PROPOSED UNITED NATIONS REFORMS: IMPLICATIONS FOR AFRICA

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Abstract
Actors in the international system have widely recognized the need to reform the United Nations and shape the organization into a new global power structure. This examines the key areas of reform, their effects on Africa and outlines possible ways forward. This study also reflects major criticisms addressed to the United Nations, especially the UNSC and discusses the various forms of reform, including the reform of the Security Council, suggested by various states. It is argued that such reforms should address the engagement and limits of the UN in the socio-economic matters of states. The paper is narrative and descriptive in nature, as it adopts a documentary method of data collection based on secondary sources. The methods of data analysis include context and textual analysis, and the research design qualitative. The Game and Realist Theories were employed for this study. Findings show that the current global order is unequally and partially structured. Hence, it is recommended that the UN and the UN Security Council should be restructured in order to create a platform for wider opinion and views of players and actors in the international system thereby establishing a just global system.


Introduction
The United Nations (UN) is regarded as a ‘noble organization’ which gathers all nations of the world together for a just and peaceful global community. This is why issues like reform seem very important. There is no doubt that UN is virtually the largest and most sophisticated global organization, constitutionally dedicated to maintaining peace, promoting international co-operation and averting war. The United Nations is both a diplomatic forum and a security-preserving body (Khallaf, 2016). Created out of the chaos of two destructive occurrences (the Second World War and the Cold War), it was established in the hope that a solid global organization could promote sufficient cooperation between nations, for future wars to be prevented. Since it came into being in 1945, the organization has encountered series of proposals, some of which have been embraced and implemented, while others are yet to be enforced. Moreover, efforts have been made by U.N. member-states and past Secretaries-General to help in the restructuring of the organization (Teng, 2003). Consequently, there have been vast requests for the reform of the United Nations. Since the collapse of the Cold War, the international system has been exposed to evolving trends and uncertainties that serve as threats to peace and security. For instance, regional and local conflicts based on historical, social, economic and ethnic factors, are rampant, threatening to plunge the world into even greater flux. Issues such as poverty,
excessive increase in population, scarcity and environmental degradation are major global setbacks. By implementing both institutional and financial reforms, it is expected that the UN assumes a more vital role in this new universal environment, in order to achieve its responsibilities effectively (Owadda, 1996:1). Raimi (2016) noted that the United Nations principally deals with security. As that was the nature of the UN’s obligation as at the time of its establishment, every of its constitutions still advocate for the physical concept of security from all indications. As aforementioned, the need to reform the United Nations and shape the organization into a new global power structure has been widely acknowledged. However, some factors including the lack of global solidarity on the reform’s implementation and requirement have hindered these reforms (Uwimana, 2006:5). The General Assembly has for long considered reforming the United Nations Security Council since 1993 but to no avail. On the other hand, security-related matters can only be presented by the non-permanent UNSC members for debate (Adenowo, 2016).

Furthermore, confronting the successful delivery of these reforms are structural, institutional and financial problems. It is noted that the unlimited power of the permanent members is an obstacle to the reform. Of which has become an intense subject in the United Nations is this extraordinary power enjoyed by the Permanent five of the UNSC. The so-called veto power wielded by these members is often regarded as one of the major obstructions of the security system (Akande et al, 2007). Consequences of their ‘rights to veto’ is reflected in the major crises that occurred in Syria and Ukraine. This occurred when Russia declined Syria’s resolutions, using its veto power. It also exerted its veto power to prevent the Security Council from taking action in Ukraine, when the country invaded Crimea and took military action in support of rebels. Russia has also been accused of threatening the UNSC’s legitimacy by the use of a ‘pocket veto’. This is also called ‘the threat of a veto’ (Khallaf, 2016:17).

Ever since the UN’s establishment, the legitimacy and practice of a ‘global organization’ has been in question. The same glitches of the effectiveness of the UN still remain, despite the numerous reforms consecutive Secretaries-General established (Tucker, 2009). These reforms have also been difficult to execute because they are large, exuberant, and demanding goals (Butler, 2012).

How these reforms are undermined by these hitches, steps to be taken to reverse the situation and its effects on Africa, if achieved are therefore analyzed in this study.

