

---

## The United Nations' Approach towards Global Peace and Security: Understanding the Challenging Issues

**Chukwuma Moses Owuamanam<sup>1</sup> & Samuel N. C. Nwagbo<sup>2</sup>**

<sup>1</sup>Directorate of General Studies, Federal University of Technology,  
Owerri, Imo State, Nigeria

<sup>2</sup>Department of Political Science, Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka, Nigeria

Corresponding Author's Email: [snc.nwagbo@unizik.edu.ng](mailto:snc.nwagbo@unizik.edu.ng)

### Abstract

The United Nations was created after second world war in 1945 to facilitate and oversee global peace. Since then, it has intervened in several war and conflict situations in different countries of the world to maintain peace. Several approaches have been devised to achieve this. However, it is being faced with lots of challenges that limit the efficacy of its functions in maintaining international peace and security. Imperatively, this paper examined issues jeopardizing the efficacy of the United Nations towards global peace and security. Data gathering was through secondary sources like articles, journals, and textbooks. Realist theory by Hans J. Morgenthau served as a theoretical guide for explanation. The study unveiled that some of the issues affecting the UN approaches towards global peace and security are; the United Nations' lack of courage in addressing effectively matters involving the big 5 permanent members, unfulfilled actions of the United Nations Security Council in areas where the interest of the Super-Powers are not at stake, the use of Veto Power to neutralize United Nations Security Council resolutions, and the new emerging issues, particularly global terrorism. The United Nations should be definite in application of its rules without special considerations to the interest of the permanent members of the security council. The security council should be reformed to accommodate interest of every ideological divide without any state or group determining its decision which will help to ensure equity in addressing global security concerns.

**Keywords:** The United Nations, the UN Security Council, Peace, Security and International Organizations.

### Introduction

The first and second world wars made nation-states to be in a determined effort to ensure global peace. This led to the establishment of the United Nations (UN) after the League of Nations failed to facilitate global peace. The League of Nations failed in ensuring global peace and security due to some major challenges such as the failure to settle the dispute between Sino (China) and Japan (between 1931 and 1933) (**source**). It was with the aim of bringing an end to the scourge of war and converting "swords into plowshares" that the UN was formed in 1945 which Article 1 of the UN Charter stated expressly that it is to "maintain international peace and security" and to take effective collective measures for

the prevention and removal of threats to peace (NOUN, 2006b). The Security Council of the United Nations was further established as a unit to oversee security manifestations and challenges and define approaches to overhaul them within the legal framework of the UN. Barika, (2014), infers that in order to restore international peace and security in the world and prevent the world from the outbreak of another world war, United States of America, Britain, China, Soviet Union and France and over 50 other states came together to draw a charter on 24 October, 1945 at San Francisco in the United States. The essence of the charter is to maintain global peace and security and equally prevent the world from experiencing another war.

The United Nation through the efforts of the Security Council has worked hard to avert any global challenge that might lead to world war. Ideological warfare between the capitalist west and communist east was diplomatically managed notwithstanding all the associated tension until its ended in 1991. Although there have been global security tensions among the superpower nations like the US, China, Russia, etc. often these wars are diplomatically managed through proxy wars which have never been allowed to escalate within the confined entities. One of the responsibilities of the Security Council is to sanction nation-states that engage in any activity that might violet global peace. This act has only been executed when weak nations like Congo, Rwanda, Uganda, Afghanistan, Sudan are engage in political crises.

Indirectly, the super power nations like the US and its allies are still advancing their interest without any sanction from the security council because of their control of the council and the UN legal framework that allows veto power. This has limited the influence of the United Nations General Assembly control over global security. Nations that are offended with the influence of the west especially through North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) have engaged in activities that undermine decisions of the UN and its security council as a way of expressing their dissatisfaction and push for destabilization of the unipolar power. This singular feeling explains conflicts in Iraq, Iran, Afghanistan, Gaza, Libya, Ukraine, etc. North Korea, Iran, and etc. have insisted in production and management of uranium and biological chemicals even when there has been outcry in its safety to world

peace and security. Thus, national interest formed the fulcrum of the challenges that the United Nations encounter in addressing the global security challenges.

### **Method**

This research is of a qualitative nature, with documented evidence serving as the sole data source. The analysis was done with an explanatory data analysis method. The theoretical framework for our discussions was provided by the realist theory. Hans J. Morgenthau (1904-1980) played a pivotal role in the development of realism into a holistic theory of international relations.

