



MARMARA MODEL UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE 2025

BOARD MEMBER
SABA ALMADHOUN

BOARD MEMBER
BARIŞ YAVAŞ

STUDY GUIDE OF UNGA-5

UNGA-5 study guide

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Letter of the Secretary General

Distinguished Participants,

It is my utmost honor and pleasure to welcome you all to MARMARAMUN'25.

As Secretary-General, I have had the privilege of working with an extraordinary team to bring this conference to life—a conference that not only aims to uphold the values of diplomacy, cooperation, and intellectual rigor, but also strives to provide each of you with an unforgettable and transformative experience.

This year, under the motto “*Strive for Perfection*,” we have crafted a diverse array of committees and agenda items designed to challenge your critical thinking, ignite meaningful debate, and expand your understanding of global affairs. Whether you are stepping into the shoes of a delegate, chair, or observer, you are taking part in something greater than just a simulation: a platform where your voice matters, your perspective is valued, and your growth is inevitable.

MARMARAMUN is more than a conference—it is a community. One where ideas flourish, friendships are formed, and futures are inspired. I encourage you to embrace every opportunity to engage, collaborate, and push the boundaries of what you think is possible. Ask the difficult questions. Dare to defend the unpopular opinion. And above all, never stop learning.

On behalf of the entire Secretariat, I thank you for joining us on this journey. We cannot wait to see the impact you will make.

Warmest regards,
Doğukan Berke Aşık
Secretary-General



2. Letter from the committee board

Distinguished delegates, we would like to express our enthusiasm and excitement for being able to chair the Fifth Committee of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA-5) in the upcoming Marmara Model United Nations Conference. We welcome you all and hope that you'll have a remarkable Model United Nations experience.

We believe that Model United Nations (MUN) is a platform for self- progress and development. It will open the doors for you to learn about and discuss contemporary issues from around the globe. We highly advise you to embrace yourselves within this remarkable experience.

We have put together this Study Guide, which we hope you will take the time to read. The Committee will open the discussion for one Agenda item, which will be "The question effectiveness of the United Nations and prospects for structural reform".

This agenda will touch upon the core issues and critical points of the United Nations structure. This committee will transfer you to another scope of discussion, in which you will act as the pioneers of change and the leaders of the future. The United Nations has long served the universe in regards to different contemporary issues, however the world of yesterday is far different than the world of today.

We highly expect from you to champion this agenda and delve into fruitful debates and discussion that serve the ultimate aim of the committee. We, however, are not expecting you to understand and consider every aspect of the agenda item, but merely to produce an overview of the most important questions that might arise and possible solutions to these situations. Don't hesitate in contacting us through sabamadhoun3@gmail.com if any questions arise in your mind.

Good luck delegates!

UNGA-5 Committee Board



3.Introduction of the committee: Fifth Committee of the General Assembly (UNGA-5)

The UN General Assembly (UNGA) is the main policy-making organ of the Organization. Comprising all Member States, it provides a unique forum for multilateral discussion of the full spectrum of international issues covered by the Charter of the United Nations. Each of the 193 Member States of the United Nations has an equal vote. The UNGA also makes key decisions for the UN, including: appointing the Secretary-General on the recommendation of the Security Council, electing the non-permanent members of the Security Council, and approving the UN budget.

The United Nations establishment followed the devastating events of World War II in 1945. Its main goal was maintaining universal peace and security, enhancing cooperation, facilitating development, and promoting human rights. The United Nations Charter- the base for United Nations functionality and guides- has drafted the creation of an effective administrative and financial structure.

The Fifth Committee is the Committee of the General Assembly with responsibilities for administrative and budgetary matters. Unlike other UNGA committees that focus on social, economic, or political matters, the UNGA-5 functions as a watchdog for the United Nations, in which it ensures that resources are managed efficiently, transparently, and effectively. It is also the only committee in the general assembly with binding powers.

Based on the reports of the Fifth Committee, the General Assembly considers and approves the budget of the Organization in accordance with **Chapter IV, Article 17** of the Charter of the United Nations:

“The General Assembly shall consider and approve the budget of the Organization. The expenses of the Organization shall be borne by the Members as apportioned by the General Assembly. The General Assembly shall consider and approve any financial and budgetary arrangements with specialized agencies referred to in Article 57 and shall examine the administrative budgets of such specialized agencies with a view to making



recommendations to the agencies concerned.”