Theoretical Framework
For this study, which examines power dynamics, competition, and unilateral exercise of power within the UNSC, through the lenses of the game theory and political realism theory of international relations the theoretical framework is adopted. Game theory is defined as the formal study of decision-making where several players must make choices that possibly affect the interests of the other players (Turocy and Stengel, 2001). The formal evaluation of decision-making processes and the involvement of two or more actors who can help the practitioners in the global sphere explain the relationships between other actors is a goal of game theory (Malvina, 2014). Major proponents of this theory include Von Neumann, John Nash, Oskar Morgenstern, John Harsanyi, Reinhard Selten, and so forth.

On the other hand, the realist theory has been described as a major active theory in international relations. Philip Nel and McGowan (1999:53) in Ade-Ibijola (2014) view that realism has lasted because it is so far the foremost and oldest theory. Notable among the realist thinkers who have contributed to the development of this model since the 20th century are Hans Morgenthau (1948), E.H. Carr (1939), Henry Kissinger, Reinhold Niebuhr (1947) Kenneth W. Thompson (1960), Aron Raymond and F.S Northedge. According to these realists, states are regarded as the principal actors in the global sphere, concerned about their own domestic security, defence, safety and quest for power. They assume that an essential part of human nature is the struggle for power. Morgenthau posits that the prime of the realist theory reflects that when there is a balance in states’ interests, co-operation and amiability exist but when interests clash, conflict arise. Consequently, the pursuit of national interests is a determinant factor to which a state and the global system will survive. However, this justifies the notion by these realists that the global system is unjust (Ade-Ibijola, 2014).

Background to the Clamour for Reforms

152
Since its establishment in 1945, the organization has received series of proposals, some of which have been advocated and implemented, and some which have proved abortive (Uwimana, 2006:11). Virtually all aspects of the organization's activities, including peace support, development and human rights are concentrated on in the UN 'reform agenda'. The proposals also concern institutional issues, including monetary and management reforms of the UN system (Troszczynska-Van 2015:5). To make the UN more effective, receptive and transparent, institutional reforms were proposed. But however, political instabilities, power alignments and the changing nature of global conflicts and threats have severely confronted these reforms (Troszczynska-Van 2015:5).

A fundamental aspect of the U.N is reforming the Security Council. More than any other body of the United Nations, emphasis have been placed on the reorganization of the Council because it is the core and most formidable organ of the United Nations (Uwimana, 2006:18). With the aim of achieving greater functional effectiveness and enhancement of symbolic power as a basis of legitimization, the Security Council intends to expand its membership. U.N members, for decades, have suggested reform, but competing interests has also been a stumbling block for its possibility (Mizuno, 2014:3). Mizuno (2014) further stated that critics have argued that the organization does not represent the globe today. Consisting of 193 members represented in the General Assembly, the body can only pass non-binding resolutions.

Some phases of the U.N, especially of the UNSC have drawn much academic attention and political concern. In terms of decision-making, Mikulaschek (2015:11) explains that the engagement of African states in the Security Council presents a primary analysis that can be compelled to test the impact of subordinate powers in negotiations and policy-making processes in the Council, and as part of the reforms, if a country from Africa becomes a permanent member of the Security Council, it will be of immense advantage to the continent. Freiesleben (2008:7) also states that the G4 continued to work on the African position. Some UN ambassadors noted that due to internal arguments over tactics, the African group itself was prepared to split over its own position. Evidently, some sort of arrangements had been made with the G4 in July 2008 by a number of African representatives, and this led to an emergency summit organized by the African Union for deliberations on their common position. South Africa and Nigeria were particularly dismayed by the developments taken place within the organization, and sought consent to negotiate the right of veto. Meanwhile, former President of Nigerian, Olusegun Obasanjo had before this period, notified African leaders of uncompromising effects, adding that the main option left for them will be either to decide if Africa will associate with the rest of the world by demanding a reorganisation of the UN. Okumu, (2005:1) also asserts that the African Union (AU) is uncertain of which member-states to ratify, and is yet to set conditions for choosing the African contenders. External bodies and regional powers are also involved in this process. On the other hand, (Adenowo, 2016:2) believes that the possibilities for these reforms are slight. He further states that unlike in 1945, when peace was the need, present times combine security with needs for economic growth, through neutral leadership that is sensitive to the interests of United Nation’s foremost contributors and the culturally diverse UN environment, and environmental sustainability, through universal cooperation. Only one body is properly positioned to orchestrate a way. Raimi (2016:313) views that African States should still multiply efforts towards securing relevant supports from United Nations, regardless of the futility of the reform.

