

United Nations: The Challenges Of Restructuring And Transformation

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Abstract: The United Nations since its inception after the Second World War marks a fundamental shift towards a World Governance. Although the onset of cold war challenged the UN's existence and efficacy, it also provided the necessary pressure for its blossoming. It was the platform of the UN General Assembly where the NAM movement became successful to organize the developing and newly independent countries on the issue of world peace and equitable world relations which would ensure the creation of New International Economic Order (NIEO). The UN Security Council with its balance of power model of functioning which provided Veto powers to the leading powers of the world to ensure the security of their vital nation interests from the majority opinion of its members has actually been a blessing in disguise. Because it never forced major powers to quit the UNO because of the possible clash of their vital national interests. After more than seven decades countries like India, Japan, Singapore, Brazil, South Africa, and Indonesia have emerged as nations with potential and it has become difficult to manage the world without them. Creation of the G-20 as the unofficial managing body to regulate the world economy is an example of this fact. Author believes that there is the need to synchronize UN functioning with Regional Organizations like African Union, West African Union, Andes Union, SAARC, ASEAN and Shanghai Cooperation Organization. UNO should try to develop coordination with the regional intergovernmental organizations and those regional organizations which fulfill UNO aims should be motivated to take charge of different UNO missions of that region and UNO should focus on the regulation part. UNO should try to develop policy formulation and implementation potential at the regional and sub-regional level which would provide better input for policy and better implementation on the ground.

I. INTRODUCTION

The United Nations since its inception after the Second World War marks a fundamental shift towards a World Governance. Although the onset of cold war challenged its existence and efficacy, it also provided the necessary pressure for its blossoming. It was the platform of the UN General Assembly where the NAM movement became successful to organize the developing and newly independent countries on the issue of world peace and equitable world relations which would ensure the creation of New International Economic Order (NIEO). The UN Security Council, with its balance of power model of functioning which provided Veto powers to the leading powers of the world to ensure the security of their vital nation from the majority opinion of its members has actually been a blessing in disguise. Because it never forced major powers to quit the UNO because of the possible clash of their vital national interests. After more than seven decades

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II. UN INTERNAL EFFORTS TO REFORM

The UN is trying to reform the UN Development System (UNDP) which would revitalize UN country specific efforts by focusing on the UN Development Assistance Framework. Resident Coordinator of the UN will be head of the country specific efforts. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development has now become the main focus on the UN development priority and now the UN wants to increase the efficiency of its efforts. Now UN wants to create a transparent and clear framework for management of its responsibility at the global, regional and country level.

III. DEVELOPMENT REFORM RESOURCES

- ✓ The Business Innovations Strategic Results Group (BIG) of the United Nations Sustainable Development Group is tasked with building on the Secretary-General's broader reform measures to ensure we have more efficient UN country teams operations, so that more resources are allocated to development programmes and less to administrative structures.
- ✓ The Business Operations Strategy (BOS) is a framework guiding UN business operations at the country level. The BOS facilitates the strategic planning, management, monitoring, and reporting of the UNCT's joint support to programme delivery through common business operations.
- ✓ The Development Coordination Office (DCO) has been included in the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) list of Official Development Aid (ODA)-eligible organizations. The Special Purpose Trust Fund (SPTF) has been established to receive, consolidate, manage and account for all contributions and financial transactions of the new RC system, in a transparent and effective way. Visit the SPTF portal to view in real-time all commitments, contributions and expenditures recorded for the fund.

IV. A NEW VISION FOR THE RESIDENT COORDINATOR

UNO wants to create a decentralized Resident Coordinator system which would empower Local and Regional Coordinator to devise innovative strategies to solve the problem. The Decade of Action has forced the UN to focus on the solution of challenges like poverty, gender discrimination and climate change and lack of financial sources.

V. SDG RESOURCES ACROSS THE UN

- ✓ The Decade of Action calls for accelerating sustainable solutions to all the world's biggest challenges — ranging from poverty and gender to climate change, inequality and closing the finance gap.

- ✓ Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform - 17 Goals to Transform Our World. Campaigns. Advocacy. Partnerships. SDGs are a call for action by all countries – poor, rich and middle-income – to promote prosperity while protecting the planet.
- ✓ The United Nations Sustainable Development Group (UNSDG) unites the 40 UN funds, programmes, specialized agencies, departments, and offices delivering together for sustainable development.
- ✓ The UN Secretariat for SDGs helps governments and stakeholders make the SDGs a reality, providing substantive policy support and capacity-building for the goals and their related thematic issues. The Division for Sustainable Development Goals (DSDG) in the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) acts as the Secretariat for the SDGs.

