

UN as a global agency falls short^{Date} of its role

Outline

1. Introduction

Thesis statement: The UN has been unable to reach its full potential and has fallen short on its global agenda. This has had detrimental impacts on the world at large. However, by focusing on internationalism and the common good, the UN would come closer to the goals it ^{has} set out.

2. Scope of the UN

3. Reasons why the UN falls short of its roles

- (a) Nationalism takes precedence over internationalism
- (b) Inability to gather sufficient finance
- (c) Ballooning nuclear power
- (d) Rise of autocratic rulers
- (e) Expansionist tendencies of nations
- (f) Anarchical global structure
- (g) The downside of globalisation and impact of nations on each other

4. Negative implications of the UN falling short of its goals

- (a) Increased instances of genocide
- (b) Rising number ^{and scale} of conflicts
- (c) Looming threat of mass extinction due to climate crisis
- (d) Increasing scope of refugee crisis

(e) Easier to ignore UN demands

5. Remedial measures to improve the UN agenda to meet its full potential

- (a) change the structure of the UN
- (b) limited use of veto power
- (c) Move towards disarmament
- (d) Increase scope of International Court of Justice (ICJ)
- (e) Collaboration with regional alliances

6. Conclusion

ESSAY

If unchecked, ethnocentrism can become a justification for genocide. Such was the case during world war II. Hitler rose to power due to the weaponization of his theory of the superior Aryan race. He believed that world Jewry and intermarriages with these inferior races had led to the downgrading of the Aryan race. ~~He rose~~ Publicising this ideology, he rose to power and became the face of the Holocaust. The Nazis were a pawn in his game of cleansing Germany and this culminated into the extermination of approximately half a million Jews, gypsies, Romas, homosexuals ^{and} disabled people. From the ashes of this tragedy ~~rose~~ rose the UN, promising to never

allow such a situation to unfold. Moreover, it took it upon itself to attain world peace and work towards the general progress of mankind through adopting internationalism. But, the UN has fallen short of its agenda. This is because, nationalism has taken precedence over internationalism, ^{and} nuclear power and instability continue to threaten world peace. Moreover, autocratic rulers have been on the rise and the anarchical structure of the world renders the UN unable to enforce its decisions. Unfortunately, this has led to ~~some~~ disasterously impacting the world in the form of increasing genocide, rising number of conflicts and looming threat of mass extinction. Alas, all is not lost and through implementing remedial measures such as changing the structure of the UN, limiting veto power and collaborating with regional organizations, the UN can improve its position and achieve its targets. Overall, the UN has been unable to reach its full potential and has fallen short on its global agenda. This has had detrimental impacts on the world at large. However, by focusing on internationalism and the common good, the UN would come closer to the goals it has set out.

The UN's main purpose, as highlighted

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in the UN Charter, is to attain and maintain global peace and stability. The UN aims to use the power of the global community to attain its agenda and has set out its objectives in the United Nations Charter. All 193 members uphold the aims and ambitions of the UN Charter. For instance, to achieve its goal, guidelines have been penned down. These include the article 2(4) which entails that no nation could infringe on the sovereignty of another nation. Moreover, article 2(7) entails that the UN itself cannot infringe or affect the national sovereignty of a nation. However, while these articles along with others provide an adequate blueprint for international relations, some have been used for malicious intents. For instance, article 51 which entails the right to self-defence has been used and abused with the prerogative of self-defence. This has led to unilateral actions and marred the concept of national sovereignty through pre-emptive ~~and~~ attacks. Overall, while the UN has led thought to benefits for the global community, it has also ~~led to~~ allowed conflicts to continue.

The UN has fallen short in its role because nationalism has taken precedence over internationalism. Given a choice, nation-states

would not give up their national interests for the sake of international agendas due to their loyalty to the nation. ~~The~~ Throughout history, the immediate community has been the priority of humans and not the common good. ~~But was~~ The scope of this was enhanced by the Treaty of Westphalia (1648). The Treaty of Westphalia provided a nation with a sense of duty and loyalty to the state (Benedict Anderson, *Imagined Communities*, 1983). Thus, humans developed ~~a loyalty~~ all more loyal and prioritise their nation-state over the international community.

Unsurprisingly, the UN has been unable to muster up enough finance to meet its global agenda. The UN cannot enforce or achieve its goals if resources do not allow them. The constituents of the UN, the nation-states, are unwilling to increase funding for the UN due to their limitations ~~and~~ or prioritizations of their national interests. ~~More for instance~~, The UN has lagged behind in its global agenda of preventing gender based violence as only 0.2% of the funding (Global GDP) is channelled to this goal (UN Women). ~~&~~ Thus, the UN has fallen short on its role due to

insufficient financing.

As the world constantly innovated to
with the threat of war looming, countries
are constantly increasing their nuclear power
which has limited the agenda of world peace.
Nuclear power capabilities were cited to be
necessary for national security but have
increased global insecurity. Nuclear power for
weapons have been on an upward trajectory
despite the ire of the UN. For instance,
the Union of Concerned Scientists have
estimated that 13000 nuclear weapons are
currently in the world's arsenal. Moreover,
Russia holds approximately 6000 nuclear
weapons while the US holds approximately
5400 nuclear weapons. This has limited the
capacity of the UN to attain global stability
with nations constantly improving and
increasing their nuclear weapons and
threatening mankind.