The Fifth Committee prepares the GA resolutions on how much each Member State pays to the UN and how these resources are allocated. It considers the programme budget of the UN (biennial), the peacekeeping budgets (annual) and human resources issues. It also defines the share each Member State is obliged to pay to the regular and peacekeeping budgets of the UN.

The Fifth Committee is also responsible for administrative matters. It considers management reform, governance, oversight and accountability issues. Scope and organization of work The GA does not decide on every aspect of UN activities, but all decisions on the regular UN budget are to be taken by the GA. This makes the task of C5 difficult. All draft resolutions with budget implications must be examined by C5 before they can be adopted in the Plenary.

The Fifth committee has a *de jure* advisory role in the budgets of the specialized agencies of the UN (like WHO, ILO, UNESCO) and the budgets of the voluntary financed funds and programs (like WFP, UNDP, UNICEF, ...) but these entities are *de facto* independently governed by their own boards, bodies and assemblies. Their relationship with the Fifth Committee is complex however, as member states that are not well represented in these boards try to tip the balance of power back to the GA and the Fifth Committee.

Subsidiary Bodies Reporting to the Fifth Committee:

- Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ)
- Board of Auditors
- Committee on Conferences
- Committee on Contributions
- Committee on Programme Coordination (CPC)
- Independent Audit Advisory Committee (IAAC)
- International Civil Service Commission (ICSC)
- Joint Inspection Unit (JIU)



4.Introduction to Agenda Item: The question effectiveness of the United Nations and prospects for structural reform

There are 252 countries in the world that each day have their own pace of development, no matter in what vector their economy and foreign policy are moving. The realities of things are such that the actions of the great countries can influence developments in a global context. The processes of globalization and regionalization are intensifying day by day and leave a mark in the history of each country.

The United Nations (UN) is a modern and recognized actor in international relations and an active instrument of conflict resolution in the world. It has been functioning as a maintenance body for global security since 1945. As it was established as a mechanism to prevent the horrors of previous world wars from happening again. However this mechanism has shown its fragility over the years, and opened endless debates concerned with the need for reformation.

The debate lies in the structural formation of the united nations, this, however, doesn't erase the united nations' efforts throughout the previous years.

4.1.Effectiveness of the United Nations (Achievements & Strengths)

4.1.1. Global Peacekeeping:

The United Nations was created with the goal of being a collective security organisation. The UN Charter establishes that the use of force is only lawful either in self-defence or if authorised by the UN Security Council. The Security Council's five permanent members, being China, US, UK, Russia and France, can veto any such resolution. Despite this point being a matter of negotiation, the efforts of the United Nations had been noticeable in many parts of the world, especially in relevance to the colonization era.

UN peacekeeping missions involve the use of impartial and armed UN forces, drawn from member states, to stabilise fragile situations. "The essence of peacekeeping is the use of soldiers



as a catalyst for peace rather than as the instruments of war,” said then UN Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar, when the forces won the 1988 Nobel Peace Prize following missions in conflict zones in the Middle East, Africa, Asia, Central America and Europe.

4.1.2. Development and Humanitarian Aid:

The UN development agenda cuts across a vast array of interlinked issues, ranging from gender equality, social integration, health, employment, education, the environment and population to human rights, finance and governance. The UN Development Programme is the UN’s largest provider of grants for sustainable human development worldwide, with an estimated bi-annual budget of \$7.5 billion for 2006–7. Many other UN programmes work for development in partnership with governments and NGOs. The World Food Programme is the world’s largest international food aid organisation for both emergency relief and development; it is expected to deliver 9.5 million tons of food aid in 2006–7. The UN Population Fund (UNFPA) is the largest international provider of population assistance. The UN High Commission for Refugees has assisted an estimated 50 million people over a period of more than five decades.

4.1.3. Human Rights:

the United Nations established the first comprehensive framework for human rights law. The organization defined human rights through the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the subsequent International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. Together, these documents defined the rights to equality, free movement, education, religion, and asylum, along with many others. The UN also established mechanisms to promote and protect the rights it outlines. The Human Rights Council, composed of 47 representatives, conducts a review every four years where it assesses the human rights record of all UN member states and presents nations with recommendations.

