Research Report

Leiden Model United Nations 2015
~ fresh ideas, new solutions ~

Forum: *Security Council*
Issue: *Expanding and reforming the membership of the Security Council*

Position: *President*

Introduction

The Security Council (SC) is unequivocally the most powerful forum of the United Nations. The UN Charter gave it the utmost responsibility for maintaining international peace and security, and its decisions are binding for all Member States. The issue regarding reformation arises due to the limited geographical balance and the Veto Power of the Permanent 5. This makes the SC less representative than preferred by many of the Member States, specifically emerging 'Middle Powers' (countries with powerful resources, such as oil reserves for example, but not as powerful as the P5 and superpowers of the world).

Although there is a general agreement on that the SC should be reformed, there remains a substantial disagreement on *how*, making the issue both extremely alienating and controversial. To many Member States, the reformation of said forum is a question of continuing legitimacy. Expansion could enhance its authority, reviewing the working methods would increase its transparency, limiting the use of Veto Power for example in cases directly involving a P5 member crimes could broaden its appeal.

It is clear of course that to others, reformation is primarily about increasing their own power, seeing as a seat "at the table" would inherently convert into an obvious increase in influence over much of the UN system including the ICJ.

Failure to achieve Expansion and Reformation of the SC forum, could emphasize and highlight the continued in harmony in the General Assembly, as well as influence other ongoing reform debates.

Definition of Key Terms

Expansion:
The expansion of the Security Council (there are deliberations on how that would happen).

In this case, it refers to the expansion of the SC in terms of either allowing more countries into the forum or giving more countries the advantage of having Veto Power.

Reforming:
Changing specific factors of the SC in order to improve it or make it more just.

In this case, several countries in the SC have been pushing for reformation in many ways most commonly by suggesting the addition of permanent members.

United Nations Charter:
The UN Charter is a treaty of the United Nations. It was signed at the San Francisco War Memorial and Performing Arts Center in San Francisco, United States, on 26 June 1945, by 50 of the 51 original member countries.

General Overview

Seeing as the SC has the primary responsibility under the UN charter for maintaining peace and security, all members of the UN must agree, accept and carry out decisions of the Security Council. During the first 45 years of its existence, The Cold War immobilized the SC; this caused a division between many of the Permanent SC members (seeing as each had their own idealistic views be it capitalism or communism. At the time, world power was shared by the 2 world superpowers: the United States and Russia (USSR-Soviet Union). The forum currently consists of 15 UN Member States, of which 5 are designated Permanent Members which hold Veto Power (China, Russia, United Kingdom, United States, France). The Veto Power has led to controversy. The GA (to 2-year non-renewable terms) elects the remaining 10 Members of the Forum. The seats are assigned regionally, to ensure representation in Major world regions (2 in Asia, 2 in Latin America, 2 in Western-Europe, 1 in Eastern-Europe, and 3 in Africa).

Membership of Security Council in 2003	
Country	**Membership Term ends**
France	Permanent Member
Germany	31 December 2004
Guinea	31 December 2003
Mexico	31 December 2003
Pakistan	31 December 2004
Russian Federation	Permanent Member
Spain	31 December 2004
Syrian Arab Republic	31 December 2003
United Kingdom	Permanent Member
United States	Permanent Member
Angola	31 December 2004

Bulgaria	31 December 2003
Cameroon	31 December 2003
China	Permanent Member
Chile	31 December 2004

An example of seat assignments in 2003

The Security Council performs 3 major functions: Peacekeeping, Enforcement, and Mediation. Acting under Chapter VI of the Charter:

Article 33

The parties to any dispute, the continuance of which is likely to endanger the maintenance of international peace and security, shall, first of all, seek a solution by negotiation, enquiry, mediation, conciliation, arbitration, judicial settlement, resort to regional agencies or arrangements, or other peaceful means of their own choice.
The Security Council shall, when it deems necessary, call upon the parties to settle their dispute by such means.

Article 34

The Security Council may investigate any dispute, or any situation that might lead to international friction or give rise to a dispute, in order to determine whether the continuance of the dispute or situation is likely to endanger the maintenance of international peace and security.