The United Nations System and its Functions
The United Nations is commonly described as a ‘clan’ of organizations (Gale, 2007). The Charter of United Nations (Article 1) states that the organization aims at maintaining international peace and order, fostering relationships between nations, promoting collaborations among nations, for the settlement of economic, social, cultural, or humanitarian global disputes and to provide a medium for gathering countries to reach the goals and purposes of the UN (Stephenson, 2016).

The six principal organs of the United Nations Charter are the General Assembly, the Security Council, the Economic and Social Council, the Trusteeship Council, the International Court of Justice and the Secretariat. The United Nations structure, however, is much bigger, encircling 15 specialized agencies and various programmes and funds, as well as other bodies (McKulka, 2011:5).

The General Assembly is referred to as the major strategic, decision-making and archetypical body of the United Nations. Included in the Charter, it is responsible for providing a special medium for joint
deliberations for the whole range of global subjects. It includes all United Nations members and sometimes addresses evolving issues in the organization, then make suggestions to the members excluding clashes or issues deliberated by the Security Council. Every nation, large or small, owns a vote in the assembly and significant resolutions are taken by a two-thirds majority vote.

The Security Council on the other hand is regarded as the most dominant organ of the United Nations and it assumes the primary responsibility of preserving global security and order (Article 27 of the UN charter). It also determines whether a situation constitutes a threat to peace, breach of peace or aggression (Article 39) and decides whether to apply obligatory measures against an illicit state. All other states have to submit to the decisions of the Security Council whenever it chooses to apply these measures against a state (Keskin, 2007). 5 permanent members and 10 non-permanent members consists the Council. The permanent members, China, France, the Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United States all played significant roles in the formation of the United Nations at the end of World War II. They are also believed to help play key roles in the preservation of global peace and order. On the other hand, based on geographical representation for two-year tenures, the 10 temporary members are selected by the General Assembly.

Trusteeship Council was created in 1945 by the UN Charter for the provision of global support for 11 Trust Territories positioned under the government of 7 Member States, and to make sure proper measures were implemented to brace these regions for self-government and sovereignty (McKulka 2011:16).

The International Court of Justice (ICJ) is the UN’s main judicial organ. Located at The Hague in Netherlands, it is regarded to as the international court. The ICJ is responsible for settling legal disagreements between or amongst member states, especially when jurisdiction is difficult to determine. And it also offers legal advice to various bodies within the United Nations and other specialized agencies (Ziomek, 2013:5)

The Secretariat implements the daily activities of the organization. Other primary organs are serviced by the Secretariat and it is also responsible for programmes such as management of peacekeeping operations, research on economic and social trends, and organization of lectures on human rights handled by the UN. Supported by international staffs and global civil servants, the Secretary-General heads this body (McKulka, 2011:17).

The Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) is the fundamental body that the specialized agencies, economic, social and associated activities of the United Nations as well as other bodies. Activities aimed at the promotion of global cooperation to fight poverty and under-development, stimulation of economic growth of developing countries and reinforcement of human rights are coordinated by this Council (Ziomek, 2013:6).

Challenges of the Structure and the Need for Reform

From the inception of the UN in 1945, the institution has been confronted by various challenges. This has further led to the criticism of the institutional structure as being complex and obsolete.

To prevent conflict and protect humanitarian services, there is a question to the effectiveness of the UN. However problems in the United Nations are these issues questioning its integrity and functionality, as they de-legitimatize the organization (Tucker, 2009:3). Regarding the structural problems, the right to veto exerted by the Permanent Five who regulates the UN and world politics is a major one. Another is the failure to set up the mechanism required by the Chapter VII of the Charter which entails providing the framework within which the Security Council which may take enforcement action. This mechanism will allow the Council ‘determine the existence of any threat to the peace, breach of the peace, or act of aggression’ and making recommendations or resort to non-military and military action to ‘maintain or restore international peace and security’ (AbdulWaheed, 2012).

