A New World Order

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Model United Nations

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Topic Background

In an increasingly interconnected world, the need for an effective and adaptable model of global governance is paramount. The United Nations, also known as the UN, stands as a critical institution for international cooperation and collaboration. However, it is evident that the existing governance structure within the United Nations requires reform to better address the evolving dynamics of the global landscape. This committee will work to create a comprehensive model that envisions a more inclusive, democratic, and responsive UN, one that is ready to tackle the challenges of the 21st century.

On July 18, 2020, United Nations Secretary-General, António Guterres, spoke at the Nelson Mandela Annual Lecture to leverage his platform as a global leader to call out how the Coronavirus pandemic exposed some of the worst parts of our society. He called for a "new model of global governance" in his speech, a model based on everyone's full, inclusive, and equal participation in global institutions.[1] Guterres' proposed model for a new global governance structure envisions an institution that is inclusive, democratic, and equipped to tackle the challenges of the modern world.[2] By prioritizing representation, democratic decision-making, and focusing on pressing global issues, his proposed model strives to ensure that the United Nations remains an effective and relevant force for promoting peace, prosperity, and sustainability on a global scale.

[1] Nelson Mandela Foundation. "Annual Lecture 2020: Secretary-General Guterres's Full Speech – Nelson Mandela Foundation," n.d.
https://www.nelsonmandela.org/news/entry/annual-lecture-2020-secretary-general-guterress-full-speech.
[2] Democracy Without Borders. "UN Chief Calls for "a New Model for Global Governance"" Democracy Without Borders, July 20, 2020.
https://www.democracywithoutborders.org/14025/un-chief-calls-for-a-new-model-for-global-governance/.

Although there was little progress made in the first few years following António Guterres' speech, conversations about a new model of global governance began in the fall of 2030. After seeing how the devastating impacts of climate change, pandemics, terrorism, and cyberthreats, members of the United Nations began to see the faults in our current model of governance get exposed. This is when Guterres proposed a new model of global governance that modeled the United States Senate and Congress. He explained that adopting a bicameral model for global governance within the United Nations, inspired by the structure of the United States Congress and Senate, holds the potential to enhance the UN's efficiency, inclusivity, and responsiveness.

Since then, the United Nations has gathered representatives from each Member State to begin discussions about how this model could be adapted. Member states have been tasked with developing a new model of global governance that can keep up with the needs of the modern world. Achieving this vision would require collaborative efforts and a commitment from all Member States to adapt and reshape the United Nations for the betterment of humanity. It is the task of this committee to pass a resolution that would create a new model of global governance. After reading about Secretary-General Guterres' suggestions and vision, this committee must work together collaboratively to develop a re-envisioned global government that can effectively manage and solve the biggest problems facing today's world.

Subtopics to Consider

Subtopic 1: The Logistics and Implications of Setting Up a New Global Government

The proposed bicameral system begins with the General Assembly, mirroring the U.S. House of Representatives. This chamber would represent all UN Member States, and embody the principle of equal representation for each nation.[3] Its key functions would encompass proposing and debating legislation related to various global issues, to the sustainable development goals, and to human rights.[4] Moreover, it would oversee the organization's budget and financial matters, providing a platform for comprehensive representation and engagement.
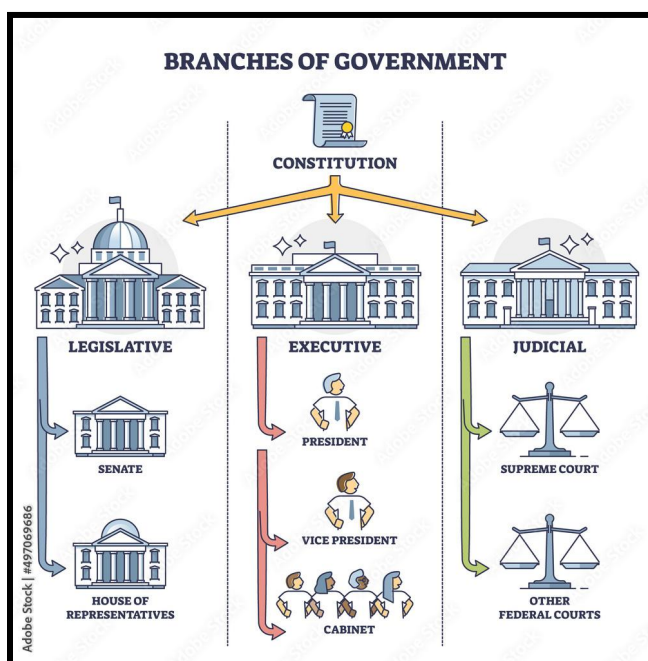
Similar to the U.S. Senate, the Security Council would likely serve as the second chamber. It would consist of permanent members, akin to the U.S. Senate's two senators per state, representing influential and powerful nations to ensure diverse geographical representation.[5] Additionally, rotating members would be elected by regional groupings, bringing proportional representation and diversity to the table. The Security Council's core functions

