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United Nations Security Council and World Peace: Challenges and Prospects

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Abstract
The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) remains the primary organ responsible for the maintenance of international peace and security, playing a pivotal role in preventing conflicts, resolving disputes, and authorising collective action when necessary. Since its establishment in 1945, the UNSC has been instrumental in facilitating peacekeeping missions, imposing sanctions, and providing diplomatic platforms for negotiation among conflicting parties. The purpose of this study is to examine the challenges, successes and failures of the United Nations Security Council in its effort to promote world peace. Since data for the study came from secondary sources such as books, journals, websites, and periodicals, it used the historical method. The study finds that, though UNSC has achieved success in its intervention efforts but the failures outweigh those successes due to the challenges of UNSC permanent members' veto power, selective intervention practice among others. This paper recommends, among other things, that the United Nations Security Council should prioritise structural reforms that address the imbalance of power within its permanent membership, enhance transparency in its decision-making processes, and reduce the frequent use of veto power that often paralyses collective action in times of crisis.

Keywords: Permanent Members, Security Council, United Nations, World Peace.

Introduction

The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) is one of the United Nations' most important organs, responsible for ensuring international peace and security. The United Nations Security Council was established in 1945, following the end of World War II, as a fundamental instrument to prevent future large-scale wars by collective decision-making and coordinated global action. The Council, which has fifteen members, including five permanent members with veto powers, China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United States, has the authority to issue binding decisions on member states, impose sanctions, authorise the use of force, and mandate peacekeeping operations (Ahmad, 2023). This critical role puts the UNSC at the forefront of attempts to guarantee that disputes between states are addressed via

diplomacy, negotiation, and respect for international law rather than violence.

The Council's obligation is founded on the UN Charter, which assigns it the duty to handle terrors to peace, gaps of the outbreak of war, and acts of violence. Over time, the United Nations Security Council has played a significant role in authorising peacekeeping organisations, solving crises, and taking actions to avert escalation. Its tasks include arranging armed peacekeepers, mediating ceasefire agreements, overseeing elections in post-conflict states, and implementing arms embargoes. The Council's position as a permanent global organisation capable of gathering on short notice offers it a distinct superiority in reacting to conflicts, ostensibly permitting the global community to act swiftly and assertively in times of conflict (Adogbeji, Clark & Ejogba, 2024).

In terms of activities, the UN Security Council has had an important influence on conflict resolution and prevention. Peacekeeping processes in Namibia, Cambodia, and Liberia have made a considerable impact on political stability and postwar reconstruction (Al-Maisri, 2023). The Council's sanctions organisations have, on occasion, successfully compelled countries to obey international principles, especially in the instance of South Africa under apartheid. Also, its decisions have repeatedly acted as an honest and legal standard for the global community, encouraging the idea that aggression and abuses of sovereignty cannot be tolerated (Al-Maisri, 2023). These accomplishments demonstrate the UNSC's potential as a formidable force for maintaining global peace. However, the UNSC has also been subject to persistent criticism, largely stemming from its structural limitations and the political dynamics of its permanent members. The veto power, designed initially to secure the participation of the major powers in the UN system, has often been used to block actions even in the face of urgent humanitarian crises. This has led to accusations of bias, selectivity, and ineffectiveness in dealing with certain conflicts (Adogbeji, Clark & Ejogba, 2024). For instance, divisions among permanent members have hindered decisive action in situations like the Russia-Ukraine war and the Israeli-Gaza conflict, where geopolitical interests overshadow humanitarian concerns (Adogbeji, Clark & Ejogba, 2024).

The failures of the UNSC are also replicated in cases where it has been unable to avert or halt atrocities, such as the Rwandan genocide in 1994 and the Srebrenica massacre in 1995. In these circumstances, hindered responses, insufficient mandates, and inadequate troop deployments resulted in severe shortcomings in the Council's operational capability. Such failures have powered debates about the need for restructuring, with many at variance that the UNSC's structure, considered in the post-World War II era, no longer replicates current geopolitical realities (Campos, 2021). Proposals for expansion, limits on veto use, and more unbiased representation for developing nations have been fundamental to these debates. The ongoing challenge for the UNSC lies in harmonising the political interests of its most powerful members with the shared needs of the global community. The integrity of the Council is contingent on its willingness and ability to act fairly, advocate international law, and address conflicts regardless of political alignments. This needs both structural reforms and an improved commitment by member states to prioritise peace over national interests. Without such modifications, the UNSC risks being grasped as an outdated organisation unable to meet the needs of an increasingly complex and connected world (Almakky, 2023).