Mizuno (2014:3) has stated that a major problem is also the outdated structure. He further stated that though the U.N. has had its share of successes but its aging structure has struggled with new threats like Ebola and terrorist groups that regulate vast regions of its member countries. The General Assembly and Security Council, however, also needs to end the provision for unfunded authorizations. Some member states urge greater reliance on voluntary contributions or innovative financing methods, while most oppose a change from the assessments now levied to finance the United Nations’ core activities (Stanley, 1996:5). Another impediment to its effectiveness is the manner at which the UN handles its financial resources and its frequent enormous budgeting methods. In addition, financial glitches and budgetary gaps have been generated by
other factors, not fully controlled by the UN secretariat, such as the constant non-payment of dues of some Member States’.

Furthermore, Mizuno (2014:1) also considers increasing demands and unreliable finance as other problems in the United Nations, as raising funds has become a major challenge with so many crises struggling for the world’s attention. Many U.N. agencies and humanitarian operations are funded by voluntary contributions, and appeals are lacking sufficient donations.

In response, various reforms have been proposed to reorganize its structures and financing (Troszczynska-Van 2015). The limitation of power of some member states dictating the UN, precisely the permanent members, to ensure of the effectiveness of the UN in order to prevent conflict, deliver and guard humanitarian services are some objectives of the structural reform. In this perspective, reform is seen as the antidote (Raimi, 2016:4).

Proposals/Reports on Reform

- Reform of the Security Council

The reform of the UN Security Council is the most pronounced because it is considered as the heart of the United Nations System (Hassler, 2013). From its earliest days, the quest for reform of the UNSC has been a basic part of the U.N body. Understanding the position of veto power in the structure of global politics and the protection of the veto wielding states' interests, the study analyzes the possibility of amending Article 108 of the U.N Charter and allocating two permanent seats to Africa, with a veto power each. Reform of the Security Council entails a change to the Charter of the UN that requires approval by two-thirds of the members of the General Assembly and ratification of this vote by the Governments of two-thirds of the UN members, including the members of the Security Council. On the other hand, the veto wielders are in a position to decline any proposal that disadvantages them. This national interest has the effect of estranging the United Nations’ members and damaging the reputation of the organisation as a whole, however the actions of the Permanent Five should be controlled (Daws, 1997).

During the 50th Session of the U.N. General Assembly, a former deputy Prime Minister of Japan and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan, Yohei Kono also stated that in the political sphere, reforming the Security Council is of great importance for solidifying the United Nations. The fundamental aim of the reform is to fortify its function by enhancing its validity and effectiveness. He also stated that, with the endorsement of many states, countries like Japan is prepared to perform its responsibilities as a permanent member of the Security Council in accordance with its basic ideologies regarding universal contributions. Japan believes it is crucial to extend the Security Council in order to have countries which will be in a position to assume global responsibilities to the permanent membership (Owadda, 1996).

The call for the reform of the Council has been on for long. In 2004, in order to construct a proposal for Security Council reform, the then Secretary-General of the UN, Kofi Annan, set up a high-level panel to look into the ‘threats, challenges, and change’ (Hilpold, 2006). The panel’s report concurred that reforming and enlarging the Security Council is necessary but such reforms should meet certain principles (Adetula, 2016).

Especially to Africa, the Security Council is fundamental as it is responsible for UN peacekeeping missions, more of which are situated in Africa than any other continent. Reinforcement for reform of the Security Council is extensive, as both Egypt and South Africa also bid for a permanent ‘African’ seat in the Security Council. (Hassler, 2013:3). The UN comprises of 193 member states; 54 from Africa, 53 from Asia-Pacific, 23 from the Eastern European Group, 28 from Western Europe, while the Latin American and Caribbean Group consists of 33 members. In other words, Africa populates the largest membership of the UN but no country is a member of permanent five with veto power (Sikuka, 2016). In 2016, several procedures were taken by the African Union and the United Nations as regards the reform, which deals with their new leaderships and their intentions of making the organizations well-designed to the challenges of modern conflict (De Carvalho and Connolly, 2017)