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[3] "The House Explained | House.Gov," n.d. https://www.house.gov/the-house-explained.
[4] United Nations. "Functions and Powers of the General Assembly," n.d.
https://www.un.org/en/ga/about/background.shtml.
[5] "U.S. Senate: Powers and Procedures," August 24, 2023. https://www.senate.gov/about/powers-procedures.htm.

would revolve around matters of international peace and security, such as conflict resolution, peacekeeping missions, and sanctions.[6]

The legislative process would initiate in the General Assembly, reflecting a bottom-up approach to global governance. Proposed legislation would undergo debates and a vote, requiring a simple majority for passage. Subsequently, the legislation would be forwarded to the Security Council, resembling the U.S. Senate, for further discussion and approval.[7] This dual-step process ensures thorough deliberation and broad representation, enhancing the legitimacy and effectiveness of the legislation.

The Secretary-General would serve as the executive head of the United Nations, elected by a majority vote in the General Assembly, and confirmed by the Security Council. This mirrors the U.S. executive branch. The Secretary-General would hold the responsibility of implementing and enforcing approved legislation and resolutions.[8] Additionally, an Executive Council (similar to the Cabinet) composed of the Secretariat and appointed representatives from Member States would assist in policy formulation and implementation.[9]

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[6] "What Is the Security Council? | United Nations Security Council," n.d.
https://www.un.org/securitycouncil/content/what-security-council.
[7] *Ibid.*
[8] The White House. "The Executive Branch | The White House," July 12, 2022.
https://www.whitehouse.gov/about-the-white-house/our-government/the-executive-branch/.
[9] The White House. "The Cabinet," January 5, 2017. https://obamawhitehouse.archives.gov/administration/cabinet.

Adopting a bicameral model for global governance within the United Nations, inspired by the structure of the United States Congress and Senate, holds the potential to enhance the organization's efficiency, inclusivity, and responsiveness. However, implementing such a model would require a thorough negotiation process and consensus-building among Member States and ongoing evaluation and adaptation of the model based on global changes and emerging challenges would be essential for its effectiveness and relevance. If implemented though, by incorporating elements of equal representation, balanced legislative processes, and an executive branch for effective implementation, this model should position the UN as a more robust and adaptable institution capable of addressing the multifaceted challenges of the 21st century.

Subtopic 2: Impacts of Revamping the Security Council and Abolishing the Veto

In addition to Guterres' suggested reimagining of the Security Council to model the United States Senate, he also spoke of the possibility of abolishing the veto. He noted that abolishing the veto and remodeling the Security Council would have significant implications for how decisions are made and how global issues are addressed within the United Nations.

Abolishing the veto power within the Security Council would result in a more egalitarian and representative decision-making process. This change would ensure that each member state's voice holds equal importance, aligning with the principles of democratic governance. It would foster a system where decisions are made collectively, reflecting the collective interests and consensus of the global community. Additionally, open debates and majority-based decision-making would become the norm, embodying democratic ideals of transparency, inclusivity, and accountability. Currently, the veto power can negate the will of the majority, which is antithetical to democratic principles.[10] By embracing a majority-based approach, the United Nations would foster trust and confidence among Member States and the global populace, reaffirming its commitment to democratic governance and equitable representation.

It is also important to note that the veto power, while intended to ensure major powers' involvement, can be misused or unreasonably wielded to protect narrow national interests.[11] Abolishing the veto would eradicate the potential for such misuse, preventing singular interests from obstructing actions deemed essential for global peace and security. This shift would encourage Member States to engage in meaningful dialogue and negotiation, seeking solutions that prioritize the greater good over self-interest. The United Nations would thus be able to act decisively on issues where decisive action is warranted, without being held hostage to the interests of a few nations. Currently, the veto can delay, or even halt, action on crucial global issues, hindering the United Nations' ability to respond promptly. Without this obstruction,

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[10] *Ibid.*

[11] "Member States Call for Removing Veto Power, Expanding Security Council to Include New Permanent Seats, as General Assembly Debates Reform Plans for 15-Member Organ | UN Press," November 20, 2018. https://press.un.org/en/2018/ga12091.doc.htm.

resolutions could be reached through a majority vote, allowing for quicker responses to pressing global issues.[12] This streamlined process aligns with the urgent and interconnected nature of modern challenges, enabling the UN to swiftly address and mitigate these issues.

