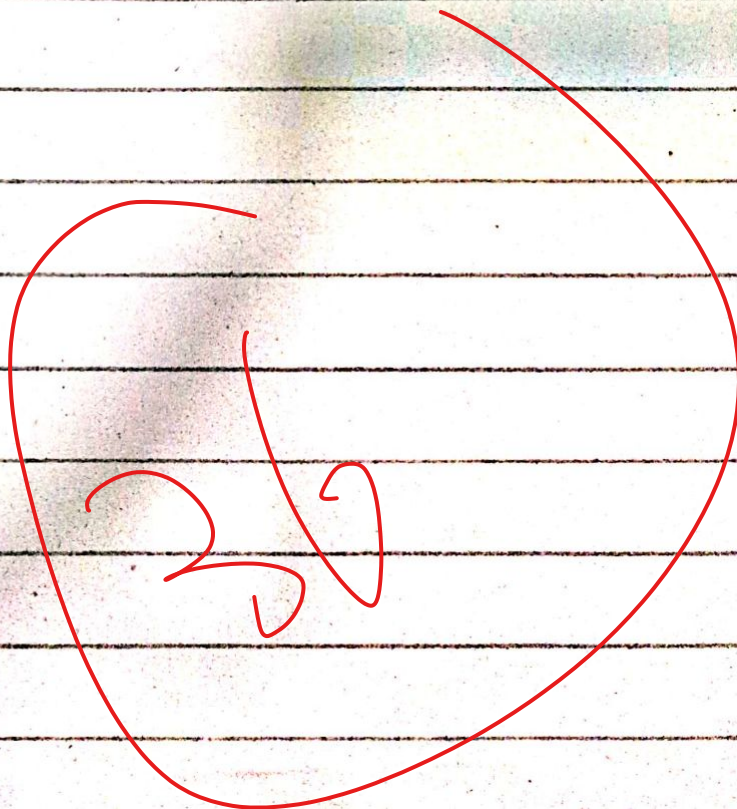


Has United Nations
Security Council become
redundant?

well researched content
need more comprehensive paragraphs techniques



Has the United Nations Security Council become redundant?

(2)

Outline

1. Introduction

Thesis statement:

Although the United Nations Security Council is failing in ensuring peace and security in the prevailing geopolitics due to its structural limitations, inability to address the Israeli war on Gaza, and the Russian-Ukraine war effectively, and failure confront non-traditional security threats, it still serves as a diplomatic platform, significant reforms are ~~necessary to restore its relevance in contemporary world.~~

2. Achievements and Positive Contributions

2.1 Preventing the occurrence of WW-II

2.2 Successes in Peacekeeping Missions

2.3 Humanitarian aid and Development

2.4 Promotion of Human Rights and Social Justice

2.5 Supporting post-conflict Reconstruction

2.6 Effective use of sanctions in certain conflicts

~~2.7 Supporting democratic transitions~~

2.8 Role as a forum for dialogue and negotiation

2.9 Combating terrorism and disarmament ✓

~~2.10 Supports climate cooperation. (COP38)~~

3. Ineffectiveness in addressing major conflicts

3.1 The Israel's war on Gaza

3.2 The Russia-Ukraine war

3.3 Syrian Civil war, Yemen conflict, and Rohingya crisis in Myanmar

3.4 Kashmir conflict and annexation of Crimea

4. Inability to address non-traditional security threats

4.1 Inadequate response on climate change ✓

4.2 No mechanism to address cybersecurity threats

4.3 Global Health Issues

~~4.4 No mechanism on the governance of Artificial Intelligence.~~

5. To enhance UNSC's effectiveness and relevance, several reforms and remedial measures can be considered:

5.1 Introduce restrictions on the use of veto power

5.2 Implement a "responsibility not to veto" norm in cases involving mass atrocities.

5.3 Expansion of ~~non~~ Permanent membership

5.4 Develop robust early warning systems and conflict prevention mechanisms to address potential conflicts before they escalate.

