

# UNITED NATIONS AND COLLECTIVE AGREEMENTS ON GLOBAL SECURITY: ISSUES AND PERSPECTIVES

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## Abstract

*Owing to the growing threats of pandemics like the Corona Virus (COVID-19) among other emerging infectious diseases, terrorism, genocide, human trafficking, and the proliferation of small arms and light weapons among others, the study assessed the United Nations (UN) on the collective agreement in maintaining global peace and stability. In achieving these, the study adopted the descriptive research design and derived relevant data through the use of semi-structured interviews with respondents randomly chosen from the five permanent member states of the UN Security Council (UNSC). The system theory was employed to provide a clear understanding of the subject matter and the need for institution and collectiveness in the management and sustainability of world peace. However, findings revealed that a restructured UNSC is necessary to give room for a more responsive and all-inclusive organization. This brings to the fore the importance of collective agreements in a multilateral world to collectively and efficiently tackle the contemporary threats to world peace and stability.*

**Keywords:** United Nations Security Council, Global Security, Collective Agreements, Peace, Stability

## Introduction

Following the failure and official dissolution of the League of Nations, the United Nations (UN) was founded with a global scope and membership on the twenty-fourth of October 1945 (Thakur 2016). The core objective of its establishment is the maintenance of global peace and security, however, Lord-Mallam, (2016) and Thakur, (2016) identified other goals to include the development of friendly relations among states established on the principles of self-determination of peoples and equality; promotion of human rights and global cooperation in the areas of the economy, socio-cultural, and politics; and to serve as the heart for coordinating actions towards the achievement of these goals.

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In general purpose, structure, and activities, the UN served as a continuation of the League of Nations; many of the UN's primary institutions and subordinate agencies were modelled after similar structures established earlier in the century (Lynch, 2022). However, the UN was a different institution with its goal of ensuring global peace and security as well as its drive for economic and social development. The shifts in the nature of global politics prompted shifts in the duties of the United Nations and its decision-making mechanism. Political Tensions between the United States and the Soviet Union had a significant impact on the UN's security duties throughout its first 45 years (Lynch, 2022; Sofroniou, 2018). Lynch & Sofroniou further added that the widespread post-second World war decolonization movements in Africa, Asia, and the Middle East increased the scope and complexity of the UN socio-political and economic challenges. The United Nations gained more attention following the end of the Cold War in 1991. The increasingly volatile geo-political environment ignited new challenges to existing procedures and functions, core in the areas of conflict resolution and humanitarian aid. However, the wave of humanitarian crises, civil wars, refugee crises and the damage caused by the spread of AIDS, terrorism and world financial crises.

In maintaining international peace and security a 15-member United Nations Security Council (UNSC) was created. Under the Charter of the United Nations, all Member States are obligated to comply with council decisions (Langholtz, 2020; United Nations, n.d.) The Security Council is in charge of evaluating whether a threat to peace or an act of aggression exists. It encourages the parties to a disagreement to settle it peacefully and suggests techniques of adjustment or settlement conditions. To preserve or restore international peace and security, the Security Council may impose sanctions or even authorize the use of force in some situations. The employment of such sanctions is designed to impose pressure to ensure compliance with the Security Council's goals without resorting to force (Rice, 2017; UN, n.d.).

Meanwhile, global concern and synergy remain core to addressing the conflicts, economic woes, and political and social instability confronting almost every facet of life. United Nations Security Council became inevitable to ensure it works towards the attainment of global peace (The Economist, 2017) Several religious and non-religious bodies have expressed their goal of establishing world peace through human rights, technology, education, engineering, medicine, or diplomacy as a means of putting an end to all forms of conflict (Ebner et al., 2019; Fortna, 2008). Even though the UN has engaged in several military conflicts, the

five permanent of the UN Security Council aimed at finding solutions to conflicts without a declaration of war (Harrington, 2005; Kasinform, 2019; UNESCO, 2017)

Furthermore, the global threats from infectious diseases, poverty, and environmental breakdown of peace and security are a major concern to the United Nations hence the need for maintaining it becomes an issue for concern. Also, the threats to human peace and security identified in the Millennium Development Goals stand as a cog in the wheel of global peace as a result of threats from conflicts between states, threats from violence and massive human rights violations within states, countries and continents. The work interrogates the mechanisms the UN Security Council has adopted and implemented in a bid to ensure peace across the globe due to threats to peace.

