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The Urgency of Limiting the Use of the Veto in the UN on Security Resolutions and Global Political Stability

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Abstract

This article examines the implications of the veto power held by the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) on international conflict resolution and global political stability. The research employs a normative legal methodology, analyzing the UN Charter and relevant historical documents to understand the evolution and application of veto rights. The primary objectives are to assess how the veto affects the UNSC's effectiveness in responding to crises, as illustrated by the Syrian civil war and Russia's invasion of Ukraine, and to explore potential reforms aimed at democratizing decision-making processes within the UN. The findings reveal that the frequent use of vetoes creates significant deadlock, undermining multilateral efforts to address urgent humanitarian issues and exacerbating global instability. Furthermore, the study discusses various reform proposals, such as limiting veto usage in cases of mass atrocities and enhancing participation from non-permanent members. In conclusion, while the veto power was originally intended to ensure cooperation among major powers, its current application often leads to paralysis within the UNSC, necessitating urgent reforms to restore legitimacy and effectiveness in maintaining international peace and security. This research contributes to ongoing debates about reforming global governance structures to better reflect contemporary geopolitical realities and promote collective security over national interests.

Keywords: Veto; United Nations; Security Resolutions; Global Political Stability; Global Political Dynamics.

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Introduction

The veto in the United Nations (UN) Security Council is one of the most controversial mechanisms in the international legal system. Although it has a long history and has been used since the early days of the UN, the veto remains a subject of criticism that often generates debate and controversy. In the context of the Security Council, the veto gives the five permanent member states, namely the United States, the United Kingdom, France, Russia and China, extraordinary power that can block decisions with a single vote. However, the use of the veto often raises questions about fairness and partiality in the decision-making process at the UN.

The history of the veto in the UN dates back to the League of Nations (LBB). The veto, which allows permanent members of the UN Security Council to reject a decision, predates the UN. In the LBB, each member had the right to veto non-procedural decisions, which meant that every decision had to be approved by all members. After the LBB was disbanded, the Allies in World War II decided to

establish the UN.¹ The three countries that created the UN were the United States, the United Kingdom, and the Soviet Union, which was later joined by China. At the San Francisco Conference, the United States proposed that the principle of consensus be included in the UN Charter, which means that all policies must be approved by all members.² However, small countries protested against the veto right for the five founding countries.

Finally, the veto is implicitly mentioned in Article 27 of the UN Charter, which states that all procedural matters of the UN Security Council must be decided together with the five permanent members of the UN. Thus, when one of them refuses, the decision is not agreed upon. The use of the veto in the UN allows the five permanent members, namely the United States, Russia, the People's Republic of China, France, and the United Kingdom, to reject a decision or resolution that they feel is detrimental to one of them. This right gives great power, but also has some limitations that need to be considered, such as its use in accordance with the principles of international law and common law principles, and should not be used opportunistically or manipulatively.

One of the main ways in which the veto affects conflict resolution is by creating deadlock within the Security Council. When a permanent member decides to veto a resolution, it effectively blocks the Security Council from taking any action on the matter at hand. This paralysis can prevent the international community from responding effectively to conflicts and crises, allowing them to escalate unchecked. For example, during the Syrian civil war, Russia's repeated use of the veto to shield the Assad regime from criticism and intervention has hampered efforts to end the conflict and alleviate the suffering of the Syrian people.³

The main criticism of the use of the veto is that this power can be used to block efforts even when there is broad consensus among other UN members. This complicates the course of "multilateralism" at the UN, which means that countries must work together to achieve goals that are greater than their own national interests.⁴ A recent example is the use of the veto by the United States to reject a

¹ Thomas G. Weiss, 'How United Nations Ideas Change History', *Review of International Studies*, 36.51 (2010), pp. 3-23 <<https://doi.org/10.1017/S026021051100009X>>.

² Mehmet Halil Mustafa Bektaş, 'Birleşmiş Milletler Üyeliklerinden Çekilmeye Dair Muhtemel Prosedürlerin İncelenmesi', *Uluslararası İlişkiler Dergisi*, 16.61 (2019), pp. 39-54 <<https://doi.org/10.33458/uidergisi.541525>>.

³ Lalu M Akhdiat K, 'Dukungan Rusia Terhadap Rezim Bashar Al-Assad Dalam Konflik Internal Suriah' (Universitas Jember, 2015).