4.1.4. Climate Action:

The existence of the UN has created a forum where nations can discuss new problems, and climate change is one of them. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) was set up in 1988 to assess climate science and provide policymakers with assessments and options. In 1992, the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change created a permanent forum for



negotiations. With this step being a huge platform provider, it is still considered a negotiated point on its efficiency.

4.2. Shortcomings & Criticisms

4.2.1. Failure to Prevent Conflict:

Although the main duty for the United Nations is to prevent conflicts and wars, it has failed in doing so many times. The invasion of Iraq by the US in 2003 can be given as an example. The invasion was unlawful and without Security Council authorisation, reflects the fact that the UN has very limited capacity to constrain the actions of great powers.

The Security Council designers created the veto power so that any of the five permanent members could reject a Council resolution, so in that way it is programmed to fail when a great power really wants to do something that the international community generally condemns. In the case of the Iraq invasion, the US didn't veto a resolution, but rather sought authorisation that it did not get. The UN, if you go by the idea of collective security, should have responded by defending Iraq against this unlawful use of force. The invasion proved a humanitarian disaster with the loss of more than 500,000 lives, and many believe that it led to the emergence of the terrorist groups.

4.2.2. Power Imbalance – UNSC Veto System:

One of the current challenges of the UN is to reform the internal decision making system of the organization, and at the same time the UN Security Council, based on the following main reasons:

- The complication of international relations in the modern world and the development of scientific and technological progress.
- Many say that the organization is more responsive to crises than preventing them.



- The main body of the United Nations - the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) is increasingly criticized by international leaders.
- Major global players such as the United States, the United Kingdom, France, Russia and China have increasingly expressed the need to reform the main peacekeeping organization and the composition of the Security Council, but each has their own opinion and a club of supporters and opponents.
- The UN was established after the Second World War reflecting the balance of power prevalent at that time. The United States of America (USA), Soviet Union (USSR), United Kingdom (UK), France and China, the “Big 5”, became permanent members of the UN Security Council with veto power. However, the balance of power dramatically shifted during and after the Cold War era. Japan and Germany emerged as ‘economic superpowers’; The UK and France became more ‘ordinary powers’. New significant actors appeared, like the European Union and the ASEAN. Meaning that the current UN structure reflects the power dynamics of 1945 not the current time.

Case study:

The Arab populations and countries are always the losers from any resolution that is vetoed by either the United States, or Russia and China, particularly in the Syrian and the Palestinian cases. In the Syrian case, the Arab countries were always requesting the Security Council to condemn the stubbornness of the Syrian regime and military under the leadership of Basher El-Assad in committing massacres. throwing the exploded drums on the Syrian civilians, killing children and destroying the hospitals. The Arab countries submitted a lot of proposals, supported by some non-permanent countries in the Council to handle the Syrian situation, lessen the population suffering and allow the passage of humanitarian aid, and apply a ceasefire between the conflicting parties. Unfortunately, these resolutions were mostly encountered by Russian and Chinese vetoes or encountered by American veto if these resolutions were suggested by Russia. The repeatable usage of Russian veto had complicated the crisis and left a golden chance for ElAssad to escape from justice and continue these aggressive actions that his regime embarked on for seven years. Russia vetoed any resolutions regarding the Syrian crisis for 12 times since the crisis’s beginning in 2011.



4.2.3. Budgetary Issues and Financial Dependence:

The financial burdens that UN suffers from come basically from two reasons; firstly because of the wages paid to those excessive employees, and secondly because some member countries don't pay their annual quota from the UN regular budget, so this poses the UN to financial crises and this happened actually in 1995 when only 78 countries from 185 member countries paid their quotas. The expected debts that these countries owe to the UN reached about three billion dollars. These financial burdens forced the UN to reduce the expenditure on the peacekeeping operations, in which many countries don't agree to participate or spend money on.

The organization relies heavily on voluntary contributions from member states, which can be unpredictable and insufficient. Ensuring stable and adequate funding is crucial for the UN's ability to fulfill its mandate effectively.