- The Brahimi Report

The ‘Brahimi Report’ (formally referred to as the ‘Report of the Panel on United Nations Peace Operations’) was composed in 2000 by a commission of high-level independent experts, headed by Lakhdar Brahimi, a senior Algerian diplomat. However, in order to assess UN peace and security activities, as well as propose
ways to improve UN practices, the establishment of the commission was approved by Kofi Annan, the former Secretary-General of the UN. As a major barrier to UN’s peace support, the report indicated the reluctance of UN Member States’ to dedicate workforces and monetary resources. The report also proposed that the deficiency of the UN secretariat’s analytical capacity and its failure to gather proper information should be addressed as a matter of priority (Troszczynska-Van, 2015).

The Brahimi Report also emphasized the relevance of the UN’s collaboration with regional organizations. On several occurrences, this has been practical, including the EU-UN and UN-African Union (AU) cooperation, as well as a series of unforeseen arrangements with other regional and sub-regional bodies (Troszczynska-Van, 2015).

- **The High-Level Panel Report**
  
  However, in November 2003, a high-level panel of distinguished individuals to examine existing threats to international peace and safety were selected by the Secretary-General, Kofi Annan. A year later, this panel on threats, change and challenges, which was formally referred to as (HLP) delivered its report, titled ‘A more secured world’ on December 2004 (Hilpold, 2006).

  Regarding the reform, the conditions included were (according to article 23 of the charter) to expand the participation of policy-making individuals who often financially, tactfully and military contribute to the United Nations. And these precisely are issues regarding aids to the United Nations funds, engagement in the management of peace, contribution to activities along with the United Nations objectives. The attainment of substantial progress among developed countries towards the global level of 0.7 percent of GNP of ODA should be acknowledged as an imperative prerequisite for support. Another condition was to acquire more representatives of larger participants, specifically of the developing world into the decision-making process. While another was to enhance the efficiency of the Security Council and to also expand the autonomous nature of the body.

- **The Annan Report**

  On the other hand, the then Secretary-General, Kofi Annan also tendered his report in March 2005, termed ‘In larger freedom: Towards development, Security and Human Rights for all’ commonly referred to as the Annan Report (Hilpold, 2006).

  However, the high level panel recommended two options; namely models A and B. These models were however adopted to reflect the 4 global regions: Africa, Asia/Pacific, Americas and Europe (Okumu, 2005). Model A proposes available permanent seats for six members, with no veto, and three non-permanent seats for the period of two years; making the total of 24. Africa would have 2 permanent seats but no veto and 4 non-renewable seats for a two-year term. This balance of power would nonetheless fall in Europe’s favour as the United Kingdom, Russia and France would maintain their right to veto, so also China and the US. Whereas Africa would be the only region without veto power.

  While model B offers no new permanent seats but forms a new set of eight renewable seats for a period of four years and one temporary and non-renewable seats for two years. All the regions would get 2 four-year renewable-term seats. Although Africa would get about 4 temporary seats than others, but Europe and America would benefit more, as they acquire two renewable seats for a four-year term. In other words, all regions excluding Africa will own at least a member with veto power, (Okumu, 2005)

  The African Union has disagreed with both of these models and instead requested for at least two permanent seats coupled with every single benefit and rights of being a permanent member as well as the veto right. Although the AU strongly opines the distribution of equal veto right to all permanent members, as long as it exists.

**Other Reforms of the United Nations**

Asides the aforementioned deliberations on surplus members, there have been proposals on strengthening the UN. As regards its agendas and finances which deals with several facets of developments, the UN has endured condemnations of unsuccessful activities and unproductive management of resources. To discuss some of these interests, the Secretary-General suggested the establishment of a United Nations Development Group, consisting of the UN Development Programme (UNDP), the UN Population Fund (UNFPA), and the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) led by a new Decision-making Committee and managed by the Director of UNDP. To enable programmes and funds merge their efforts, thereby resulting in greater effectiveness and
efficiency is the purpose of this new framework for cooperation. As a result of this, Africa will not only benefit from the reinforcement of UN’s development activities at the headquarters but also in the field (Novicki, 1997).

