

Challenges for the UN in 21st Century

1. Introduction

Bring further maturity in your arguments
Choice of words/jargons should be accurate
Keep practicing on different themes

2. Challenges for the United Nations (UN) in 21st Century

2.1 Global rise in frequency of conflicts and wars; a great challenge for the UN.

2.1.1 Years long Russia-Ukraine conflict

2.1.2 Atrocities of Israel continued from a half decade on lands of Palestine

2.1.3 Unresolved Kashmir dispute between India and Pakistan

2.2 Rising US-China Rivalry

2.2.1 Global trade war impacting economies of developing nations

2.2.2 Game of alliances and regional conflicts due to US-China rivalry

2.3 Violation of fundamental Human Rights in Afghanistan

2.4 Disastrous environmental impacts of climate change

2.4.1 UN failed in pursuance of fast developing nations in global climate finance.

2.4.2 Re-election of Trump's administration dims the hopes for climate financing.

2.5 Unprecedented increase in nuclear proliferation

2.5.1 AUKUS formation and making nuclear proliferation a global norm.

2.6 Upsurge in Global Food and Energy crisis

2.7 Rise in cross-border terrorism and threat of non-state actors.

2.7.1 Strengthening of TTP (Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan) and Al-Qaeda with widespread influence on youth.

2.8 Hybrid warfare affecting the sovereignty of nations

2.9 Increasing economic gap between global north and global south.

2.9.1 Marx dependency theory and role of UN.

2.9.2 Unequal distribution of resources among nations.

2.10 Widespread Islamophobia in West

2.10.1 UN agency for fundamental rights report.

2.11 Menace of Gender Inequality and women Rights abuses.

2.11.1 Women in Afghanistan under Taliban regime is a case in point.

~~2.12~~

3. Major roadblocks and hindrances for UN in dealing with issues of 21st century.

Suggest remedial measures as well

4. Conclusion.

Essay

The world wars and conflicts caused bloody destructions in twentieth century. It resulted in unprecedented repercussions of enmity, rivalry and mass casualties. On the other hand, globalization and technological innovations ensued multiple issues that

rose need for regulatory mechanisms. After the mass destruction of second world war, it became a necessity to form a peace organization. For that purpose, 51 nations ~~tabled~~ ^{conducted} meeting in 1945 and formed an international group called United Nations. It is one of the top most organizations to resolve the world conflicts and maintain harmony. However, it is facing significant challenges in 21st century due to technological developments, geopolitical tensions, economic pressure, and unending thirst of power and influence in global power ~~countries~~. The United Nations was formed to maintain social harmony, promote human rights safety, deal with gender discrimination, and encourage progress and prosperity of nations. The major challenges are de-escalating US-china rivalry, resolving the decade long conflicts of Kashmir and ~~the~~ Palestine, Afghan ~~conflict~~ conundrum, ensuring gender equality. The new wave of terrorism, militancy, and extremism

Choice of jargons should be more specific

after US withdrawal from Afghanistan, human rights abuses, nuclear proliferation, disastrous impacts of climate change, global food and energy crisis, and hybrid warfare impacting sovereignty of nations. Another challenge is rising islamophobia in western world producing deep concerns. Dealing with these issues is a challenge for United Nations in 21st century. The major roadblocks while dealing with these challenges are structural defects within the body of UN, and economic influence of stronger nations in decision-making. These challenges can be dealt with efficiency through prudent decision-making at the United Nations forum.

The global rise in frequency of conflicts, wars, and rivalries are evident today. Multiple examples are included such as Israel-Palestine conflict, Russia-Ukraine war, Kashmir issue between India and Pakistan, Taiwan crisis, civil war in Syria and terrorism

in Afghanistan. Years long Russia-Ukraine war has resulted in thousands of civilian casualties. Similarly, Israel conducting genocide on lands of Palestine has not wakened the United Nations against humanitarian crisis. The Kashmir dispute was brought in the international peace organisation for ~~Kashmir~~ resolution, but still it failed in bringing peaceful agreement between Pakistan and India, despite passing almost a half decade. The greater interests of the nations and internal lobbying ~~are~~ influence the decision-making. Hence, bringing back peace to these ongoing conflicts is a grave challenge for the UN in 21st century.