Likewise, threats from terrorism, organized crimes and the proliferation of weapons of war continue to pose as hindrances to the attainment of global peace. Hence, the global concern and collective agreements to ensure peace and stability necessitated the need for the United Nations Security Council towards the attainment of global peace and security. With several institutional problems evident in the UN system, including the perceived unrepresentative structure of the security council, the questionable, cumbrous and dysfunctional character of much of the economic and social machinery and the limited role and impact of the general assembly.

Succinctly, the range of the threats facing the whole world is so urgent and widespread that the lack of standards and criteria towards security threats stood as a gigantic problem that needs to be attended to. All the aforementioned issues needed a more comprehensive collective security system attention to promoting global peace under International law. It is on this basis that this study sets out to critique the United Nations Council in promoting global peace and security.

## **Multilateralism and Collective Agreements on Global Security**

According to Mitrovic, (2019), the following challenge is raised by the current security paradigm: Is the collective defence paradigm capable of dealing with global security threats? The intersection of global challenges and the dialectical dualism of the modern globalisation movement elicit varied responses from marginalized or vulnerable groups, people, and governments. Regardless of whether it's a terrorist or criminal group style, an individual or group, or proxy extremist movements, they all aim

to vent their discontent and bring attention to their goals to strengthen their position. National defence is a foreign policy tool with a strategic orientation, established by laws and strategic documents. The existence of shared, global threats necessitates the development of a collective response to the alleged threats, difficulties, and hazards.

Collective conflict management (CCM) is defined as a type of joint action that could be taken by international or regional organizations or momentarily formed alliances in response to a crisis or to help deter such a crisis (Mitrovic, 2019; Nye, 2003). Mitrovic, (2019) explains CCM as a coordinated attempt to prevent threats to peace through a variety of shared activities involving collective security for building and sustaining peace and stability. However, there is a concern regarding the objectivity of the supranational authority that will review global security. As a result, under ideal conditions, certain requirements must be met, including the development of a “critical mass” in the international environment as a result of the award of supranational legitimacy to CCM. Nye, (2003) pointed out that the attribution of an individual nation’s legitimacy in making security choices brings up a possible avenue for influential states and institutions to affect the objectivity of crisis assessments. It is vital to highlight that CCM permits powerful and influential countries to establish a situation in which some regime or state may be portrayed as “threatening” to the rest of the globe. From this vantage point, a CCM institution might be utilized as a weapon for the success of dominant stakeholders, sometimes in violation of international law. However, due to the award of supranational legitimacy to CCM, it is important to accomplish certain principles, including the development of a “critical mass” in the international environment.

According to Lambor, (1998), each state’s interest acknowledges that the institutional and multilateral framework to collective action lowers the cost of individual responses to challenges. The outcomes and impacts include collaborative performance by all parties, adherence to processes and regulations, decision-making agreement, objectivity in approach, and so on. However, achieving this ideal form of international response to global conflicts is challenging, but should be underlined that such a method of handling security concerns and threats is the most successful. To get the best results, Lambor stressed that it is vital to develop common political attitudes as well as strategic interaction among many components. Participants’ compatibility and qualities, as well as their relative power, are required. The actors must understand the nature of the connection and instil faith in the need of building trust and collaborative partnerships. It is vital to be able to perceive the future; they must have a vision of the

political goals that the players support, as well as linkages to international politics, political ideas, and rules inside nations. Considering that in a broad overlay of resources, technological support, and information interchange, Mitrovic, (2019) pointed out that collective defence plays a vital role, and interoperability is critical for attaining the efficacy of collective actions.

## **United Nations and Mechanisms for Global Security**

The United Nations (UN) was born out of the need to “save succeeding generations from the scourge of war” (UN Charter, 1945) by preventing the contradictions that led to the failure and total collapse of the League of Nations, and broadly ensuring global peace and stability. Wilson, (2014) describes collective security as a worthwhile endeavour stressing that world history has provided enough justification for its value. The United Nations (UN) collective agreement provides the opportunity for coordination and effective actions toward common challenges (Wilson, 2014). However, Agrawal (2011) highlighted the UN’s mechanisms for managing and resolving conflicts between and among states in its bid to ensure global security. These mechanisms, however, might be classified as consensual or non-consensual. The United Nations frequently use the consensual instrument with the permission of the conflicting parties. There are three of them: preventative diplomacy and peace-making, peacekeeping, and peace-building. Non-consensual tools, such as sanctions and peace enforcement, need not require the assent of the parties involved. Meanwhile, disarmament can take place on an agreed-upon basis or as part of Chapter VII coercive action.