⁴ Joy Henri Mangapul, 'Reforming The United Nations: Realities, Expectations, And The Way Forward', *Padjadjaran Journal of International Law*, 3.1 (2019), pp. 1-17 <<https://doi.org/10.23920/pjil.v3i1.323>>.

draft resolution condemning Israel's use of force, demonstrating how the veto can be used to undo efforts that seek to resolve conflicts in the Middle East.

Furthermore, the veto reflects the unequal distribution of power among states in the international system, highlighting the challenge of reconciling national sovereignty with collective security. While the veto is intended to give major states a stake in the UN decision-making process, it also raises questions about the legitimacy and effectiveness of the organization in addressing contemporary security threats. Calls to reform or even abolish the veto have grown louder in recent years, as critics argue that the veto perpetuates a hierarchical and outdated system of global governance

In addition, the use of the veto can also lead to global political instability. In the case of Russia's invasion of Ukraine, Russia's use of the veto right to reject resolutions condemning the action has exacerbated the situation and hampered international efforts to resolve the conflict. This shows that the veto right can be used to strengthen the position of a country that is on the wrong side and hamper efforts to achieve peace. To address this issue, several countries have proposed reforms to the veto system at the UN. A new resolution proposed by Liechtenstein, for example, asks the UN General Assembly to conduct a debate on situations that trigger the use of the veto in the Security Council. While this would not eliminate the veto, this debate could provide an opportunity for other countries to speak out and influence the decision-making process. As such, reforming the veto system at the UN can be an important step towards strengthening global peace and security.

In order to achieve more stable global peace and security, the UN needs to consider clearer limits to the use of the veto. This can be done through a reform process that allows countries that do not have a veto to participate more actively in the decision-making process. By doing so, the UN can become more effective in resolving conflicts and achieving goals that are greater than individual national interests.⁵ Therefore, the use of the veto in the UN has complex and far-reaching implications for the conflict resolution process and global political stability. While the veto can hamper efforts to resolve conflicts and maintain peace, it can also serve as a mechanism to promote dialogue, consensus and restraint in international relations. As the world faces increasingly complex and interconnected challenges, it is imperative to critically examine the role of the veto in shaping the UN's ability to fulfill its mission of maintaining international peace and security.

The veto power held by the five permanent members of the United Nations

⁵ Danang Wahyu Setyo Adi, 'Pembatasan Hak Veto Dalam DK-PBB Terkait Konflik Bersenjata Di Suriah', *Jurnal Hukum Lex Generalis*, 1.9 (2020), pp. 1-20 <<https://doi.org/10.56370/jhlg.vii9.222>>.

Security Council (UNSC) is a deeply contentious issue that raises significant concerns about global governance and conflict resolution. While this mechanism was designed to maintain stability by ensuring that major powers have a say in international decisions, its frequent use has often resulted in deadlock, particularly in crises requiring urgent action.⁶ For instance, during the Syrian civil war, Russia's repeated vetoes effectively shielded the Assad regime from international intervention, exacerbating the humanitarian crisis and highlighting the limitations of the UNSC's ability to respond to conflicts. This dynamic is echoed in recent research that emphasizes how the veto can undermine multilateralism and perpetuate a hierarchical international order, where the interests of a few overshadow the collective needs of many nations. Scholars have called for reforms to this system, suggesting measures such as limiting veto use in cases involving mass atrocities or establishing a debate mechanism within the UN General Assembly to address situations where vetoes are exercised. Such reforms aim not only to enhance fairness and inclusivity in decision-making but also to restore faith in the UN's capacity to effectively manage global peace and security challenges. The ongoing discourse around the veto power underscores an urgent need for a re-evaluation of its role in contemporary international relations, as the world grapples with increasingly complex geopolitical landscapes and humanitarian crises.

Research Problems

The article raises critical issues regarding the veto power held by the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council. First, how does the use of the veto affect the effectiveness of the UN in resolving international conflicts and maintaining global political stability? This question addresses the implications of veto decisions on the UN's ability to respond to crises, as seen in cases like the Syrian civil war and Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Second, what reforms can be implemented to limit or regulate the use of the veto to enhance inclusivity and fairness in international decision-making? This inquiry explores potential changes that could democratize the UN process and ensure that resolutions reflect a broader consensus among member states rather than being obstructed by a single nation's interests.