Major Parties Involved

A list of The current seat assignments in the SC;

Angola (2016)
Chad (2015)
Chile (2015)
Jordan (2015)
Lithuania (2015)
Malaysia (2016)
New Zealand (2016)
Nigeria (2015)
Spain (2016)
Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) (2016)
*France
*UK
*USA
*Russia

*China

Non-Council Member States

More than 60 United Nations Member States have never been Members of the Security Council.

A State, which is a Member of the United Nations but not of the Security Council, may participate, without a vote, in its discussions when the Council considers that that country's interests are affected. Both Members and non-members of the United Nations, if they are parties to a dispute being considered by the Council, may be invited to take part, without a vote, in the Council's discussions; the Council sets the conditions for participation by a non-member State.

Directly Taken from UN.org Link Below

Therefore it is crucial to understand that the P5 have a key role to play, seeing as they can veto any decision, therefore in order for a proposal to pass they must be convinced and fully agree.

Timeline of Events

17 January, 1946	First session held at Church house in London with 6 non-permanent members
1965	Membership grew steadily in numbers from '6 non-permanent to 10 non-permanent'
1997	Germany and Japan had a strong push to get on the permanent seats

Previous Attempts to solve the issue

To change the membership of the Security Council a two-thirds vote from the General Assembly is required, including all permanent members. The only change to the forum was in 1965, when the non-permanent number of member states increased from 6 to 10.

Efforts have been limited for over a decade. Most reform proposals are composed of work, size, and composition of the SC Forum. For a decade now, diplomats and committees have been working on Security Council reform. Most of the discussion has revolved around questions like:

How much expansion would be appropriate?
Would an increase in Permanent members solve any problems?
Should Veto's be opened to all those in the SC?

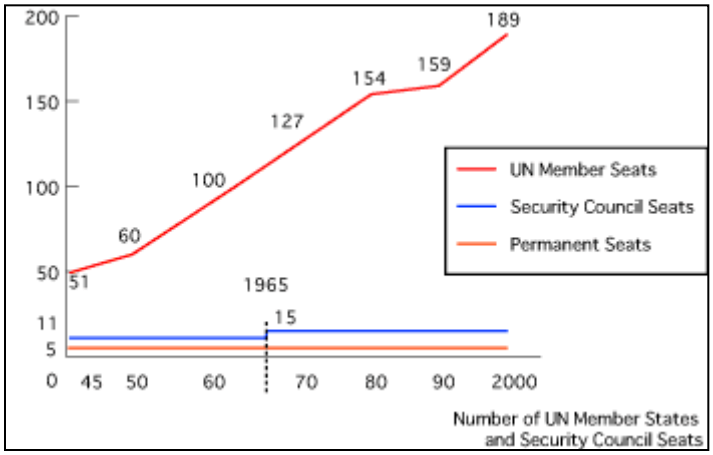
Should Veto's be abolished altogether?

Concerning the Germany and Japan situation, there were limitations seeing as it was found unfair by the rest of the world (by the other non-permanent members of the Security Council) seeing as if the council added yet another European representative to the P5 seats, it would be an unfair representation of the world. It was then dismissed in order to come up with a more just solution.

