

Forum: Security Council
Issue: Reformation of the Security Council
Student Officer: Vassilia Marolachaki
Position: Deputy President

PERSONAL INTRODUCTION

Dear delegates,

It is with great pleasure to participate in this year's annual session of Platon School Model United Nations Conference. My name is Vassilia Marolachaki, student in the German School of Athens, and will be serving as your Deputy President.

After participating in eleven MUN Conferences in virtually all fields, I have come to realize the great benefits it can offer, not only for now, but also for your adult life. The MUN does not only concern knowledge about global issues and international concern, but also discipline, responsibility *and* good friends.

So, by reading this Study Guide, please consider yourselves as privileged and try to make the best out of this experience. Here you will find the basic information about the very much debatable and controversial issue of the Reformation of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC).

Nevertheless, do not refer only to this knowledge provided, but research the topic as extensively as you can, so that you will be able to represent your country worthily. This question concerns the international community for over two decades and has yet failed to be solved. You are now asked to research, think, discuss and finally find some good and effective solutions that could finally put an end to this long-lasting issue.

My role will be to guide you, through the whole conference and assist you in any way possible, along with my fellow President, Ariella Besi and Deputy President, Paul Lampropoulos. If you have any further questions, please don't hesitate contacting me. Before I end with this personal letter, I would like to outline my appreciation to PS-MUN. Three years ago it introduced me to this beautiful world of diplomacy, having me as a delegate in the ECOSOC.

It will be my delight and extreme honor serving you and I am looking forward to meeting you all at the conference.

I wish you all the best.

Best regards,

Vassilia Marolachaki

Deputy President of the Security Council

INTRODUCING TOPIC

The United Nations Charter had been ratified on the 24th of October 1945 by a majority of signatories, including China, France, the Soviet Union, United Kingdom and United States of America. These five countries were the main international powers after the end of World War II and the dissolution of the League of Nations.

Since then, 70 years have passed and little has actually changed, as far as the Council itself is concerned; The five permanent members are actually these that prevailed after the War, only with that the Soviet Union was replaced by the Russian Federation and the Republic of China by the People's Republic of China. Geopolitics and international relationships, however, have drastically changed and they are still changing.

Due to the great power of the P5 in the decision making of the UNSC, as well as the economic and financial growth of other nations, many claim that a complete reformation of the Council is necessary. The arguments supporting this theory vary. Many proposals for the expansion of the Council have been made, without, however, any being accepted until now.

The issue can be divided into five questions; the size of the Council, the categories of membership (permanent, non-permanent, with or without veto-power), the veto power as it is used today by the five permanent member and the regional representation.

It is a topic that deeply has concerned the United Nations since 1993, being characterized as the most crucial aspect of the UN reform. Therefore, the time has come for an effective and realistic solution to be finally found.



No1: The Security Council Chamber

DEFINITION OF KEY-TERMS

United Nations Security Council (UNSC): The UNSC is the most powerful body of the UN, since all states are obliged to follow its decisions. It consists of five permanent members and ten elected members with two-year terms.

P5: It stands for "Permanent Five", meaning that its members hold a permanent position in the UNSC. These are China, France, Russia, United Kingdom and United States of America.

Veto-power: It is the right of the P5 to reject a proposal discussed in the UNSC. If one of those members exercise this right, the motion automatically fails.

Reformation: Generally it is the alteration of something for the better. The reformation of the UNSC aims for a more effective Council.

G4: Brazil, Germany, India and Japan. They are the four countries that their economic-political growth and influence have significantly increased during the last years and are the main claimers of permanent membership in the Council.



No2: The G4 on the map

HISTORICAL INFORMATION

The UNSC

According to the United Nations Charter, the Organization of the UN has four Purposes:

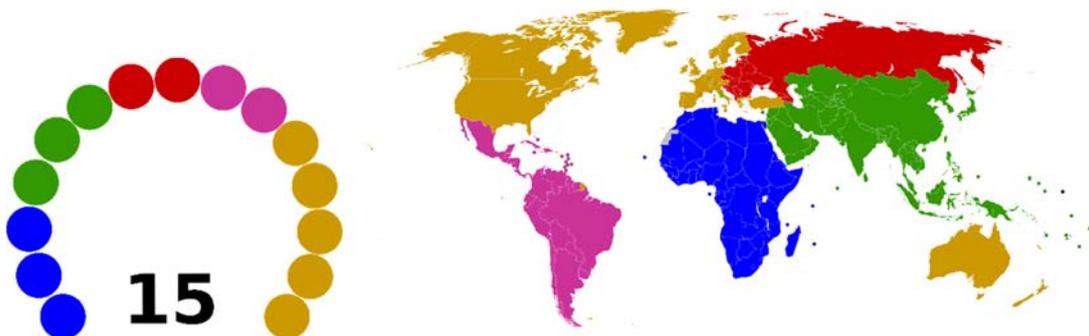
1. To maintain international peace and security and to that end: to take effective collective measures for the prevention and removal of threats to peace and for the suppression of acts of aggression or other breaches of the peace and to bring about by peaceful means and in conformity with the principles of justice and international law, adjustment or settlement of international disputes or situations which might lead to a breach of the peace;
2. To develop friendly relations among nations based on respect for the principle of equal rights and self-determination of peoples and to take other appropriate measures to strengthen universal peace;

3. To achieve international co-operation in solving international problems of an economic, social, cultural, or humanitarian character and in promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and for fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language, or religion; and
4. To be a Centre for harmonizing the actions of nations in the attainment of these common ends.¹

It established six main organs, one of them being the Security Council.

The UNSC is obliged to follow the Purposes and Principles of the United Nations and respect the maintenance of peace and security and “ensure prompt and effective action”², while speaking for all of the UN members and aiming to the common good. In order to cope with its fundamental role, it holds meetings whenever it is needed.

It comprises of 15 members, five of them permanent with veto power (P5) and the other ten members elected for a two-year term by the General Assembly, so that every continent is sufficiently represented (five from Africa and Asia, one from Eastern Europe, two from Latin America and the Caribbean and two from Western Europe). It is the only organ of the UN that can impose its decisions to the member states.



No3: Regional Representation of the UNSC

¹ Chapter I: Purposes and Principles, Article 1.
<http://www.un.org/en/documents/charter/chapter1.shtml>
² Article 24 of the Charter

Current non-permanent members:

- Angola (2016)
- Chad (2015)
- Chile (2015)
- Jordan (2015)
- Lithuania (2015)
- Malaysia (2016)
- New Zealand (2016)
- Nigeria (2015)
- Spain (2016)
- Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) (2016)

UNSC Reform Background

After the Second World War, the Charter of the UN was shaped according to the winner's benefits and interests by giving a permanent seat in the UN Security Council, enjoying the veto power to themselves. The United Nations Organisation expanded on its members and achieved solidarity between them. So, the extreme imbalance between the member states of the UNSC started being perceptible. Since then, 70 years have passed and the situation is not much differentiated. The only notable change came on the 31st of August 1965, after two thirds, including the P5, were ratified. The General Assembly decided to increase the number of non-permanent members of the UNSC from six to ten. Since then, nothing has changed in the structure of the Council.

1993 was the year that the discussions about the reformation of the UNSC started taking place. It was Boutros Boutros-Ghali, the Secretary General, who launched these debates with his vision to adapt the UN in the changed world.

At that time, the G4 countries, Brazil, Germany, India and Japan started building strong economies with remarkable contribution by the UN. They promoted themselves as the most suitable candidates for permanent membership in the UNSC.

Quick Comparison of G4 and P5 Members								
		Population	GDP ¹	UN funding ²	Defense budget ¹	Active military	Nuclear arsenal	
	Brazil	G4	190,732,694 (5th)	\$2,443 (7th)	1.611% (14th)	\$35.4 (10th)	327,710 (14th)	✗ NO
	Germany	G4	82,329,758 (16th)	\$3,577 (4th)	8.018% (3rd)	\$46.7 (9th)	250,613 (22nd)	✗ NO ³
	India	G4	1,210,193,422 (2nd)	\$1,827 (10th)	0.534% (27th)	\$46.8 (7th)	1,745,000 (2nd)	✓ YES
	Japan	G4	128,056,026 (10th)	\$5,867 (3rd)	12.53% (2nd)	\$59.3 (6th)	230,300 (24th)	✗ NO
	China	P5	1,347,338,352 (1st)	\$7,298 (2nd)	3.189% (8th)	\$143.0 (2nd)	2,285,000 (1st)	✓ YES
	France	P5	65,821,885 (21st)	\$2,778 (5th)	6.123% (5th)	\$62.5 (5th)	352,771 (13th)	✓ YES
	Russia	P5	143,056,383 (9th)	\$1,850 (8th)	1.602% (15th)	\$71.9 (3rd)	1,027,000 (5th)	✓ YES
	UK	P5	63,047,162 (22nd)	\$2,494 (6th)	6.604% (4th)	\$62.7 (4th)	197,780 (26th)	✓ YES
	US	P5	312,913,872 (3rd)	\$15,076 (1st)	22.00% (1st)	\$711.0 (1st)	1,458,219 (3rd)	✓ YES