Research Methods

The normative legal research method used in this paper involves an analysis of the

⁶ Armando Christofel Wirajaya, 'Penyelesaian Sengketa Palestina Dan Israel Menurut Hukum Internasional (Study Kasus Perampasan Wilayah Palestina Di Israel)', *Lex Et Societatis*, 8.4 (2020), pp. 45-52 <<https://doi.org/10.35796/les.v8i4.30909>>.

UN Charter, Article 27, and the principles of international law related to the veto. This method also involves research into the history of the formation of the UN and the veto, as well as an analysis of the use of the veto in the context of the UN Security Council.

This research method uses a qualitative approach with a focus on analyzing legal and historical documents. The documents analyzed include the UN Charter, UN Security Council resolutions, and academic writings related to veto rights. The analysis was conducted using a descriptive and interpretive approach to understand the context and implications of the veto in the UN. In this study, the normative legal research method is used to identify and analyze norms related to veto rights in the UN. These norms include principles of international law, common law, and principles set out in the UN Charter. This analysis is conducted using a systematic and critical approach to understand the limits and limitations of veto rights in making resolutions at the UN.

The primary objective of this research is to critically analyze the implications of the veto power exercised by the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) on the effectiveness of international conflict resolution and global political stability. This study aims to investigate how the frequent use of vetoes by these nations can lead to paralysis within the UNSC, thereby obstructing timely and necessary actions in response to humanitarian crises and armed conflicts, as exemplified by recent events in Syria and Ukraine. Furthermore, the research seeks to explore potential reforms that could limit or regulate the use of veto power, enhancing inclusivity and fairness in decision-making processes at the UN. By examining these aspects, the study aspires to contribute to ongoing discussions regarding the need for a more equitable and effective framework for international governance that prioritizes collective security over national interests.

Discussion

The creation of the UN at the end of World War II involved a series of international conferences aimed at establishing a more stable global security system. One important conference was the Dumbarton Oaks Conference on 1944, where representatives from China, the Soviet Union, Great Britain, and the United States met to design the basic structure of the UN.⁷ During this conference, the question of how to ensure that great powers remained involved in the international security system became one of the main topics. The experience of the League of Nations,

⁷ Hans Kelsen, 'The Old and the New League: The Covenant and the Dumbarton Oaks Proposals', *American Journal of International Law*, 39.1 (1945), pp. 45-83 <<https://doi.org/10.2307/2192309>>.

which failed to prevent World War II due to the lack of involvement and commitment of the great powers. The founders of the UN realized that in order to prevent unilateral actions by major powers and ensure their support in maintaining peace, there needed to be a mechanism that allowed them to protect their national interests. This is what gave birth to the concept of veto rights for permanent members of the Security Council.

The UN Charter, signed in San Francisco on June 26, 1945, established the structure of the Security Council as one of the principal organs of the UN with primary responsibility for maintaining international peace and security. The Charter granted the five victorious nations of World War II (China, France, the Soviet Union, the United Kingdom and the United States) the status of permanent members of the Security Council, each with veto rights. Article 27 of the UN Charter clarifies that Security Council decisions on all substantive matters require nine votes out of fifteen members, including the affirmative votes of all permanent members. This means that if one of the five permanent members opposes a decision, it cannot be adopted.

There have been several events that have ended with the veto from its inception to the present day.

A. History of Veto Rights Usage from time to time

1. Cold War and East-West Blockade

The Cold War era (1947-1991) marked the first significant period in the use of the veto. The Security Council became the main arena where the United States and the Soviet Union, as leaders of the Western and Eastern blocs, competed to influence international decisions. The veto was used extensively by both countries to block actions deemed detrimental to their national interests or those of their allies. For example, the Soviet Union used the veto to block resolutions that criticized the policies or actions of its satellite states in Eastern Europe. In contrast, the United States uses the veto to protect the interests of its allies, especially Israel, in the Middle East conflict.

a. The Berlin Crisis and the Berlin Blockade

One example of the use of the veto during the Cold War was during the Berlin Crisis (1948-1949). After World War II, Germany was divided into four occupation zones controlled by the United States, Great Britain, France and the Soviet Union. The city of Berlin, although located within the Soviet occupation zone, was also divided into four sectors. Tensions rose when the Soviet Union imposed a blockade on West Berlin, blocking all land access to the city. The Security Council held a number

of sessions to discuss the crisis, but every resolution proposed by the Western Bloc to condemn the blockade and demand the reopening of transportation routes was blocked by the Soviet Union's veto.