### **a. Preventive Diplomacy And Peace-making**

The employment of preventive diplomacy has proven to be effective in preventing humanitarian crises, the economic impact of war as well as the post war crisis on humanity. As a result, the UN often employ special envoys and diplomatic missions to engage in mediation, and peace-making to promote global peace and stability (Agrawal, 2011; United Nations, 2022).

### **b. Peacekeeping**

The UN peacekeeping operations authorized by the UN Security Council help countries in navigating the tough route from violence to peace. Beyond maintaining global peace and security, the UN peace operations aid political processes, civilian protection, promote human rights, help in disarmament, aid the restoration of the rule of law and reintegration of former combatants (Agrawal, 2011; United Nations,

2022). Troops in these operations are contributed by the member states.

**c. Peace-building**

Agrawal, (2011) and United Nations, (2022) pointed out that the UN assist countries recovering from conflict to hurt the possibility of conflict reversion through the establishment of the foundation for long-term peace, stability and development. The UN established the Peace-building Commission, Peace-building Fund, and Peace-building Support Office as infrastructure to carry out the responsibility of peace-building.

**d. Sanctions**

Sanction is another mechanism at the disposal of the United Nations to ensure global peace and security. Agrawal, (2011) revealed that the UNSC is empowered by Article 41 of the UN Charter to request the Member States take non-military measures (economic, or socio-political sanctions) to maintain or restore international peace and security. The employment of sanctions is to compel a behavioural change from countries threatening global peace and stability.

**e. Peace Enforcement**

Peace enforcement is another UN mechanism to enforce peace where a ceasefire has failed. This is often done with the employment of military force against the will of the conflicting parties.

**f. Disarmament**

The United Nations further strive to promote global peace and stability through regulations of conventional arms, and non-proliferation of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction.

Due to the increasing rate of terrorism across borders, the United Nations member states for the first time in September 2006, adopted a collective strategy and framework of operations in combating the horrors of terrorism. This mechanism according to United Nations (2022) is known as the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy with four core pillars – address conditions aiding the spread of terrorism, employ measures to prevent and combat terrorism, build the state’s capacity to prevent and combat terrorism as well as a measure to ensure respect for the rule of law and fundamental human right.

## **The Implications of Terrorism on Global Security**

Terrorism has far-reaching consequences on collective global peace and security. The erosion of national borders due to access to easy movement of people across the globe has made an act of terrorism in any part of the world affect other regions. The influx of refugees arising from such terrorist acts will have negative impacts on the economy of the host country as seen in Europe where a chunk of refugees migrated from Syria to Western Europe. Also, foreign and local investors and tourists are discouraged, thus denying the state or society vital developmental revenue (Okouma, 2007). In a situation where new investments are not emerging (as a result of fear of attack), and existing factories and industries are not producing at reasonable proportions of their installed capacities, retrenchment of workers may follow, and this, in turn, may increase the crime rate, worsening security situations and endanger global peace and stability. General economic depression may follow with serious consequences for people's welfare.

### **Methodology**

The study adopted a descriptive research design for the work with the sample size drawn from the five UNSC permanent members - China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United States, five respondents were each from the five states. Also, semi-structured interviews were used to derive relevant data from the respondents. The thematic content analysis was used to analyse the data and evaluate consistency in the responses and provide adequate clarifications of the gathered data.

### **Theoretical Framework**

The study adopts system theory due to its methodological and explanatory strengths. Robert, (1978) describes a system as “a totality of elements in interaction,” or “the dynamic interrelatedness of components. The theory can be traced to the writing of Gabriel Almond (1965), Easton, (1965), and Kaplan, (1962) among others who have extensively written on the theory. Focusing on the structure of the global system, the theory explains the behaviour and interactions of the system's units. The units consist primarily of states, which collectively constitute a system of states. McClelland (1965) established systems theory as a technique for studying the interactions between nation-states. It is a method for the detection, measuring, and analysing of interaction within a system and its constituents.