4.2.4. Limited Representation and Legitimacy:

Despite its mission emphasizing inclusion and representation, the UN is typically viewed as a Western-oriented organization. From the UN's inception, European and American interests have prevailed. One example is developmental aid. Institutions like the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank are primarily responsible for coordinating economic development efforts while the UN provides guidelines for sustainable development and oversight. Together, they implement the UN's economic development framework. Both the IMF and World Bank condition loans on neoliberal features like trade liberalization, private enterprise, and an overall reduction in public spending (i.e. the size of government). These practices were especially controversial during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic when the IMF conditioned loans on tight austerity measures like reductions in public health spending and unemployment benefits.



Powers like India, Brazil, and Nigeria are considered (like many nations) underrepresented in decision-making bodies like the UNSC. Many Global South nations want the UN system to through **decolonization**.

Another recurring criticism of the UN is its inability to effectively enforce mandates. The UN is only as effective as member states allow and members go to great lengths to ensure national sovereignty. Therefore, General Assembly resolutions are typically considered to be recommendations. The Security Council is able to enforce its resolutions by means of sanctions or military force, but any one of the five permanent council members can veto a bill so harsh mechanisms are not frequently used.

5. Prospects for Structural Reform

The necessity of reform was anticipated by the founding fathers of the world organization in 1945. The legal evidence is clear. In its Article 109, the UN Charter stipulated the following:

“1. A General Conference of the Members of the United Nations for the purpose of reviewing the present Charter may be held at a date and place to be fixed by a two-thirds vote of the members of the General Assembly and by a vote of any nine members of the Security Council. Each Member of the United Nations shall have one vote in the conference. 2. Any alteration of the present Charter recommended by a two thirds vote of the conference shall take effect when ratified in accordance with their respective constitutional processes by two thirds of the Members of the United Nations including all the permanent members of the Security Council. 3. If such a conference has not been held before the tenth annual session of the General Assembly following the coming into force of the present Charter, the proposal to call such a conference shall be placed on the agenda of that session of the General Assembly, and the conference shall be held if so decided by a majority vote of the members of the General Assembly and by a vote of any seven members of the Security Council.”



5.1. The UNSC

For peace and security in the world, the UN Security Council takes the lead. It consists of 15 members, 5 of them permanent and 10 non-permanent, elected for two years. Permanent members include: the Russian Federation, the United States, France, the United Kingdom and China. The current Council and its veto power has been described by scholars as an “anachronistic legacy of the post-World War II order”. Provisionally, the initiator countries can be divided into groups:

- a. Uniting for consensus countries (Italy, Canada, Argentina, Pakistan, Costa Rica, Colombia, Malta, Mexico, Republic of Korea, San Marino, Spain).
- b. Expansion of non-permanent members of the UN Security Council and 2) G4 countries (Germany, Japan, Brazil, India), which support the increase in the number of permanent members
- c. Ezulwini Consensus: Africa has become very interested in the Security Council because of the role it plays in the recurring conflicts within the region. The region believes that the decisions of the Council will become more legitimate and implementation made easy if they are arrived at through democratic means. Calling for five non-permanent African seats, and two permanent and veto-wielding African seats in the UNSC.
- d. Limiting the Use of the Veto in the UN on Security Resolutions and Global Political Stability, In the case of Russia's invasion of Ukraine, Russia's use of the veto right to reject resolutions condemning the action has exacerbated the situation and hampered international efforts to resolve the conflict.

As for the countries that are currently permanent members of the UN Security Council they welcome the reform but they have their own interests in reforming.

A brief overview of world politics today and power dynamics:

China:

China is strongly opposed to accepting Japan as a permanent member of the UN Security Council, arguing that Japan refuses to acknowledge its historical mistakes. The PRC says that Japanese politics, which was carried out for the militaristic legacy of Japan, is a major historical



problem. Therefore, China sees Japan in the UN Security Council only if it acknowledges its mistakes.

Russia:

Russia very clearly lobbies for its own interests in the UN Security Council. First of all, when reforming permanent members of the UN Security Council, it doesn't want to allow the veto to be weakened. Because, as the number of members grows, the leading UN body will lose its effectiveness and efficiency in the world. Secondly, Russia now holds a special place in the Security Council, which it inherited from the USSR. But when it comes to the financial performance of this country, it is no longer very relevant to this status. Russia needs to maintain its control, given that in the modern world, it already has a weakening in the form of sanctions.