Secondly, the great powers of the world have significant influence on developing nations, which always strive for increasing their impact. ~~influence~~ → The US-China rivalry with their alliances has created differences among the nations. Each alliance is trying for more strength. For that purpose, these nations

work to increase their security concerns, protect their national interests and enhance their economic domain. The US is using its super-power influence and exploiting the poor nations, whereas, China is increasing its soft power through development projects and its Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). Both countries are involved in trade war, imposing more taxes and using protectionist policies. Their trade war is influencing the other nations, producing inflation, unemployment and economic crisis. In addition to their impact on market system, each country has acknowledged security concerns and involved in proliferation of armaments. Recently, US imposed 100% taxes on electric vehicles from China, also imposed heavy taxes on solar panels, semi-conductors and electronics. Whereas, China has increased its influence in middle eastern countries through different agreements. The role of the UN in great trade war between the US and China is minimal. These conflicts can spread to become

global war. Therefore, the mounting rivalry between the US and China is the biggest challenge for the UN in 21st century.

Thirdly, as far as the Afghanistan situation is concerned, the UN has failed to control Taliban government. ~~After~~ After the US withdrawal from Afghanistan, the Taliban regime was established. Since their takeover, the conditions of war torn country are worsened. These include violation of fundamental rights of the citizens, laws against women freedom, poverty and hunger crisis, and matter of recognition of Taliban government. Almost eighteen million population ~~are~~ ^{is} living in conditions of abject poverty. To worsen the situation, economic aid from international grounds is obstructed. According to the World Bank report, almost 95 percent of Afghan population is living under poverty line. This alarming situation must be raised in the UN to deal effectively. Recently, laws ~~against~~ ^{proponent} to gender

parity ~~incl~~ including complete ban on appearance of women in public, ban on their voices, and differences in education and employment opportunities must be addressed. However, the UN is unable to address such serious circumstances of Afghanistan. This highlights the failure of the UN to deal with challenges in 21st century.

In addition to this, global climate change has proven disastrous in 21st century. The increased frequency of natural disasters such as flooding, heavy monsoons, earthquake, Tsunamis, landsliding, droughts and famine ~~is~~ are great challenge for the UN. The recent climate meeting, Conference of Parties (COP-29), held in Azerbaijan faced disagreements and conflicts in raising global climate finance for developing countries. Inadequate funding from industrialized nations can lead to continuous rise in global ~~emiss~~ emissions. On the other hand, re-election of Donald Trump dims the hopes for climate financing. In 2017, Trump unilaterally ~~was~~ withdrew

the US from Paris Agreement and the UN silently watched the conduct of super-power of the world, this action of Donald Trump pushed the countries in an era of careless use of fossil fuels. This is ^a crucial issue for the United Nations, as the globe faces not only human losses or biodiversity loss, but also great economic losses. Hence, the unwilling response from industrialized countries for cooperation, and re-election of Donald Trump create complicated situation for the international organization in 21st century.

Similarly, the UN has failed to control unprecedented nuclear proliferation. Nuclear armaments can never become beneficial for the globe. At one time they are created, the other time they will be in use. The United States, a permanent member of the UN, shared nuclear missile technology with Australia in association with the United Kingdom. This step may become a trend for normalizing

nuclear ~~proliferation~~ proliferation. The UN has taken countries by collar, in the past, for such actions. However, the action against five veto countries seems a distant dream for the UN. Hence, a justifiable check and balance against nuclear proliferation is another challenge for the international watchdog in 21st century.

Moreover, food and energy shortages pose a threat for the UN in 21st century. The leading contributors are over-population, inequitable distribution of resources, and higher global wastage, especially in developed nations. According to World Food Program Report, if just a quarter of food that is wasted globally were saved, it would be enough to feed 870 million hungry people. The food crisis in Yemen, south sudan, Afghanistan, and sub-sahara Africa are apparent to the whole world and the international organization.

In this situation, the UN faces mammoth challenge to deal with exploitative strategies of global power and provide all the nations with their due share of resources to cope with challenge of food and energy crisis.

Cross-border terrorism and the immediate threat of non-state actors present a great challenge for the United Nation. After the US withdrawal from Afghanistan, it served as a breeding ground for terrorist organizations. Such as Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan, Islamic State of Khurasan Province (ISKP), ISIS, RAW and Al-Qaeda are actively spreading terrorism. The separatist movements ongoing in various countries such as Balochistan Liberation Front (BLF), and Naxals in India. These movements challenge peace of the globe, and they are serious threat to the security of whole region. Therefore, the UN must increase its capability to control these organizations in 21st century.