Ebaya (2020) stated that the world is a system of an ordered whole in dynamic interaction and that by creatively forming components or sub-systems and structures into a system. These units are incapable of individually performing all the functions that are necessary for their improved stability. As a result, they are interdependent, and it is this interdependence that gives rise to the standards that hold the system together. Wendt (1999) noticed that under collective security systems, players consider selves as people who are bound to respect consented standards of behaviour and act collectively to sanction those who violate them. Because of the likelihood of rule violators, an enforcement system that incorporates military power is needed to punish rule violators. Force is sometimes deemed essential and appropriate for enforcing system regulations.

Also, Ebaya (2020), in encouraging international players to cooperate with trust, stated that collective security directs actors to act with a sense of moral obligation to develop standards of peaceful conduct and penalise those who disobey the rules. In the post-cold war period, players have steadily institutionalised a global collective security system through the emergence of treaties and conventions, UNSC resolutions, and UN Peacekeeping mission deployments. Actors in collective security see each other as friends dedicated to peaceful dispute resolution. Adler and Barnett (1999) state that the security system has a strong agreement regarding the duty to obey their system's norms, and they participate in peaceful, multilateral decision-making to maintain security through political relationships. The security system includes a mandate to obey the system's regulations, but enforcement does not entail the use of force.

## **Gap in the Literature**

The United Nations, like the League of Nations, was formed to establish and maintain global peace and security. At first glance, this goal appears to be founded solely on idealist liberal principles. No denying the fact that the UN as an institution open to all, supporting democratic governance and socio-political and economic cooperation presents the body as a liberal idea. However, realist principles were also taken into account in the establishment of the UN. The Security Council itself was a reflection of the classical realist balance of power approach. The UN seemed to be an alliance against any rogue power or agent/s that might threaten the new status quo and the employment of the military may help in preventing crisis. Meanwhile, the causes of conflict and war are not limited to political and economic reasons but also sociocultural, legal and psychological reasons and these necessitate consistent efforts in maintaining lasting peace and stability.



Despite the great powers' limiting effects, new security concepts such as social security, cultural security, economic security, ecological security, bio-security, and human security have emerged in practice. We now have a multidimensional security concept. The UN, as a multinational organisation, attempted to convey its new understanding of security in 1992 through its activities and discourses, indicating that the UN could play a vital role in reshaping global security initiatives. To ensure global security and peace, we must first answer questions relating to how to establish effective international governance, how to reshape the UN's institutional framework, and how to achieve a pluralist universal structure. We cannot say an institution is rational and thus legitimate if it fails to perform its expected functions. If the UN's legitimacy suffers, so will its legitimising and crowning features (Özev & Erdoğan, 2020).

Concerning the UN peacekeepers, a lack of staff and financial problems, inadequate educational and communicational standards, the need for cooperation between the permanent members of the UN Security Council in creating peacekeeping troops, and being caught in the crossfire, among other things, all hurt their functionality. We must not forget that peacekeeping operations are related not only to the conflict zone, but also to larger projects, and, in the first instance, to great power interests. Still, UN peacekeepers are the only legitimate multinational force representing all countries in the international arena, and we have yet to find a better alternative. As a result, these forces must be strengthened. In addition to peace operations, it is essential to prioritise human rights and development issues to combat feelings of mistreatment and illegitimacy, which are at the root of conflicts. UN peacekeeping missions should not rely solely on existing conflict resolution theories and studies. They should also gain knowledge and experience from other cultures, religions, and nations (Curran, 2017; de Coning & Peter, 2019).

To overcome the issues related to the legitimacy and implementation processes of the UN, related actors should review theoretical approaches to the organization and the UN and must restructure its organs, especially the Security Council and the General Assembly. To be functional, a global organization must have the consent and approval of the great states and be compatible with their interests. On the other hand, an organization that cannot represent the rest of the world fairly will not be sustainable. The UN has to renew and democratize itself by taking into consideration the new power balances, and demographic, economic, sociological and political factors. According to De Silva, the UNSC should be enlarged to be more representative.” (Andersson, 2000; Özev & Erdoğan, 2020) It is

now clear that the UN Security Council's 15-member structure, established in the 1940s, is inadequate today. At that time, five permanent members were only ten per cent of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA). Although the number of UNGA members has almost quadrupled today, there has been no change in the initial structure of the UNSC. In addition to the efforts of the P5 countries to maintain the status quo, historical and regional competitive relations between potential members, and the zero-sum game approaches impede the efforts to reform the UNSC. Potential members agree neither on who will enter the UNSC nor on which of the new members will have veto power (Özev & Erdoğan, 2020).

