

The UN's struggle to fulfil its mandate: Assessing barriers and seeking solutions.

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The UN's struggle to fulfil its mandate: Assessing barriers and seeking solutions.

Since the beginning of time, man has conflict as an integral part of his nature. From Cain and Abel, to modern day wars, conflict has always been the center of history. Nevertheless, some people try to maintain a balance and hold themselves responsible for maintaining peace. In 1920, the League of Nations was founded to ensure peace and stability. However, it failed to carry out its mandate as the world witnessed world war II. In 1945, 51 countries again united to form an organization - United Nations (UN). The mandate of UN is based on equality of all Nations and maintaining peace, stability, human rights and friendly relations among states. Although it has clear goals, the journey to these goals is complicated and the UN is finding it hard to fulfil its mandate. The major stakeholders are considered to be a hurdle

In the smooth working of the organization. Just like every other organization, some states have more influence than others. The wrong usage of veto by the Permanent five (P5) has led to the UN being fragile. Not only did the UN fail to prevent wars, it has been lacking in humanitarian and climate change domains. To make this world a better place, the UN has to assess its barriers and to function efficiently. Unblocking the road to peace will be beneficial for all states in the long run. The following discourse will discuss the barriers and solutions for the UN to fulfil its mandate.

After the end of World War II, UN had five permanent members which are still dominating in their regions today. These Permanent five members are Britain, France, Russia, the United States and China. These P5 countries possess veto powers which can block any resolution from being passed. In 2022, Russia vetoed a resolution calling for ceasefire in Russia-Ukraine war. Just one veto supercedes all other votes. Recently, the US vetoed a resolution calling for ceasefire in Gaza. Hence, the US helped its ally Israel in the ongoing conflicts. This leads to further hostilities between member Nations as it favours bloc politics.

Another issue for the UN is that of its funding. Most of the contribution is from

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the western capitalist blocs. The United States controls the influential institutions like World Bank (WB) and International Monetary Fund (IMF). The US is accused of using these institutions as soft power and controlling developing states. In 2005, the US decided to intervene in Uganda. Russia and France were against the move so they and their allies decided not to fund the UN for that year. The UN was economically weak and gave in to the pressure. This shows that monopoly of developed states over developing states is always present.

In accordance with this, the US has a superiority complex of being the sole world leader. It built its war on terror narrative to constantly manipulate and overthrow governments. In 2001, USA successfully took control of Kabul but finally gave in to the Afghan Taliban on 15th August 2021. The narrative of war on terror was "us against them" which showed that USA was oppressed and had to defend its sovereignty. The forced actions in Iraq and Afghanistan were a violation of Article 2(4) and Article 2(7) of UN. As the US engineered the whole scenario in its favor, there was little the UN could do.

In our modern society, the role of the state is above that of community. According to Francis Fukuyama (American political scientist), "The nation will continue to be a central pole of identification, even if more and more

nations come to share common economic and political forms of organization.²³ That signifies that almost every nation is concerned with its superiority over the others. More and more member states are trying to acquire the P5 membership for having veto rights. India, Japan, Germany and Brazil are on a race for showing the veto power was the P5 but to no avail. On the basis of Nation representation, this might lead to the balance of power in the international arena being disturbed.

Moreover, it can be seen that most of the carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions are by the developed countries. According to a website, ourworldindata.org, the US has emitted the most CO₂. The emissions are followed by China and India as all 3 countries have ^{large-scale} industries.

Furthermore, in 2017, the then President Donald Trump withdrew from the Paris Agreement. Later on, in 2021, under President Biden, the US rejoined the Paris Agreement. This whole scenario shows that influential countries can do as they please and the UN will be a silent spectator since it is dependent on them.

Alongwith this, the USA has recently tried to shift its role in Afghanistan. It has placed the Taliban led ~~de~~ De Facto government under USCIRF's list of countries of particular concern. This was in response to

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the treatment of minorities by the Taliban. Along with this, the freezing of assets of the Afghan government led people to immigrate to other countries leading to a humanitarian crisis. The UN had little say in the matter as a P5 member was involved.

