

# United Nations It's (Ir)relevance today and beyond.....



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**A Think Tank Featured Insight**

*Caerus3 Advisors*

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# Where has UN failed us .....

## PEACE EFFORTS

- Cold War
- Israel – Palestine conflict
- Golan Heights
- Korean War
- Vietnam
- Refugee Crisis
  - Rohingya
  - Syrian
  - Boat people
  - Afghans
  - Sri Lankan Tamils
- Gulf War
- Chinese aggression in SE Asia
- Tibet

## Non Conflict

- Climate Change
- WHO ??? Or who ???
- Poverty alleviation
- Child trafficking
- Child Labor
- Labour Reforms
- Trade Reforms

## PANDEMIC 2020

Failure to induct India and Germany as Permanent Members of UNSC



The UN has failed several times across the world mostly because of the right to veto at the disposal of five countries – its nothing but a “Toothless Tiger”

# Challenges the UN is facing:



## 1. United Nations General Assembly: Prominent Stage, Limited Powers

- Every year, the opening session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) becomes the stage where presidents and prime ministers give speeches.
- This becomes a platform for hate speech, criticism of other countries and self glorification by other leaders
- The event offers plenty of star power, but critics contend that it is little more than a glorified gabfest.
- Also, UNGA has no control over veto power exercised by UNSC and it cannot take any decisive action against permanent members of UNSC



## 2. United Nations Security Council: Powerful but Often Paralyzed

- The 15-member Security Council is by far the most powerful arm of the United Nations.
- It can **impose sanctions**; However, the veto power is used by permanent five countries to serve the strategic interest of themselves and their allies.

# Challenges the UN is facing:



## 3. United Nations Secretary General: Global Reach, Vague Role

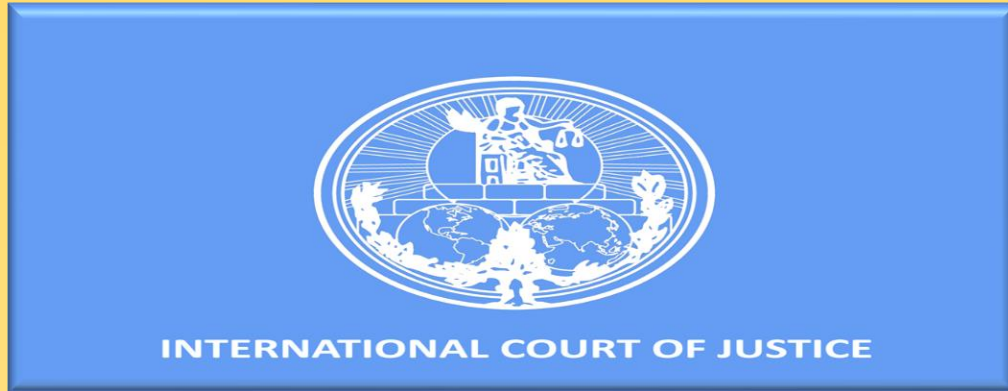
- ❑ The duties of the secretary general are vague in nature
- ❑ He or she is expected to show no favoritism to any particular country, but as the office is largely dependent on the funding and the good will of the most powerful nations, it hampers the working of the office



