

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE UNITED NATIONS IN PREVENTING CONFLICTS IN THE WORLD IN THE CONTEXT OF THE 2023 PALESTINE-ISRAEL WAR AND A MODEL PROPOSAL

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Abstract

The United Nations (UN), founded after World War II to address global issues, especially security, and to promote international consensus, has struggled to maintain its effectiveness in preventing wars. Over the years, the addition of new member states, shifting global power centers, diminishing resources, and increasing environmental crises have further challenged its ability to achieve this goal. The view that it cannot fully function with its current structure as a result of these factors has begun to gain weight in the World public opinion. In this context, various platforms have voiced the need for reform, calling for the UN to be restructured to enhance its effectiveness and restore its credibility, yet no concrete outcomes have been achieved. In this study, the inadequacy of the UN's intervention in the October 7, 2023, Palestine-Israel War and its ineffectiveness in ending the conflict will be examined. The study will begin by presenting the current structure of the UN, evaluating its impact, and investigating the reasons for its failure to ensure peace. A model proposal will then be introduced to prevent future conflicts. Finally, a general evaluation of the subject will be made, offering suggestions for addressing power imbalances in the emerging world order, for preventing conflicts, and for making the UN a more effective international organization, ensuring fair representation for all societies globally.

Keywords

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2023 FİLİSTİN-İSRAİL SAVAŞI BAĞLAMINDA DÜNYADAKİ ÇATIŞMALARIN ÖNLENMESİNDE BİRLEŞMİŞ MİLLETLERİN ETKİNLİĞİ VE BİR MODEL ÖNERİSİ

Öz

II. Dünya Savaşı sonrasında, özellikle güvenlik gibi küresel meseleleri çözmek ve uluslararası politikayı uzlaşıyla yürütmek amacıyla kurulan Birleşmiş Milletler (BM), yıllar içinde işlevselliğini yitirmeye başlamıştır. Organizasyona katılan yeni devletler, değişen küresel şartlar, azalan kaynaklar, artan çatışmalar ve büyüyen çevre sorunları gibi faktörler, BM'nin mevcut yapısıyla bu hedeflerini tam anlamıyla yerine getiremediği yönündeki görüş dünya kamuoyunda giderek daha fazla kabul görmeye başlamıştır. Bu kapsamda, değişik platformlarda reform ihtiyacı olduğu dile getirilerek BM'in etkinliğini artırmak için yeniden düzenlenmesi ve itibarını güçlendirmek için birçok görüş öne sürülerek çaba sarf edilmiş ancak bir sonuç elde edilememiştir. Bu çalışmada, 7 Ekim 2023 Filistin-İsrail Savaşı'nda BM'in müdahalesinin yetersiz kalması ve savaşın sonlandırılmasının sağlanmasındaki etkisizliği bağlamında, çalışmanın başlangıcında BM'in mevcut yapısı ortaya konacak, etkisi değerlendirilecek ve barışın sağlanmasındaki yetersizlik nedenleri araştırılacak, sonrasında ise çatışmaların önlenmesine yönelik bir model önerisi sunulacaktır. Son olarak, incelenen konuyla ilgili genel bir değerlendirme yapılarak, oluşan yeni dünya düzeni, güç dengesinde sorunlarının çözülmesi ve çatışmaların önlenmesine yönelik BM'in daha etkin bir uluslararası organizasyon haline gelmesi, dünyadaki tüm toplumların daha adil bir oluşumda temsili için önerilerde bulunulacaktır.

Anahtar Kelimeler

Birleşmiş Milletler
Filistin
İsrail
Savaş
Uluslararası Güvenlik

Makale Hakkında

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INTRODUCTION

International organizations, especially the United Nations (UN), were founded after World War II under the influence of the victorious states, particularly the United States. These organizations were established with the hope of preventing future conflicts, ensuring peace, and promoting global tranquility. However, the effectiveness of the UN in achieving these goals has come under scrutiny in recent years. Critics argue that the UN has struggled to address the complexities of modern conflicts, which often involve a myriad of political, social, and economic factors. Furthermore, the organization has faced challenges in ensuring a fair distribution of resources among nations, leading to growing discontent, especially among developing countries.

In recent times, there has been a noticeable shift in the discourse surrounding international governance. Developing countries, particularly regional powers such as Japan, Brazil, Germany, Italy, and Türkiye, have begun to vocalize their frustrations regarding the existing power dynamics within international institutions. These nations argue that the current decision-making mechanisms disproportionately favor the interests of a few powerful states, undermining the principle of equitable representation. As a result, there is an increasing call for reform to address these imbalances, emphasizing the need for a more inclusive and representative international framework.

Despite the critical nature of these discussions, previous studies on the effectiveness of the UN and the necessity for reform have been limited. Nevertheless, progress on reforms can be achieved through a collaborative effort involving academia, research institutions, and stronger international public support. Engaging scholars and experts in the field can provide valuable insights and innovative solutions to the challenges faced by the UN. Additionally, fostering public awareness and advocacy for reform can create the political will necessary for change.

This article will first outline the current structure of the UN, examining its inherent strengths and weaknesses. It will then analyze the organization's effectiveness in preventing conflicts, particularly in the context of its inadequate intervention during the 2023 Palestine-Israel War, where the UN's inability to facilitate a resolution has raised serious questions about its role in global peacekeeping. The analysis will evaluate the impact of these shortcomings on both the UN's credibility and the broader international community's perception of its capabilities.