## **Results**

This section comprises a thematic content analysis of the data collected in the series of interviews that the researcher conducted. The sample size was drawn from the UNSC's five permanent members based on available respondents on-net through In-Depth-Interview (IDI) with five (5) respondents each from the five countries. The responses are filtered into four themes and responses given by respondents fit into the theme such as the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) and the maintenance of international peace: assisting the navigation of the difficult path from conflict to peace. Furthermore, another theme discussed by the respondents is the impact of United Nations Security Council cooperation on the social, economic, and cultural developments of member nations. In addition, the respondents discussed the theme that focuses on the dimensions of the asymmetric relationship between the permanent members and non-permanent members of the UNSC to attain global peace under international law. Also, the respondents made contributions to the theme that centres around the activities of the United Nations Security Council on the development of friendly relations among nations on principles of equal rights and self-determination.

## **From Conflict to Peace: UNSC and the Maintenance of Global Peace**

Peacekeeping has proved to be one of the most successful instruments at the UN's disposal for assisting host nations in navigating the arduous transition from violence to peace. Peacekeeping offers distinct advantages, such as legitimacy, burden sharing, and the capacity to deploy and maintain soldiers and police worldwide, combining them with civilian peacekeepers to accomplish multifaceted agendas. UN troops offer security and political

and peace-building assistance to nations during the arduous early stages of transitioning from violence to peace. Findings have shown how the United Nations Security Council has maintained international peace by assisting the navigation of the difficult path from conflict to peace.

Political analysts, academia, diplomats, and journalist interviewed on the UNSC and the maintenance of global peace agreed that the UN has succeeded in maintaining world peace more than any other international organization since Immanuel Kant suggested establishing an international organization to foster world peace in his book “The Perpetual Peace”.

The transcript of the responses given by the respondents regarding the extent to which they think the United Nations Security Council has maintained global peace. Some held the view that the United Nations Security Council has to a greater extent, upheld global peace. Despite several domestic wars over the years since the inception of the United Nations, especially during the Cold war, the United Nations has forestalled domestic wars from plummeting into a global crisis. In contrast, others adjudged that the UNSC has played a minimal role in maintaining global peace. Citing examples of the laxity of the UNSC towards giving a desirable response to the Bosnia war of independence and also, in the case of the Rwandan genocide, the UNSC failed to handle it accordingly. Some held the opinion that UNSC has only stabilized global peace at a minimal level.

Most of the respondents summarized peacekeeping missions to involve the operation of armed troops to protect and restore the peace of a conflict-torn society. They explain that in most cases, it usually involves the intrusion of an armed force or an international military force that tries to mediate peace between combatant nations and groups. On the special political mission, most respondents agree that these are missions that are not administered or supervised by the political and peace-building affairs department. Some respondents cited examples from the United Nations Office of the Special Adviser on Genocide Prevention. They clarify that UN Special Political Missions (SPMs) often function in war and post-conflict contexts where local non-combatant peoples experience continued violence from armed players. This tendency is expected to continue if an apparent greater preference for Special Political Missions over peacekeeping operations prevails. Some respondents claim a continuous oversight for the lack of distinction between peacekeeping missions and special political missions. They argue that if these blurry lines are allowed to persist, there will be a conflict and departmental clash in the definition of duties and operations. The peace-building office of the United Nations is known as The Peace-

building Commission (PBC). One of the respondents explains that the Peace-building Commission (PBC) is a worldwide advisory organization that supports peace initiatives in conflict-affected nations and is an essential addition to the International Community's capability in the broader peace program.

## **The UNSC and Identification of Threats to Global Peace**

There was a consensus among respondents that the UNSC has contributed to international peace differently. Underlining its roles are preventing nuclear proliferation, clearing landmines, promoting disarmament, anti-terrorism, the institution of peacekeeping missions and special political missions among others. Arising from this, how does United Nations Security Council evaluate what constitutes a threat to global peace and a breach of human rights? Referencing Article 39 of the UN Charter, an international lawyer and other respondents mentioned crimes related to terrorism, nuclear weapon acquisition and proliferation, and the proliferation of illegally trafficked small arms and light arms/weapons.

