

The need to Reform the UN Security Council

1. **Global problems require global solutions which in turn require global governance.**

We are facing a growing number of global problems and global threats, such as:

- the uncontrolled globalisation of markets and financial flows;
- the growing disparity between rich and poor; growing debt by the LDCs;
- environment deterioration, global warming and climate change;
- unreasonable use of raw materials and depletion of soft water;
- global diseases and pandemic threats;
- devastating armed conflicts, and new forms of terrorist actions;
- increasing flows of migrants and refugees, and so on and so forth.

There is thus an imperative need for a strong global governance system. And so far, the UN is the best global governance system that humanity has experienced. It has thus become imperative to reform and to reinforce the UN system, to enable it to meet the challenges we are facing.

2. Indeed, **the UN system is suffering of a number of deficiencies and weaknesses.** It needs to be improved, restructured, reinforced, more democratic and transparent, more efficient and universal. The Economic and Social Council needs to be empowered, reinforced and enlarged. The Specialized Agencies need to be better coordinated. The International Criminal Court should be ratified by all Member States (So far, a large number of Member States are still missing, and not the least, such as the USA, Russia, China and India). Chapter 7 of the UN Charter on the use of Peace Keeping Forces should be improved or amended.

And above all, the **UN Security Council**, which is the most central and most powerful organ of the UN, is facing a critical need to be reformed. It was not able to prevent the genocides neither in Rwanda nor in Bosnia, to halt the preventive war and the invasion of Iraq by the USA, to settle the war in Syria, to prevent the illegal annexation of Crimea by Russia.

3. In order to remain legitimate and representative in the new multipolar world, the UN Security Council should be **enlarged with new permanent representatives**, such as :

- a. The 5 or 8 new members: Japan, Germany, India, Brazil, and perhaps Nigeria or South Africa and Mexico, and why not a few others. Why not the 20 Member States of the G20?
- b. Regional representatives, 2 countries per region on a rotating basis ;
- c. Election of Member States providing a sufficient level of financial or human (blue helmets) contribution to the UN.

But, on one hand the existing 5 permanent members are not really willing to share their power with new comers. On the other hand, the proposed newcomers have not yet been able to demonstrate to the rest of the world the benefits of their inclusion.

4. Besides, **the decision-making process** itself should be reviewed. **The right to veto** is neither democratic nor efficient. Decisions could be taken by :
 - a. A qualified majority, something similar to the qualified majority system prevailing in the European Community (2/3 of the States representing 3/4 of the total population).
 - b. The right to veto could be lifted (NR2V) for selected critical or criminal cases decided upon by the SG, on the recommendation of 50 Member States.
 - c. Alternatively, a system of double voting rights could be established, meaning that decisions could be blocked by 2 vetoes instead of 1.

5. In addition, the Security Council has been **stretching its power** over to other domains which were not meant to be within its prerogatives, such as humanitarian aid and related relief works or the right to protect (R2P). These issues, which are not security issues, have been dragged into the SC and thus became dependant on the possible veto rights.

6. Yes, it is high time that the main players accept to give up a minimum of concessions and initiate **a real reform of the Security Council**. Otherwise, it will lose its power and its significance, and may not even be consulted in case new wars break-out. Thus, either other less-legitimate fora, such as the G20, will take over from the UN the international decision-taking mechanism, or we may even go back to a world of chaos and disorder, where force will replace laws.

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