United states:

US President Donald Trump said at the UN Reform Forum: «In the past few years, the UN has not been able to reach its full potential with bureaucracy and failures, the regular UN budget has grown by 140%, and staff in The United Nations has doubled, but we do not see a result that would be in tune with such investments ...». The United States of America will be ranked first in UN funding. Washington pays 28.47% annually for UN peacekeeping operations, with a total budget of \$ 7.3 billion, and 22 percent of current expenditures of € 5.4 billion. Yes, the US is talking about UN reform, but in doing so it deviates from the Security Council issue. It looks like this: “We support the need to reform the entire United Nations without affecting the UN Security Council, but if they still draw attention to the UN Security Council.

France and the UK: France and the UK oppose the expansion of permanent members and Germany's accession to the UN Security Council. In this case, Germany will again talk about another place in the form of the EU. At the same time, as German Foreign Minister Freiko Meuse says: “Germany is taking on more and more responsibility in dealing with international problems and at the same time is meeting the growing expectations of the international community. Germany is the second world country in terms of the amount of money allocated for humanitarian needs”

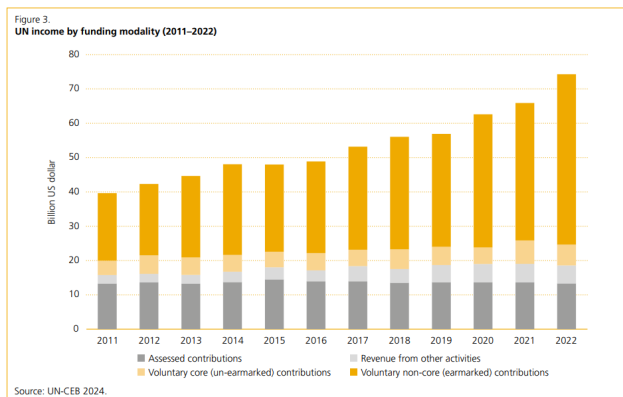


On the issue of Ukraine, the UN Security Council recently proposed to remove the veto, because the main subject of illegal actions has the power to influence the decisions and actions of countries. Going to the conclusions of this question, we can come to the following conclusions:

- There won't be major reforms in the UN Security Council in the near future, but discussions on this will be revitalized.
- Each member of the Permanent Members of the UN Security Council lobbies for its own interests and does not want its activities recognized by others.
- This problem is quite complex at the present stage: on the one hand, a unipolar vision of the world led by the United States, on the other hand, multipolar given the influence of the BRICS and G20 countries, but must take into account the period of the United Nations when the bipolar system of international relations was headed from the USSR and the US.

5.2. Budget and Resource Reform (UNGA-5 Domain)

When the UN was founded in 1945, the original members agreed in Article 17(2) of the UN Charter that



the budget of the organization would be apportioned among all member states, and that all would have a say in determining both the total size of the budget and the basis for its apportionment.

It has to be noted that the UN relies heavily on voluntary contributions from member states.

Over the course of the last 70 years, the share of these voluntary contributions has grown and become much larger than the assessed or compulsory contributions to the UN. The fact that many UN entities are entirely or largely dependent upon voluntary contributions has given rise to a political debate between member states on how these voluntary contributions should or should not be used.

The Fifth Committee responsible for the United Nations' budget, finances, and administrative issues. It is focused on reviewing:

- The UN Regular Budget



- The Peacekeeping Budget (over 6 billion USD annual)
- Special Political Missions (SPMs)
- And other Plans, including renovations and property management

Challenges Facing UN Budget

- a. The UN's operations and programs require substantial financial resources. However, there is a persistent challenge in securing adequate and predictable funding from member states. This limits the UN's capacity to address global issues comprehensively and respond swiftly to crises.
- b. Upon reviewing the UN's scale of assessment it is noticeable that it relies heavily on a few big contributors (U.S., China, Japan, Germany). Which allows those countries to uphold their donations as political leverage.
- c. While member states regard special political missions as a crucial part of the UN's global peace and security pillar, there is criticism among some member states that these missions have grown significantly in recent years and are eating up too much of the UN's regular budget.