With the role of US being increased, China has also entered the field. It has the BRICS membership has increased and many countries are now trading in their local currencies. This seems a blow to the US Dollar. In turn, it shows that countries are not happy with the structure of UN as mostly it is dominated by the US. If bloc formation is increased, it will be difficult to get all nations on one page. This economic battle is having adverse effects for weaker states.

Meanwhile, although the UN has a role in international issues, it can only provide advice. The UN cannot enforce any decision. Recently, the International Court of Justice decided that 15 out of the 17 members of Judges voted in favor of Israel not carrying out acts of genocide. While this is a demand, ^{Prime Minister} Netanyahu said that Israel has the right to defend itself no matter what. This further highlights the weakness of UN.

With a rise in the Nuclear states, the UN has declared its concerns about further acquiring the technology. The US along with UK

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has shared nuclear capable submarines with Australia under AUKUS. This move is solely to counter Chinese influence. Furthermore, the nuclear umbrella of the US also includes retaliation if Japan, South Korea or Taiwan are attacked. Even according to the UN, this seems like a threat for further retaliation. Instead of a peaceful world, countries are now concerned with acquiring nuclear technology. This shows that the US is failing to help the UN function easily. Hence, horizontal and vertical nuclear proliferation is increasing.

Although the UN is facing barriers, further paragraphs will discuss the solutions for betterment.

Currently, the UN relies upon member states for troops in its peace keeping missions. It is fundamental that now the UN keeps its own army serving the organisations interests. That way, influence of major powers can be controlled. This action will in turn help the working committees function independently. Furthermore, it will decrease pressure of USA as all troops will be responsible to the UN. Also, African nations will be helped against mercenaries and militant groups as a central authority will now be involved.

Moreover, the UN should also dissolve the status of permanent five and end the veto. Equality among all members shall prevail - not just a few. This will end the

race of a permanent status between other nations like Pakistan and India. Moreover, other states like Ethiopia and most of African states will be on the same level as the superpowers. The voting on matters will have to be done on the basis of majority. No one state will be given priority over the other.

Along with these solutions, more committees should be formed to see the current issues. As climate change is inevitably rising, it is important to micromanage the CO₂ ~~emissions~~ emissions. The UN should keep track of countries like North Korea and China, who do not share their updated data with the organization. By having more committees, it will help to cater for smaller countries as well. With more committees, the UN should also make its decisions binding so that all nations take its matter seriously. With these decision making capabilities, even the world leaders will be monitored. Any act harming the other states can be punished.

To add further, the regular monitoring of weak states should be carried out. The UN had a trusteeship council to help post colonial states get achieve stability. Such monitoring should be done elsewhere too. Currently, South Sudan is caught in a civil war. The UN can also cater for

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the refugees in ~~the~~ different countries. The host countries should be given concessions in the international dealings and packages for aid should increase. Moreover, plans to resettle the refugees should also be drawn up.

Furthermore, mediation should be used to solve issues. The Security General should ~~try~~ make the parties negotiate and reach a conclusion. The Taliban government in Afghanistan is still not recognized. A structure should be devised to bridge the gaps between world leaders and other states. By recognizing the new government in Kabul, the US can release the funds as it released funds for the Ashraf Ghani administration. This will improve lives of many Afghans and also help the institutions function. Moreover, it will reduce the stress on Pakistan and Iran who are hosting many refugees.

To conclude, the world powers have to unite and ~~take~~ let other countries take part in implementing reforms. The UN should provide a platform for peace, not war. A failed example of League of Nations is still present. If we have to make this world a better place, then the use of veto powers must be done with care. All parties should use mediation to help reach solutions, not further create chaos. Divisions between all the countries has to be bridged. Instead of sitting on the corner, the reforms of UN

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Should enable freedom for all stakeholders. Although there are wars globally, there is still not a greater chance for a third world war. It is safe to say that the UN still has some success in modern times. It is upto the members of the UN and its administration to provide a platform of peace. The unity between the organization and its members will only help to make ^{the UN} stronger. As Abraham Lincoln (the 16th US President) said, "A house divided itself cannot stand."