VI. FLAWS IN THE UN PEACEKEEPING APPROACH

The UN approach has been geared towards the establishment of Negative Peace since its inception. UN security missions have focused on mitigation of military conflicts which is not bad per se but it has failed in establishing procedures and structures for the formulation of positive peace. Peace Studies and its leading scholars like Gultang and Burton have long pointed out the two aspects of Peace which should be completed to establish long lasting Peace. Negative peace should be the first priority in case of conflict but it will not be successful in the long run without transformation of negative peace into positive peace. UNO in the past seven decades has seen its Peacekeeping Mission from a predominantly negative peace perspective. Now time has come that UNO should also give more focus on establishing regular and continuous processes for cooperation between the conflicting parties on bilateral and multilateral levels. There should be regular efforts to establish Confidence Building Measures (CBM) on the part of the UN regional office among the conflicting parties. If parties confirm these efforts they should be incentivized and parties which don't cooperate their non-compliance costs should be increased constantly by means of sanctions. Military action should be taken as a last resort for saving the lives of the people whose lives can be under potential danger due to a conflict. UN performance in establishing negative peace has also been not very good because of some structural handicaps. UN security forces do not intervene before the possibility of conflict and its nature has been reactionary in this context. The UN should create a proactive agenda for establishing peace by having power to deploy troops before the conflict and it should have the power to take native army, civil society and local youth for a peace keeping mission. UN regional and country specific Resident Coordinator should be bestowed with the responsibility to decide when to intervene and their clear cut mandate should be to ensure the protection of civilian lives during such conflicts. The UN Security Council should start pro-active deployment of its mission so that precious lives should be saved before the start of the conflict. While the leader of the conflicting parties and all other stakeholders in the conflict are invited for regular meetings with the UN

Security Council. Parties which use civilians as shields in their military resistance should be indicted with crimes against humanity. If the government can be held responsible for civilian killings, the same criterion should be applicable to the insurgents. Different weapons controlling regimes and financial transaction regulation regimes like FATF should be exhorted to function in coordination with Resident Coordinators where possibility of a conflict has become inevitable.

VII. REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND NEED FOR UN TO WORK WITH THEM

Time has come for the UN to work with different regional organizations like the African Union, Andes Union, SAARC, GCC, ASEAN, EU and SCO. The UN needs to decentralize its planning to the regional level where Regional Organizations should be taken together to formulate policies, their subsequent implementation and assessment of their impact. The UN should help and guide these regional organizations to become like regional models of the UN with due respect to their regional diversity and scope for innovation. UN priority should be to train and capacity building of these organizations rather than beefing up its own bureaucracy in the name of strengthening the capacity. The UN should try to strengthen their potentialities and capacities and limit its role to regulation and accountability.

VIII. REFORMS IN WTO AND THE BRETTON WOODS INSTITUTION

Bretton Woods's institutions were created after the Second World War to establish a rule and norm based world economic system and help in the post war reconstruction. Power structure of these institutions, especially voting rights and representation in the management bodies, is still tilted in the favor of the European Union and USA. In the past seventy years the world economy has witnessed major transformation in volume and nature. According to Prof. Deepak Nayyar the Bretton Woods institutions are not able to regulate international capital flows and instability of the exchange rate. Globalization according to Prof. Deepak Nayyar has accentuated these twin crises in the governance of the global economy. Prof. Deepak Nayyar asserted that there is a need to create a new institutional apparatus to regulate the world economy so that national economies could regain justifiable control upon their own economic and developmental policies. He also asserted that IMF policy of helping after the crisis onsets a national economy should be changed to emergency finance before the final crisis materializes. He pointed at the need to regulate the functioning of the transnational corporations which have gained more and more control on the international economic system. Prof. Deepak asserts that different agreements under world trade organizations have given them many rights to function within countries and over the international economy but now these transnational corporations must undertake their responsibility. He asserts that now the time has come to increase the powers of the UN

Conference of Trade and Development and International Finance Corporation to increase the relevance of the Bretton Woods institutions. This will help national governments to regain some of their lost control upon the economic policies within their own countries. There is the need to increase the quotas of the developing countries within IMF voting systems. Presently in the IMF, the US has over 16 percent of the total voting rights and the G-7 have a total 40 percent of the voting rights while their share in the total world economy is 30 percent of the world economy. The World Bank International Development Authority (IDA), which is known as liberal window of landing for developing countries, has controlled the 55 percent of voting share of the landing countries. Even the heads of World Bank and IMF have been traditionally appointed by the USA and EU respectively. Disenchantment with the functioning of these institutions has led to the creation of BRICS Bank a kind of alternative for World Bank, the Chiang Mai Initiative a currency swap agreement which began in response to the failure of IMF to deal with Asian Financial Crisis of 1997 and the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) another money lending institution for development.

TRANSPARENCY IN FUNDING: It is essential that funding of the UN and its different projects should be very transparent and evenly balanced. Historically USA has been blamed for controlling the UN due to its financing capacity and now China has slowly used the same tactics to control different agencies of the UN with its financial might and use them to set its own agenda. If such practices are not checked it will put a serious question mark on the legitimacy of the UN.

IX. CONCLUSION

The United Nations needs to reform and transform itself according to the changing circumstances so that it could remain relevant on a global level. The Security Council needs immediate expansion to include certain newly emerged powers of the world like India, Brazil, South Africa and certain old left out powers like Germany, Japan and South Korea to make it more relevant to reflect the ground reality. Numbers of the non-permanent members should also be increased to further the project of inclusiveness. Establishment of Global People's Assembly to give representation to the global civil society groups and NGOs would also be a very good step as suggested by Prof Deepak Nayyar to deepen the discourse of global governance.

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