Case study: how world politics can put the UN's resources under crisis

The war between Hamas and Israel in Gaza and the wider crisis in the Middle East have driven UN operations in the region to breaking point. Over 200 employees of the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) have been killed in Gaza since October 2023, a direct consequence of Israel's disregard for civilian life and humanitarian aid in Gaza. In parallel, the UN Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), the international peacekeeping force stationed along Israel's border with Lebanon, has seen its long-term role cast into uncertainty as Israel and Hizbollah have ratcheted up hostilities. With no end to the crisis in sight, UN members need to provide additional political support and the resources needed to keep these essential but embattled operations afloat. The immediate obstacle to UN efforts in Gaza is the lack of a ceasefire between Israel and Hamas. For now, there is little appetite in the Security Council to consider another ceasefire resolution after its June appeal – described in Section II –



went unheeded. Absent political agreement, two of the UN's most important operations in the region are left in the lurch.

The agency will need more money and political support if it is to endure. Numerous donors froze their support for the agency at the start of 2024, when Israel accused a small number of its staff of involvement in the 7 October atrocities by Hamas against Israelis – accusations a UN investigation upheld in some cases and dismissed in others. Most have restored funding as the war has gone on and after an independent report concluded that UNRWA has robust policies in place to comply with humanitarian principles. The U.S., however, continues to withhold over \$230 million; at the time of writing, the agency's financial sustainability beyond September was therefore in doubt.²⁷ With the U.S. Congress, unable to restore funding to UNRWA until mid-2025 at the earliest, other donors will need to plug the hole in the agency's finances.

Efforts to reform:

- Results Based Budgeting: An approach to budgeting in which resources are to be linked to specific, agreed-upon results that can be objectively measured.
- In 2022, the UN General Assembly voted to move from a biennial to an annual budget cycle. The decision was made in response to Member State concerns regarding cost savings and efficiency in spending and was aimed at ensuring resource decisions were made closer to the point of implementation. The approach also allows the UN to act on the most current information, particularly regarding developing situations and emergencies.

5.3. Administrative & Human Resource Reform

The Organization's greatest resource is its workforce. Since the adoption by the General Assembly of resolution 63/250, the Organization has undertaken a variety of human resources management reforms to develop a United Nations that is more responsive and flexible, supports a culture of empowerment and performance; allows equal access to career opportunities,



irrespective of programmes and sources of funding; and provides staff with the chance to learn and grow so that they can reach their greatest potential

Workforce planning:

- Launched HR Insight tool which provides staffing information, including on retirements, for Member States
- Completed a pilot workforce planning project with the Medical Services Division
- Civilian staff reviews mandated for all missions to ensure staffing is aligned with mandate. Six completed as of June 2014

Staff selection and recruitment:

- Implemented Inspira e-staffing platform on 22 April 2010. Inspira, which replaced Galaxy, is a more flexible and feature-rich platform with enhanced screening and reporting capabilities. Inspira has now been deployed to the field
- New staff selection system implemented on 22 April 2010 with streamlined eligibility criteria, improved evaluation methodology and greater emphasis on roster selection
- Careers website established, providing information on employment in the United Nations, including how to apply, interviews, examinations, conditions of service, etc.
- Young professionals programme implemented annually, with first examinations carried out in December 2011, and successful candidates onboarded as of July 2012.

Outreach:

- The Organization continues to make significant outreach efforts to unrepresented and underrepresented States through the dedicated unit established in 2008 in the Office of Human Resources Management. Additional information on outreach activities is provided in A/69/190/Add.3, information on geographical representation is contained in the report entitled “Composition of the Secretariat: staff demographics” (A/69/292) and information on a review of the system of desirable ranges can be found in A/69/190/Add.4.
- For field missions, outreach continued to target troop- and police-contributing countries. Current efforts include working with regional networks to create outreach multipliers, creating information products tailored to candidates from these regions and partnering



with the African Union and civil societies, especially with regard to Arabic and French speakers.

5.4. Peacekeeping Reform

Major changes to peacekeeping in recent years have increased burden-sharing, reduced the budget and improved accountability. In 2023, a U.S.-backed UN resolution allowed for the African Union to access UN funding for peace operations to fill essential funding gaps and provide security in a volatile region. And with strong U.S. support, the Secretary-General now has the authority to repatriate entire military and police units engaged in widespread or systematic misconduct, with expanded vetting for civilian personnel.