Subsequently, the reasons behind the UN's failure to ensure peace will be explored. Factors such as the influence of major powers, the principle of state sovereignty, and the limitations of its operational mechanisms will be critically assessed. Understanding these underlying issues is essential for developing viable solutions that can enhance the UN's effectiveness.

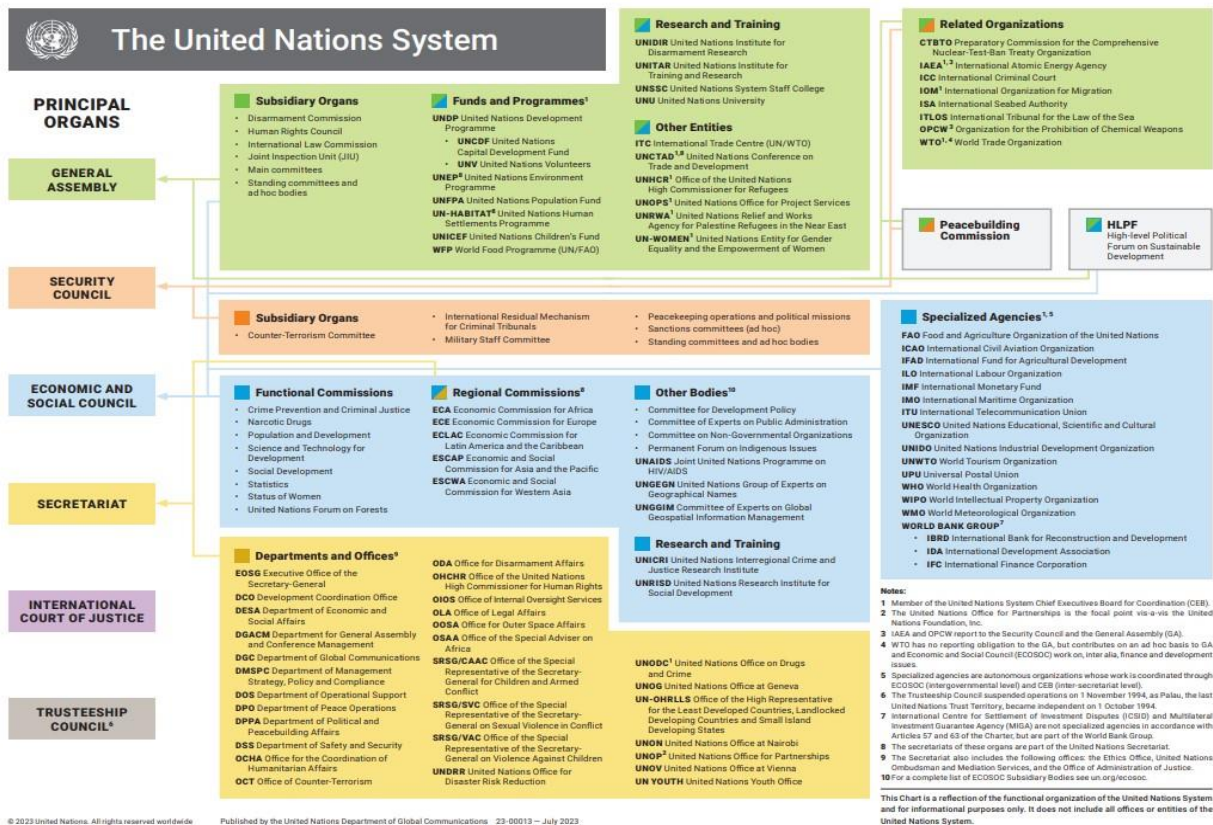
Finally, a model for conflict prevention will be proposed, based on previous suggestions and best practices observed in other international frameworks. The recommendations will focus on fostering collaborative efforts among member states, enhancing early warning systems, and promoting equitable representation to ensure that all societies have a voice in international decision-making processes. In conclusion, a general

evaluation will be presented, along with actionable recommendations aimed at making the UN a more effective international organization, capable of addressing global problems, preventing conflicts, and ensuring lasting peace through fair representation for all nations.

1. Conceptual and Historical Framework

The United Nations (UN) bases its authority to intervene in international conflicts on certain provisions set out in the UN Charter. The UN Charter was adopted at the United Nations Conference held in San Francisco in 1945. UN is an organization established to ensure peace and security around the world, promote international cooperation and protect human rights. The United Nations (UN) has a complex organizational structure comprising various organs, specialized agencies, programs, and funds. The main organs of the UN, as outlined in its Charter (UN, 2024) are General Assembly, The UN Security Council (UNSC) and Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). The United Nations System is shown in the Figure 1.

Figure 1. The United Nations System



Resource: (United Nations, 2024).

The General Assembly is the main deliberative body of the UN, where all member states are represented. Each member state has one vote. Decisions on important issues, such as the budget, admission of new members, and recommendations on peace and security, require a two-thirds majority. The Peacebuilding Commission, International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), International Criminal Court (ICC), International Organization for Migration (IOM), International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS) work under General Assembly.

The UN Security Council (UNSC) is responsible for maintaining international peace and security. It has 15 members, including five permanent members (China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United States) with veto power, and ten non-permanent member selected for two-year terms. The Security Council can authorize the use of force, imposesanctions, and establish peace keeping missions.

Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) is responsible forpromoting international economic and social cooperation and development. It has 54 members, which are elected by the General Assembly for three-year terms. ECOSOC coordinates the work of various UN specialized agencies and programs.