¹\$US billions ²Percent contributed to total UN budget ³Takes part in NATO nuclear weapons sharing agreement

No4: Comparison of G4 and P5

A group of interest were formed at that time, which later became known with the name "Coffee Club" and later "Unity for Consensus", when the effort was brought again into light in the mid 2000. It opposed to the permanency of the G4 countries and supported the expansion of the members in a non-permanent status and elected by region.

S-5 (Costa Rica, Jordan, Lichtenstein, Singapore and Switzerland) also submitted several proposals for reform of the UNSC. They mainly focused on the transparency of the Council, as well as its relations with the other bodies of the UN. They also refer to the use of veto.

Latest Resolution proposed by S5:

<http://www.centerforunreform.org/sites/default/files/S5%20Reform%20draft%20resolution.pdf>

Soon, Africa started claiming permanent seats in the Council as well. Their suggestion was to expand the UNSC by increasing the regional representation and by giving Africa and Latin America permanent seats with the privilege of veto. Egypt, Nigeria and South Africa are the main possible candidates.

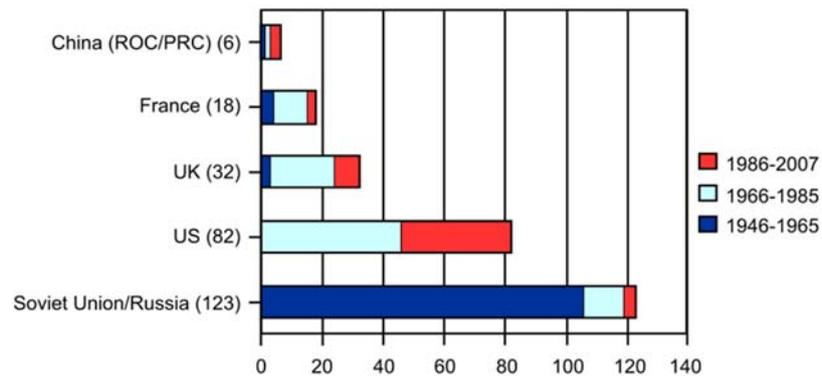
The Annan Plan (2005)

On the 21st of March 2005, the Secretary General Kofi Annan recommended increasing the number of members. He proposed two alternatives to achieve this, known as Plan A and Plan B. Plan A sets six new permanent members and three new non-permanent members, while Plan B created a complete new status of membership: 8 members with an eight-year term plus one more non-permanent seat.

The veto

The veto-power that P5 countries possess does not allow crucial decisions to be taken several times. Since a negative vote by one of those countries automatically fails any substantial matter, it is self-explanatory that it is extremely difficult for a solution on

common grounds to be found. However, it is expected that none of the members enjoying veto power would like to abolish it.



No5: Vetoes from 1946-2007

Here you can find a general overview of the position of member states on the matter: <http://www.centerforunreform.org/?q=node/377>

MAIN PARTIES INVOLVED

P5:

China: China believes that any such decision should not be made quickly. UNSC reform should be a long thought process that needs to fulfill the consensus' needs.

France and the United Kingdom: The position of these two states doesn't differentiate much. They declare to be in favor of the reformation of the UNSC in a way that better represents the realities of the 21st century. Thus, they support the concession of the permanent status to the G4 and also the increased percentage of African States. The option proposed by G4 in 2005 was supported by the two.

Russian Federation: Russia believes that despite any change of the current model of the SC, the privileges of the current permanent members should remain as they are.

USA: The United States of America have kept a rather neutral position, by supporting the expansion, without, however committing to specific countries. The only exception is the call for India's permanent membership, made by President Barack Obama.

G4: The G4 generally support each other for their permanent seats in the UNSC. In the last decades G4 have achieved a remarkable economic progress, as well as influence in the international society.