Notwithstanding its inadequacies, the UNSC remains vital in the realm of global peace and security. Its legality, derived from the UN Charter and its exceptional tie authority over member states, means that it remains the main forum for addressing dangers to peace. Even though regional organisations, coalitions, and individual states may act individually, UNSC authorisation repeatedly offers the legal and political base necessary for broad international backing. The Council's capacity to organise multinational peacekeeping forces and its function in post-conflict state-building determinations additionally uphold its importance.

Conceptual Clarification

United Nations

The League of Nations was established in 1920, following the end of World War I. It must be noted that countries such as the United States did not take membership in the League because the United States Congress, dominated by the Republican party, voted against its ratification given the argument that it infringed on U.S sovereignty and was too expensive of a burden for the state; some members who had joined the league later terminated their membership, such as Germany, Japan, Italy, and Spain, resulting in the league's complete failure to execute its primary objective (Adogbeji, Clark & Ejogba, 2024). While it was unsuccessful, the League established a vision for a worldwide governing framework. The United Nations was created on

October 24, 1945, to address the failings of the League of Nations. The formation of the United Nations was intended to address the mistakes made by the League of Nations, to develop its own legacy, and to chart a new route in a world order. Soon after its inception, this agency was caught between two opposing camps (the liberal West on the one hand, and the socialist-communist East and their allies on the other) vying for global dominance and influence - what we now call the Cold War (Clark, 2024).

The function of the United Nations evolved after the Cold War. For example, when Saddam Hussein invaded Kuwait in 1991, the Security Council took an active role by passing a resolution to prohibit acts of aggression against humanity (Hannay 2009). The UN expanded its peacekeeping activities, including monitoring a cease-fire line. The development of peacekeeping has significantly impacted UN operations in Mozambique and Cambodia (Hannnay 2009). On the other hand, the Post-Cold War UN attempted to utilise sanctions as a soft power instrument for peacekeeping, but sanctions failed to fulfil their primary goal of preserving peace and security in countries such as Somalia and Bosnia (Hannay 2009). It is critical to acknowledge that, while the UN has had a significant effect on international relations, it has had more failures than achievements in its strategic participation in sustaining global peace and security. The list of such failures is vast, including recent ones like as Sudan, South Sudan, Somalia, DR Congo, Syria, and Libya. In all crises in which the UN has intervened as a global actor to resolve these issues, it has failed to find a long-term solution. To grasp its problem, we must first understand its structure, internal dynamics, global power relations, and regional and global players in international power games (Hurdi, 2024). The following section describes the UN's structure and organisation.

It is critical to begin the conversation with the United Nations, since it is the mother of all organs, including the UNSC. The United Nations Charter was signed on June 26, 1945, in San Francisco (Clark, 2024). Since its inception, the United Nations has grown in size and scope. For example, when it was founded in San Francisco in 1945, it only had 50 member nations (Adogbeji, Clark & Ejogba, 2024). It now has 193 member nations (Haider, 2022). The UN's principal goal is to ensure peace and security by ensuring that disagreements between governments are resolved diplomatically (Burtler 2012). The United Nations system has three core aims and prerequisites: global stability, security, and prosperity. The first two include the mission to preserve its member states' sovereignty and human rights to prevent smaller nations from being exploited or mistreated by larger and stronger governments, as well as to protect persons from abuse by states and non-state actors. The third one resulted in a mandate to work on state economic, social, and political advancements. To achieve its goals, the UN first created five institutions, which carry out tasks under the United Nations Charter, Chapter 3, Article 7 (UN Charter, 1945:4).

According to Clark (2024), the UN was originally composed of five key institutions that conduct a variety of functions for the UN to achieve its fundamental goal as stated in Chapter 3, Article 7 of its Charter. The United Nations is composed of six (6) major organs: the General Assembly, the Secretariat, the Security Council, the Trusteeship Council, the Economic and Social Council, and the International Court of Justice (Morris & Clark 1999). Furthermore, the United Nations includes specific organisations and agencies such as the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organisation, the General Agreements on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), the International Monetary Fund (IMF), and the World Bank (WB) (Morris & Clark 1999). All UN organs are required to work together to carry out these general mandates. Despite the agencies' best intentions, there are no consistent and well-established checks and balances inside the United Nations organs. This occasionally undermines its credibility and validity.