5.5 Establish dedicated mechanisms within ^{the} UNHSC to address non-traditional security threats (AI, cybersecurity, climate change and global health issues)

6. Conclusion

The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) remains a pivotal institution in the international system. It is charged to maintain international peace and security. Under international law, it is the sole global body that can authorize force. Despite criticisms and evolving global dynamics, its role is far from redundant. However, it has faced criticism, particularly regarding the veto power held by the permanent members. It has failed to resolve the Israeli war on Gaza, the Russian-Ukraine war and non-traditional security threats of cybersecurity, artificial intelligence and challenge of climate change. Here some pertinent questions arise: Is UNSC falling short in the face of the challenges of the 21st century? Has this global body

become irrelevant? why do five countries have so many powers to control world politics? Can UNSC be reformed, keeping the need of the 21st century in mind? Although the United Nations Security Council is failing in ensuring peace and security in the prevailing geopolitics due to its structural limitations, inability to address the Israeli war on Gaza, and the Russian-Ukraine war, unable to resolve the non-traditional security threats, it still serves as a diplomatic platform, significant reforms are of paramount importance to restore its relevance in contemporary world.

However, it has gained numerous achievements. Preventing the occurrence of WW-III is perhaps the biggest success of the

United Nations Security Council. The Council has facilitated diplomatic dialogue and conflict resolution, thereby averting numerous potential escalations into global warfare. One of the key mechanisms through which the UNSC has achieved this success is by providing a platform for major powers to engage in dialogue, negotiate differences, and resolve conflicts without resorting to war. The presence of five permanent members (the United States, the United Kingdom, France, Russia, and China) ensures that the world's most powerful nations have a stake in maintaining peace and are committed to conflict prevention. Additionally, the Council's actions during the Cuban Missile Crisis, its interventions in the Korean

Panorama, and its role in the Middle East Peace process illustrate its capacity to de-escalate tensions and foster stability.

In addition to preventing the occurrence of WW-III, the successes of peacekeeping missions serve as compelling example of the United Nations Security Councils (UNSC) effectiveness and commitment to global peace. Since its inception, it has authorized over 70 peacekeeping operations, deploying personnel to conflict zones to maintain ceasefires, protect civilians, and support peace agreements. For instance, missions in Lebanon and Liberia are of great importance in maintaining peace and aiding political transitions. These missions, often in

collaborations, with regional organisations, prevent violence and aid in reconstruction, showcasing the UNSC's ability to mobilise international resources for conflict resolution and long-term stability.

The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) has also been instrumental in the realm of humanitarian aid and development. It addresses urgent needs and fosters recovery in conflict-affected areas. The UNSC facilitates critical aid delivery, coordinating with agencies like the World Food Programme (WFP), and United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). In Syria, for instance, UNSC resolutions have enabled vital cross-border aid amidst conflict. By addressing immediate humanitarian needs and

creating stable environments for long-term development, the UNSC significantly contributes to alleviating suffering and building resilient communities. This highlights the Council's broader mandate of maintaining peace and supporting sustainable global development.

Furthermore, the UNSC champions human rights and social justice through its mandates, missions. It ensures accountability for violations. For instance, the establishment of the International Criminal Tribunals for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) and Rwanda (ICTR) showcases its dedication to justice, bringing those responsible for genocide and war crimes to account. Moreover, the UNSC focuses on addressing abuses in conflict zones, The UN Human Rights Council's

reports highlight efforts in places like Syria and Myanmar. The UNSC places the protection of human dignity at the heart of its mission to maintain global peace and security.

The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) also plays a vital role in post-conflict reconstruction. It helps nations transit from conflict to stability. It assists in rebuilding infrastructure, governance, and social services. For example, the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) has supported efforts to rebuild institutions and foster economic development. This helps create a stable environment necessary for sustainable development, addressing root causes of conflict and preventing

relapse into violence. The UNSC's involvement in post-conflict reconstruction underscores its commitment to long-term peace and security.

Moreover, the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) has used sanctions effectively to maintain global peace and security. For instance, sanctions against North Korea have curbed its nuclear program by targeting trade and finance. In case of Iran, UNSC sanctions in 2006 led to the 2015 nuclear deal, limiting Iran's nuclear activities. The UNSC^{has} also imposed sanctions in conflict zones like the Democratic Republic of Congo and Libya to restrict arms flow and protect human rights. Despite challenges like Russia's veto

power in the Russian-Ukrainian war, many countries have coordinated to impose economic sanctions on Russia, aiming to end its aggression.

Overall, UNSC Economic Sanctions have been crucial in pressuring offending states while minimizing humanitarian impact, highlighting their importance in global diplomacy.

The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) has been crucial in aiding democratic transitions across the globe. Liberia and Sierra Leone are glaring examples in this regard. In these areas, it disarms fighters and supports fair elections. It has also imposed sanctions on regimes blocking democracy. In countries like Cote d'Ivoire and Haiti, the UNSC provided technical help and election monitoring

to ensure fairness. Working with other UN bodies and international organizations, the UNSC also focuses on strengthening the rule of law, human rights, and civil society. These efforts collectively create environments where democracy can thrive.

