

A STUDY ON CHALLENGES BEFORE UNITED NATIONS

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Abstract

While declaring the objectives in the Charter of the United Nations, it has been made clear from the very beginning that the first goal is to liberate mankind from the horrors of war. Obviously, its most important effort is to make impossible the conditions that give rise to war and destroy peace. At the time of establishment, the memories of the Second World War were fresh and the struggle against colonialism was widespread throughout the world. In these circumstances, the reasons that made peace in danger were clearly identifiable.

But within a few days that situation started changing and the challenge of winning the hearts and minds of the people in favor of their ideology became strong during the Cold War era. It was understood that if economic growth slowed, social discontent and resentment would continue to grow, and violent anarchy and political upheaval would put peace at risk.

The challenges faced by the United Nations Organization in the latter half of the 20th century were related to some critical issues. The Security Council was busy keeping untouchables collective security and peace, while the specialist departments were busy in influencing the direction and pace of development in a customized manner. The study is predicated on functionalist theoretical framework to examine the United Nations and the contemporary challenges of war, conflicts, genocide etc. in the world.

Keywords: United Nations, World War, Security Council, Economic growth, Cold War

Introduction

The United Nations was established in an environment created by global circumstances. During the tenure of seven decades, it tried to solve global challenges through collective effort and to some extent succeeded in them. The United Nations is a permanent system at the global level, which performs its functions through its various organs. In the year 2015, it identified the challenges of the present world in 17 points through the Sustainable Development Goals. These include poverty, hunger, education, health, energy, economic growth and better employment, fundamental problems, industry and innovation, gender equality, water and sanitation, inequality reduction, sustainable cities, climate action, ecological systems, peace and justice and participation. Huh. But the above goals represent challenges designed keeping human development in mind. While the obvious points of global challenges differ from these as well. Such as: challenges arising from climate change, declining biodiversity, increasing poverty and inequality, spreading hatred, geo-political tensions,

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comparative differences in production in proportion to population growth, nuclear weapons, waste disposal, pollution and technology related problems etc. Mingst, K. A., Karns, M. P., & Lyon, A. J. (2018).

The above challenges have been identified as such stress points of the world, which remain a hindrance to the peace and stability of the contemporary world. The size, type and impact of these challenges is universal. Solving these requires a united and universal effort. During an informal speech in 2019, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres addressed climate change, sustainable economic development and technological change as current problems and called for global partnerships to address them. Muldoon Jr, J. P. (2018).

Recognizing challenges is a different topic and working on them is a different topic. A review of the efforts made so far appears necessary to address the global challenges. Special groups have been set up by the United Nations to deal with global challenges and joint efforts are encouraged through partnerships among the member states of these groups. For example, the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) and UNFCCC were formed to deal with environmental challenges. Similarly, many groups like WHO to deal with health challenges, United Nations Security Council (UNSC) to deal with security challenges, Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) for food security, International Labor Organization (ILO) for labor affairs was constituted.

The challenges that are standing in front of them or are emerging rapidly, they are very complex and also of a new kind. Above all, the international legal recognition of the equality of sovereign states and the prohibition of interference from others in their spheres of sovereignty is rapidly eroding. Some scholars believe that the international political system on which the foundation of this institution rested, has become hollow.

The second thing is unilateral interference in human rights violations. In any state, any strong state can attack a relatively weak state on the pretext of ending genocide or any other such heinous crime. It is true that the forum of the United Nations has proved to be very useful for the protection of human rights, but this subject has also not remained untouched by the tug of war going on in this institution. To meet the challenges of the new millennium, the United Nations tried to draft a new functioning. The formation of the Human Rights Commission was an integral part of that. Bexell, M., & Jönsson, K. (2017, January).

Ironically, today many-member commission also has countries like China and Cuba, which the US and other western states consider largely responsible for human rights violations. It seems that the membership of this commission is left only to defend itself and to put the opponents to shame.

As a reflection of the politics and reality of their time, the makers of the United Nations Charter granted permanent membership to China, France, Great Britain, the United States and the Soviet Union in the world's most important and powerful entity. The other ten members of the UN Security Council were to be elected by the General Assembly. Established in 1945, the system underwent two significant changes - the transfer of membership to the People's Republic of China instead of

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the Republic of China due to the Chinese Civil War, and with the breakup of the Soviet Union, the Russian Federation got permanent membership. Although the five countries with permanent membership had the right of veto, but only elected members could form a majority and through this a balance of power was created. That is why, P-5 and E-10 can only accept proposals if they cooperate effectively. In the post-World War II world, the United Nations Security Council in general failed to prevent conflicts, but it, in many ways, drew a red line for the world's major powers that it was impossible for them to disrespect. Moore, J. A., & Pubantz, J. (2017).