However, in the post-Cold War period, the function of the United Nations looked to have shifted to the point where it acted with greater backing from member nations (Hannay 2009). When Saddam Hussein of Iraq invaded Kuwait, the Security Council endeavoured to fulfil its role in reversing acts of aggression perpetrated by one country against another (Hannay 2009). According to Clark (2007), the essential idea for developing a global governance system to ensure global peace and security is to provide it with the necessary tools for diplomatically resolving international issues. In this regard, numerous organs support the UN in carrying out its mandate. This is in awareness of the reality that it cannot carry out its responsibilities alone.

United Nations Security Council

The UN Security Council consists of fifteen (15) member nations, with five (5) permanent seats and ten (10) non-permanent rotating seats (Beenher 2012). According to Beenher (2012), the five permanent seats are held by the United States, the United Kingdom, France, China, and Russia. Permanent Council members have the authority to veto measures drafted and passed (Beenher 2012). The General Assembly elects non-permanent members to serve on the Council for two-year terms. This is accomplished in theory through regional representation. The United Nations headquarters are located in New York, and state representatives are always encouraged to attend sessions (Beenher 2012).

According to Adogbeji, Clark & Ejogba (2024), the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty acknowledges only the Council's five permanent members. However, it lacks universal validity because certain nations have not signed the pact. Nonetheless, having nuclear weapons does not explain why the P5 remain global powers (Adogbeji, Clark & Ejogba, 2024). Countries such as Pakistan, North Korea, and India, to mention a few, have nuclear activities that are not covered by the nuclear non-proliferation pact. In 2004, four Council members—the United States, France, China, and Russia—were the major arms exporters. However, it raises the question of whether the Council's five permanent members are truly committed to creating a secure world or if they want more global wars to occur with the armaments they give. Ideally, permanent members of the Security Council should be activists who advocate for global non-proliferation of weaponry.

However, they are the ones who complicate the Council's job (Gifkin, 2021). What one may conclude from this is that economic interests (profits from armament sales) often take precedence over concerns about world peace and security. The competition for dominance and influence among UNSC members, which is motivated by national interests, has hampered the Council's functioning. This is notably more prominent among permanent members of the SC (who have veto power), whereas non-permanent members are either co-opted or dissatisfied with their voices being marginalised (Mingst, Karns, & Lyon, 2022). To further understand this, consider the UNSC's two-tiered membership structure and its ramifications.

The UNSC is one of the UN's key organisations in charge of ensuring global peace and security (Ahmad, 2023). Other UN organisations, however, have the authority to make recommendations to member nations that are of concern. In contrast, the Security Council has the authority to issue binding decisions and make recommendations under the UN Charter (Ahmad, 2023). According to the UN Charter's Chapter VII, the UNSC is the only UN entity whose decisions are obligatory on all member states (Burtler 2012). The UN Charter requires governments to adhere to all Security Council resolutions, including those authorising military action (Malone, 2012). During sessions, the United Nations Security Council issues resolutions including all necessary decisions (Malone, 2012). The UNSC has the authority to impose sanctions on a state of concern (Adogbeji, Clark & Ejogba, 2024). For example, when Iraq invaded Kuwait, sanctions were imposed on Iraq to force it to withdraw from Kuwait and so

abandon its Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) project. Because of the end of the Cold War and the agreement among the veto powers, including the global south (Clark, 2007).

Concept of World Peace

World peace refers to a state of universal accord where states live together without conflict, attained through collaboration, common admiration, and devotion to universal rule, and the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) plays a vital part in following this ideal. The UNSC, as the primary body responsible for maintaining international peace and security by encouraging dialogue, mediation, negotiation, arbitration, and conciliation among states before situations escalate into armed confrontations. Through resolutions, peacekeeping missions, and diplomatic commitment, the UNSC seek to prevent war, manage crises, and foster an atmosphere where harmony is sustained not through war but through agreement, compromise, and the rule of law, thus replicating its commitment to maintenance of world peace through non-violent processes.