The High-Level Report prepared a comprehensive strategy to boost the UN’s ability for the eradication of famine, hazards and exploitation of human rights. This proposal also emphasizes precise efforts on these major issues and suggests steps for its pursuit, to make the UN ‘a more effective instrument’. By tackling the major obstacles to development; order, stability, defence, the development of human rights and the donation of humanitarian aid to the needy, Africa stands a profit from the positive effects of this Report (Island, 2005:12).

Furthermore, the High-Level Report also proposes change in the General Assembly, ECOSOC and the Commission on Human Rights, and in the UN’s interactions with regional institutions. Kofi Annan’s report of March 2005 “In Larger Freedom” motioned for the Commission’s demise and the creation of a lesser Human Rights Council which would annually assemble as well as consist of member states that will only ‘accept the utmost human rights norms’ (Island, 2005).

- **Process of Collaboration between the UN and Regional Organizations**

The High-Level report recognizes the cooperation with regional bodies such as the AU as being fundamental and outlines a sequence of guidelines that would result in a more organized relationship between both bodies. For example, of which will be exceptionally effective to the African Union for the improvement of its peacekeeping managements in Africa is recommending supports by the Security Council to provide for those peace-keeping activities. In addition, a beneficial recommendation in the Secretary-General's Report is an Exploitive Approach for an Aptitude Construction in the African Union by the United Nations for the period of ten years (Island, 2005).

- **Conflict Prevention**

The Secretary-General's Report (Annan Report) covers several schemes to avert war and other world-wide perils, with progress as the primary means of action. It states that development performs numerous roles, and helps fight impoverishment, ailments and dreadful conditions that kills thousands of people and terrorize human safety. It plays a crucial role in facilitating states in averting loss of national size, a basic to handling virtually all mode of danger. (Island, 2005:13).

This reform will be of direct advantage to Africa societally as it endeavours to defeat devastating effects of armed conflict. While peacekeeping continues to be an inevitable tool of the UN alongside the perpetual determinations to reinforce its efficiency, the UN also place more importance on both peacekeeping and peace-making in the future. To perceive probable threats to global peace and security, efforts will be made to improve global security. Deliberations are also schemes with which member states tend to explore ways of funding operation control centres to foil escalations of armed conflict. Novicki (1997) asserts that the comprehensive and widespread reforms in the United Nations if achieved, will have remarkable impacts on the socio-economic development of Africa. In the manner at which the UN performs, these set of reforms considered by the Secretary-General as a ‘silent transformation’ will move resources from management to growth, coordinate new sources of expansion funds, and build up UN missions in the field. The body's aptitude to tackle the problems confronting Africa will also be enhanced, evolving from conflict and its consequences, and from humanitarian support to peace-making and human privileges. During his presentation to the General Assembly on the 16th of July, 1997, the Secretary-General, Annan stated that the purpose of the process is to create greater harmony, greater consistency of determinations and more enthusiasm to respond to an progressively changing and complicated system in the UN, he then added that the restructurings proposed will also facilitate the United Nations to do even much better. The reforms however relates with Africa's important priorities; reinforcing and reshuffling the progressive activities of the UN, and encouraging its ability to develop peace, react to humanitarian wants, and protect human rights.

Mr. Annan declared that five basic spheres of the body would be reorganized, these are: peace and order, economic and social matters, enhancing collaboration, humanitarian concerns and human rights (Novicki, 1997).

- **Peace keeping Operations**

Peace support has been regarded as the main focus of the United Nations' since its establishment. The UN’s activities in this field have developed from surveying operations to contemporary peace-defence activities.
The UN has been specifically effective with peacekeeping and major political missions since the demise of the Cold War. Considering the nature of international threats and the UN’s objective of its role in the field, reforming the UN’s peace operations has however been essential to the consecutive UN Secretaries-General, who have prepared a number of reports (Troszczynska-Van, 2015).