Resolution 2719, establishing a framework for African Union-led peace operations (AUPSOs) to access funding from the UN peacekeeping budget, strengthens Africa's security architecture and advances the critical partnership between the UN Security Council and the AU Peace and Security Council. AUPSOs function under the Peace and Security Council of the AU, which was established in the aftermath of crises in the 1990s, including the Rwandan genocide, to intervene in situations involving war crimes, genocide and crimes against humanity. This agreement directly addresses the U.S. interest in overcoming funding gaps that previously prevented the success of AU-led operations while maintaining the U.S. veto and say over any AUPSO that uses UN funds.

Burden Sharing:

Increased burden-sharing for international peace operations has been a priority for every modern U.S. administration. In 2023, the UN Security Council passed Resolution 2719, allowing the African Union (AU) to access UN funding on a case-by-case basis for peace operations. The decision was designed to overcome funding shortfalls among AU members and provide better burden sharing in a region that has experienced high levels of violence from extremist and paramilitary forces like the Russian-led Wagner Group. Through U.S. support of AU financing, the UN has become a counterweight to malign actors in critical regions like the Sahel – without deploying U.S. troops.



Budget Reform:

U.S. engagement with the UN has successfully reduced the peacekeeping budget and number of peacekeeping missions. In the last eight years alone, the peacekeeping budget has been reduced by \$1 billion and five missions

Five areas of peace and security reform within the UN

- Creation of a department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs and a department of Peace Operations
- Establishment of a single political-operational structure under Assistant Secretaries-General with regional responsibilities, reporting to the Under-Secretaries-General for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs and for Peace Operations
- Establishment of a Standing Principals Group of the Secretary General and the Under Secretaries-General for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs and for Peace Operations > Enhancement of certain priority areas to ensure coherence and coordination across the peace and security pillar
- Introduction of several non-structural changes in the way the peace and security pillar works

Two new departments

- **The Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs (DPPA)** will combine the strategic, political and operational responsibilities of the current department of Political Affairs (DPA) and the peacebuilding responsibilities of the Peacebuilding Support Office (PBSO). The new DPPA will have global responsibility for political and peacebuilding issues and will manage a variety of commitments within conflicts, such as: a more holistic approach to conflict prevention and resolution, electoral assistance, peacebuilding, and sustaining peace. The DPPA is geared to provide strategic, political, operational and management advice, and direction for political missions.
- **The Department of Peace Operations (DPO)** will serve as an integrated 'centre of excellence' for UN peace operations. The department will be responsible for preventing,



responding to and managing international conflict. Equally, the DPO will be charged with peace keeping within countries; in line with peace operation mandates. These mandates may include facilitating and implementing political arrangements, providing integrated strategic and political management advice, direction and support of peace operations. Moreover, the new department will be in charge of developing political, security and integrated strategies that will lead to an integrated analysis and overall planning of peace operations.

6. Past and Ongoing Reform Initiatives

6.1. Past actions

Since 1975, the General Assembly has reconvened the Special Committee every year, considered its successive reports and renewed and revised its mandate on an annual basis in its resolutions on the topic of the Report of the Special Committee. Since its establishment, the Special Committee has negotiated, drafted and finalized several texts resulting, inter alia, in the adoption by the General Assembly of the following instruments:

- Manila Declaration on the Peaceful Settlement of International Disputes (GA resolution 37/10 of 15 November 1982, annex)
- Declaration on the Prevention and Removal of Disputes and Situations Which May Threaten International Peace and Security and on the Role of the United Nations in this Field (GA resolution 43/51 of 5 December 1988, annex);
- Declaration on Fact-finding by the United Nations in the Field of the Maintenance of International Peace and Security (GA resolution 46/59 of 9 December 1991, annex);
- Declaration on the Enhancement of Cooperation between the United Nations and Regional Arrangements or Agencies in the Maintenance of International Peace and Security (GA resolution 49/57 of 9 December 1994, annex);
- United Nations Model Rules for the Conciliation of Disputes between States (GA resolution 50/50 of 11 December 1995, annex);
- Decision on Resort to a commission of good offices, mediation or conciliation within the United Nations (GA decision 44/415 of 4 December 1989, annex);



- Resolution on Prevention and Peaceful settlement of disputes (GA resolution 57/26 of 19 November 2002).