Autocracy entails that unilateral
actions would increase which has been a
challenge to the UN. Autocratic rulers have
by-passed UN goals rules to achieve their
limited objectives. The rising trend of
autocracy is evident as more democracy
has taken a tumble in recent years. For
example, the recent Democracy Index (2023)

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by the EIU has highlighted that many countries have fallen in rank towards an "authoritarian regime." Pakistan for instance, fell by 11 positions points and ranks 118 out of 165 countries.

This entails that autocratic or authoritarian governments are not inclined to follow the will of the UN ~~and the~~ which has led to the UN falling short on its role.

Expansionist tendencies of countries have also led to the UN falling short in its role. Countries have increasingly ventured on a quest to increase their size of their territory. This limits the capacity of the UN to achieve stability and peace in the world. For example, Putin's unilateral move to annex Crimea in 2014 was seen by many as an expansionist agenda. This has marred the concept of national sovereignty and territorial integrity highlighted in the Treaty of Westphalia. Moreover, the invasion of Ukraine is also seen ~~to mean~~ as Putin's goal to attain a large Russian empire. Overall, expansionist tendencies of the ~~UN~~ countries has meant that the UN has fallen short in its role.

Evidently, the global structure

is anarchic which has led to the UN not achieving its goals. The anarchic structure entails that there is no superior body to enforce decisions and nation-states are the most superior wield the most power.

For ~~that~~ neo-realists, the anarchic structure of the world means that each nation must look out for themselves themselves to attain security. As highlighted by Hans Morgenthau, "~~... whatever the aim of~~" politics is a struggle for power over men, and whatever its ultimate aim may be, power is its immediate goal." Therefore, in such a situation, the capacity and scope of the UN is limited as each nation in an anarchical structure pursues ~~its~~ survival strategies ~~to~~ and seeks to increase power unilaterally.

While globalization is hailed for its advantages, the disadvantages have ~~meant~~ meant that the UN has not reached its full potential. ~~The~~ Globalization has increased uncertainty and instability as countries have more access to each other. The United Nations has been unable to keep up with the scale of globalization due to its constantly evolving nature. For instance, globalization has entailed

deterritorialization and lead to time-space compression (John Baylis, *The Globalization of World Politics*, 1997). The UN has been overwhelmed with the changes dynamic nature of international relations and its which is made more ^{volatile by} ~~dynamic~~ through globalization.

Undoubtedly, the UN being unable to attain the full scope of its goals has led to negative implications in the form of increased genocide. Instances of genocide have increased due to the UN falling short on its role as they are unable to enforce their decisions and protect the population with the scope of the UN limited, countries can eliminate segments of their population they find unfit to become part of their nation. For instance, the Rohingya Muslims are deemed to be unworthy of living in Myanmar and have been termed terrorists. This has led to their extermination on a massive scale which the UN has been unable to do anything about. Moreover, the recent genocide in Gaza which has led to the death of almost 30,000 people can be seen as the UN's inability to stop genocide (Complicity in genocide, 2023). ^{down,} ~~On~~ All in all, the UN falling short of its role have increased

the instances of genocide

The goal of the UN was mainly to achieve world peace but due to its falling short on its role, conflicts have increased. The world has seen an upward trajectory of conflicts as no ^{effective} mechanisms are in place to prevent them. ~~The UN~~ Conflicts have not only been limited within the borders of the countries engaging in conflict but ^{its impact} have engulfed the global community. For example, the conflict in Gaza has led to the involvement of ~~the~~ Hezbollah in Lebanon, Syrian groups and the Houthis' rebels in Yemen. Moreover, these groups have embarked on attacking global ships and ~~the~~ adversely impacting global trade which has hampered the world economy. To elaborate, the World Economic Outlook has estimated global GDP growth at 3.1% in 2024 (IMF). ~~It~~ It has also highlighted that downside risks include the increasing scale of the conflicts in the Red Sea. ~~As~~ Ergo, the rising number and scale of conflicts have ~~been~~ been due to the UN falling short on its role.

The looming threat of mass extinction has been an ~~an~~ added negative impact on the roster of the UN. The UN

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has been unable to reduce the impacts of climate change which has led to the ~~to~~ an existential crisis for mankind. The climate change crisis is a transboundary issue which cannot be tackled unilaterally. As the UN has remained incompetent in its role, to ~~allow~~ ~~stabilize~~ ~~more~~ countries have pumped CO₂ into the atmosphere and wreaked havoc on the environment. This has led to humanity being moving towards mass extinction as the scale and instances of disasters have increased in recent years. (Aisha Khan, Mass extinction, 2023). All in all, the UN's ~~has~~ ~~to~~ limited role has pushed mankind ~~towards~~ ~~potentially~~ ~~mass~~ towards the sixth mass extinction.