The absence of the veto would emphasize collective responsibility among Member States. Without the option to unilaterally block resolutions, Member States would be compelled to work collaboratively to achieve consensus and address challenges on a broader scale. This shift fosters a sense of shared accountability and encourages nations to consider the global implications of their decisions. The United Nations would become a platform where collective efforts, rather than individual interests, lead to constructive resolutions that benefit the entire international community. This would also aid in empowering regional powers and smaller states within the UN system. The current structure disproportionately favors permanent members, often sidelining the voices of other nations.[13] This shift would allow regional powers to have a more influential role, enabling them to contribute more actively and meaningfully to global discussions and decision-making processes. The United Nations would benefit from a diversity of perspectives, enriching its ability to formulate comprehensive and well-rounded policies to tackle complex global challenges.

Ultimately, Guterres' envisioned model would enhance the United Nations' adaptability to changing global dynamics. The current structure, with the veto power, can be resistant to change and reforms that accommodate shifts in power dynamics and emerging global challenges. By abolishing the veto, the United Nations could demonstrate its willingness to evolve and respond effectively to contemporary geopolitical, economic, and technological shifts, ensuring it remains a relevant and potent global entity. This would enhance the credibility and legitimacy of

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[12] *Ibid.*
[13] *Ibid.*

the Security Council. Currently, the veto power is seen by many as an anachronistic remnant of post-World War II politics, and its use, or threat of use, can hinder the credibility of the organization. A more democratic and inclusive decision-making process would boost the Security Council's standing in the eyes of the international community, reinforcing its legitimacy and acceptance as a fair and unbiased global authority.

Subtopic 3: The Impact on the International Court of Justice

Member States have begun discussions about how the International Court of Justice, also known as the ICJ, would be impacted by a re-envisioned global government. In Guterres' vision, the ICJ would function similarly to the United States Supreme Court: as an independent and impartial judiciary within the United Nations. It would operate autonomously, free from undue influence, pressure, or bias, akin to the judicial branch in democratic systems.[14] This independence is vital to ensure that legal judgments and decisions are made purely based on the merits of the case and the relevant international legal framework.

Much like the U.S. system of checks and balances, the ICJ would serve as a check on the legislative and executive functions of the United Nations.[15] It would act as a guardian of legality, reviewing the actions and decisions of the other branches to ensure they align with international law and the United Nations Charter. This system of checks and balances is fundamental for preventing any branch from overstepping its authority and violating established legal norms.[16] Guterres also suggested that the ICJ could conduct a judicial review of legislation passed by the General Assembly. This review process would ensure that laws enacted by the United Nations align with international law and treaties. The ICJ would examine the constitutionality of legislation to ensure they adhere to the principles and values enshrined in the UN Charter and other international agreements.