Realists contend that the world is inherently anarchic, and states will inevitably resort to war to further their national interests, regardless of the efforts of international organisations, which lack real authority over them, particularly superpower nations. Realists often posit that the success of international organisations is largely contingent upon their alignment with the objectives of dominant nations. Yet, the balance may be disrupted if these organisations pose a challenge to their national interests.

Realists often utilise this viewpoint to clarify the failure of the League of Nations, attributing it to the inability to appease the territorial aspirations of Germany and Japan during the 1930s. A contemporary instance can be seen in the United States' decision to invade Iraq in 2003, notwithstanding the Security Council's denial of approval. The United States chose to overlook the United Nations and move forward, in spite of opposition.

Although the absence of the United Nations would likely result in even more disorder in international relations and a lack of a reputable institution to supervise state relations and hold misconduct accountable, the United States disregarded the United Nations and invaded Iraq, thereby breaching the United Nations' standard practices and effectiveness.

### **The Security Council of the United Nations Organization**

The Security Council is recognised as one of the United Nations Organization's (UNO) organs, and it is generally considered the most powerful. It comprises five permanent members and ten non-permanent members (<https://www.un.org/securitycouncil/content/current-members>). The United States of America, Britain, Russia, China, and France are the permanent members of the UN Security

Council, while the ten non-permanent members are elected from other member-states for a two-year term, with retiring members not immediately eligible for re-election.

As of March 2024, the non-permanent members include Algeria, Ecuador, Guyana, Japan, Malta, Mozambique, Republic of Korea, Sierra Leone, Slovenia, and Switzerland. The issue of fair distribution has been challenging, as evidenced by the situations with Poland and Turkey, Romania and the Philippines in 1959 and 1962, respectively. Nonetheless, the issue was resolved during the 18th session in 1963 when five seats were designated to Africa and Asia, one seat was given to Eastern Europe, two seats were assigned to Latin America, and two seats were allocated to Western Europe. This was done to ensure a fair representation of all regions.

The Security Council acts on behalf of all the organization's members in its functions, and its decisions are binding on all member-states. These decisions primarily fall into two categories: peaceful resolution of disputes and the implementation of enforcement measures. Under Article 27 of the UN Charter, the Council is assigned the following functions and powers:

1. To uphold international peace and security in line with the principles and objectives of the United Nations.
2. To investigate any disputes or situations leading to international conflict and propose settlement methods.
3. To devise plans for the creation of a system to control armaments.
4. To identify the presence of a threat to peace or an act of aggression and recommend suitable action.
5. To urge member-states to implement economic sanctions and other non-forceful measures to deter aggression.
6. To initiate military action against an aggressor.
7. To exercise the UN's trustee functions in strategic areas.
8. To propose the appointment of the Secretary-General to the General Assembly and, in conjunction with the Assembly, elect judges of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) (Barika 2014).

## **United Nations Peacekeeping Mandate under the Security Council**

Operations of United Nations peacekeeping are deployed based on a mandate from the United Nations' Security Council. The responsibilities that a United Nations peacekeeping operation is expected to undertake are determined by the Security Council's mandate. The mandate of the Security Council varies from one situation to another, depending on the nature of the conflict and the specific challenges it poses. As United Nations peacekeeping operations are typically deployed to support the implementation of a ceasefire for a more comprehensive peace agreement, the mandates of the Security Council are influenced by the nature and content of the agreement reached by the conflicting parties.

The mandates of the Security Council also reflect the wider normative debates that shape the international community. In light of this, there are several cross-cutting, thematic tasks that are regularly assigned to United Nations peacekeeping operations based on the following;

1. Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) on women, peace, and security.
2. Security Council resolution 1612 (2005) on children and armed conflict.
3. Security Council resolution 1674 (2006) on the protection of civilians in armed conflicts.

The spectrum of tasks assigned to United Nations peacekeeping operations has significantly broadened in response to evolving conflict patterns and to optimally address emerging threats to international peace and security.