## 4. World Trade Organization: Stalled Negotiations

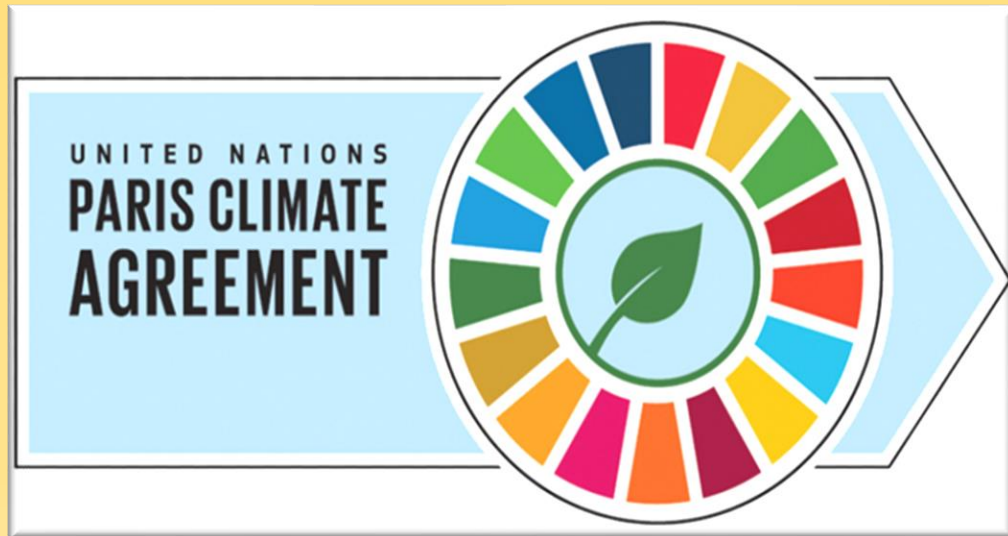
- ❑ The World Trade Organization is mandated to expand the free trade agenda and a standard bearer for open and efficient global markets.
- ❑ However, the advanced countries are determined to promote the kind of corporate-friendly rules that align with their own economic interests
- ❑ Regional Trade Organisations like NAFTA, European Union, ASEAN were added due to failure of WTO

# Challenges the UN is facing:



## 5. International Court of Justice

- The International Court of Justice is the principal judicial organ of the UN that caters to legal proceedings between member countries
- Its judgement is not enforced. It cannot force states to abide by its decisions
- It mostly gives advisory opinions on legal questions referred to it by authorized UN organs and specialized agencies



## 6. World Climate Accord

- The Paris Agreement is an extended arm of the UN dealing with greenhouse-gas-emissions mitigation, adaptation, and finance, signed in 2016
- However, the US walked out of it and the other countries are not implementing it, despite signing it

# Challenges the UN is facing:

## 7. World Health Organization: Arm Twisting by Rich Countries



- WHO was mandated to control the spread of contagious diseases, backstop public health programmes, formulate standards on nutrition and hygiene and establish a centre for comparative health data.
- Recently, the World Health Organization (WHO) has been criticized by the US on account of mishandling of the Covid-19 pandemic and subsequently suspended its financial contribution to WHO
- Polio, was eradicated from India without the support of the UN. Africa faced a health crisis which still needs to be addressed
- Since 1950, India has led a massive immunization programme for smallpox and other diseases and has been successful without the help of the WHO

