

Forum: General Assembly

Issue: The admission of new members to the Security Council

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Introduction

The prestigious Security Council is considered to be the most influential body of the United Nations. It holds top responsibility for demanding act of international peace-keeping. After 1990, the Security Council's activity in international disputes has been prominent and noticeable. Their international activity pertains but is not limited to sending military aid where it is needed, making security-related decisions, monitoring arms and elections. The extreme dedication the Security Council has given reflects off of the policy where there must always be a representative of each of its members present at the United Nations headquarters. The Security Council's first notion is to ask oppositions to come to an agreement peacefully whenever a peace-threatening conflict arises. Sometimes, the Security Council will further assist in this process by getting involved as a mediator. However, when events fall into the unfortunate side and leads to actual fighting, the Security Council's notion then is to bring it to an end as soon as possible. They also used cease-fire directives whenever situation is extremely urgent. Peace-keeping forces are also another component where efforts are channeled towards keeping oppositions further apart. Members affiliated with the dispute are allowed to join in discussion, but are not allowed to vote.

However, the issue with admitting new members to the Security Council is a complex one. Many countries feel like they do not have a significant say in the Security Council because of its permanent member and rotation policy. The democratic accountability of the Security Council is questioned because of this imbalance of power around the world. Of the five permanent and most prominent members of the Security Council, no country from South America or Africa is included. Another issue or discontent member states of the United Nations have is the fact that irrelevant countries have been elected. Issues that were/are occurring during a time period was never affiliated with the elected rotating member nations. Countries affiliated with the issue at hand are allowed to be invited to sit in during a conference. However, the rotating member states clearly hold more power than these mere "guests" because only actual members are allowed to vote. Sadly, the issues might be one close to the heart of these "guests". These two issues are tied together by the controversial idea of whether or not "relevance" country-issue wise is a crucial facet to be considered when evaluating democratic accountability.

Definition of Key Terms

Veto Power

This unique advantage is the power for any permanent Security Council member to reject the adoption of any draft resolution.

Permanent Members

The permanent members of the Security Council are the USA, UK, France, Russia and China. These countries have a seat in the Security Council for an endless term. They also have the right to veto/reject any resolution.

Non-Permanent Members

The non-permanent members of the Security Council rotate every year. They do not have the privilege to veto. For 2010, the members are Austria, Japan Turkey, Mexico and Uganda. For the year 2011, the members will be Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Gabon, Nigeria and Lebanon.

Democratic accountability

This term indicated how much, or to what extent an authoritarian body is actually following the accepted principles of democracy. Sometimes, unfortunately, a supposedly democratic authority group will fail to fulfill the basic ideology and principles of democracy.

General Overview

Japan

Japan is one of the countries that has a higher chance of getting in the Security Council as a permanent member. Japan's efforts in maintaining international peace must be commended. It has worked for disarmament and non-proliferations. Evidence includes releasing troops to aid eight UN peace-keeping operations (PKOs) and five international humanitarian relief operations. Financially, Japan is the biggest donor after the US to the United Nations. One-fifth of the money put into UN peacekeeping operations came from Japan. From 2001-2003, it has donated a total of 2.1 billion US dollars to the United Nations. In 2002, it has come on top for donations for Millennium Development Goals such as education, health, water, sanitation and agriculture (surpassing the US, France and the UK). As for human security, Japan opened up a fund organization called the Trust fund for Human Security as part of the UN. By 2004, donations amounted to 256 million US dollars.

India

A number of officials and people of the public strongly believe that India should be put as one of the permanent members of the Security Councils. To start out with the basics, one out of every six human being on earth is Indian. This makes up a hefty amount of the world population. India also has the fourth largest economy and the fastest growing one. India has also been a responsible member of the United Nations with its peace-keeping morals and legitimate nuclear non-proliferation record. These are some quotes from people experienced in this field about their support for India as a permanent member of the Security Council. Charles Krauthammer from The Washington Post said, "First, as soon as the dust settles in Iraq, we should push for an expansion of the Security Council--with India and Japan as new permanent members." Thomas Friedman from The New York Times said, "Sometimes I wish that the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council could be chosen...with a vote by the fans... Then the perm-five would be Russia, China, India, Britain and the United States. That's more like it. India is the world's biggest democracy, the world's largest Hindu nation and the world's second-largest Muslim nation." However, the key and widely-believed reason for India's absence as one of the permanent members of the Security Council is the US's lack of support.

Timeline of Events

You must include short sentences to explain the timeline. Otherwise you have to follow the format specified below:

Date	Description of event
1946	The Security Council holds its first session in London starting out with five permanent members and six nonpermanent members.
1965	Number of nonpermanent members was increased from six members to ten.

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