The UN has several specialized agencies, programs, and funds that focus on specificissuessuch as health, education, development, andrefugees. Examples include the World Health Organization (WHO), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

The Secretariat is headed by the Secretary-General, who is appointed by the General Assembly on the recommendation of the Security Council. The Secretariat carries out the day-to-day work of the UN and is responsible for implementing the decisions of the other organs. The UN has regional commissions, functional commissions and other committees under Secratariat that focus on specific geographical areas, such as the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP). These commissions provide a forum for member states to discuss regional issues and promote regional cooperation. The committees work for devoloment policy, non-governmental organisations indigious issues.

The International Court of Justice (ICJ) is the principal judicial organ of the UN. It settles legal disputes between states. It gives advisory opinions on legal questions referred to it by the General Assembly, the Security Council, orother UN organs and specialized agencies.

The Trusteeship Council was established to oversee the administration of trust territories and ensure that the interests of the inhabitants were paramount. Due to the successful independence of its trust territories, the Trusteeship Council suspended its operations, but it can be reactivated if necessary.

The structure of the UN reflectsitsmultifacetednature, addressing a widerange of global issues throug hcollaboration among member states and specialize identities. Each organ has specific functions and responsibilities aimed at achieving the purposes and principles outlined in the UN Charter. UN can intervene in international conflicts based on legal provisions outlined in the charter which serves as the foundational document of the UN, delineates the legal bases and principles for the organization's involvement in addressing international conflicts. Some key legal bases for UN intervention include are as follows:²

The UN Charter consists of 111 articles in XIX charters that regulate issues such as organization, duties and responsibilities. Article 1 of the UN Charter outlines the purposes of the organization, including maintaining international peace and security. Article 2 emphasizes

² For more information: United Nations Charter. (2024). <https://www.un.org/en/about-us/un-charter>

the principles of sovereign equality and non-interference in the internal affairs of member states. However, it also allows for collective measures by the Security Council to address threats to peace. Chapter VI: Pacific Settlement of Disputes (Article 33-38) is dedicated to the peaceful resolution of disputes. It encourages parties to settle disputes through negotiation, inquiry, mediation, conciliation, arbitration, judicial settlement, resort to regional agencies or arrangements, or other peaceful means. The UN may facilitate or provide assistance in these processes. Chapter VII: Action with Respect to Threats to the Peace, Breaches of the Peace, and Acts of Aggression (Article 39-51) provides the Security Council with broader Powers to address threats to peace, breaches of the peace, and acts of aggression. Article 39 grants the Security Council the authority to determine the existence of any threat to the peace, breach of the peace, or act of aggression and to take enforcement measures. Article 41 authorizes the Security Council to impose measures not involving the use of armed force, such as economic sanctions and diplomatic measures. Article 42 empowers the Security Council to take military action against aggressors, including the use of force, to restore international peace and security. Such actions may involve the use of UN forces provided by member states. Chapter VIII (Article 52-54) recognizes the role of regional arrangements or agencies in the maintenance of international peace and security. The UN may encourage regional efforts to address conflicts, provided they are consistent with the purposes and principles of the Charter.

While the General Assembly does not have the same enforcement powers as the Security Council, it can pass resolutions and make recommendations on matters related to international peace and security. These resolutions can provide political and moral support for UN actions. It is important to note that any use of force or military intervention by the UN, especially under Chapter VII, requires authorization from the UNSC. The principles of proportionality, necessity, and legitimacy are crucial considerations in determining the legality of UN intervention in specific conflicts. UN interventions are ideally conducted with the consent of the parties involved, and the use of force is considered a measure of last resort.

Some important historical examples of UNSC decisions made under Chapter VII, including Article 42, are as follows:

Korean War (1950-1953):³ The UNSC, through Resolution 82, authorized the UN Commission to take all necessary measures to ensure the full independence and unity of South Korea, including the use of military force and the withdrawal of North Korean military forces to the 38th parallel. UN forces, led by the United States, intervened in support of South Korea.

Gulf War (1990-1991):⁴ The UNSC passed resolutions under Chapter VII, including Resolution 678, which authorized Member States, in cooperation with the Government of Kuwait, to use all necessary means, including the use of force, to compel Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait and to restore international peace and security in the region. This led to the multinational coalition intervention known as the Gulf War.

³ For more information: United Nations Digital Library. (2024). UN Resolution 82 (1950) of June 25, 1950, <https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/112025?v=pdf>

⁴ For more information: United Nations Digital Library. (2024). UN Resolution 678 (1990) of November 29, 1990, <https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/102245?v=pdf>

Bosnian War (1992-1995):⁵ Based on the request of the Government of Yugoslavia to initiate a peacekeeping operation, the UNSC decided that a UN High Representative would be present in the region and use military force until a peaceful solution was achieved. It also authorized the establishment of a no-fly zone over Bosnia and Herzegovina to protect civilians and humanitarian operations. The peace keeping mission, known as UNPROFOR, was also established during this conflict.

Kosova War (1998-1999):⁶ The UNSC passed resolutions under Chapter VII, including Resolutions 1160 and 1199, addressing the crisis in Kosovo. NATO subsequently conducted air strikes against Yugoslavia without explicit UNSC authorization, leading to debates about the interpretation of Article 42.

Libya Intervention (2011):⁷ The UNSC authorized military action in Libya under Resolution 1973 to protect civilians from the Gaddafi regime. The intervention included a no-fly zone and the use of force to prevent attacks on civilians.