Possible Solutions

1. Expansion of the Security Council

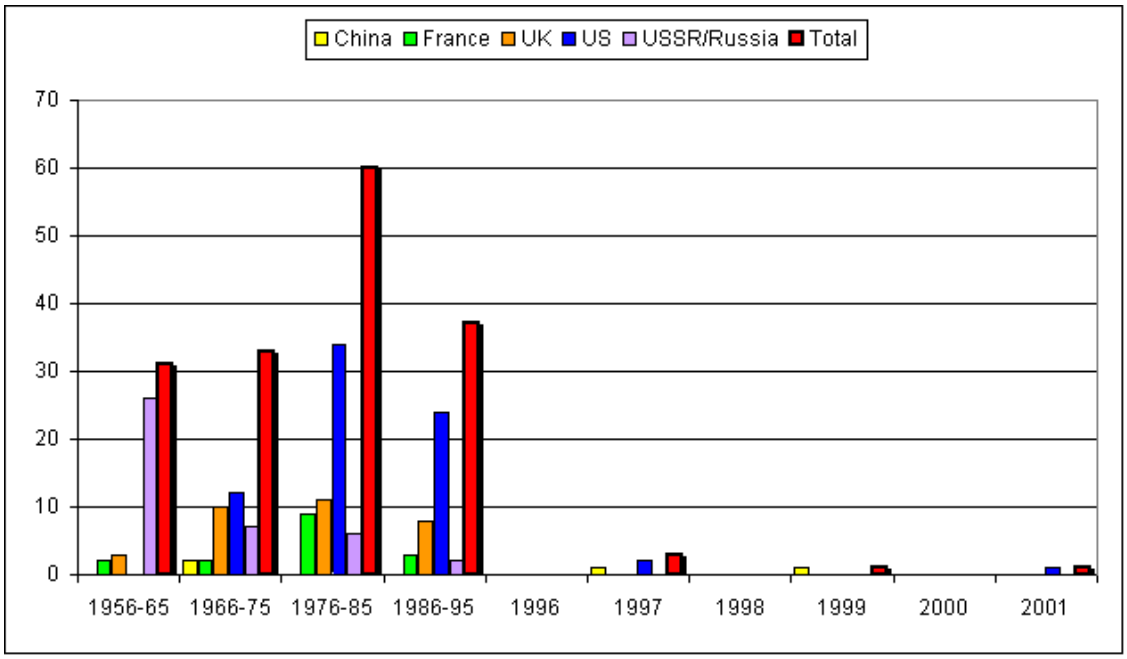
Most reform proposals merely suggest the expansion of 5 PMS to 10 for example and increase elected members from 10 to 14, seeing as the General Assembly increased from 51 to 191 (while maintaining the same number of permanent members). Most countries are for this seeing as it could only do well by representing the different parts of the world. However, it could eventually lead to chaotic debates and reaching a gridlock (Same number of votes for/against an issue) in the Forum.



2. Either Giving/Taking away the Veto Power

Seeing as only 5 member states are allowed to veto, many of the others are questioning whether they have that right to protect their own interests or to maintain the global peace and stability. However, in the P5's point of view they have every right seeing as they were the original founders of the United Nations.

Veto Use in The UN SC



3. Dissolution

One of the bold proposals that have been previously presented is to simply eliminate all permanent membership and create a council of elected representatives from different areas all around the world. In this case, it's hard to determine the countries for/against this solution because the countries in the SC would never agree to simply letting anyone in without the procedure, whilst those who aren't in the SC would of course opt for this solution since it allows them access. This is considered an extremely bold proposal due to the fact it would essentially eliminate the idea of a Security Council with its special procedures; and potentially reduce its prestige.

Useful documents

http://www.un.org/en/sc/members/
http://www.un.org/en/sections/un-charter/chapter-vi/index.html
https://globalsolutions.org/files/public/.../ManagingChange-1.pdf
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_Nations_Charter
https://globalsolutions.org/files/public/documents/ManagingChange-1.pdf
http://unu.edu/publications/articles/united-nations-security-council-reform.html
https://www.opendemocracy.net/opensecurity/sonia-rothwell/security-council-reform-why-it-matters-and-why-its-not-happening
https://www.globalpolicy.org/security-council/security-council-reform.html
http://www.un.org/en/sections/un-charter/chapter-vi/index.html
PDF File downloaded Stanfard University UN

Appendix/Appendices

Introduction
https://globalsolutions.org/files/public/documents/ManagingChange-1.pdf

Definition of Key Terms
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_Nations_Charter

General Overview
http://www.un.org/en/sections/un-charter/chapter-vi/index.html
https://globalsolutions.org/files/public/.../ManagingChange-1.pdf

Major Parties Involved
http://www.un.org/en/sc/members/

Possible Solutions
http://www.mofa.go.jp/policy/un/reform/role21.html - image