2. The Use of the Veto in the Middle East Conflict

a. The Arab-Israeli War

Since the establishment of the state of Israel in 1948, the Middle East region has been one of the main arenas for the use of the veto. The Arab-Israeli conflict resulted in a number of Security Council resolutions aimed at addressing various aspects of the conflict, including requests for ceasefires, troop withdrawals, and peace mediation efforts.⁸ The United States, as a close ally of Israel, often used its veto power to block resolutions that were deemed unbalanced or detrimental to Israel's interests. In contrast, the Soviet Union and later Russia used their vetoes to support the positions of Arab states.

b. Yom Kippur War (1973)

The Yom Kippur War in 1973 between a coalition of Arab states led by Egypt and Syria against Israel was one of the major conflicts in the Middle East that involved the use of the veto.⁹ During this war, the UN Security Council adopted several resolutions calling for a ceasefire and peace negotiations. However, stricter resolutions aimed at condemning certain parties or imposing sanctions were often vetoed by the United States and the Soviet Union, depending on the parties involved.

c. Syrian Conflict

One of the most prominent examples of the use of the veto in recent decades was during the Syrian conflict that began in 2011. This conflict, which started as a peaceful protest against the government of President Bashar al-Assad, quickly evolved into a complex civil war with multiple domestic and international actors.¹⁰ Russia, as a key ally of the Syrian government, used its veto power to block a number of Security Council resolutions aimed at imposing sanctions, ordering a ceasefire, or

⁸ Alifian M. Nanda Pradana and Dina Yulianti, 'The Role of the Arab League in Middle East Conflict in the Prespective of International Political Economy', *Jurnal ICMES*, 1.1 (2017), pp. 99-120 <<https://doi.org/10.35748/jurnalicmes.viii.7>>.

⁹ Kathrin Bachleitner, 'Ontological Security as Temporal Security? The Role of "Significant Historical Others" in World Politics', *International Relations*, 37.1 (2023), pp. 25-47 <<https://doi.org/10.1177/00471178211045624>>.

¹⁰ Riezky Poetra Riezky, Chandra Purnama, and Windy Dermawan, 'Peran Nasional Rusia Terhadap Konflik Suriah (2015-2020)', *Hasanuddin Journal of International Affairs*, 3.1 (2023), pp. 11-23 <<https://doi.org/10.31947/hjirs.v3i1.25262>>.

authorizing humanitarian intervention. China also supported Russia in some of these vetoes. As a result, international efforts to end the violence and provide humanitarian assistance to millions of affected Syrians have been significantly hampered.

d. The Palestinian-Israeli Conflict

As mentioned earlier, the United States has consistently used its veto power to block resolutions deemed detrimental to Israel. For example, in 2017, the United States used its veto to block a resolution rejecting President Donald Trump's recognition of Jerusalem as the capital of Israel.¹¹ This resolution was supported by 14 other members of the Security Council, but could not be adopted due to the United States veto. The limitation of the veto in the United Nations (UN) Council is a controversial and urgent issue to be discussed. The veto, held by the five permanent members of the UN Security Council, namely the United States, the United Kingdom, Russia, France and China, gives them the power to reject any resolution proposed by the Security Council.¹² This power is highly influential in the process of conflict resolutions and internationally policy implementation.

Veto-wielding countries have significant economic and military power. This power allows them to influence international policy and reject resolutions that do not suit their interests. For example, the United States, which is the world's largest economy, often uses its veto to protect its national economic interests. This can be seen in the case of vetoes against resolutions opposing the placement of US military bases in various countries.¹³ This economic and military power gives veto-wielding countries strong control in the process of determining international policy, which can disrupt the democratization process in the UN Assembly. The veto right is often used to protect the interests of veto-wielding countries without considering the interests of other countries.¹⁴ This can be seen from cases where veto-wielding countries reject resolutions that support human rights or human rights violations by their own countries. A clear example is the United States' veto

¹¹ Fariz Ruhiat and Akim -, 'Klaim Sepihak Donald Trump Terhadap Kota Yerusalem Sebagai Ibukota Israel Dalam Perspektif Konstruktivisme', *Jurnal Ilmiah Hubungan Internasional*, 16.1 (2020), pp. 19-30 <<https://doi.org/10.26593/jihi.v16i1.3361.19-30>>.