These examples illustrate instances where the UNSC invoked Chapter VII, particularly Article 42, to authorize the military action for the aim of maintaining or restoring international peace and security. Each situation is unique, and the authorization of the use of force is subject to deliberation, negotiation, and agreement among the Security Council's permanent and non-permanent members.

2. Analysis of Studies on the Effectiveness of the UN

The changing world order, especially since the end of the Cold War, along with recent developments from the pandemic, has intensified scrutiny of the UN's effectiveness, particularly the UNSC's veto power. Delayed or absent interventions in conflicts and wars have further fueled research and analysis on this issue. Many studies on the effectiveness of the UN have been conducted previously, with the topic being addressed from various perspectives and recommendations provided. This study presents a general framework by focusing on some of the key studies.

In this context, Gray (2007) argues that the UN's insufficient interventions in recent crises and conflicts have led to the organization's legitimacy being questioned and also handles the issue of UNSC reform. She concludes that these efforts have been unsuccessful due to the limitations of the Westphalian system and the power of nation-states. Similarly, Anderson (2009) suggests that in a multipolar world order, where new global powers are emerging and conditions are shifting, the legitimacy of both the UN and the UNSC, heavily influenced by the US, will be increasingly challenged, and other states may adopt pressure tactics. López-Jacoite (2010) also discusses the limitations of this system, exploring the relationship between the UNSC and success in addressing human rights issues. Bourantonis (1998) analyzes the positions of non-aligned states on key issues regarding UNSC reform, arguing that if their

⁵ For more information: United Nations Digital Library. (2024). UN Resolution 721 (1991) of November 27, 1991, <https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/131956?v=pdf>

⁶ For more information: United Nations Digital Library. (2024). UN Resolution 1160 (1998) of March 31, 1998, <https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/252117?v=pdf>; UN Resolution 1199 (1998) of September 23, 1998, <https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/260416?v=pdf>

⁷ For more information: United Nations Digital Library. (2024). UN Resolution 1973 (2011), of March 17, 2011, <https://www.un.org/securitycouncil/s/res/1973-%282011%29>

demands for changes were ever satisfied, it would negatively impact the work and functioning of the UN's most powerful body. Güneylioğlu (2021) examines the efficiency problems of the collective security system from a realist perspective. In a related article, Hossain (2023) investigates the effectiveness of the UN's collective security system in preventing another world war. He warns that if contemporary crises, such as the Russia-Ukraine and China-Taiwan conflicts, continue to escalate, a third world war could be imminent.

Other studies typically focus on reforms aimed at enhancing the effectiveness of the UN in preventing international conflicts and wars. In this context, Çolak and Köse (2020) highlight the same issue in their study, emphasizing Italy's role as a key state advocating for effective policies and proposing comprehensive reforms for the UNSC. Weiss (2003) discusses the historical failure of reform in his study and emphasizes that changing the membership or procedures of the UNSC could enhance its credibility. Additionally, a network called 'Together First' prepared a report recommending reforms to significantly strengthen the UNSC's ability to take effective action in fulfilling its primary responsibility for maintaining international peace and security. Brigadier General Ferdous H. Salim from the Bangladesh Army (2021) wrote a report outlining necessary reforms for a more responsive UNSC. Similarly, Editor Stewart Patrick and fifteen scholars from around the world prepared a report for the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace (2023), contributing short essays that address the question, how the UNSC should be reformed from the perspective of your country or region.

3. An Evaluation of the Effectiveness of the United Nations in the Context of 2023 Palestine-Israel War

Following World War I, Palestine came under British mandate after the collapse of the Ottoman Empire, and plans were made to fulfill promises to Jewish communities for a homeland. This led to policies encouraging Jewish immigration to the region, which intensified following the Holocaust in Europe during World War II, where millions of Jews were killed, and many survivors were left displaced. This growing Jewish presence in Palestine created significant unrest among the Arab population, who saw these new settlers as an imposition on their land (Lewis, 2021, s. 453-455).

In 1947, the UN proposed a partition plan to address the growing tensions, suggesting the land be divided into a Jewish state, an Arab state, and an internationally governed zone for Jerusalem. However, while the Jewish leadership accepted this plan, Arab leaders rejected it, viewing it as an unjust division. On May 14, 1948, Israel declared its independence within the borders assigned by the UN, which led to immediate armed conflict as neighboring Arab nations—Egypt, Jordan, Syria, and Lebanon—mobilized forces to oppose the new state. The U.S. recognized Israel on May 14, followed by the Soviet Union the next day. The involvement of these superpowers added complexity to the conflict. The U.S. and Britain enforced a naval blockade to prevent supplies from reaching the Arab forces, while the Soviet Union supported Israel with air shipments of arms from Czechoslovakia. These factors allowed Israel, with its relatively small but well-organized 75,000-strong army, to gain a decisive advantage over the combined Arab forces. After a year of fighting, the Israeli forces had expanded beyond the territory initially assigned by the UN, while the Arab states suffered a significant defeat. The 1948 war resulted in the displacement of over 500,000 Palestinian Arabs, who became refugees

either within the remaining Arab territories or in neighboring countries. This displacement created a major humanitarian crisis that remains unresolved. The Arab defeat also led to political shifts in the region, most notably in Egypt, where King Farouk was overthrown by Abdel Nasser in 1952, signaling the start of a new era of pan-Arab nationalism and further regional conflicts (Armaoğlu, 2012: 589-594). To this day, conflicts in this region and Israel's unlawful expansion into Palestinian territories have continued.