Humanity's survival depends on peace. It is one of the most important factors influencing how states operate. Without a peaceful world, it would be impossible to attain the degree of trust, collaboration, and inclusion required for the rule of law and other fundamental social relations. World peace ensures the implementation of human rights as universal ideals and legal guarantees that protect individuals and groups against illegal activity, mostly by the state, that infringes on fundamental freedoms, human rights, and dignity. World peace is the peaceful coexistence of all beings (Knight, 2022). World peace is a preventative strategy for establishing peace and security (Moreda, 2022). World peace provides a framework for understanding and addressing the world's many complex difficulties, and it serves as the foundation for communication among conflicting parties and good public administration. World peace encompasses all aspects of peaceful cohabitation, including global order, education, tolerance, the democratic ideal of constitutionalism, and the rule of law.

To ensure world peace, the United Nations Security Council drafted the United Nations Declaration on Crime and Public Security in 1996, which states in Article 1 that member states must strive to protect the security and well-being of their citizens and all persons under their jurisdiction by implementing effective national measures to combat serious transnational crimes. Article 1 of the UN charter also states unequivocally that the organisation shall safeguard global peace and security, as well as the implementation of appropriate measures to eliminate threats to peace and put a stop to any act of aggression or other violation of world peace (Knight, 2022). Today, the UN Security Council, which is intended to safeguard global peace and security, is under attack; it can no longer address the whole spectrum of concerns, and international legal gaps are becoming increasingly obvious, indicating its inability to secure world peace and security.

Theoretical Framework

The research is based on the Political Realism theory, which derives from Hans Morgenthau's work. Political Realism is a popular theoretical approach in international relations that emphasises the state as the primary player in the international system. According to Morgenthau (1964), nations are the major players in international relations, with the primary purpose of surviving and maintaining sovereignty. According to Mingst & Arreguín-Toft (2020), Realism, based on the works of Hans Morgenthau, suggests that nations prioritise power, security, and national interests in an anarchic international environment.

Political realism views the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) as a platform where the interests of powerful states, particularly the permanent five members with veto power, dominate the pursuit of global peace and security. Realists argue that states are primarily motivated by national interests and survival, and as such, the UNSC's decisions often reflect

the balance of power rather than a neutral commitment to world peace. In contemporary times, interventions in conflicts such as Ukraine show how the veto has been used to protect allies or strategic interests, undermining collective security. Thus, from a realist perspective, the UNSC is less an impartial guarantor of peace and more a stage where great powers safeguard their influence under the guise of multilateralism. Nevertheless, political realism also acknowledges that the UNSC has achieved some successes when the interests of powerful states align, allowing decisive action. Failures become apparent when consensus is impossible, as seen in Rwanda, where geopolitical indifference led to humanitarian disasters. Therefore, while the UNSC has made contributions to global stability, realism suggests that its effectiveness is bound by the political will and rivalries of its most powerful members, making true impartial world peace an elusive goal.

United Nations Security Council and World Peace

The United Nations Security Council is the main structure of the United Nations, charged with the duty of preserving universal peace and security. Established in 1945 after the destruction of the Second World War, the Council was intended to avert future large-scale wars by providing a podium for discussion, negotiation, and, when needed, group action. It is made up of fifteen member states, including five permanent members with veto powers—the United States, the United Kingdom, France, Russia, and China, and ten non-permanent members elected on a rotating basis (Adogbeji, Clark & Ejogba, 2024). The Security Council exercises significant power, as it can enforce sanctions, approve peacekeeping operations, and even support the use of force to reestablish peace. Its exceptional position in the global scheme makes it crucial to efforts intended at conserving stability across the world (Adogbeji, Clark & Ejogba, 2024).

In its quest for universal peace, the Security Council has recorded outstanding feats. It has played vital roles in mediating wars, organising peacekeeping operations, and approving humanitarian interventions in conflict-prone areas. For example, its participation in post-conflict rebuilding in countries such as Liberia, Sierra Leone, and East Timor added to stabilising fragile countries and averting relapse into war (Clark, 2024). Also, through sanctions, commands and diplomatic pressure, the Council has repeatedly discouraged aggressors and forced warring parties to discuss peace. These involvements prove the Council's capacity to act as a universal referee and enforcer of international law, guaranteeing that disputes are managed through shared security mechanisms other than individual aggression (Eduard, 2024).