The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) effectively fosters dialogue and negotiation to maintain global peace and security. Regular meetings allow member states to address conflicts, with the Council issuing binding resolutions, implementing sanctions, and authorizing peacekeeping missions. By facilitating peace processes in regions like the Balkans, West Africa, and the Middle East, the UNSC help bring conflict parties together

(11)

for sustainable agreements. Its structure, featuring both permanent members with veto power and elected non-permanent members, ensure diverse perspectives and balanced decisions. This inclusive approach helps mitigate tensions, prevent conflict escalation, and achieve collective security goals, showcasing the UNSC's vital role in global diplomacy and peacekeeping.

The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) is essential in fighting terrorism and promoting disarmament worldwide. It enforces sanctions on terrorist groups, cutting off their funding and access to arms, and requires member states to strengthen legal frameworks against terrorism through resolutions like 1373 and 1540. The

UNSC also supports countries in building their counter-terrorism capacities through its Counter-Terrorism Committee and Executive Directorate. For disarmament, the UNSC works to reduce weapons of mass destruction and oversees peacekeeping missions that include disarmament and reintegration programs, helping post-conflict areas stabilize. By fostering international cooperation and providing a platform for coordinated efforts, the UNSC substantially contributes to global peace and security.

However, on the number of issues the UNSC has badly failed to resolve. For instance, it has been criticized for failing to address the conflict between

Israel and Palestine. Political divisions, especially the veto power of the USA, have stalled decisive action. According to the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) reports that the total death toll from the Israeli attacks on Gaza since October 7 has reached 38,153, the war has uprooted 90 percent of Gaza's population. Thousands of homes and crucial infrastructure have been destroyed, displacing tens of thousands. Gaza's health system is near collapse, with hospitals overwhelmed and medical supplies running low. Despite the severe humanitarian crisis, the UNSC has been unable to reach a consensus on a unified response, underscoring its struggles in peacekeeping and conflict resolution.

In addition to this it has failed to halt the Russian-Ukraine war, facing criticism for its inefficiency. According to the United Nations Organisation (UNO), war has caused immense destruction and loss of life, with over 9,000 civilians killed and 16,000 injured by February 2024. Moreover, the World Bank (WB) estimates that million people have been displaced, including 8 million refugees, and over \$130 billion in infrastructure damage. Political divisions, especially Russia's veto power, have hindered the UNSC's ability to act. It underscores its (UNSC) limitations in managing conflicts involving permanent members. This situation has sparked calls for reform to enhance its effectiveness in maintaining

global peace and security.

Furthermore, the UNSC has also been criticised for failing to resolve decades old Kashmir issue between India and Pakistan, ongoing since 1947. Despite early resolutions calling for a plebiscite, the issue remains unresolved. This has led to three wars and numerous skirmishes between the nuclear-armed neighbours.

From 1988 to 2021, over 47,000 people, including civilians, militants, and security forces, have died in Kashmir. Human rights organisations report severe abuses, including disappearances, torture, and killings. Thousands have been displaced, facing immense suffering. The UNSC's inability to mediate effectively has prolonged instability and

violence, with civilians suffering the most.

The climate change is another burning issue where the UNSC has failed. Climate impacts worsen conflicts, displace people, and threaten food and water security, increasing global instability. Efforts to include climate issues in the UNSC's agenda have faltered. International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) warns of rising global temperatures, leading to more extreme weather events. The World Health Organization (WHO) reports link climate change to over 150,000 deaths yearly from severe weather and diseases. The UNEP highlights biodiversity risks, adding strain to global stability. The UNSC's inability to pass binding

resolutions and coordinated responses highlights its limited role in addressing this global challenge, leaving vulnerable communities at risk of worsening climate impacts.

The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) has struggled to address cybersecurity threats effectively. Despite the rise in cyberattacks, it has not developed strong international policies. A 2021 report from the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) predicts global cybercrime damage could hit \$10.5 trillion annually by 2025. Major attacks like WannaCry in 2017 and SolarWinds in 2020 expose weaknesses in security frameworks. Efforts like the Group of Governmental Experts (GGE) have shown limited success.

Without binding agreements and enforcement, both state and non-state actors exploit cyberspace freely. This injection leaves nations and critical infrastructure vulnerable, undermining global security and economic stability.