Another challenge is upsurge in Hybrid war as it has been threatening the sovereignty of various nations. The conventional wars have become almost ^{easier} ~~easy~~ obsolete. Those wars were ~~easy~~ to control because one could identify the attacker and take pragmatic measures. Nowadays, in the era of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and innovative technology, nations can easily challenge writ of the state. Recent example include use of ~~pages~~ thousands of ~~pages~~, that exploded across Lebanon, by Israel. This sophisticated attack by Israel was unexpected by the world. Hence, use of clandestine steps such as non-state actors, debt traps, and through paid media outlets which tend to brainwash the society and manipulate the youth. Therefore, the UN is expected to play a regulatory role to deal with emerging threat of hybrid war.

the increasing inequality between global north and global south and its

repercussions on the world stands as another great challenge for the United Nations. According to Karl Marx Theory of dependency that sheds light on how capitalist and globalization are exploiting labor and resources of the third world countries. It also describes how developing countries are increasingly become dependent on wealthier, more advanced and influential western world. This growing gap due to exploitative measures, debt traps tend to threaten the global peace. Hence, the United Nations tends to face grave challenge to bridge the gap between these countries and provide avenues for industrial and technological advancements in 21st century.

The issues of xenophobia, ethnic and religious clashes are also steeping up in an unprecedented way. The daily news of sectarian conflicts, attacks on religious places

and protests against Islam is common. The findings for EU's agency for ~~fundamental~~ rights are concerning. They indicate a significant rise in discrimination against muslims in Europe, affecting 47% of those surveyed in 13 European Union states. Situation has worsened since 7-october-2022. Countries like Austria and Germany where far-right parties have gained traction, reported the highest levels of muslim sentiments. This rise in islamophobic impacts muslims socio-economic well-being limiting their access to education, jobs, housing and healthcare. Hence, the issue of islamophobia is a stark reminder for the UN to consider its policies about states ~~sp~~ fanning anti-muslim sentiments in 21st century.

Lastly, the menace of gender inequality and women rights abuses across the globe presents another challenge to the UN. The women's exploitation, the discriminatory laws and social norms, and their under-represen-

tution at all levels of political leadership, ~~and~~ must be addressed. Though many steps have been taken for betterment and empowerment of women. However, they face subjugation in many fields. A report by World Health Organization (WHO) stated that globally 1 in 3 woman worldwide have been subjected to either physical or sexual violence by their intimate partner or non-partner in their lifetime. This shows that women still face significant disparity against men. Another shocking example is Mass rape of a wife by her husband, in France allowing 80 men to rape her. This incident indicates the alarming level of women exploitation in the globe. Dealing with this kind of inequality is a big challenge for the United Nations.

The major roadblocks that hampers actions of the UN is lack of interest of the world powers. The global powers such as China, Russia, United States and European

union have their vested interests and ulterior motives. They have failed to draft policies for betterment of world community. The permanent five members are uninterested in issues that are irrelevant to them. These veto powers protect their allies through unjust policies and dishonest tactics. For instance, the United States protects Israel through veto because Israel is an ally of the US. Similarly, Russia protects Syria, as it is an ally of Russian federation. These unjust policies and structural defects in the international organization make it incapable to deal with significant global challenges in 21st century.

To sum up, the UN faces stringent geo-political and economic challenges in 21st century. The rise of global threats such as violent conflicts, nuclear proliferations, conventional and hybrid wars, and upsurge in terrorism are major challenges in which the UN has failed. Global climate change and

increased frequency of natural disasters place the world in dangers of significant losses. Coupled with these issues, gender discrimination, global hunger and energy crisis, widening gap between global north and global south, and widespread islamophobia are some other domains where the UN has failed to make result-driven measures. The major hindrances in failure of the United Nations in 21st century are lack of interest from global powers and defects in structural framework of the international organization. In the matter of global peace and security, the UN must work to find sustainable solutions and prevent the world from descending into chaos. There is need of strong and multi-lateral system with the United-Nations Security Council at its core for the solutions to complex and long-lasting challenges, otherwise, they may prove detrimental to the existence of humanity.