¹² Wirajaya.

¹³ Budi Wirasatya Adi, 'Peningkatan Keterlibatan Amerika Serikat Di Era Kepemimpinan Obama Dalam Konflik Suriah', *Repository Umy* (Universitas Muhammadiyah Yogyakarta, 2018).

¹⁴ Battista Pridana Adventura, 'Hak Veto Dewan Keamanan Perserikatan Bangsa-Bangsa Dan Asas Equality of the States Dalam Era Globalisasi', *Justitia et Pax*, 37.2 (2021), pp. 177-96 <<https://doi.org/10.24002/jep.v37i2.3849>>.

of resolutions against the stationing of military bases in various countries.¹⁵ This shows that the veto is often used to protect the interests of the veto-wielding country without considering the interests of other countries, which can result in injustice and unilateralism in the international policy-making process.

The veto right also has limitations and non-transparency in the process of determining international policy. This limitation can be seen from the policy determination process which is often not transparent and inclusive. Countries with veto rights often make decisions without involving other countries in a fair and transparent manner. This can lead to unfairness and non-transparency in the international policy-making process, which can disrupt the democratization process in the UN Assembly.¹⁶ The veto can also be a barrier to conflict resolution. In the case of the conflict in Syria, for example, the veto of veto-wielding countries has prevented effective conflict resolution.¹⁷ This can be seen in the Security Council's inability to approve resolutions that could help resolve the conflict in Syria. This veto power can result in the inability of the UN Council to resolve serious conflicts, which can disrupt international peace and security.

There is an urgent need for reforms in the UN Council, including a limitation of the veto. These reforms can help increase transparency and inclusiveness in the international policy-making process. Limiting the veto can help reduce the influence of states with great economic and military power in the international policy-making process. This can help in increasing democratization and inclusiveness in the UN Assembly.¹⁸ Veto restrictions can also help to create balance in the international policy-making process.¹⁹ With restrictions in place, countries that do not have a veto can have a greater say in the international policy-making process. This can help in creating balance in the international policy-making process, which can help in increasing fairness and inclusiveness in the UN Assembly.

¹⁵ Miklós Sebők, 'The Politics of Manufactured Crisis', *Intersections*, 5.3 (2019), pp. 73–96 <<https://doi.org/10.17356/ieejsp.v5i3.522>>.

¹⁶ Ján Klučka, 'The Role and Importance of Democracy in International Organizations (1992–2022)', *Právnik. Teoretický Časopis pro Otázky Státu a Práva (The Lawyer - Scientific Review for Problems of State and Law)*, 162.9 (2023), pp. 809–34.

¹⁷ Jelica Gordanic, 'Parliamentary Assembly as a Model for the Revitalisation of the United Nations General Assembly', *Medjunarodni Problemi*, 70.3 (2018), pp. 337–59 <<https://doi.org/10.2298/MEDJP1803337G>>.

¹⁸ Patrick A. Mello, 'Parliamentary Peace or Partisan Politics? Democracies' Participation in the Iraq War', *Journal of International Relations and Development*, 15.3 (2012), pp. 420–53 <<https://doi.org/10.1057/jird.2012.11>>.

¹⁹ Anjali Awasthi, Taiwo Adetiloye, and Teodor Gabriel Crainic, 'Collaboration Partner Selection for City Logistics Planning under Municipal Freight Regulations', *Applied Mathematical Modelling*, 40.1 (2016), pp. 510–25 <<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.apm.2015.04.058>>.

Veto restrictions can also help to strengthen human rights protections. With restrictions in place, veto-wielding states cannot freely reject resolutions that support human rights. This can help to improve human rights protection and reduce inequities in the international policy-making process. Limiting the veto can also help to promote international peace and security.²⁰ With restrictions in place, veto-wielding countries cannot freely reject resolutions that support peace and security. This can help increase the effectiveness of the UN Council in resolving conflicts and preventing new ones. Limiting the veto can also help to promote fairness and democratization in the UN Assembly.²¹ With restrictions in place, countries that do not have a veto can have a greater say in the international policy-making process. This can help to increase fairness and inclusiveness in the UN Council.