Though the Security Council also faces major criticisms and challenges that weaken its function in ensuring worldwide peace. The veto power of the permanent members repeatedly paralyses the Council's decision-making, as powerful countries use it to defend their interests, even when peace is at stake. This has been obvious in crises such as the Ukraine war, where divergences among permanent members stalled decisive action, elongating human suffering (Adogbeji, Clark & Ejogba, 2024). Additionally, claims of selectivity and bias in its involvement raise questions about its reliability and fairness. Developing states often claim that the Council echoes obsolete post-World War II power organisations that do not account for today's multipolar universe. Therefore, while the Security Council remains crucial in the quest for world peace, its usefulness is constrained by political conflicts, structural inequalities, and the difficult nature of modern wars (Adogbeji, Clark & Ejogba, 2024).

The United Nations Security Council have made several effort to ensure world peace through establishment of several peace keeping mission around the world, imposed sanction on erring states and take enforcement actions against state that threaten world peace, they been seriously involve in promoting disarmament and arm control effort around the world, protection of civilians in conflict areas and have also taking step in addressing the root cause

of insecurity by addressing poverty, inequality and climate change. For example, the UNSC set up an international commission of inquiry on Syria to investigate human rights abuses, imposed sanctions on North Korea in response to its nuclear and missile tests and its involvement in resolving the conflict in Myanmar and condemnation of the violence against Muslims in the region (Moreda, 2022).

Challenges of the United Nations Security Council

The effectiveness of United Nations Security Council (UNSC) interventions has varied over time, influenced by several key factors. Firstly, when the United Nations Charter was created, the Security Council's primary goal was to maintain international peace and security. In addition, the Organisation would encourage growth and the universalisation of human rights. Since 1945, the central concept of the Organisation has been somewhat malleable. During the Cold War, it was difficult for the Security Council to play the role envisaged for it, and, even today, despite significant changes, the Security Council is still far from being able to perform in the manner envisioned in the Charter (Binder & Heupel 2014). Secondly, the United Nations is a global organisation that works with all of its Member States, both powerful and weak, rich and poor. Power dynamics in the modern world are widely understood. Differences in views between the north and the south are a matter of common understanding, and there are substantial shades of differences between northern and southern countries. The strength of the United States, as well as the economic might of the European Union, China, and Japan, is undeniable (Binder & Heupel, 2014).

It is the United Nations' responsibility to discover methods to serve mankind and advance the objectives of the United Nations Charter, especially in the face of global power dynamics. This implies that the international community must strive to discover methods to build on common ground while also attempting to support individuals in need on the ground, one life at a time. Thirdly, those living in poverty, like everyone else, aspire for dignity, and their voices must be recognised and heard (Haider, 2022). The Universal Declaration of Human Rights also serves as a framework for future collective action aimed at eliminating poverty. This aim must be achieved by effective governance, democracy, the rule of law, non-discrimination, and ongoing attention to the execution of essential human rights, including economic, social, and cultural rights, as well as civil and political rights. It also asks for continuous efforts, both by the UN and within each community, to recognise the needs of the poor and vulnerable and to provide tangible solutions to those needs.

Fourthly, the veto power of the United Nations Security Council's five permanent members (P5), China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United States, has been the subject of continuous controversy and criticism. While the veto was designed to ensure major countries' agreement and maintain international peace, it has frequently been criticised for impeding the UN's capacity to respond effectively to global crises (Haider, 2022). The veto empowers any P5 member to oppose resolutions, even if they have broad international backing. This has resulted in passivity in key instances where assistance was required. Fifthly, another important consideration is the idea of state sovereignty, which frequently restricts the UNSC's capacity to engage in internal disputes. The reluctance to intrude on a nation's sovereignty has occasionally delayed or blocked important interventions. In the case of the Darfur crisis, the Sudanese government's aversion to external involvement, along with the international community's reluctance to intervene without Sudan's approval, resulted in a delayed and ineffective response, prolonging humanitarian misery.

Sixthly, selective intervention poses a significant challenge to the success of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC), as it undermines the principle of impartiality and weakens its credibility in maintaining global peace and security. When powerful member states intervene in conflicts based on their strategic or political interests while ignoring crises that

lack such benefits, the UNSC is perceived as biased and inconsistent. This selective approach not only erodes trust among smaller states but also fuels accusations of double standards, making conflict resolution more difficult and diminishing the Council's authority as a neutral arbiter in international disputes.