On October 7, 2023, Hamas launched a comprehensive attack called 'Al-Aqsa Flood' in response to Israel's attacks on Al-Aqsa Mosque and the sacred values of the Palestinians, as well as Israel's human rights violations in the occupied Palestinian territories. It was named Al-Aqsa Flood to symbolize the influx of people trying to overcome the barrier as a result of Israel's ill-treatment of Muslims at the Al-Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem (Nournews, 2024). Israel declared a state of war on the same day, launched an intense air attack on the Gaza Strip, and subsequently occupied Gaza. Western countries, especially the USA, not only ignored Israel's bombings on the Gaza Strip and the destruction of civilians, infrastructure, buildings, and even hospitals but also supported them with their actions and rhetoric. The Washington administration dispatched the battleship group USS Gerald R. Ford to the region to support Israel on October 8, then the US declared (Euronews, 2024).

UN Secretary-General António Guterres, drawing attention to the unprecedented level of civilian casualties and catastrophic humanitarian conditions in Gaza at Headquarters on January 15, 2024, stated that it is imperative to establish basic conditions to facilitate the delivery of safe and fully comprehensive aid to civilians. Although he emphasized that only a ceasefire can prevent the escalation of the crisis, and that many meetings have been held in the Security Council to date, no concrete steps have been taken regarding short-term ceasefires. According to the Gaza Ministry of Health, more than 23,700 Palestinians were killed, including over 10,000 children, and nearly 60,000 were injured. 1.9 million Gazans, or 85 percent of Gaza's population, have been displaced (some more than once). The conflict also claimed the lives of 152 UN personnel, constituting the largest loss of life in UN history to date (Guterres, 2024). On February 22, 2024, Tor Wennesland, Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process, stated that his investigations in Gaza revealed the scale of the tragedy unfolding there. He reported that ongoing intense air attacks had left over 2 million people struggling to access food, facing rising infectious diseases, and with 84% of health and education facilities damaged. He also took attention that all of the roads were damaged or destroyed, and energy lines of 62% were unusable (United Nations, 2024a).

The UN Security Council has failed in all four of its previous attempts to take decisions on the Gaza crisis; At the session on March 22, 2024, permanent members China and Russia vetoed a US-led proposal. The USA, which had vetoed the previous three Council texts, abstained and allowed there solution to be passed on March 26, as a result of intense pressure among the Councilmembers. The Resolution 2728 (2024), adopted by 14 votes in favor and one abstention (US), called for an immediate ceasefire for the remainder of Ramadan, respected by all parties and 'leading to a permanent, sustainable ceasefire.' (United Nations Türkiye, 2024).

4. Discussions Regarding UNSC Reform and A Model Proposal

Reforming the UN has been a topic of discussion for many years, but achieving substantial changes has proven challenging due to differing interests and perspectives among

member states. In this context, numerous attempts and proposals for reforming the UNSC have been made over the years. This section discusses the effectiveness of the UN and views on altering the current structure of the UNSC. A model proposal developed by the author, based on previous studies and initiatives, will be presented continuously.

4.1. Discussions Regarding UNSC Reform

Several factors contribute to the challenges and limitations faced by the UN in preventing conflicts and wars worldwide. One major issue is the structure and veto power of the UNSC. The Council's five permanent members (P5)—China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom, and the US—hold veto power, which often leads to deadlock and obstructs decisive action. The frequent use of veto power by one of the five permanent members of the UNSC on issues and conflicts that oppose its national interests, as seen in many previous cases, has become a major obstacle to achieving solutions. This practice has led to increasing scrutiny of the UN's overall effectiveness and legitimacy.

Conflicting national interests among the P5 can prevent the adoption of effective resolutions, making unified action difficult. Political divisions among member states further complicate the situation, as their divergent political, economic, and strategic interests frequently hinder consensus on actions needed to prevent or resolve conflicts. These divisions can erode the unity required for effective interventions, undermining the UN's efforts.

The UN also faces limitations due to its reliance on diplomatic means and restricted enforcement capabilities. Without a robust coercive power, the UN's resolutions and sanctions may lack impact, as non-compliance often goes unpunished. Resource constraints add another layer of difficulty. The UN often struggles with financial and logistical challenges, which restrict its capacity to carry out conflict prevention and peacekeeping missions. These limitations can impede the organization's ability to respond swiftly and comprehensively to crises.

Many conflicts are inherently complex, rooted in deep historical, cultural, and geopolitical factors that make them resistant to quick solutions. Such multifaceted conflicts require sustained and nuanced approaches that often exceed the capabilities of the United Nations. Since 2020, several efforts have been made to enhance conflict prevention and strengthen the UN's capacity in this area. A report from a panel held in 2004 included a series of recommendations in this regard. Among these were: referring issues that cause conflicts to the International Criminal Court (ICC), developing measures to prevent the unconstitutional overthrow of democratic governments, increasing the UN's mediation capacity to achieve peaceful solutions, enhancing preventive diplomacy resources to improve its function, and increasing the effectiveness of preventive peacekeeping operations. Additionally, a lack of consistent political will among member states hampers the UN's conflict prevention efforts. Differences in commitment to addressing root causes and engaging in sustained peacebuilding make it challenging to maintain momentum on these initiatives. Although efforts have been made to develop early warning systems, gaps in intelligence and analysis continue to limit the UN's ability to predict and prevent conflicts before they escalate. Improving and expanding these systems is essential for timely interventions. Furthermore, the principle of state sovereignty restricts the UN's role in internal conflicts, making it difficult for the organization

to address issues that are primarily domestic. This limitation can prevent effective interventions in situations where they may be urgently needed (Bellamy, 2008, p.136-139).