### **The United Nations and The Spectrum of Peace and Security.**

The United Nations, along with other international entities, undertakes a variety of activities to uphold global peace and security. For the context of this paper, it is crucial to comprehend the range of methods the United Nations employs to maintain global peace and security, which are outlined below:

- (a) Conflict Prevention:** This entails the use of structural or diplomatic measures to prevent tensions and disputes within or between states from escalating into violent

conflict. Ideally, it should be based on structured early warning, data collection, and a thorough analysis of the factors contributing to the conflict. Activities for conflict prevention may encompass the use of the Secretary General's "good offices," preventive deployment, or confidence-building measures (United Nations, 2008). It is a challenging task for the UN to prevent conflict. It has become evident that it is nearly impossible to halt the outbreak, escalation, continuation, and recurrence of violent conflict among nations or within a nation, particularly among plural states. Conflict has been recurrent in states such as Sudan, Gaza, Iraq, Afghanistan, Somalia, etc. The Security Council has been striving to manage the level of global conflict through intelligence gathering and early warning responses (United Nations, nd).

**(b) Peace-making:** This involves the implementation of strategies to resolve persistent disputes, which usually necessitates diplomatic intervention to guide adversarial groups towards a consensus through negotiation. Peace-making is delicate and strategic in actualising peace. It involves separating the warring parties and building confidence to cease fighting and embrace peace. It is only feasible when the warring parties are willing to stop; otherwise, the peacemaker risks the lives of their team if they intervene to separate the fighting (NOUN, 2006a). The United Nations Secretary-General, at the request of the Security Council or the General Assembly or on their own initiative, may use their good offices to facilitate conflict resolution (United Nations, 2008). Good offices aim to get the contending parties to resolve the conflict themselves (Eze, 2015). Peacemakers can also be envoys, governments, groups of States, regional organisations, or the United Nations. It can also be undertaken by unofficial and governmental groups or by an independent prominent personality (United Nations, 2008).

**(c) Peacekeeping:** This is a strategy aimed at maintaining peace, no matter how tenuous, where hostilities have ceased, and to aid in the execution of agreements reached by peacemakers. Over time, peacekeeping has transitioned from a primarily military model of monitoring ceasefires and separating forces after inter-state conflicts, to a complex model involving multiple elements - military, police, and civilian - working in unison to establish the groundwork for lasting peace (United Nations, 2008). It is a valuable tool that the UN has employed to assist nations in

crisis and war to steer towards achieving peace ([peacekeeping.un.org/eng](http://peacekeeping.un.org/eng)). In the course of peacekeeping, the UN adheres to fundamental principles: consent of the parties involved, impartiality, and non-use of force except in self-defence and defence of its mandate. UN peacekeeping operations are not solely engaged in crisis management and restoration of peace in war-ravaged zones. They have also been mobilised to facilitate the political process through the promotion of national dialogue and reconciliation, protection of civilians, assistance in the disarmament, demobilisation and reintegration of combatants, support in organising elections, protection and promotion of human rights, and assistance in re-establishing the rule of law (Guehenno, 2008).

**(d) Peace Enforcement:** This involves the sanctioned mobilisation of various military resources by the Security Council. These actions are permitted to re-establish global peace and security in circumstances where the Security Council has recognised a threat to peace, violation of peace, or an act of aggression. The Security Council has the discretion to utilise regional organisations and agencies for enforcement measures under its jurisdiction, where appropriate (United Nations, 2008).

**(e) Peacebuilding:** This encompasses a variety of actions aimed at reducing the likelihood of a conflict escalating or reoccurring by bolstering national capabilities at all levels for managing conflict and laying the groundwork for sustainable peace and development. Peacebuilding is a complex, long-term endeavour to establish the conditions necessary for enduring peace. It operates by comprehensively addressing the deep-seated, structural causes of violent conflict. Peacebuilding initiatives tackle fundamental issues that affect the functioning of society and the State, and aim to enhance the State's ability to perform its core functions effectively and legitimately (United Nations, 2008). It is an action that supports political, economic, social, and military measures and structures intended to reinforce and consolidate political settlements in order to address the root causes of conflict (NOUN, 2006). It involves demilitarisation, arms control, institutional reform, enhancement of police (security) and judicial systems, human rights monitoring, electoral reforms, and socio-economic development (Boutros-Ghali, 1992). Countries such as Rwanda and Liberia have experienced progressive peace as a result of the United Nations' Peace

Building approach after years of wars and internal crises. Peace Building aids in maintaining the agreement of the warring parties and the achievements of Peace Keepers in such war-ravaged countries.