Furthermore, critics argue that the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) has failed to effectively address global health crises like the Covid-19 pandemic. Despite its role in maintaining international peace, the UNSC has not coordinated a robust global response. The pandemic highlighted flaws in global health governance, with countries acting alone rather than united under UNSC leadership. By mid-2023, Covid-19 had infected over 400 million people and caused 5.8 million deaths worldwide.

revealing the urgent need for cohesive global strategies. The UNSC's focus on traditional security threats has marginalized health concerns, despite recognizing their impact on stability. Critics point to the UNSC's structure and decision-making as inadequate for handling health emergencies, worsening global health disparities.

In addition to this, the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) struggles to develop effective rules for governing artificial intelligence (AI), despite increasing worries about its ethical and security impacts. Currently, there are no global agreements under the UNSC specifically regarding regulating AI, even as AI advances rapidly. This gap is crucial as AI could affect global security, human rights, and economies.

Reports from the United Nations and think tanks stress the urgent need for rules to ensure AI aligns with international law and ethics.

Issues like autonomous weapons, biased algorithms, and privacy concerns remain largely unaddressed globally. The UNSC's failure to set up strong AI governance reflects broader challenges in adapting global frameworks to fast-changing technology landscapes.

To enhance UNSC's effectiveness and relevance, several reforms and remedial measures can be considered.

For instance, the introduction of restrictions on the use of veto power is of paramount importance in this regard.

The veto power of the P5 - United States, China, Russia, the UK, and France - often causes

deadlocks on critical issues like humanitarian crises and climate change. From 1990 to 2020, the P5 used their vetoes 43 times, blocking important resolutions. By requiring a supermajority to override a veto or limiting its use to national security issues, we can reduce misuse. This reform would make international responses more democratic and effective, fostering a fairer and more responsive global order.

Implementing a "responsibility not to veto" norm at the UN Security Council is vital to protect human rights and prevent mass suffering. This norm would require the P5 - the US, China, Russia, the UK, and France - to avoid using their veto power in cases

of genocide, war crimes, and crimes against humanity.

For example, Russia and China's vetoes during the Syrian civil war prolonged the crisis, while inaction during the 1994 Rwandan genocide led to 800,000 deaths.

France supports this idea, urging the P5 to voluntarily suspend their vetoes in such situations, promoting timely and decisive international responses to atrocities.

Expanding non-permanent membership in the UN Security Council is vital for its effectiveness and fairness.

Currently, with five permanent members and ten non-permanent members, regions like Africa, and Latin America, are underrepresented despite facing many global issues.

For instance, Africa has 54 UN member states but only

three non-permanent seats. More non-permanent seats would ensure broader geographic representation, making the Council more democratic and responsive. Non-permanent members often push for proactive measures and innovative solutions, enhancing the Council's ability to address global challenges like conflicts and climate change more effectively. This reform would bring diverse perspectives and improve decision-making.

Developing robust early warning systems and conflict prevention mechanisms is crucial for a more effective UN Security Council. Early warning systems, like the UN's Global Dubs, use data analytics and satellite imagery to detect potential conflicts. The pressure to

anticipate the Rwandan genocide in 1994, which saw 800,000 deaths, underscores the need for these systems. Conflict prevention, including diplomatic interventions and sanctions, can address root causes early. For example, preventive diplomacy in Kenya after the 2007-2008 election violence prevented a civil war. Institutionalizing these measures can help the UNSC save lives, reduce humanitarian costs, and maintain global stability.

Establishing a dedicated mechanism within the United Nations Security Council to tackle non-traditional security threats, like AI, cybersecurity, climate change, and global health is crucial in our interconnected world. These threats cross borders

and endanger global stability and well-being. Misuse of AI in warfare, cybersecurity breaches like the Solar Winds attack, climate change intensifying conflicts, and global health crises like Covid-19 all highlight the need for coordinated international action. By creating this mechanism, the UNSC can effectively address these complex challenges through joint efforts, policy development, and resource allocation, enhancing global resilience and security.

In conclusion, it can be argued that there are numerous remarkable achievements of the United Nations Security Council. Preventing WWII, numerous successful peacekeeping missions, humanitarian aid and above all role as a forum for dialogue

and negotiations are glazing accomplishments in this regard. However, it has also failed to resolve the Israeli war on Gaza, the Russian-Ukrainian war, the Kashmir issue and a number of non-traditional security threats in the form of climate change, artificial intelligence and issues related to cyberspace. These issues can be resolved by implementing restrictions on the use of veto, increasing say of non-permanent members in the UNSC, developing mechanisms to tackle non-traditional security threats like climate change, AI and threats of cybersecurity.