On the other hand, inequality in global governance creates additional obstacles, as power imbalances often hinder the UN's effectiveness. Developing nations may feel marginalized in decision-making processes, which fosters mistrust and reduces willingness to fully cooperate. Finally, the erosion of respect for international norms and laws undermines the UN's ability to enforce agreements and hold parties accountable. When violations of international law go unchecked, it weakens the deterrent effect of legal mechanisms, making it harder to maintain global order (United Nations, 2024b).

Reforming UNSC has been a topic of discussion for many years, but achieving substantial changes has proven challenging due to differing interests and perspectives among member states. Numerous attempts and proposals for reforming the UNSC have been made over the years. Here are some of the notable efforts and discussions:

In the 1990s, following the end of the Cold War, discussions began on expanding the UNSC to better reflect the evolving global landscape. However, no agreement was reached on implementing these changes. The Uniting for Consensus (UfC) coalition, formally known as the 'Coffee Club Group' is an informal coalition of countries established in the late 1990s to advocate for reform of the UNSC. Comprising primarily middle powers, including Italy, Türkiye, Canada, Spain, Pakistan, the Republic of Korea the group aims to promote a more representative and democratic structure within the UNSC by addressing the underrepresentation of developing countries. The Coffee Club emphasizes the need for changes to decision-making processes and supports the expansion of both permanent and non-permanent seats for emerging economies and regional powers. By fostering dialogue and collaboration among its members, the Coffee Club seeks to influence global governance and enhance the legitimacy of the UN's role in maintaining international peace and security (Silva, 2014, p.8-9).

The G4, consisting of Brazil, Germany, India, and Japan, was established in 2004 to promote reform of the UNSC. The group advocates for the enlargement of both permanent and non-permanent membership categories and supports each other's bids for permanent seats. In September 2015, the first G4 Summit in 11 years was held in New York to add momentum to the Security Council reform process. Since 2010, G4 Ministerial Meetings have been held annually on the margins of the UN General Assembly. In September 2020, the ministers emphasized their commitment to improving the Intergovernmental Negotiations (IGN) process and called for the initiation of substantial text-based negotiations. They highlighted that increasing representation from countries, particularly from Africa, is essential for enhancing the Security Council's ability to address contemporary global challenges. In September 2021, the ministers shared their current views on reform, reaffirmed their solidarity as the G4, and agreed to support the President of the General Assembly in advancing the reform process, including early text-based negotiations (Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, 2024).

The 2005 World Summit, held from September 14–16, 2005, at the UN Headquarters in New York, was a significant gathering of world leaders focused on reforming the UN to

address emerging global challenges. Attended by more than 170 heads of state and government, it was one of the largest gatherings of world leaders in history. The summit aimed to assess progress toward the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) set in 2000 and address issues of security, human rights, and UN reform. The outcome document, known as the '2005 World Summit Outcome' laid out a broad agenda that addressed the following key areas: Development and Poverty Eradication, Human Rights and Rule of Law, Peacebuilding and Conflict Prevention, UN Reform (United Nations, 2005).

The Ezulwini Consensus, adopted by the African Union (AU) in 2005, is a pivotal framework that outlines Africa's position on reforming the UNSC and enhancing the representation of African countries within it. The Consensus advocates for the inclusion of two permanent seats for African nations on the UNSC, with veto power, as well as additional non-permanent seats. This initiative aims to address the historical underrepresentation of African states in global decision-making bodies, emphasizing the need for a more equitable international order that reflects the continent's geopolitical realities and interests. The Ezulwini Consensus also underscores the importance of collective African action in international relations and promotes the idea that African states should play a significant role in shaping global governance (African Union, 2005).