Furthermore, the respondents cite examples of how the United Nations Security Council has responded to threats to peace or breach of fundamental human rights in the past. At first, the UNSC employ conventional means that did not include military force. These measures include sanctions on the economy and trade, the institution of international tribunals and the establishment of funds to compensate for the harm caused by an invasion. Due to the possible failure of the above measures, respondents hold on to Article 42 of the United Nations charter to justify the actions of the United Nations Security Council to deploy military forces in response to threats to peace and breach of fundamental human rights.

## **The Dimensions of the Asymmetric Relationship between the Permanent Members and Non-Permanent Members of the UNSC to Attain Global Peace under International Law**

There are different dimensions of the asymmetric relationship between permanent and non-permanent United Nations Security Council members. The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) is one of the United Nations (UN) six primary organizations. It is tasked with safeguarding world peace, nominating new states as potential members of the United Nations to the General Assembly, and implementing any amendments to the UN Charter. It has the authority to form peacekeeping

missions, impose international sanctions, and authorize military operations. Preventive diplomacy and mediation were identified by one of the respondents on how the permanent and non-permanent members of the United Nations Security Council sustain global peace and security. If things have skyrocketed beyond prevention and diplomatic mediations, the United Nations Security Council constitutes a peacekeeping mission. UNSC and Development of Friendly Relations among Nations on Principles of Equal Rights and Self-determination

Some of the activities of the UNSC towards fostering the development of friendly relations among member states on principles of equal rights and self-determination were outlined by the respondents. The UN Human Rights helps advice and experience a broad variety of human rights monitoring mechanisms inside the UN system while adhering to international human rights legislation. There are two kinds of human rights monitoring mechanisms within the United Nations system: Treaty-based bodies and Charter-based entities. The ten human rights Treaty Bodies, comprised of committees of independent experts, oversee the implementation of the leading international human rights accords. The Human Rights Council, Special Procedures, the Universal Periodic Review, and Independent Investigations are charter-based entities. UN Human Rights offers knowledge and assistance to all the various mechanisms.

Furthermore, in promoting Self-determination, the United Nations played a significant role in bringing down the apartheid regime by enacting policies spanning from an arms embargo to a treaty barring segregated sports events. Elections whereby all South Africans could vote on an equal basis resulted in the formation of an interracial government in 1994. On women's rights, the United Nations coordinated the first World Conference on Women in Mexico City in 1975, which, along with two World Conferences held during the UN Decade for Women (1976-1985) and the World Conference in Beijing (1995), established the objectives for furthering women's rights and women's empowerment. The 1979 United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, approved by 189 nations, has aided in promoting women's rights across the globe.

## **Discussion of Findings**

From the data gathered from the interviews and the thematic analysis; the respondents agreed that the UNSC has succeeded in maintaining world peace to a greater extent. A study upholds that the UN peacekeeping

operations have been exceptional at dealing with conflict and setting up peace in many parts of the world (Sarjoon & Yusoff, 2019) Another study corroborates that the ultimate strength of the UN has been in its contribution as normative power, which helps people around the world understand what is and isn't acceptable (Clayton et al., 2021) Another study corroborates that the Mozambique peacekeeping mission was a success. The United Nations was involved in a well-defined peace-building mission in Mozambique, which required minimal men and resources. This explains a big part of the success (Taylor, 2020) On the other hand, one presumed that the United Nations in the early 1990s failed to protect civilians (Attree et al., 2018)

On the impact of United Nations Security Council (UNSC) cooperation on social, economic, and cultural developments of member nations, the data analysed for this research objective were collected using the interview as a research instrument. The finding of this research objective indicates that the United Nations Security Council's roles are to prevent nuclear proliferation, clear landmines, and promote disarmament. A study corroborates that UNSC resolution 1540 is a rare piece of international law because it is binding on all United Nations Member States, brings together obligations of several single-technology-focused treaties and agreements, focuses on the activities of non-state actors, and asks the Member States to do more than just say they support non-proliferation (Gahlaut, 2019).