Matters that evolve throughout and after intense battles, including the facilities required for peace exploits, preventive diplomacy, peace-making and the security for non-combatants were also addressed in the high-level report. It discovers the international quantity of peacekeepers riskily low, therefore nations were called to be prepared in order to supply and assist military operations. Advanced Countries particularly were required to do more in order to have adequate contingents prepared for peace operations, and supply funds and resources to activate them when necessary (Island, 2005).

Some far-reaching reform proposals of UN peace support structures also involve forming a UN force or a substitute rapid reaction force with workforces from UN Member-States (Troszczynska-Van, 2015). On the other hand, the United Nations (UN) Security Council and the Peace and Security Council (PSC) of the African Union (AU) both have an agreed interest in organising more operational peace activities in Africa. Both bodies intend to develop on the numerous UN-AU peace and security management mechanisms that have been created since 2006 and aid the execution of the AU’s law of ‘non-indifference.’ As regards the UN and AU, considerable progress has been made between these bodies who enjoy a profound and growing partnership. Yet there are disparities on how best to respond to peace and security impediments in Africa, while the AU still experiences significant capacity errors as regards peace operations (Boutellis & Williams, 2013).

The Agenda for Peace: Preventive Diplomacy, peace-making and Peace-keeping (otherwise known as ‘Agenda for Peace’) was an initiative of Boutros Boutros-Ghali, a former UN Secretary-General. Given the changes of the post-cold War, world, a paper was requested by the UN Security Council to assess UN’s operations in the field and suggest ways to reorganize operations. Need for the UN to participate more vigorously in peace support operations was outlined in the ‘Agenda for Peace’. The report also admitted that as regards peacekeeping, durable peace is not guaranteed and recommended that the UN enhances its capabilities in preventive diplomacy and peace-making (Troszczynska-Van, 2015).

Enhancing development support is a part of the UN reforms that involves available resources for development. Reserves collected from reducing UN managerial costs will be secured for economic and social activities in a development account. Therefore the UN should be able to gather surplus development funds, if the field operations are well managed. To boost coordination at this level, UN programmes of assistance will be established and delivered as part of a single UN Development Assistance Agenda with a joint goal and phase. Additionally, every UN entity in the field will function under ‘one flag’ and under the administration of the Resident Coordinator, particularly the UNDP Resident Representative called the ‘United Nations House’. Therefore, to be first selected as such is the UN’s office in South Africa (Novicki, 1997).

These reforms however are extensively crucial to the development of the United Nations and are still relevant. At an event organized by United States President, Donald Trump on September 18, 2017, over 120 countries are advocates of the various reforms with the aim of restoring the United Nations bureaucracy and making the global sphere stronger and determined to the people it serves (Garten, 2017). The present Secretary-General, Mr. Antonio Guterres also buttressed the point by stating that the body’s common goal is a 21st century UN body focused more on provisions and the global system, and less on procedures and authority.

**Conclusion and Recommendations**

A crucial reform needed is an expansion of the permanent members of the UNSC and the limitation of the right to veto. In doing this (expanding the veto wielders), topmost contributors of the UN’s most significant resources (finance and military personnel) from all the continents should be considered. They also need to fairly determine how these resources are utilized. Furthermore, the veto should be limited such that a minimum number of permanent members, perhaps one-third, out of which representatives of two different continents are included have to cast the veto before a resolution can be objected. These reforms could be achieved if these five members relinquish their veto and accept a balance of power, as the world truly needs
a legitimate global organization that attends to the needs of those negatively affected by hostilities, and not the concerns of the despotic states who dominate the organization. This can also be accomplished if there are intense deliberative endeavours in making the UNSC a ‘one member, one vote’ system. Reforms including the temporary members in the UN for a two-year term are not profitable because the UNSC members in this category can vote, but yet such vote can be declined by the permanent members.

Regarding Peacekeeping, for a successful peacekeeping operation, it needs to ensure both the collaboration of the conflicting parties and the global community, including domestic and non-governmental establishments, contributors, and members-states.

In Conclusion, at least a considerable effort of political motivation, cooperation, tolerance, diligence, fortitude and funds will be required of a significant and durable reform as well as overcoming fears of power defeat and of the unknown.

Members of the organization still dispute on the nature and activities of the organization. In other words, until a political agreement is reached, no reform process will have an effective or permanent outcome.

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