Limiting the veto can also help to increase openness and transparency in the UN Assembly. With restrictions in place, the international policy-making process can become more inclusive and transparent. One of the main ways in which the veto affects conflict resolution is by creating deadlock within the Security Council. When a permanent member decides to veto a resolution, it effectively blocks the Security Council from taking any action on the issue at hand. This paralysis can prevent the international community from responding effectively to conflicts and crises, allowing them to escalate unchecked. For example, during the Syrian civil war, Russia's repeated use of its veto to shield the Assad regime from criticism and intervention has hampered efforts to end the conflict and alleviate the suffering of the Syrian people.²²

In today's interconnected world, the United Nations (UN) plays a vital role in addressing global challenges and promoting international cooperation. However, as the global landscape continues to evolve, there is an ongoing debate on the need to revise the UN system to be more inclusive and responsive to emerging global issues.²³ One of the main arguments in favor of revising the UN system is the need for greater inclusiveness. The current UN structure, created after World War II, reflects the power dynamics of the time, with the five permanent members of the Security Council - the United States, Russia, China, France and the United

²⁰ Gordanic.

²¹ Abdulrahim P Vijapur, *Democratization of the United Nations, Democratization of the United Nations The Indian Journal of Politics*, 2019.

²² Sabrina Nurastuti Sudirman Putri and Yessi Olivia, 'Kebijakan Rusia Mengeluarkan Hak Veto Terhadap Rancangan Resolusi Dewan Keamanan Pbb Tentang Konflik Sipil Di Suriah', *Jurnal Online Mahasiswa Fakultas Ilmu Sosial Dan Ilmu Politik*, 1.1 (2014), pp. 1-13.

²³ Renata Christha Auli, 'The Failure of United Nations System Under International Law: Its Contribution to Calamity and Ruin of the Rohingya Case', *Padjadjaran Journal of International Law*, 4.2 (2020), pp. 265-79 <<https://doi.org/10.23920/pjil.v4i2.415>>.

Kingdom - wielding significant influence.²⁴ Critics argue that this structure is outdated and does not adequately represent the diversity of the contemporary global community. In an era characterized by increasing multipolarity and the rise of new economic and political powers, there is a growing consensus that the UN system should be reformed to better reflect current geopolitical realities.

In addition, proponents of revising the UN system argue that greater inclusiveness will enhance the legitimacy and effectiveness of the organization. By giving a more prominent voice to developing countries and underrepresented regions, the UN can better address a range of global issues, from climate change and cybersecurity to peace and security. Inclusiveness is not just a matter of equality; it is also a strategic imperative for the UN to remain relevant and responsive to the needs and aspirations of all its member states. Another reason to revise the UN system is the need to be more responsive to global challenges. The UN's current structure, characterized by bureaucracy and cumbersome decision-making processes,²⁵ may hinder its ability to respond quickly and effectively to pressing issues.²⁶ From humanitarian crises to global pandemics, the world faces an unprecedented set of challenges that demand an agile and coordinated response. By streamlining its operations, improving coordination among its various agencies and bodies, and embracing innovative approaches to problem-solving, the UN can become more agile and adaptive in addressing 21st century challenges.

One of the main arguments in favor of revising the UN system is the need for greater inclusiveness. The current UN structure, created after World War II, reflects the power dynamics of the time, with the five permanent members of the Security Council - the United States, Russia, China, France and the United Kingdom - wielding significant influence. Critics argue that this structure is outdated and does not adequately represent the diversity of the contemporary global community. In an era characterized by increasing multipolarity and the rise of new economic and political powers, there is a growing consensus that the UN system should be reformed to better reflect current geopolitical realities. In addition, proponents of revising the UN system argue that greater inclusiveness

²⁴ Awa Njoworia Valerie Adamu, 'The Applicability of Humanitarian Intervention and the Responsibility to Protect During Armed Conflicts: Russia-Ukraine War in Focus', *American Journal of Law and Political Science*, 2.1 (2023), pp. 1-18 <<https://doi.org/10.58425/ajlps.v2i1.111>>.

²⁵ Graham Melling, 'Evaluating the Persisting Relevance of the Uniting for Peace Resolution for the Maintenance of International Peace and Security: Russia's Invasion of Ukraine and Security Council Resolution 2623 (2022)', *International and Comparative Law Review*, 23.1 (2023), pp. 256-72 <<https://doi.org/10.2478/iclr-2023-0011>>.