Change and Institutional Perseverance

The worldwide pandemic of COVID-19 may have exposed structural differences and rifts within the Security Council, but some semblance of division was born in the 1950s. At that time, the Cold War had forced the world to split into factions. Even states like India, Egypt, and Yugoslavia, which did not want to go with any faction or alliance, had to form their own 'faction' i.e. group of non-aligned nations to get out of this politics of faction. The systemic rivals of the Cold War lacked mutual trust and their cooperation was limited to international security issues and challenges. The legal norms and principles by which the United Nations Security Council was bound, resolved mutual differences and ambitions of member states and facilitated the operation of the organization. But now the situation is changing. China is no longer part of a variety of international agreements such as the Limited Test Ban Treaty (LTBT), and Russia and the United States are bent on criticizing or rejecting institutions that promote arms shortages and arms management. , and as such the Security Council has lost its ability to control the behavior of the world's most powerful countries and to tell them what to do and what not to do, in the public interest. With the rise of nationalist politics around the world, the Security Council is now seen as a platform to pursue personal interests. The rise of nationalism around the world is the outright collapse of liberal democratic values, and the promotion of transactional politics has led to an arms race among all nations to build relationships with each other. This is particularly more visible in relatively new policy areas, for example in the cyber and space sectors that have so far remained unregulated. By questioning the broader purpose and meaning of the United Nations, US President Donald Trump has also served to make the Security Council meaningless and challenge its legitimacy.

Responsibility for reforms

The Security Council has not successfully participated in the reforms in the past. Yes, it can be argued, that resolutions like 2250 and 2419 show that a new understanding is emerging in the Security Council about peace and security in line with the UN security agenda. However, the flurry of resolutions that followed the end of the Cold War did not set the Security Council's new objectives, but reflected the Security Council's new hybridity about global and local issues. Overall, finding solutions to the world's problems by consensus has not been easy. Standoffs and conflicts such as the ongoing war in Syria show the consequences a failure of the Security Council can bring. While maintaining a clear division of functioning among UN institutions, the Security Council must act in line with the overall UN goals, but also have a key role, creating strong mandates for basic

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security-related responsibilities. One way this sort of thing could be implemented would be to set up an automated referral process within the United Nations, whereby vetoed proposals are brought up for consideration once again, so that they can be used in the legal process. Nolan, A., Freedman, R., & Murphy, T. (Eds.). (2017).

Contrary to popular belief, the five permanent members of the UN Security Council, if they agree to create additional permanent seats within the Council, will only benefit from it because any member of the Security Council, in the midst of the chaos and anarchy prevailing in the world cannot achieve economic or political gains in the long run.

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India's stand on UNSC reform

India wants to increase the number of both temporary and permanent members of the Security Council. India believes that in the changed world, the United Nations' strength and strength is needed. In India, the issue of increasing cooperation and promoting development among the countries of the United Nations is a major issue because it is the first condition for international peace and security. Rosa, W. E., Dossey, B. M., Watson, J., Beck, D. M., & Upvall, M. J. (2019).

India's biggest concern is about the composition of the Security Council. The number of members in the General Assembly of the United Nations has increased significantly. India argues that with the expansion of the Council, the Security Council will be more representative and there will be more support from the world fraternity. The review of the work of the Security Council depends on the work of the world fraternity, so there is a need for a restructuring of the Security Council. Also more developing countries should be included. Arora, N. K., & Mishra, I. (2019).

In the Security Council, India has the support of almost all countries except China in the P-5 countries (USA, France, Russia, China, and United Kingdom). A few days ago, America, France and Britain played an important role in declaring terrorist Masood Azhar as a global terrorist.

Although these countries do support India, but many countries of the P-5 are not ready for any changes in the Security Council. The stand of America and China living with India changes

regarding the inclusion of India in the Security Council. These countries do not want the number of permanent or non-permanent members to increase.

Challenges before the United Nations

In the present times, global challenges have changed their nature. Economic, social and technological changes have presented unprecedented challenges to the global community. Examples are climate change, pollution, biological diversity, terrorism, inequality, stressed geopolitical situation, economic development and pandemics like Corona. The challenges posed by the corona virus have shaken the global order. Despite the various efforts made to stop this epidemic, it has engulfed the whole world. During the Corona crisis, all the countries of the world, whether they are developed countries or underdeveloped, have all faced its horrors. The health disaster handling systems of countries with strong infrastructure like America, Europe appeared helpless. Samuel, T. (2019).

Structural challenges

- The resolutions passed by the United Nations General Assembly are not of binding nature which is the biggest weakness for the General Assembly.
- The duties and responsibilities of the Secretary-General of the United Nations are unclear in the Charter of the United Nations, which in some way affects policy making.
- The UN Secretary-General is expected to act impartially but the UN largely depends on funding from member states, which hinders impartiality.
- The United Nations General Assembly, consisting of representatives of all states, does not have control over the veto power of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC).
- Despite the establishment of the United Nations for 75 years, its most important institution, the United Nations Security Council (UNSC), is not represented in line with the immediate global politics.
- Abuse of veto power by member states due to the lack of inclusive representation and transparency of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC).