6.2. Present Efforts

- Our Common Agenda (2021):

is the Secretary-General's vision for the future of global cooperation. It calls for inclusive, networked, and effective multilateralism to better respond and deliver for the people and planet and to get the world back on track by turbocharging action on the Sustainable Development Goals. It outlines possible solutions to address the gaps and risks that have emerged since 2015, calling for a Summit of the Future that will be held in 2024.

- High-Level Advisory Board on Effective Multilateralism (2023):

The High-Level Advisory Board on Effective Multilateralism (HLAB) was established by the United Nations Secretary-General and builds on Our Common Agenda, a report released by Secretary-General António Guterres in September 2021 that calls for stronger governance of key issues of global concern. The HLAB is co-chaired by Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, former President of Liberia, and Stefan Löfven, former Prime Minister of Sweden, and supported by the United Nations University Centre for Policy Research (UNU-CPR).

7. Key Terminology

The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA): is the main policymaking organ of the United Nations, comprising all 193 Member States.

Peacekeeping Missions: a way to help countries torn by conflict create conditions for sustainable peace. UN peacekeepers—soldiers and military officers, police officers and civilian personnel from many countries—monitor and observe peace processes that emerge in post-conflict situations and assist ex-combatants in implementing the peace agreements they have signed.

United Nations Security Council (UNSC): is one of the six principal organs of the United Nations (UN) and is charged with ensuring international peace and security, recommending the



admission of new UN members to the General Assembly, and approving any changes to the UN Charter.

Charter of the United Nations (UN): is the foundational treaty of the United Nations. It establishes the purposes, governing structure, and overall framework of the UN system.

United Nations specialized agencies are autonomous organizations working with the United Nations and each other through the structure of the United Nations Economic and Social Council at the intergovernmental level, and through the Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB) at the intersecretariat level.

The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions: a subsidiary organ of the General Assembly, consists of 21 members appointed by the Assembly in their individual capacities. The Members are elected by the General Assembly for a period of three years, on the basis of a broad geographical representation.

Peacebuilding: is an activity that aims to resolve injustice in nonviolent ways and to transform the cultural and structural conditions that generate deadly or destructive conflict.

reforms of the United Nations (UN): refer to the numerous calls since the late 1990s for transformative changes within the UN.

Budget oversight: includes a number of activities that aim to measure whether public resources have been used appropriately, effectively, and efficiently.

8. Conclusion

With the United Nations playing an undeniable role since its establishment in 1945 in fields as peacekeeping and humanitarian aid, as well as sustainable development and green politics. The UN's architectural shortcomings have reduced its ability to respond adequately to different arising arguments and challenges.



In order to make the organization competent and linked to current international problems, UN improvement, especially in the composition of the protection board and the allocation of resources, is essential. While the Member States continue to argue about difficulties, it is clear that organizational updates are not only essential but also a longstanding delinquent. The future of international cooperation will be formed by the ongoing argument to modify if the UN's financial independence is further expanded by the recommendation to expand the Congress's financial independence.

Lastly, although the United Nations is doing a lot for peace and security, their influence in the period approaching restrains their ability to adapt to the changing tides of global governance. As we approach, it is essential that the MS join together to make the organization more comprehensive, clearer, and productive so that we can deal with the major challenges of our time.

9. Questions to be Asked/Addressed

How can the veto system be reformed in a way that democratizes the decision making process and make it more responsive to contemporary issues?

What are the potential advantages and disadvantages of reforming the permanent members status of the security council?

In what ways should the financial structure of the United Nations be reformed for greater stability and reduction on voluntary contributions from member states?

In what ways can the UN ensure more representation of the Global South in the decision making process?

How can the UN balance between reforming and protecting national sovereignty?

How can the UN ensure more effective coordination between its agencies and regional organizations in addressing global challenges?



How can the UN improve its peacekeeping operations to prevent conflicts and conflict escalation and how will that affect the budget of the United Nations?

How can the UN ensure a transparent distribution of resources under the framework of its specialised agencies across the globe?

How can the UN reform its budget allocation techniques to ensure more equitable funding for its programs and operations?

10. Resources

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