²⁶ Lesia Dorosh and Olha Ivasechko, 'The UN Security Council Permanent Members' Veto Right Reform in the Context of Conflict in Ukraine', *Central European Journal of International and Security Studies*, 12.2 (2018), pp. 157-85.

will enhance the legitimacy and effectiveness of the organization.²⁷ By giving a more prominent voice to developing countries and underrepresented regions, the UN can better address a range of global issues, from climate change and cybersecurity to peace and security. Inclusiveness is not just a matter of equality; it is also a strategic imperative for the UN to remain relevant and responsive to the needs and aspirations of all its member states.

On the other hand, critics of the revised UN system raise valid concerns about the potential drawbacks of the reform. One common argument is that any attempt to revise the UN system could lead to a protracted and contentious negotiation process,²⁸ with member states struggling to reach consensus on the scope and nature of reforms.²⁹ Given the diverse interests and priorities of UN member states, there is a risk that attempts to revise the system could result in deadlock and inertia, ultimately undermining the credibility and effectiveness of the organization.³⁰ One of the most significant proposals is to ban the use of the veto in situations involving mass atrocities, such as genocide, war crimes, and crimes against humanity. By limiting the use of the veto in these contexts, the UNSC will be better able to act decisively to prevent and respond to severe humanitarian crises. Permanent members should be required to provide detailed and transparent explanations when they exercise their veto power. This would increase accountability and allow the international community to review and debate the rationale behind the veto, preventing abuse for illegitimate reasons.

A majority override mechanism could be introduced, allowing a significant majority of the General Assembly or Security Council to override a veto. This would ensure that one permanent member cannot block a measure that has broad international support, promoting a more democratic decision-making process.³¹ Permanent members should not use the veto in situations where they have a clear

²⁷ Dewi Aisyah and Arlina Permasari, 'A Normative Review Of The Role Of The United Nations Security Council In Maintaining World Peace (Case Study Of The Conflict Between Russia And Ukraine)', *TerAs Law Review: Jurnal Hukum Humaniter Dan HAM*, 3.2 (2022), pp. 113–26 <<https://doi.org/10.25105/terasrev.v3i2.15049>>.

²⁸ i-lib Perpustakaan UGM, 'Ketidakmampuan Perserikatan Bangsa-Bangsa Dalam Mencegah Invasi Amerika Serikat Dan Inggris Terhadap Irak' (Yogyakarta: Universitas Gadjah Mada, 2003).

²⁹ Iradhathi Zahra, 'Security Council and General Assembly Reformation: Responding Human Rights Issues', *Padjadjaran Law Review*, 7.1 (2019), pp. 22–35.

³⁰ Sabrina M. Karim, 'Balancing Incentives Among Actors: A Carrots and Sticks Approach to Reputation in UN Peacekeeping Missions', *AJIL Unbound*, 113 (2019), pp. 228–32 <<https://doi.org/10.1017/aju.2019.52>>.

³¹ Shairgojri Aadil Ahmad, 'Is the United Nations Redundant or Still Relevant?', *BOHR International Journal of Social Science and Humanities Research*, 1.1 (2022), pp. 41–43 <<https://doi.org/10.54646/bijsshr.007>>.

conflict of interest.³² For example, if a country is directly involved in a conflict, they should not use the veto to protect their own interests. This will help ensure that the UNSC can act objectively and impartially. One of the biggest challenges to reform is gaining the political will of the permanent members. The P5 have historically resisted changes that would reduce their power, making significant reform difficult to achieve. Gaining consensus from the P5 will require careful negotiation and substantive compromise. Amending the UN Charter to limit the use of the veto involves complex legal and procedural challenges. Any change requires the approval not only of the P5 but also a two-thirds majority of the General Assembly, making the process complicated and fraught with political interests.

Limiting the use of the veto must be done carefully to strike a balance between the national interests of permanent members and broader international interests. Reforms should ensure that permanent members continue to have a sense of security that their vital interests will not be ignored, while allowing the UNSC to act more effectively in addressing global issues.³³ Increase By limiting the use of the veto in humanitarian situations, the UNSC will be able to act faster and more effectively in response to humanitarian crises. This will help prevent mass atrocities and provide much-needed assistance to affected populations. These reforms will enhance the legitimacy and credibility of the UN as an institution that aims to maintain international peace and security. When the international community sees that the UNSC can act decisively and fairly in crisis situations, trust in this institution will increase.

