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*Is United Nations Security Council capable of maintaining
Human Security without a necessary reform?*

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Abstract

'Security,' according to the conventional definition, is defined as protection against foreign military assaults (traditional security). However, the current emergence of non-traditional security concerns related to health, environment, and energy requires an updated definition and involvement of a hegemonic organization for security maintenance purposes. An international organization already exists, named the Security Council of the United Nations, which is tasked with ensuring peace and global security. As technology and biotechnology advance, they could affect the earth's inhabitants in various ways. The Security Council has the essential role of responding to current and future global security crises; however, through a glance into the history, the Security Council's stagnation to respond is a result of its perilous structure and ambiguity in Chapter VII, which omits its full potential in terms of obligations to address global security crises. Therefore, the Security Council reforms seem necessary in order to prevent the world from descending into the dark ages because of the pragmatism of permanent members' competition. Actors maintain a goal of trying to isolate and constrain their opponents by spontaneous and unanticipated measures within the structure of the Security Council. This ultimately not leads to regaining the damaged originality of the Security Council and the United Nations by blocking it to respond strictly and effectively to security concerns. If not, consequently, the UN member states might pursue individual or regional actions to address non-traditional and traditional security concerns and defend their interests, as they currently started to do and were doing before forming the international system.

Keywords: United Nations, Security Council, United Nations Security Council, Purpose and relevance of reforming the Security Council

Introduction

The explicit aggravation of contemporary security issues rationalizes the futile expectation of a remedy to respond to current and future global security cases by the intervention of the current outdated, inordinate, and exclusive organ of the United Nations (UN), the Security Council. The traditional understating of 'security' is subject to "defence from external military attacks,"¹ but currently, the focus should be expanded to reflect the health, environment, energy, military, human, cyber, societal, economic, political, gender, and regime security, respectively. Thus far, the presence of various powers with specific interests, non-traditional security concerns, and biochemical developments/challenges are triggering incremental threats to International Security. Altogether this debilitates the efficacy of the countries' mutual efforts towards prevention, monitoring, and control of the eminent security concerns collaboratively using International Organizations, collectively or individually. Thus, the question appears that under its primary responsibility of the 'maintenance of international peace and security,' is the Security Council capable of securing the human race from the traditional and non-traditional security concerns without a necessary reform?

Understandably, states had relied on the Security Council as the primary mediator, conflict resolver, and peace maintainer. However, in the recent decades, alongside conflict resolution, in terms of the environmental problems, climate change issues, and energy access challenges; the Security Council has committed no comprehensive stewardship to the new and contemporary outbreaks and emerging threats yet. The ambiguity in Chapter VII could be argued as a hindrance, but the question is to leave the ambiguity until when? According to the current time and deteriorating events, this brief article analyzes the lingering consequences of the current order of the Security Council in terms of inactivity and bottleneck toward answering novel security aspects and disperse of UN member states from the organization due to the unproductive structure of the Security Council.

¹Collins, *Contemporary Security Studies*, page 132.

Discussion

Limiting the UN founders' power and influence in the Security Council has been debated since the organization's emergence, arguing it as an unjust structure and stratification. Since then, revamping the Security Council was included in the UN General Assembly's agenda by groups of nations from time to time, primarily for restricting and regulating permanent members' dominance over the military, political and regime aspects of the countries or regions they are interested in.² Consciously for the first and last attempt, through consensus of permanent members of the Security Council, it expanded from six to ten non-permanent members in 1965.³ Other reform attempts to date are precipitated due to the dearth of unity between collaborators and dissidence of rivals or allegedly diluted by the 'divide and rule' policy. So, the prevalent practice by victors of WWII has been to evade revamping or constantly keep states busy theorizing the Security Council's reformation. Historical stances of the mighty nations on reforming the Security Council were to curb the undemocratic structure, continental representative imbalance, coercion of founders, and eradication of the veto right or privileging it to all members of the Council perennial.⁴

The combination of present decisive worldwide security aspects coupled with technological and biochemical innovations and education-terrorism nexus shifted the world's trajectory into an increasingly complex nature, stifling the response of the Security Council to renormalize affairs. The claim that the Security Council's permanent and non-permanent members are peacekeepers diminishes inherently after the development of harmful phenomena that are happening in their lands which could end up in an irreparable outbreak by a simple mistake at any time. Speculation of a biochemical outbreak is irrefutable through the latest gene hacking/modifications, artificial intelligence developments for military purposes, and conduction of biohazard tests inside the territory of some of the Security Council's permanent members. Besides, the presence of opportunist terrorists attacking biochemical or military databanks or datum sources to misuse against the human race is also incontrovertible. The notions above might sound to be correlated with conspiracy theories downgrading the accomplishments of the Security Council and its limited function. However, the current ongoing events highlight the precarious situation of our future. Even if humanity is successful in preventing the utilization of nuclear weapons, Hobbs argues that human mortality is threatened by scattering perniciously infectious or dangerous oddities, and millions might die. As a result, pessimistic competition among permanent members to isolate and confine rivals by unpredictable and un-

² Snyder, "REFORMING THE SECURITY COUNCIL FOR THE POST-COLD WAR WORLD."

³ Lättilä and Ylönen, "United Nations Security Council Reform Revisited: A Proposal."