Current challenges

- During the Cold War, the US and Russia were facing each other and the work of the UN Security Council continued to be disrupted.
- In the 1990s after the disintegration of Soviet Russia, America's agenda was dominant in the context of global security.
- From the first decade of the 21st century, once again there was a conflict in the Security Council when America on one side and Russia and China on the other came together. In the present time, the conflicting nature between the United States on the one hand and the alliance of Russia and China on the other has again developed.
- There are also differences between the US and its European allies on many global issues. Due to which the complexity of the issue is increasing more and more. For example-

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- The US wants to continue with UN sanctions on Iran while other powers, including America's European allies, are unwilling to follow the US lead.
- Even within the US, there are differences of opinion on global issues.
- The United Nations has also been facing criticism in the wake of the Kovid-19 pandemic.
- The United Nations failed to respond effectively to the global crisis of the century.
- In the Security Council, China used its vetoes to stop serious discussions about the origin of the corona virus.
- Although the World Health Organization has done some work in this direction. But the US has said that it will withdraw from the World Health Organization, calling it insufficient.
- All the above issues present serious challenges to the existing multilateralism. Necessary changes should be made in the United Nations for the establishment of a new multilateralism system according to the needs of today.

Future challenges

- To stay in a rapidly changing world means to be left behind. With this idea at the heart, Guterres emphasized the need to move quickly to address the three main challenges of the 21st century: climate change, the Sustainable Development Goals, and the proliferation of new technology.
- New research is indicating how big a threat climate change is. "A report last week revealed that ocean temperatures are rising 40 percent faster than five years ago. To keep global warming to 1.5 degrees over the next decade, economies will have to make major changes."
- Guterres called on member states to review progress made on the environmental issue and resolve to meet the new goals under the Paris Agreement. In this connection, a climate conference is being organized on 23 September in which climate action efforts will be promoted.
- With the hope that the new technology will help in education, health and humanitarian relief work, he cautioned that technological modernization should address the challenges faced by workers and job opportunities. Apart from this, the misuse of technology should be dealt with. According to him, a panel set up for digital cooperation is preparing a report on suggestions to bridge the digital gap in the world.

Other Challenges

- Technology has been recognized as a key factor in making the world more equitable and more peaceful, as it can ensure equal access to knowledge and resources to the poorest sections of people such as these Sudanese girls.
- Conflicts in many places in the world, especially vulnerable populations, have a greater impact. For example, 20 million people in struggling Yemen depend on some form of external humanitarian aid. The United Nations believes that preventing and resolving conflicts will be possible only through greater international cooperation.

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- The United Nations has recognized inequality as an issue "that will define our times." It is expected that the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, agreed by countries around the world in 2015, is based on poverty alleviation, peacebuilding and equality. , and will be successful in protecting the earth.
- According to the United Nations, no corner of the world is safe from the "catastrophic consequences" of climate change. But man is very capable and it can be dealt with by big and small measures. For example, by using renewable energy to reverse global warming, it is possible to solve crises such as environmental degradation, natural disasters, extreme weather events, food and water insecurity, economic crisis, conflict and terrorism.
- The world population is projected to increase by 2 billion – meaning that the population of 7 billion 700 million currently living in cities, will increase to 9 billion 700 million by 2050. To reduce the impact of this population growth, it will be necessary to ensure decent work for all those people so that they can afford food, health care and children's education.
- Good health is a fundamental human right. Although access to sexual, reproductive and child health care services is improving and maternal mortality is declining, the global community still struggles to reach the most vulnerable. The United Nations is trying to ensure that women and girls in particular have access to proper health services.
- Equality between men and women is a fundamental principle of the United Nations that was enshrined in the United Nations Charter in 1945, 75 years ago. Bridging the gender gap by reducing inequality is a key priority for UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres. The Secretary-General warned that, "Change is taking place at a pace that is too slow for the women and girls whose lives depend on it."Huaccho-Huatuco, L., & Ball, P. D. (2019).

Conclusion

In order to gain control over the challenges the Security Council is facing today, there is a need to overcome the transactional politics that is currently taking place. The suggestions mentioned here can be successful only within a larger reform agenda, and only if all nations reject the transactional tendencies and consider humanity as paramount, then only positive results can come out in this direction. These reforms should be understood as a long-term investment in restoring security in international politics and international relations, and the Security Council as its broader institutional framework. Only then, can the Security Council serve as an indispensable organization in its historical form, and gain credibility as a custodian of international peace and security for 75 years to come.

It is believed that the solution of problems lies in the problems itself, so it can be said that the solution of global problems is possible only through global solutions. Global problems are bigger than the extent, power or capability of any country belonging to the global community, the latest example of which we have seen in a crisis like Corona. Therefore, it can be said that to deal with global challenges, we should find solutions in global solidarity, efforts and possibilities, which is the only effective and tested option.

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