African Union: Africa asks for the expansion of permanent members of the UNSC, including Africa and Latin America, as well as the increase of representation. These theses were also outlined by the Ezulwini Consensus³.

Uniting for Consensus (Coffee Club): It is a movement, started by Italy that is against the expansion of the permanent members of the UNSC (mainly the bids made by the G4). It asks for a consensus for every decision on that matter. Today's core members are: Argentina, Canada, Colombia, Costa Rica, Indonesia, Italy, Malta, Mexico, Pakistan, South Korea, San Marino, Spain and Turkey.

S5: "Small five": Costa Rica, Jordan, Liechtenstein, Singapore and Switzerland. Since 2008, these five countries have presented various resolutions calling for the reformation of the UNSC.

TIMELINE OF EVENTS

<u>Date</u>	<u>Description of the Event</u>
1945	Establishment of the UN and UNSC, with five permanent members and six non-permanent.
1965	First reform of the UNSC: from six to ten non-permanent members.
1991	Topic launches again and becomes one of the basic issues of the UN until today.
2005	Annan Plan.
2008	S-5 starts proposing resolutions.

POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS

The Security Council needs to meet the reality of the 21st century. With the various positions of the states, many questions can, however arise: What will the criteria be for a country to become a permanent member of the UNSC? Is there going to be a limit concerning the size of the Security Council? How can we ensure that any change would not cause extreme unrest and conflicts among the nations?

It is crystal clear that every attempt made until today has failed and the member states are not able to come to an agreement. Therefore, it may be deemed necessary for a completely new and innovative plan to be proposed. The truth is that in today's world it is extremely difficult to have every party satisfied. So, when representing your

³ Ezulwini Consensus is an African position on international affairs. It covers also the question at hand by requesting at least two permanent African positions enjoying the veto-power, as well as five further non-permanent ones. It is agreed by many African governments in 2005. You can find the document here: http://www.responsibilitytoprotect.org/files/AU_Ezulwini%20Consensus.pdf

country, you have to be receptive and open-minded, but also remain diplomatic and realistic.

Here are some possible solutions:

- As stated before, the current requirement for a reform is the agreement of at least two thirds by the General Assembly, as well as all the P5 members. This restriction does not allow any improvement to be done easily. Thus, it would be a possibility for it to be changed. Keep in mind, however, that such an action could give rise to further conflicts between the parties, since some can feel underprivileged.
- Another solution could be to expand the permanent membership, without giving the veto-power, making it more easily agreed by the P5. For example, the G4 group, two African and two Asian nations could be always be represented in the Council, yet not enjoying this privilege. That way, every region could be part of the decision-making.
- Also, a reasonable proposal would be to expand the size of the UNSC, without, however, giving any further permanent positions. Every continent could then be represented by more member states, and having as a result a more realistic conception of the issues discussed.
- Organizations could also be members of the UNSC. That way, unities could have a voice in the Council. These could be primarily religious groups, such as The Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC).
- Last, but not least, a rather extreme solution would be to completely demolish the veto power. That way, no member state could be considered superiors to the others. Even in that scenario it is best to keep some members permanent, some economic strong nations (i.e. P5, G4), but also some from all regions, so all can be equally represented.

All the above mentioned solutions should only work as guidelines for your research. You should definitely not solely rely on them, but research as extensively as you can, so you will be able to find effective solutions that meet your countries' policy.

Good luck with your research! I wish you all a fruitful debate and a productive conference!

“The U.N. Security Council reform, being debated since two decades is too long overdue and the necessary expansion must be made considering how much the world has changed.” —Ban Ki-Moon

Helpful Links: Global Policy Forum: <https://www.globalpolicy.org/security-council/security-council-reform.html>

Center for UN reform Education: <http://www.centerforunreform.org/>

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<https://www.gov.uk/government/world/uk-mission-to-the-united-nations-new-york>

Center for UN Reform Education: <http://www.centerforunreform.org/>
<http://www.centerforunreform.org/?q=node/377>
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<http://www.cfr.org/international-organizations-and-alliances/un-security-council-enlargement-us-interests/p23363>

UN Elections-Campaign and Information Center: <http://www.unelections.org/>
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Photos etc. :

No1: www.un.org

No2: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_Nations_Security_Council
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No3: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_Nations_Regional_Groups

No4: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/G4_nations

No5: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_Nations_Security_Council_veto_power