Sadly, the refugee crisis has increased in scale due to the UN unable to meet its challenges. The number of refugees have increased in the world due to climate disasters, conflicts and general threats to populations. The UN has been unable to deal with the refugee crisis efficiently and effectively. For instance, the UN has been unable to ~~prevent~~ ^{limit} the Gaza crisis and the small strip of land now houses 1 million refugees. To make matters worse, several countries

have pulled out of funding of the ~~UNHCR~~ UNWRA which has increased the scope of the refugee crisis. Hence, the UN's inability to achieve its desired goal has led to detrimental implications in the form of an increased refugee crisis.

As time has passed, it has become easier to ignore the calls of the UN which has been a ~~detter~~ severe negative impact of the UN falling short on its role. The nations of the world have realised that the UN is not an enforcement agency but rather a system of lobbying for the vote power. ~~and if all else fails, then furthermore~~ if all else fails, one can simply ignore the calls of the UN and continue with national interests and agendas. The increasing capabilities of nations and trends of ignoring demands of the UN have negative implications. As such, ~~the~~ Putin has largely ignored ceasefire calls despite majority Benjamin Netanyahu has ignored the 150 nations that have recently called for ceasefire simply because it can. This was the case with the Ukraine crisis which has raged since 2022. ~~what~~ more, despite being charged as war criminals such as Putin's. ICC verdict, one can ~~not~~

pay heed to such being charged as a war crime, Israel can pay no heed to the ICT's verdict and continues to eliminate Palestinians. Hence, the UN is easier to ignore with increased national power and ~~increasing~~ trends set by other nations in the past.

However, all is not lost as the UN can improve its position by adopting remedial measures such as ~~the~~ changing the structure of the UN. The UN power is the UN largely tips in the favour of the Permanent Five (P5) members who hold veto power which needs to be addressed. ~~The UN has~~ Many have put forward alternative structures to the UN to devolve its power so that internationalism can take precedence over narrow national agendas. For instance, increasing the number of permanent seats to include more non-western permanent members is on solution. To elaborate, South Africa, ~~and~~ Saudi Arabia and Brazil can be added to the ~~per~~ UNSC to ensure that decisions are not made keeping solely western agenda's in mind. ~~However,~~ Thus, the composition and structure of the UN can be improved to include more

countries from the global south.

The veto power has marred the democratic character of the UN and should be limited to increase the role of the UN beyond national agendas. Veto power ensures that the nation holding this power can decide against the majority. Veto power limitation would mean a reduction in global conflict and a move towards world peace. For example, the USA has on recent times, abused its veto power to continue the genocide in Gaza (Maleeha hoddhi, *Vetoing Peace*, 2023). As veto power is limited the general will of the world community would be take precedence over narrow agendas. In this case, the over 150 votes for ceasefire would be the basis of decision of the UN. Overall, limiting veto power would lead to the UN. unflinching its position.

The disarmament of nations would be one way to increase the role of the UN. Presently, nations are able to conduct unilateral actions because they are shielded by their nuclear power capabilities. As this disarmament takes hold, the power of all nations in the world would

be equalized. This would mean that the UN can better convince the nations to look after international peace and stability. One arrangement may be a solution to increase the power of the UN.

The enforcement capabilities of the ICJ would entail that the world community would be more wary of their actions. The ICJ, at present, does not have enforcement power and only interprets rules and laws which has led to the UN being limited in scope. The ICJ power could be increased and examples could be set to prevent future unilateral actions that harm world stability. For example, the verdict of the ICJ against Israel could lead to ~~him~~ Netanyahu being imprisoned so that future leaders refrain from unilateral actions.

To summarize, the increased scope and power of the ICJ, a UN body, could lead to the UN ~~now~~ being able to meet its goals in the global arena.

Lastly, the increasing regional alliances could be utilized to ~~attain~~ ~~the~~ and collaborated with to attain the UN's global agenda. Many regions

have opted for regional arrangements to meet their immediate regional goals. The UN would use such alliances to foster global peace. ~~by~~ for instance, SAARC could be used to attain stability in the South Asian region and to help solve the Kashmir crisis. This would lead to peace in the area and global peace, through ^{collaborating with} regional alliances, the UN can increase its scope of power.

In conclusion, the UN as a global agency has not been able to meet the goals it set out for. ~~This may be~~ This can be devoted to the misuse of the UN Charter through the right to self defence in Article 51. The reasons why the UN fails most are that nationalism is prioritised over internationalism and nuclear power has consistently ballooned along with other reasons. The negative impacts of this have been a disastrous refugee crisis, looming threat of mass extinction and rising number of and scale of conflicts. To remedy the situation, the UN structure should be changed to accommodate the global south, the veto powers should be limited and

The ICJ should be able to enforce decisions based on genocide. Overall, the UN is a vital agency to prevent the world falling into the clutches of world war again. Moreover, it would promote social solidarity and unity which would be better for the world overall. As said by Abraham Lincoln, "A house divided against itself cannot stand"