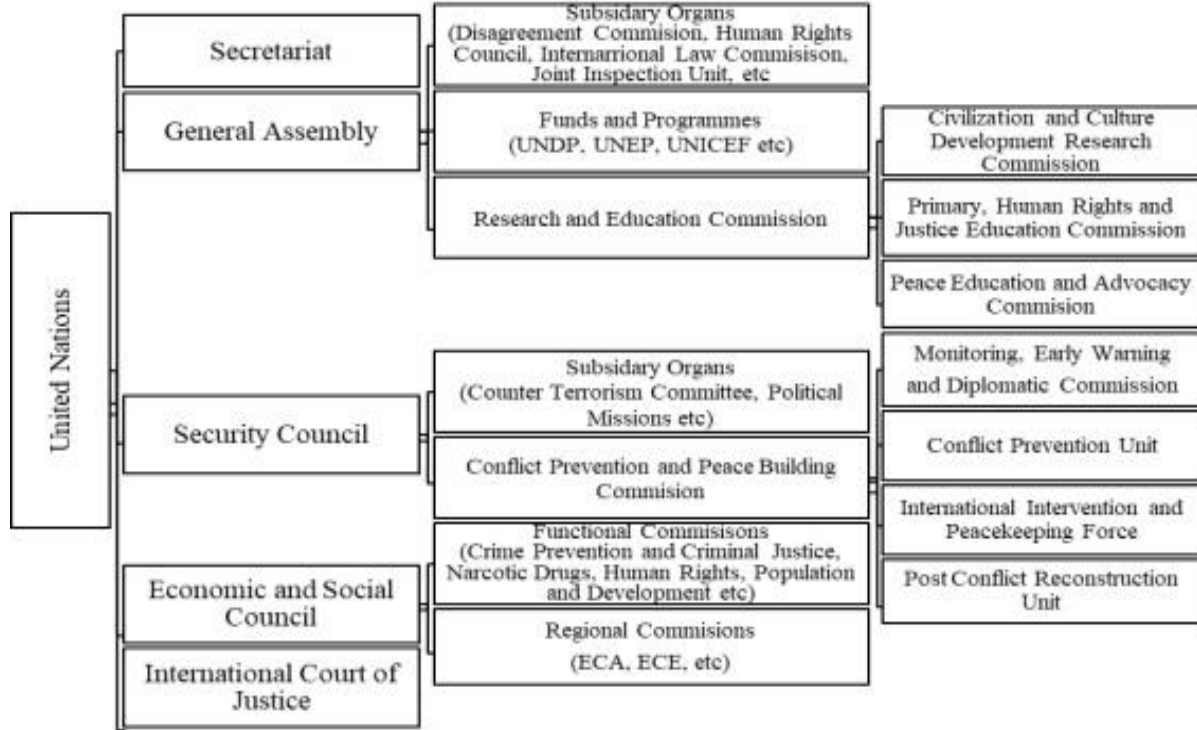
The Inter-Governmental Negotiations (IGN) process, initiated in 2009, is a structured dialogue among United Nations member states aimed at addressing the long-standing issue of reforming the UNSC. This process was established to create a platform for member states to discuss various proposals regarding the composition, working methods, and powers of the UNSC, with the goal of making it more representative and effective in dealing with contemporary global challenges. The IGN process seeks to incorporate the perspectives of both developed and developing countries, fostering a comprehensive approach to reform that reflects the geopolitical realities of the 21st century. Through this process, member states engage in negotiations and consultations to build consensus on the necessary changes to enhance the legitimacy and efficiency of the UNSC (United Nations General Assembly, 2009).

Despite these efforts, a consensus on UNSC reform remains elusive. Differing views on veto power, the number of new permanent members, and regional representation continue to hinder progress. The complexity of these reforms, compounded by geopolitical considerations, makes achieving substantial change a challenging task.

4.2. A Model Proposal

Creating an effective organizational model for the UN to prevent wars involves a multifaceted approach that combines diplomatic, preventive, and peace building strategies. A model proposal developed by the author, based on previous studies and initiatives aimed at enhancing the effectiveness of the UN, is presented in Figure 2.

Figure 2. A Model for the United Nations System



In this exemplary model, the Trusteeship Council is removed from the organizational structure. Civilization and Culture Development Research Commission, Primary, Human Rights and Justice Education Commission, Peace Education and Advocacy Commission are included in the Research and Education Commission under the General Assembly. Additionally, Monitoring, Early Warning and Diplomatic Commission, Conflict Prevention and International Intervention and Peacekeeping Force and Post Conflict Reconstruction Unit are included as an element of Conflict Prevention and Peace Building Commission under the Security Council. On the other hand, it is envisaged to add Civilization and Culture Development Research Commission and Primary, Human Rights and Justice Education Commission, which will serve under the Research and Education Commission in the General Assembly.

Additionally, decisions in the UNSC could be made with an absolute majority of the total 15 member countries. These members would be determined through regional primary elections and would serve on a rotating basis for a period of four years, ensuring representation from all countries around the world. This approach would allow more nations to have a say in decisions, rather than relying solely on the five permanent members with veto power. The responsibilities of these additional members under the Conflict Prevention and Peacebuilding Commission may include the following tasks:

Monitoring, Early Warning and Diplomatic Commission: To develop advanced early warning systems that utilize data analytics, artificial intelligence, and predictive modeling to detect potential conflicts before they escalate; to ensure rapid information sharing among

member states and relevant stake holders; to strength endiplomatic effortst hrough increased dialogue, mediation, and conflict resolution initiatives. To establish a dedicated unit within the UN responsible for monitoring global tensions, identifying potential onlicts, and analyzing rootcauses. To collaborate with regional organizations, intelligence agencies, and conflict experts to gather comprehensive information on emerging threats. To encourage member states to engage in preventive diplomacy and resolve disputes through peaceful means.

Conflict Prevention Unit: To allocate a significant portion of the UN budget specifically for conflict prevention activities, including mediation, peace building, and addressing the socio-economic factors contributing to conflicts.

International Intervantion and Peacekeeping Force: To strengthen and modernize the UN peacekeeping forces, ensuring they have the necessary resources, training, and technology to effectively intervene and prevent conflicts from escalating.

Post-Conflict Reconstruction: To develop comprehensive post-conflict reconstruction programs to address the underlying causes of conflicts and promote sustainable development, ensuring that communities can rebuild and thrive. To invest in capacity building programs for member states, especially in conflict-proneregions, to enhance their ability to address grievances, manage diversity, and promote social cohesion.

And also, there will be additional departments under 'Research and Education Commission':

Civilization and Culture Development Research Commission: To research developmental measures by preserving the development of human civilization and the level of culture and assets achieved so far, and to create development projects within this framework.