Discussion of Findings

Since 1948, the United Nations has helped resolve hostilities and promote reconciliation by undertaking effective peacekeeping missions in scores of nations, including Cambodia, El Salvador, Guatemala, Mozambique, Namibia, and Tajikistan. Other countries where UN peacekeeping missions have been concluded include Sierra Leone, Burundi, Côte d'Ivoire, Timor-Leste, Liberia, Haiti, and Kosovo. By providing basic security guarantees and reacting to emergencies, UN operations have aided political transitions and strengthened fragile new state institutions. They have assisted countries in closing the chapter of conflict and opening a route to normal development, even if enormous peacebuilding issues persist (Mingst, Karns & Lyon, 2022).

The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) has had a mixed track record when it comes to interventions. While some initiatives have been condemned for ineffectiveness, there have been significant examples of UNSC involvement resulting in peace, stability, or humanitarian help. Between 2003 and 2018, the United Nations Security Council assisted in disarming combatants, organising elections, and training police and military personnel in Liberia. It is regarded as a successful mission that transitioned Liberia from a failing state to relative peace. In 1999, the UN Security Council created the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL) to monitor the Lomé Peace Accord's implementation. The mission assisted in disarming tens of thousands of fighters, supervising elections, and contributing to the formation of a Special Court for Sierra Leone to punish war crimes. Sierra Leone has enjoyed peace and progressive democratic consolidation since the formal conclusion of the civil war in 2002 (Mingst, Karns, & Lyon, 2022).

However, the organisation has failed in some of its operations. The Rwandan genocide in April 1994 is the most dramatic example of the UN Security Council's failure to avert and handle a catastrophe. The UNSC was in a position to intervene through a variety of instruments to prevent the Rwandan crisis from escalating to genocide because the governments of the P5 were informed on 12 January 1994 by General Romeo Dallaire, the Force Commander of the UN Assistance Mission in Rwanda (UNAMIR), of plans to register Tutsi for extermination throughout Rwanda. Rwanda was put under the bus as a result of the P5's reluctance to interfere, whether via mediation or otherwise, to avoid the disaster that has left a crippling scar on Rwandan, African, and global consciences. Shortly after the Rwandan catastrophe, Bosnian Muslims were slaughtered in the Srebrenica genocide, which involved Dutch peacekeepers who were meant to be patrolling the so-called 'UN safe havens' where the besieged Bosnians were holed up (Adogbeji, Clark & Ejogba, 2024).

The growing theme of callous disrespect for the obligations of the UN system in general, and the Security Council in particular, can be traced back to the 2003 US-led invasion of Iraq. The United States and its client state, the United Kingdom, were unwilling to enable diplomacy and mediation to end the Iraq conflict. The impression in Washington and London was that no amount of discussion would persuade them of the intentions of Iraq's former tyrant, Saddam Hussein. On this premise, it was evident that the US and UK, as two members of the UN Security Council, had no intention of creating the necessary conditions for pursuing and achieving a negotiated solution in Iraq. Clark (2007) complained that the world's most powerful countries use the United Nations to further their own national interests. In certain cases, the UNSC acts as an interested spoiler in peacekeeping operations. The UN Security Council is

plainly no longer serving humanity's interests in terms of a true commitment to preventing disputes from escalating into open and destructive wars.

Following Venezuela's political and humanitarian catastrophe, the P-5 nations found themselves in a standstill. The United Kingdom, the United States, and France introduced a resolution declaring the Venezuelan election fraudulent and demanding new elections. Russia and China sponsored a resolution criticising foreign interference in the electoral process and calling for dialogue in Venezuela. Both resolutions failed, and the standoff stalled the delivery of essential help. P-5 states differ on how most disputes should be handled, resulting in frequent inactivity in the UNSC (Clark, 2024). The United Nations also experienced embarrassing failures in the Balkans, when peacekeepers were deployed as human shields during the siege of Sarajevo and failed to defend people in Srebrenica's designated safe area from genocide. According to experts, these missions were hampered by both logistical and political issues, such as ambiguous mandates, insufficient resources, and major nations' parochial interests. To address these and other issues, delegates have urged for more openness and efficiency in the Security Council's decision-making process, as well as increased involvement with the General Assembly (Eduards, 2024).

The UNSC also failed to establish a common ground to stop the current war in Ukraine and the Israel-Gaza conflict. During the Ukraine conflict, Russia's veto immobilised the Council, blocking decisive action against aggression and damaging its credibility as a custodian of world peace and security (Adogbeji, Clark & Ejogba, 2024). Similarly, in the Israel-Gaza conflict, powerful allies have repeatedly vetoed resolutions aimed at halting hostilities, ensuring accountability, or promoting humanitarian relief, leaving the Council unable to respond effectively to escalating violence and civilian suffering. These failures highlight how geopolitical interests often override collective security, exposing the UNSC's inability to act impartially in conflicts involving powerful states or their allies (Adogbeji, Clark & Ejogba, 2024).