- (f) The United Nations also employs sanctions and embargoes as means to coerce nations that pose a global security threat to comply with its measures to ensure peace for the sake of a stable global system. Article 41 established sanctions as a means through which the Security Council can promote global peace. Sanctions can take various forms and patterns, such as economic and trade sanctions, arms embargoes, travel bans, financial and commodity restrictions, etc. (United Nations, 2008). These mechanisms compel nations, especially dependent countries, to comply with the Security Council's peace and security proposals.

### **Issues That Affect the United Nations Organization Operation Towards Ensuring Global Peace and Security**

Attree (2018) highlights several factors that have hindered the United Nations' efforts to promote global peace and security as effectively as intended:

- 1. The United Nations' Inability to Resolve Certain International Conflicts Among Nation-States:** The establishment of the United Nations and its Security Council was a deliberate decision, with the Council given the mandate to act on behalf of the organisation in all matters relating to international peace and security. This provided humanity with the assurance of full protection against any aggressor through collective enforcement measures. Regrettably, the United Nations Security Council's efforts to restore international peace and security in the region during the Iraq-Kuwait crisis were unsuccessful, despite adopting a series of twelve critical resolutions, culminating in resolution 678 (1990), which authorised the use of all necessary means to effect Iraq's withdrawal from Kuwait. In the Russia-Ukraine crisis, the United Nations has been unable to employ any effective sanctions and force to bring the war to an end, resulting in significant damage to Ukraine's economy, social and political systems. The United Nations' failure to end the ongoing war between Russia and Ukraine sets a precedent that could lead many



states to disregard the United Nations' decisions on matters of their national interest. Israel has ignored all persuasions from the United Nations and its bodies, the decision of the International Court of Justice, and interventions from other nations, including the US, to cease its bombardment in Gaza. This also indicates a lack of faith in the United Nations' ability to implement appropriate measures to end the reprehensible activities of groups ( Hamas, Hezbollah, Isis, ISWAP, etc.) that pose a security threat to nation-states.

**2. The United Nations and its Security Council Dilemma on Matters Involving the Big 5 Permanent Members:** The United Nations and its Security Council face a predicament when dealing with matters involving the five permanent members. This is exemplified by the United Nations Resolution to expel apartheid South Africa, which was vetoed by the United States, rendering it ineffective. The United Nations was unable to control NATO, particularly the US and France, from invading Libya in 2011 based on unverified claims that Libya possessed weapons of mass destruction and was committing humanitarian abuse leading to a humanitarian crisis. The United Nations Resolution 1973 imposed a no-fly-zone and naval blockade sanction. However, military bombardment in Libya was led by France and the US before NATO took over at Italy's insistence (Campbell, 2012). Since then, Libya has been politically unstable and has become a source of security concern for Africa and the world at large. The country's oil wealth and energy resources have been divided as spoils of war (Campbell, 2012). The war in Ukraine has persisted due to Russia and China's veto against any Security Council decision that would affect Russia's interests in Ukraine as a permanent member of the Security Council. The US's determination to eliminate rogue elements in the Middle East, particularly Iraq, Afghanistan, Iran, etc., has led them to oppose any decision by the five permanent members of the council. The relevance of the non-permanent members is undermined whenever any member of the permanent members votes against such a decision. Kugel (2009) and Ade-Ibijola (2015) allude that the structure and decision process of the security council do not provide for equitable geographical representation, and does not reflect today's shifting geographical realities. Thus the

tenets of democracy, transparency and accountability are ensured even when they champion for them in other countries.

### **3. The Challenge of Veto Power on all Procedural and Non-Procedural Matters:**

This is one of the elements that restricts the effectiveness of the United Nations in maintaining global peace and security. The veto power is often exercised based on bloc power politics, leading to the formation of military alliances and regional groupings, such as the OAU/AU, the European Union, the Organization of American States, the Warsaw Pact, and NATO. These regional arrangements, which emerged during the onset of the Cold War, have the ability to circumvent the United Nations Security Council. For example, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) was established in 1949 to counter potential threats from the East. The United States and Canada, along with fourteen European powers, united for their protection using the "containment policy" against Soviet expansionism. There has been a persistent divide among the superpowers on deciding contentious global security issues. China and Russia voted against the US, UK, and France's proposal for an immediate end to the Israeli-Hamas war in Gaza, demonstrating Russia's deliberate efforts to undermine US power control in the region. The civilian population in Gaza is severely suffering from a myriad of humanitarian crises due to the power show by the members of the Security Council. The decisions of the United Nations through the office of the Secretary-General have not been implemented due to the interests of the five permanent members and superpowers. The practice of using veto power as a diplomatic shield for nations' economic interests, against global peace, is prevalent. For instance, China and Russia on the Darfur Sudan crisis, as China threatened to veto any sanction against Sudan because it is the largest consumer of Sudan's oil, while Russia is the largest supplier of Khartoum's arms. For their economic interests, they neutralised all attempts to bring Sudan under the control of the United Nations Security Council. Also, America threatened to use veto power to neutralise the UN Security Council's resolution on peacekeeping if her peacekeepers are not exempted from International Criminal Court (ICC) trial on human rights abuse during peacekeeping missions. Presidents of countries like Charles Taylor of Liberia were tried and imprisoned by the International Criminal Court because they