## 8. Non - Proliferation Nuclear Treaty

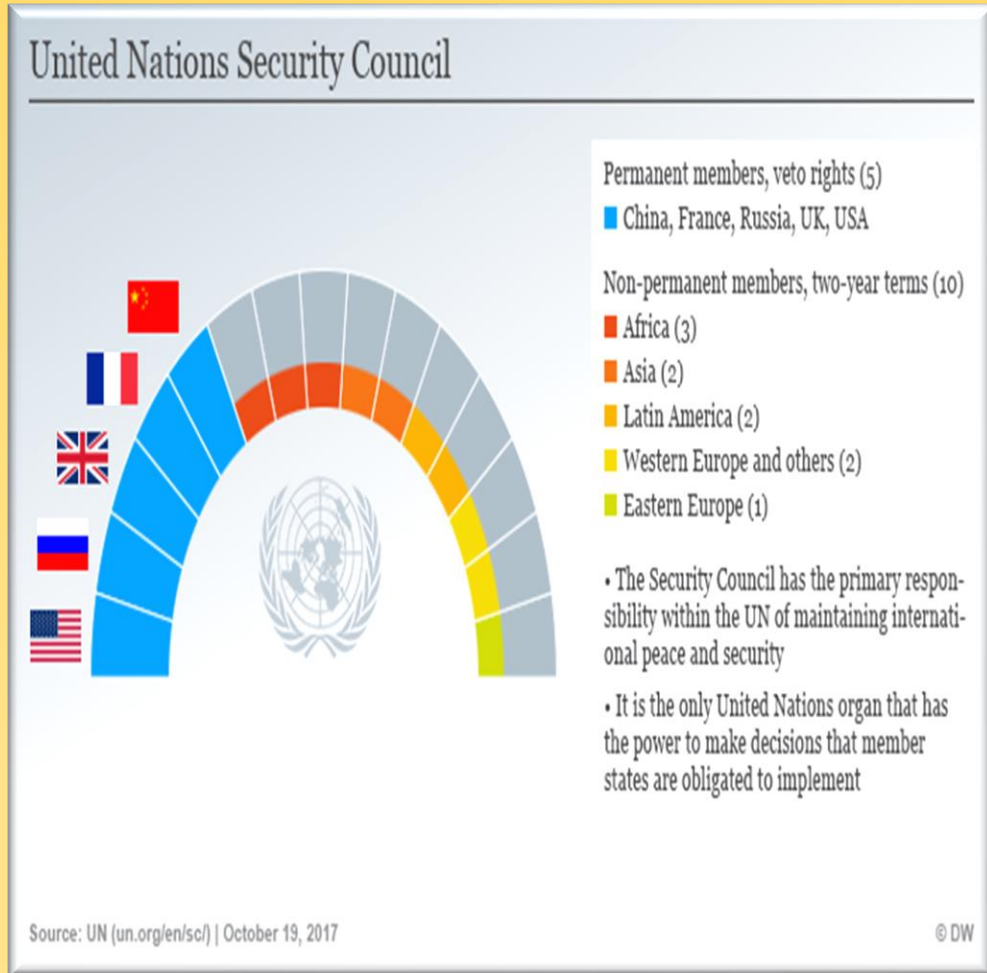


- It is a treaty of the USA and not the UN (now do we say more !!)
- NPT is a biased treaty as only the 5 funding members namely The US, China, France, UK and Russia are given access to have or produce nuclear weapons

# Reasons why the UN in its present form is losing its relevance:

- ❑ The UN General Assembly does not have the power to pass legislation that is legally binding on all its member states
- ❑ Veto !!! The supreme power and the most abused Vote in the UNSC
- ❑ UNSC is a Old School Club where new Players like India and Germany have no place
- ❑ Running on Obsolete principles, in a time wrap
- ❑ No Firm action, no rap on the knuckles to erring members just “words of wisdom”
- ❑ Regional / Likeminded Organizations like NAM ( esp in Cold War), CHOGM, SAARC, BRICS, ASEAN are more effective
- ❑ US dominance on thought process – lack of Independent Office space, the UN is at the mercy of its Landlord !!
- ❑ China the roadblock – my way or the highway

# India a member of the UN Security Council ????



- ❑ India for long has been of the view that the UNSC sought to be reformed by expansion in the membership of the Security Council in both, permanent and non-permanent categories.
- ❑ India, by any objective criteria, such as population, territorial size, GDP, economic potential, civilizational legacy, cultural diversity, political system, and being the World's Largest Democracy is eminently qualified for permanent membership
- ❑ The Indian tryst for permanent membership of Security Council flows broadly from a mix of, three streams, viz., India's historic association with the UN system, India's intrinsic value and place in contemporary international politics and its role as the leader of developing countries.

**20% of world population; largest democracy; trillion dollar GDP yet .....India has no place on the Table**



# Germany a member of the UN Security Council ???



- Germany is one of the biggest Industrial Powers in the World
- It is a member of the G7
- Banker to Europe, known to bail out 'needy Europeans'
- Open door policy on refugees
- Largest non-monarchy democracy of Europe
- Yet not a permanent member of UNSC

# Conclusion



- ❑ The World is Flat, the UN is still rounding up the Flock and navigating the pathways
- ❑ It is as relevant as the Post Box or Telegram (not the App !!) in 2020
- ❑ Its failure to acknowledge the “New World Order” by not giving a seat to India and Germany as Permanent Members of UNSC is a joke
- ❑ It’s a victim of its own creation and image or the lack of it
- ❑ Its time to pack it up like the League of Nations and find a new alternative that accepts the “New World Order”
- ❑ If it was Corporate it would have been rated F on Social Audit, E on Financials and perhaps overall as “Junk Bond”

# A word about .....



## the Author

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