By requiring detailed and transparent justifications for the use of the veto, as well as limiting the use of the veto in conflict of interest situations, these reforms will reduce the abuse of the veto. Permanent members will be more reluctant to use the veto to protect their own narrow national interests if they have to provide explanations that can be reviewed by the international community. By limiting the use of the veto, countries of the world will be more likely to see the UNSC as a fairer and more responsive institution to global issues.³⁴ This will encourage countries to engage more actively in international cooperation, as they see that UNSC decisions are not dictated by the narrow interests of a handful of major countries, but rather reflect a broader international consensus.

³² Dennis Jett, 'Why Peacekeeping Does Not Promote Peace', *Middle East Policy*, 30.3 (2023), pp. 120–28 <<https://doi.org/10.1111/mepo.12700>>.

³³ Okon Eminue, Monday Dickson, and Obio Akpa Campus, 'The United Nations Resolutions on Syria : Exploration of Motivation from Russia and China', *International Affairs and Global Strategy*, 10 (2013), pp. 5–13.

³⁴ Putri and Olivia.

The often biased use of the veto can fuel tensions and conflicts between states, especially when important UNSC actions are blocked by national interests of permanent members. By reducing the scope of veto use, decisions taken by the UNSC will better reflect collective interests and justice, which in turn can reduce the potential for conflict and promote international stability. Limiting the use of the veto can also strengthen the role of the UN General Assembly.³⁵ When the UNSC fails to act due to the use of the veto, the General Assembly can play a greater role in addressing global issues through resolutions that reflect the votes of the majority of member states. This would balance the distribution of power within the UN system and ensure that all countries have a voice in global decision-making.

By reducing the likelihood of vetoes against resolutions designed to protect human rights, the UNSC will be better able to act in situations where human rights violations occur. This will provide better protection for vulnerable individuals and groups, and send a strong message that the international community will not tolerate mass atrocities and human rights violations. Success in limiting the use of the veto could be the first step to further reforms in the UN system.³⁶ This could include increased representation on the UNSC, reform of decision-making procedures, and other measures designed to improve the effectiveness, transparency, and accountability of the UN as a whole. Veto reform could be a catalyst for the broader changes needed to make the UN a more responsive and relevant institution in the 21st century.

Conclusion

Limiting the use of the veto in the UN Security Council is a crucial step to improve the effectiveness and legitimacy of the UN in dealing with resolutions related to global political security and stability. So far, the veto has often been used by permanent members of the Security Council to protect their own or their allies' national interests, often resulting in paralysis in international decision-making. This has led to many humanitarian crises and protracted conflicts that the UN has been unable to effectively address, reducing international trust and support for the institution.

Limiting the veto in certain situations, such as humanitarian crises or gross violations of human rights, could help ensure that the Security Council is able to act quickly and decisively when necessary. It could also encourage permanent members to consider broader global interests rather than just their national

³⁵ Mangapul.

³⁶ Adventura.

interests. These reforms would strengthen the Security Council's role as the guardian of international peace and security, and increase accountability and transparency in its use

Overall, limiting the use of the veto could be key to improving the working dynamics of the UN Security Council, ensuring that important international action is not hampered by the interests of a few countries. This would assist the UN in achieving its goals of maintaining global peace and security, and enhancing political stability around the world. This kind of reform requires strong international commitment and cooperation, but the long-term benefits for global security and UN legitimacy are significant.

Suggestion

The article highlights the urgent need to reform the veto power held by the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council—namely, the United States, Russia, China, France, and the United Kingdom. This power has often led to deadlock in critical situations, such as during the Syrian civil war, where repeated vetoes prevented effective international intervention. Critics argue that the veto undermines multilateralism and creates an imbalance in global governance, allowing powerful nations to prioritize their interests over collective security and humanitarian needs. Therefore, limiting or reforming the veto system could enhance the UN's capacity to respond to conflicts and promote a more equitable international order.

To address these challenges, proposals have emerged advocating for greater inclusiveness in decision-making processes within the UN. This could involve allowing non-permanent members and smaller nations a more significant role in discussions surrounding resolutions that trigger vetoes. Such reforms would not only increase transparency but also ensure that resolutions reflecting broader consensus are less likely to be obstructed by a single nation's interests. By fostering a more democratic approach to international policy-making, these changes could ultimately strengthen global peace and security while addressing contemporary challenges more effectively

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