offended or refused the interests of the superpowers. Yet, no president of the US has been tried for humanitarian abuses by the US army in the Middle East.

4. **The Undue Influence and Perception of the United States of America as the Greatest UN Financial Country:** It is a fact that the United States of America is the greatest financial country of the United Nations and its Security Council organ and any military enforcement of the NATO force is authorized by the Council. America withdraws its support especially financial support to the United Nations or any of its bodies whenever it is not comfortable with any decision. It suspended its financial support to the UN activities in Gaza as a result of accusation of the UN for using its facilities to shield Hamas. This has greatly affected operations of the UN in Gaza even in the midst of devastating humanitarian crises. Based on perceived interest, America, as the greatest enemy to Gaddafi of Libya compelled NATO led to peace keeping force in Libya without the mandate of the Security Council and its action by implication weakens the UN Security Council. The US always threaten nations and the UN of withdrawal of its financial and logistics support whenever its national interest is at the cross road with such nations or the UN approach. Crisis in the middle east has worsen due to how the US gives and withdraws its support to the regimes in some of the countries like Iraq, Iran, Syria, Afghanistan, Palestine, North Korea etc.
5. **Unfulfilled Expectations of the United Nations Security Council in the Areas where the Interest of the Super-Powers are not at Stake:** The UN Security Council has often been criticized for playing double standard in its intervention where the Super-powers especially the USA's economic interest is at stake. While blind eyes were turned to conflicts where they had little or no interest at all. For instance, as in Rwanda where ethnic cleansing was carried out in 1994 and in Nigeria's civil war between 1967 and 1970 the expected intervention and humanitarian support were not deployed as a result the interest of the superpowers in support one side of the warring parties. Moreover, the unilateral declaration of independence by racist minority regime in Rhodesia in 1965 attracted the UN Security Council sanctions, but the sanctions were dropped in 1979 following the seemingly recognition of the right of the people to self-determination. Similarly, the

United Nations Security Council did not do enough to bring an end to the apartheid regime in South Africa.

6. **Unclear Mandate on Rules of Engagement and Delay in the Deployment of Peace-Keeping Troops to Trouble or Crisis Areas:** Another major challenge facing United Nation towards maintaining global peace and security is unclear mandate on rules of engagement and delay in the deployment of peace-keeping troops to crises areas due to complex and rigid procedure. For instance, the case of Rwanda and Burundi wars. The peculiar nature of post-cold war conflict especially in Africa, which is mostly between ethnic groups, poses serious threats to the United Nation in peace keeping and security mission as complex dimension of the conflict is heightened with poverty and bad governance still the United Nations Security Council could not stop nor prevent it. It incontrovertible that the United Nation and its security architecture should not remain in the nature and engage the same approach to security challenges and humanitarian crises as it has been since its formation in 1945 and 1949 respectively. It is expedient that it advances in prominence and control over nation-states especially as it concerns pursuit of national interest. National interest pursuits by nation-states were responsible for the First and Second World Wars. Therefore, it will be regrettable for the United Nations to allow security challenges created by member states national interest to led to third world war. Member states of the United Nations have tremendously improved in their ideology, politics, economy, security, science, technology etc. from 1945 into the era globalization. It is expedient for the United Nations should also advance its structures, military, resources, legal system influence to be able to live up to the present complex responsibility of ensuring world security without falling prey or accuse of being controlled by some powerful member states. If this suspicion remains global peace and security will be untenable. States themselves in pursuit of their national interest for domination, relevance, inclusion, quest for justice and agitation against injustice will continue to constitute and engineer security threat to global peace threat to global peace. And stability. Likewise, International Court of Justice should ensure justice over humanitarian atrocities committed by nation-states whether super power or not. Superpower nations have