⁴ Lättilä and Ylönen.

foreseen actions prompts the need for an inclusive reform of the Security Council to prevent the world from falling sharply into dark ages. In simple words, due to the recognition of superfluous privileges for permanent members, Security Council cannot stop itself from harming the planet. To illuminate, Putin's fear over gene editing as a mass destruction weapon, China's super-soldier creation project, scholarly anticipations on the use of biological agents by terrorists, and neglect over climate change by the United States during the Trump administration, are worth contemplation.⁵ Indeed, the UNSC, by Chapter VII is not constrained to address every security aspect, and it is free to decide what falls into its area of competence.⁶ However, these are the signs signaling the entrance to a new era of securitization that demands enormous awareness of encompassing security threats by nations or the organ in charge (UNSC). In the absence of an assertive guardian after the unilateral world order, a new form of anarchy not limited to the military might emerge.

Unlike in the early years of its emergence, the Security Council did not use the votes of the Legal Committee and, abandoned the International Legal System. It took actions that were not authorized by the Charter due to the ambiguity of Chapter VII, and triggered distrust when it eliminated the transparency principle. Thereupon, the cultivation of democratic regimes to date detracted the discretion and influence of the world's hegemonic powers in the General Assembly meetings because of regional and interest block creations by the countries undermining autocracy.⁷ Since the philosophy of establishing international institutions, particularly the United Nations, or its dedicated organ, the Security Council, is to prevent international chaos. It is complementary that to prevent chaos, controlling hegemony's power in decision-making is also essential. If not, regional-based feudalism among countries could seem to aggravate the mayhem. Thus, the Security Council and the United Nations need to regain their damaged originality. Otherwise, the UN member states might pursue a policy of individual action to settle their disputes and defend their interests, as they do and did before forming the international system, which interprets as a return to the law of the jungle. In addition, it puts over half a century of UN legislative work on the brink of extinction. When the permanent members magnanimously fail to apply/respect the ratified international rules within or without their territories, it challenges the binding principle of resolutions and declarations. Therefore, this is a sign of the inefficacy of the Security Council in maintaining its crystal-clear responsibilities requiring inclusive reform.

⁵Robitzski, "Vladimir Putin Is Reportedly Terrified of Gene-Hacking Experiments"; Poole, "The Myth and Reality of the Super Soldier"; Radosavljević and Jakovljević, "Bioterrorism—Types of Epidemics, New Epidemiological Paradigm and Levels of Prevention"; Davenport and Landler, "Trump Administration Hardens Its Attack on Climate Science."

⁶Chesterman, "Reforming the United Nations: Kofi Annan's Legacy Gets a Reality Check."

⁷Urquhart, "Reforming the United Nations."

Besides, the UN member states might pursue activating the ‘Uniting for Peace’ mechanism that might strongly upset the veto holder countries and cause tension and pessimism between the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) and United Nations General Assembly (UNGA). From an extra point of view, the continuity of blocking the Security Council to take a decision would become a more typical action with the centrality of maintaining the interests of UNSC founder/s, while not meeting the interests of non-permanent and UNGA member-states collectively. It would be against the prevention and resilience framework that are objectives of Human Security. As a result, it would pin the UNSC Resolutions and the UN Charter as an ephemeral piece of text, causing loss of trust and the distancing of member states. It merits mentioning a series of recent events that left the Security Council without a bold endeavor. The invasion of Ukraine by Russia on February 24, 2022; the collapse of the Afghan government on August 15, 2021, to the Taliban — a terrorist group; and the topical Tajikistan invasion of the Kyrgyz Republic over the unresolved border and water disputes that Russia mitigated, resulting in a ceasefire.⁸

Besides, the ethnic and territorial Nagorno-Karabakh conflict was mitigated by regional powers such as Russia and Iran in spite of the UN’s 2008 vote and Security Council’s series of 1993 resolutions counting Azerbaijan’s claim true; nevertheless, the Security Council has conducted no productive activity to act as a guardian halting the armed conflict of the two nations in 2021 clash. Indeed, it is rigid for the Security Council to hinder each case by sending peace-making troops or selecting an alternative; however, resolving conflicts with direct mitigation of permanent members away from Council’s channel is a sign of contempt to the Council ethically. In the above tensions, UNSC had no discretion of action, but it was super or regional powers that acted individually or collectively to mitigate the situation.

Conclusion

In a nutshell, the stagnation of the Security Council is bound by its weak structure, which omits its credibility and influence regarding its responsibilities. Efforts for a new formation of the Council were successful at one point in time, causing a slight but unproductive change. The continuous crumbling of the current regulations of the Council does not enable it to respond to modern trends. It maintains trends that are contradictory yet more harmful than previous universal security concerns. Such trends, at first glance, are a result of permissible innovations happening in some of the Council’s permanent dominant countries. Relevantly, with the expansion of technology and biotechnology, planet earth is under threat of suffocation by new security phenomena that concern health, environment, and energy. At such times,

⁸“Deadly Fighting on Kyrgyzstan-Tajikistan Border Kills at Least 31.”

collective measurements taken under the flag of a respective robust organ are a comprehensive cure to combat a pandemic, outbreak, or unforeseen catastrophic events.

Moreover, the inefficacy of the Security Council toward lawful, efficient, and respectful interventions for maintaining peace is under the influence of permanent members and the ten non-permanent members. Where there is their interest collectively; there exists the will of the Council to act upon. Overall, with the ongoing security scenarios globally that include the Ukraine crisis and the COVID-19 pandemic, and all others that happened in the history of the Security Council, reform is a need for sublime functionality. If not, the UN, as well as the Security Council, might look symbolic afterward, resulting in the withdrawal of members from membership and the organization's collapse.

To consolidate and maintain security and peace as the primary duty of the UNSC, under the umbrella of the UN Charter; it would be necessary to condemn the spoiler countries who disproportionately block the UNSC. To encapsulate, according to its logic of formation, UNGA must address the traditional and non-traditional security matters strictly and respond to them effectively by any means or according to the 'Uniting for Peace' resolution.

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