One study stated that since 1991, the Security Council has passed three sets of resolutions that require both individual countries and the whole world to work together to stop global terrorism and the spread of WMDs. It has also passed a group of resolutions that try to stop or reverse nuclear weapons as well as missile delivery programs in the DPRK and Iran. Other findings show that UNSC maintains peace and security by constituting peacekeeping and special political missions (Allen, 2019) Another study opined that the Security Council achieves its goals via peacekeeping deployments, international sanctions, and then even military strikes (Day et al., 2020) Another one stated that when a disagreement escalates into hostilities, the Security Council attempts to terminate the conflict by imposing cease-fire orders or assigning military observers and perhaps a peacekeeping force. Economic sanctions, weapons embargoes, financial fines, severance of diplomatic relations, blockade, or even collective military action may be considered by the Council (Jeong & Yeo, 2018)

On the dimensions of the asymmetric relationship between the permanent members and non-permanent members of the UNSC, the findings

indicate that the Security Council's five permanent members have the authority to veto any fundamental resolution whereas the non-permanent members do not have such power. This permits a permanent member to halt or terminate a discussion but not to prohibit or stop the passage of a resolution. One study corroborates these findings that without a question, the Security Council is the most powerful instrument of the United Nations. The Charter has entrusted it with the primary duty of maintaining global peace and security, and its decisions are enforceable on all Member States. Its narrow geographical balance, along with five reserved permanent seats with veto rights, renders the Security Council less inclusive. Many Member States – particularly emerging middle powers are increasingly pressing for the Council to be restructured (Freiesleben, 2008) Another study corroborates this stating that the permanent members of the UN Security Council have the power to veto, which is a special power that they have because they played a big role in defeating fascist forces. This power was given to them by the U.N. Charter, Art. 27(3), and the same power is also given to them by Article. 108 and 109 (Singh, 2019)

On the activities of the United Nations Security Council on the development of friendly relations among member states on principles of equal rights and self-determination, the findings indicate that the primary purpose of constituting the United Nations is to foster friendly relations among its member states. It also indicates that the development of friendly relations among member states of the United Nations depends on the upholding of the principles of equal rights and self-determination of each state. A study corroborates this finding by adding that the 1970 Declaration reinforces the doctrine that countries have a responsibility in their international relations to refrain from threatening or using force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any state, or in any other way inconsistent with the purposes of the United Nations, such an act constituting a violation of international law and the Charter and that cannot be used to settle international issues (Bejan, 2014) Another study buttressed this with examples that during the Bandung Conference of Asian and African Countries, participants created ten principles based on the substance of the five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence, which had come to represent the foundation for mutual friendly ties and peaceful coexistence for China.” (Macdonald, 2000a)

Although the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence are not original in and of themselves, China believes that their proposal as a full set of norms regulating international relations is unprecedented for the evolution of international law since the conclusion of World War II. China did not only

outline but also expands the aims and principles of the United Nations Charter; they declare the concept of “equality and mutual benefit” as the rule of behaviour in inter-state interactions (Macdonald, 2000b)

## **Conclusion**

This study established that the United Nations Security Council has succeeded in the maintenance of global peace and security. The study findings show that UNSC maintains peace and security by constituting peacekeeping and special political missions. Peacekeeping missions and special political missions are dispatched by the United Nations Security whenever there is a threat to peace or a breach of fundamental human rights. This study concludes that the primary purpose of constituting the United Nations is to foster friendly relations among its member states. In addition, this study concludes that friendly relations can only be achieved among members by respecting each state’s rights and the decision to self-determination. Meanwhile, the Security Council’s five permanent members have the authority to veto any fundamental resolution. This permits a permanent member to halt or terminate discussion but not to prohibit or stop the passage of a resolution. The non-permanent members of the UN Security Council do not have veto power.

## **Recommendations**

As a result of the growing and changing challenges confronting global peace, stability and development – from terrorism across borders, inter-state conflicts, human trafficking, the threat of genocide, invasions, and even pandemics like Corona Virus (COVID 19) that took the world by surprise, the United Nations Security Council should be restructured to be responsive, representative and accommodate other regions of the world as permanent members, most especially countries that have continually contributed to the success of United Nations – militarily and financially. The overbearing influence of the five permanent members with the use of “veto power” will, if not properly managed, amount to a future security threat to global peace and stability.

Furthermore, the UNSC reform must guarantee that the Council, including its permanent and non-permanent members, is predominantly represented by those members who can successfully demonstrate competence and commitment to work for the implementation of the international system’s peace (Ebaye, 2020)



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