been accused and implicated for committing war crimes, humanitarian abuses, sponsoring and supporting terrorism, exploiting weak nations which have caused unimaginable humanitarian crises, wars and underdevelopment especially in the middle east and Africa without such super power nations being tried by the ICJ. Rather, only leaders of weak nations and Third World nations been tried and jailed. This weak disposition has not helped in any way to bring world order and peace. It has created sense of ownership and entitlement to the leaders and citizens of such nations (Okhovet, 2012) and feeling of deprivation, oppression and aggression in the mind of the weak and exploited nation's leaders and citizens. Some may not express it overtly. However, this inequality dichotomy has covertly or overtly lead to global security challenges. Therefore, ICJ should also show capacity visibly and above such super power nations interest.

7. **The New Emerging Issues, Particularly Global Terrorism:** The trend of terrorism in the international system has been on the increase since 2001 bombing of the twin towers and Pentagon. The global terrorism issues are connected to the emerging forces in the middle east like Al Qaeda, ISIS, Houthi, Al-Shabaab, Taliban, Hezbollah, Perret groups etc. that are offended by the expansion of western ideology and influence against Islamic ideology, exploitation and appropriation of global wealth by few powerful nations against chronic poverty in many countries of the world especially middle east and African countries, power dominance by the west and unipolar crisis. These terrorist groups have created new dimension to global security challenges. The modius operandi makes its management difficult as some of them exist and operate beyond borders and driven by religious ideology and supports. The security council fight to control these rising forces of insecurity and to maintain global peace has undermined its security mission as many of her member states are under the hostage of terrorist groups and other forms of security threats. For instance, Nigeria has been battling with the issue of Boko Haram, ISWAP, Bandits etc. over a decade now, Middle East and North Africa are confronted with some lot terrorist group formations.
8. **Legacies of Intervention and Regime Change:** This can be framed as interventions to counter terror, save civilians or remove rouge regime. Intervention

and regime change have failed to bring lasting stability or to defeat fundamentalist groups. Interventions in Libya, Cote d'Ivoire, Iraq, Afghanistan has not remedied humanitarian and good governance maxim that brought such interventions. The new regimes that took over have not stabilize political terrain through good governance, transparency and populace acceptability. The so-called rogue regimes in Iraq, Iran, Syria, North Korea, Afghanistan, etc. which Gorge Bush described as Axis of Evil have been deliberately targeting the US and its allies' interests. The US has pushed for regime change in some of these states like in Iraq, Libya, and etc. The authoritarian or totalitarian forces that were push out of power have come back to power after the US exist. In Iraq are still have control over many territories and commanding greater military/militia forces than the new government. On the other hand, this has brought deep distrust of interventionism-but at the same time, there are huge risks in simply giving up on supporting constructive, peaceful change in the face of repression.

9. **Struggling Humanitarianism:** Despite the demanding nature of humanitarian work, the United Nations and other entities are making significant strides, albeit with limited resources, to aid those affected by conflict. However, they have yet to sufficiently defend humanitarian values, work towards prevention during crises, or empower those impacted by humanitarian crises to take action. If members of the United Nations Security Council, either directly or via their allies, remain silent on issues such as the bombing of hospitals or attacks on humanitarian convoys, as currently witnessed in the Israel-Hamas conflict in Gaza, it signals a grave risk to global security.

## **Conclusion**

The United Nations (UN) has been given explicit authority and guidelines to uphold worldwide peace and security, with the aim of minimising or eradicating factors that incite conflict at both national and international levels. This led to the formation of the UN Security Council. The Council has shown significant efforts and invested substantial financial resources to mitigate threats to global peace and security (Odeyemi & Igwebueze, 2016). Strategies such as conflict prevention, peacekeeping, peace-making, peace

enforcement, and peacebuilding have been developed since the inception of the UN Security Council to handle global conflict and humanitarian crises.

Despite these efforts, there have been obstacles in realising this noble objective of safeguarding humanity. It has become evident that conflict is an unavoidable aspect of human interactions, but the capacity and sincerity of purpose to manage and transform it into social development and opportunities is now considered the most effective approach. Unfortunately, this is absent at the global scene and organizations.