The UNSC has tried to address the Russia-Ukraine war through numerous resolutions, deliberations, and calls for a truce, but its efforts have been mainly inadequate. One of the prominent successes has been the Council’s capability to get universal attention to the war and offer a platform for discussion between member countries. The UNSC enabled emergency sessions and coordinated humanitarian reactions, guaranteeing that relief agencies had the lawfulness and support required to assist displaced civilians and war fatalities. Also, while permanent members stayed divided, non-permanent members, together with the General Assembly, have used the Council’s initiatives to support international law, mostly the principles of sovereignty and territorial integrity. Nevertheless, the UNSC has met significant failures due to its operational limitations, mostly the veto power held by Russia as a permanent member. Efforts to pass binding resolutions condemning the attack or imposing tougher sanctions were repeatedly blocked by Moscow, rendering the Council's failure to curb aggression or halt conflicts. This paralysis has opened the Council’s inability to act decisively in conflicts involving powerful states, undermining its trustworthiness as the primary organ in charge of maintaining global peace and security (Adogbeji, Clark & Ejogba, 2024). The stalemate has also shifted significant decision-making to the UN General Assembly, which lacks the mandatory enforcement power of the Security Council.

The UNSC’s failures in the Russia-Ukraine war highlight the continuing challenge of selective implementation of international law and the domination of political benefits over collective security. While the Council has remained influential in organising humanitarian support and sustaining global diplomatic discourse, its failure to stop or reverse Russia’s actions emphasises a yawning flaw in its structure. The conflict has consequently reinforced calls for the restructuring of the UNSC, mainly concerning the veto system, to make it more

representative and active in addressing modern conflicts. In this way, the war has both proven the Council's continuing relevance as a forum for diplomacy and its evident weaknesses in the face of great power conflicts (Adogbeji, Clark & Ejogba, 2024).

Conclusion and Policy Recommendations

The United Nations Security Council remains a base of the universal peace and security background; however, its starring function is marked by a mix of successes and failures. On one hand, it has acted as a critical function in the termination of wars, mediating conflicts, authorising peacekeeping actions, and ensuring universal collaboration. Its ability to consolidate combined action in crises such as the Gulf War, mediations in Africa, and the war against terrorism echoes its importance in maintaining global order. Through purposes, sanctions, and peacebuilding initiatives, the UNSC has demonstrated the potential of multilateralism in addressing dangers to peace. Though the UNSC's failures repeatedly outshine its achievements due to the chains of its structure and the supremacy of powerful states. The veto influence of the permanent five members has repeatedly stalled decisive action, mostly in wars like Syria and Ukraine, where geopolitical conflicts dominate humanitarian obligations. This difference has raised questions around fairness, legitimacy, and the Council's capacity to function as a truly representative body. Moreover, hindered reactions, selective involvements, and a shortage of implementation mechanisms have battered confidence in its capacity to bring unbiased justice and viable peace. As Dickson and Oyosoro (2024) have suggested, diplomatic channels should be given priority by the UN Security Council to promote communication between Russia and Ukraine.

UNSC stands at a critical stage where its effectiveness in sustaining world peace is both eminent and questioned. Its successes show the importance of group security, but its failures highlight the persistent need for restructuring to address structural imbalances, augment inclusivity, and improve responsibility. The prospect of worldwide peace and security hangs on the Council's ability to advance further than the restraints of great power politics and act as a truly universal institution dedicated to neutrality, fairness, and the security of the human race. Only through such change can the UNSC remain important in addressing the difficult security challenges of the twenty-first century.

The study, therefore, recommends that the United Nations Security Council ought to prioritise organisational changes that will change the imbalance of power within its permanent membership, improve transparency in its decision-making processes, and ease the repeated usage of veto power that over and over again paralyses group action in periods of crisis. More inclusivity through the enlargement of permanent and non-permanent seats would guarantee rational representation of states and evolving powers, in so doing increasing acceptability and trust in its resolutions. Furthermore, the UNSC must strengthen collaboration with regional governments, civil society, and non-state actors to build more inclusive and context-specific peace plans while also pledging to the regular enforcement of its resolutions to avoid selective mediations.

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