Peace Education and Advocacy Commission: To launch global campaigns to promote peace education, tolerance, and cultural understanding, aiming to address the root causes of conflicts by fostering a culture of peace from an early age. Additionally, to prepare and implement educational programs that will ensure the importance of global peace and the creation of new generations that will defend it, and programs that will improve the current level of education among the people of the world.

In the proposed model, by the context of the limitation of the veto power of the five permanent members of the UNSC, a fairer organizational structure was envisioned, allowing all member countries to participate and be represented. Additionally, new units were planned to be established to prevent conflicts and maintain peace through the establishment of peace-building measures. And, under the Research and Education Commission, it would be planned to constitute commissions that will prepare and implement programs that will ensure the protection and development of human civilization and improve the current level of education with global peace awareness in the world.

Some ways this restructured model might contribute to peace and conflict prevention:

Increased Inclusivity and Representation: Without the veto power of the permanent members, decisions on conflicts such as Israel-Palestine could be made with broader input

from the international community, making the process more democratic. This might lead to fairer resolutions that represent the interests of a wider range of countries, including those directly affected by the conflict.

Enhanced Conflict Prevention Mechanisms: The establishment of dedicated units such as the 'Conflict Prevention Unit' and the 'Monitoring, Early Warning, and Diplomatic Commission' would allow for a more proactive approach to identifying and addressing tensions before they escalate into open conflict. In the case of the Palestine-Israel War, this could mean early intervention to de-escalate tensions, mediate disputes, and address underlying issues that fuel violence.

Dedicated Peace-Building Initiatives: With a 'Conflict Prevention and Peace Building Commission' in place, the UN could focus on long-term solutions to foster peace in the region. This commission could support initiatives aimed at building trust between communities, promoting dialogue, and ensuring that the peace process is inclusive and sustainable.

Focused Education and Advocacy: The 'Peace Education and Advocacy Commission' and 'Primary, Human Rights, and Justice Education Commission' could work on educating both local and international communities about the importance of peace, justice, and human rights. In the context of the Palestine-Israel conflict, educational programs and advocacy could help counter misinformation, promote empathy, and build support for peace.

Greater International Support for Peacekeeping: With an 'International Intervention and Peacekeeping Force' and a 'Post Conflict Reconstruction Unit,' the UN would be better equipped to respond to active conflicts and assist in post-conflict rebuilding. These units could provide crucial support for maintaining peace, rebuilding damaged infrastructure, and aiding displaced communities in Palestine and Israel.

Overall, these structural changes would help create a more proactive, inclusive, and peace-oriented UN, with greater capacity to prevent conflicts and maintain peace in conflict zones like Palestine and Israel. By reducing the influence of individual powers, this model promotes a more balanced approach to international peace and security.

CONCLUSION

The international organizations established by the victorious states after World War II were structured in a way that allowed hegemonic powers, particularly the United States, to dominate. This structure has often proven inadequate in addressing global problems and conflicts, largely due to the veto power held by the five permanent members of the UNSC. This study examines this issue in the context of the recent Palestine-Israel conflict in Gaza, revealing how the international community has been forced to remain a spectator to a humanitarian tragedy. This tragedy has led to the displacement of thousands of people from their homes and the deaths of many civilians, including innocent children and women.

Many reform efforts, including some discussed in this study—particularly those focused on the UN and the UNSC—have remained inconclusive in addressing recurring global issues. However, with the emergence of a new world order following the pandemic, in which countries like China, Russia, India and Japan hold greater influence, the implementation of similar reforms is becoming increasingly inevitable. This shift is bolstered by growing international public opinion, especially under the leadership of regional powers like Türkiye, Italy, Brazil, and South Africa. In this context, the proposed model envisions a

structure that supports peace by limiting the veto power of the permanent members of the UNSC and ensuring that a broader range of countries are represented through regional representation in the council. Additionally, a Conflict Prevention and Peace Building Commission would be established under this council, tasked with monitoring potential conflicts, implementing preventive measures, carrying out military interventions when necessary, and overseeing post-conflict reconstruction in vulnerable regions.

Furthermore, it is proposed that the General Assembly nurture a new generation conscious of the need to ensure global peace. Commissions dedicated to educating individuals and implementing projects that promote education and human development would also be established, contributing to a more peaceful and civilized global community. Consequently, addressing global issues—such as shifting power dynamics, ongoing conflicts and associated displacement and casualties, global environmental challenges, and the need to reform international organizations, especially the UN—has become imperative. These reforms aim to create a structure that ensures fair representation in line with new global realities. Although hegemonic powers resistant to change may oppose relinquishing the *status quo* and the privileges they hold, it seems increasingly difficult to prevent the gradual establishment of a new and more just world order. This transition, driven by the pressure of international public opinion, is essential for the survival of humanity, the progress of civilization, and the future of the World.

Research and Publication Ethics Statement

In this study, I declare that we have obtained the data, information, and documents presented in it in accordance with academic and ethical standards. I have adhered to all scientific ethical and moral rules in presenting all information, documents, evaluations, and results. I have appropriately cited all the work used in the study, and we have not made any changes to the data used. I affirm that the study is original. In case of any contrary situation, I acknowledge to accept all potential rights losses that may arise.

Limitations of the Research

This study has some limitations. The effectiveness of the UN's conflict prevention and humanitarian support efforts has been limited in the context of the Israel-Palestine war, highlighting the UN's organizational structure as a case in point. Within the framework of discussions and experiences, it is certainly possible to find a more effective model.

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