It has been observed that the UN's inconsistent application of its rules, the escalating wave of terrorism as a form of expressing dissatisfaction with the global power structure, power rivalry among nation-states to establish a multipolar power structure, the overriding interests of the five permanent members of the Security Council, and the struggle for national interests have all posed challenges to the assurance and maintenance of global peace and security.

The aforementioned issues illustrate that the UN is confronted with numerous challenges that hinder the effectiveness of its roles in maintaining international peace and security. Therefore, there is an urgent need for solutions to these challenges.

### **Recommendations**

1. The United Nations (UN) should apply its rules with certainty, without giving special consideration to the interests of the five permanent members of the Security Council. This special consideration impacts the resolutions and their acceptance by the members of the UN General Assembly.
2. The Security Council should be reformed to consider the interests of all ideological divides, without any state(s) or group influencing its decisions. This will help ensure fairness in addressing global security issues. It will also help to decrease the growing forces of terrorism from the Middle East, who feel that Western policies and decisions in the UN do not take into account their interests and ideology.
3. The Security Council should be restructured to include every continent, taking into account their respective development and security experiences and challenges. For example, Africa and Australia, as continents, do not have a permanent

representative in the UN Security Council. Also, Africa and the Middle East, where wars and conflicts that affect global peace are frequent, do not have permanent representation in the council. Their inclusion will assist them in identifying and determining the relevant and hidden causes of their problems and provide local and inclusive strategies on how these problems can be better addressed.

## References

- Ade-Ibijola, O (2015). Can the United Nations Security Council be democratized? *International Journal of Culture and History* 2(2). Pp1-22. Doi10.5296/ijch.v2i2.8477
- Attree, L. (2018). Five challenges the UN's sustaining peace' agenda needs to address. Saferworld: Preventing Violent Conflict, Building Saver Lives. Retrieved from [www.saferworld.org.uk](http://www.saferworld.org.uk)
- Barika, N. (2014). The Security Council and global peace: issues and challenges. *IOSR Journal of Humanities and Social Science (IOSR-JHSS)*, 19 (8), pp. 47-51. ISSN-2279-0837. Retrieved from [www.iosrjournals.org](http://www.iosrjournals.org)
- Boutros-Ghali B. (1992). *An agenda for peace*. New York: United Nations
- Campbell, H (2012) NATO failure in Libya: Lessons for Africa. *African institute of South Africa*. Pretoria, Development Thought knowledge
- Eze, R.C. (2015). Conflict and conflict resolution in international relations. *International Journal of Social Sciences and Humanities Review*. 5(3), pp. 122-129, ISSN: 2276-8645.
- Guehenno, J-M (2008). *United Nations peacekeeping operations: Principles and guidelines*. New York: United Nations Department of Peacekeeping Operations.
- Kugel A. (2009) *Reform of the Security Council: a new approach*. Fredric-Gibert-Stifting Briefing Paper 12, pps 2-12.
- NOUN (2006a). *Theories in conflict management*. Nigeria, Midland Press Ltd
- NOUN (2006b). *Peace and security in a global context*. Abuja, National Open University.22
- Nwibor, L. (2009). *Contemporary dialectics of social philosophy and government*. Bori: Trumpet Press and Publishers.
- Odeyemi, T.I. & Igwebueze, G.U. (2016). Africanity and the Quest for a permanent seat in the United Nations Security Council for Africa. *Africology: The Journal of Pan African Studies*, Vol 9 (10), 1-16.
- Okhovet, S. (2012). *The United Nations Security Council: its veto power and its reform*. Sydney: Centre for Peace & Conflict Studies.



United Nations (2008). The evolving roles of United Nations peacekeeping operations in United Nations peacekeeping operations: principles and guidelines. New York: United Nations Department of Peacekeeping Operations. Pgs 17-29

United Nations (nd). United Nations Conflict Prevention and Preventive Diplomacy in Action: An overview of the role, approach and tools of the United Nations and its partners in preventing violent conflict (nd). United Nations Department for Political Affairs.  
[https://dppa.un.org/sites/default/files/booklet\\_200618\\_fin\\_scrn.pdf](https://dppa.un.org/sites/default/files/booklet_200618_fin_scrn.pdf)

Yalaju, I. (2002). *International humanitarian law*. UK. Cambridge University Press.

Zhang, B. (2017). Hans Morgenthau, realist theory of international leadership, and the future of global order. *Chinese Political Science Review*. 2, 512-530.