Ideally, the ICJ would retain its primary function of adjudicating disputes between Member States. This would encompass a wide array of issues, including disputes over territorial boundaries, interpretation of treaties, human rights violations, environmental concerns, and violations of international law. Parties involved in a dispute could bring their cases to the ICJ, seeking a legal resolution and ensuring adherence to established legal principles.[17] This also leads the ICJ to play a central role in facilitating peaceful conflict resolution. Member States involved in disputes could opt for legal resolution through the ICJ, providing an avenue for a peaceful settlement based on legal principles. This mechanism would encourage nations to
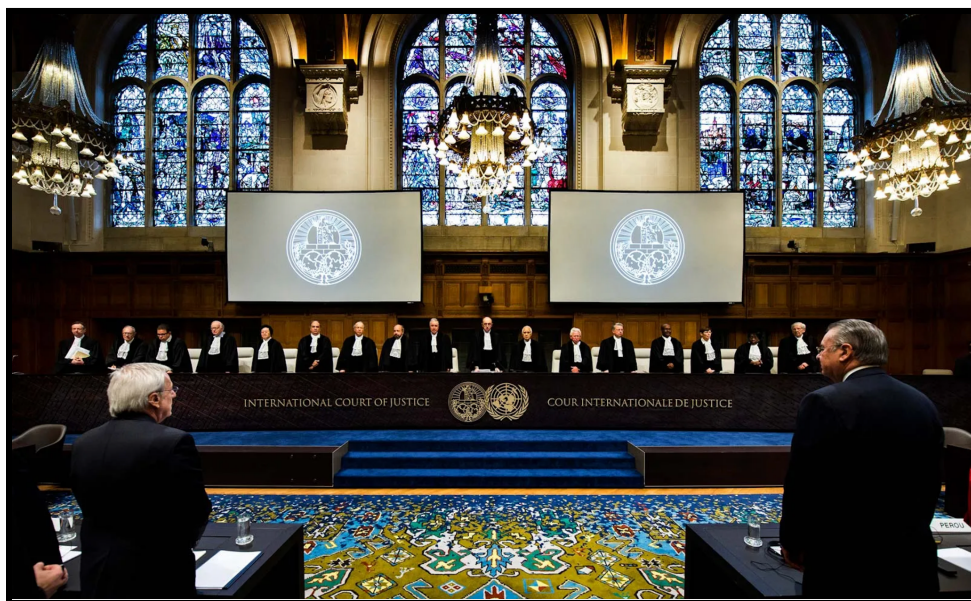
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[14] Mingst, Karen. "International Court of Justice (ICJ) | Definition, Cases, Purpose, & Facts." Encyclopedia Britannica, October 1, 2023. https://www.britannica.com/topic/International-Court-of-Justice.
[15] "The Court as an Institution - Supreme Court of the United States," n.d. https://www.supremecourt.gov/about/institution.aspx.
[16] *Ibid.*
[17] *Ibid.*

resolve conflicts through dialogue and adherence to international law, fostering a more stable and peaceful global environment.

Additionally, Guterres suggested that this re-envisioned International Court of Justice would also prioritize accessibility and transparency in its operations. The court would ensure that its proceedings are open and accessible to Member States and relevant stakeholders. Transparency in the legal process would boost the credibility and legitimacy of the international legal system, fostering trust and confidence in the ICJ and in the United Nations as a whole.

While maintaining its independence, the ICJ could actively collaborate with the legislative and executive branches of the United Nations. This collaboration would be essential to ensuring that legal decisions are effectively implemented and integrated into the broader policies and actions of the organization. Coordination among the branches would ensure a cohesive approach to international law and governance, promoting the effective functioning of the UN as a whole. Ultimately, the ICJ, as an integral part of this re-envisioned model, would embody the principles of justice, legality, and the rule of law. Its functions would align with the ideals of a democratic system, providing a legal framework and mechanism essential for maintaining peace, resolving disputes, upholding human rights, and promoting a just and equitable global society.[18]

Possible Solutions

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[18] *Ibid.*

Although this section will provide a variety of potential ways to implement a new model of global governance, not all countries will support every solution. It is imperative that each delegate understands their country's thoughts and opinions on the current global governance structure to determine what type of solution(s) they should embrace, and which they should reject.

Sovereignty is a fundamental principle in international relations, and nations hold it in high regard. The prospect of adapting a new global governance model might raise concerns about potential encroachments on national autonomy. To mitigate these concerns, it is imperative to assure Member States that the new model will respect and uphold their sovereignty. Reassurances should highlight that the proposed governance structure will serve to complement and reinforce national governments rather than supplant them. Moreover, involving Member States extensively in the design and planning phases of the model is crucial. This approach ensures that the governance model reflects a collective approach and acknowledges the diverse needs and circumstances of each nation, thus preserving their autonomy.

It is crucial to remember that the global community is diverse in terms of political ideologies, cultural backgrounds, and historical experiences. As such, a governance model based on the U.S. system might not align with the preferences and structures of countries that follow different political philosophies or possess unique cultural and historical contexts. To address this concern, flexibility in implementation is key. The proposed model should be designed with adaptability in mind, allowing for customization to suit the diverse needs of Member States. Furthermore, an inclusive consultation process that engages Member States extensively can play a pivotal role in overcoming this concern. By actively involving nations in the design and customization of the model, the resulting governance structure can be tailored to accommodate a variety of political ideologies and cultural backgrounds.

Another one of the apprehensions that Member States may have is the perceived imbalance of power within the proposed governance model. Nations, particularly smaller or less influential ones, might worry that powerful countries could dominate decision-making processes, skewing policies in favor of their interests.[19] To alleviate such concerns, it is essential to emphasize a balanced representation of countries within the governance model. Proportional representation based on population, economic strength, and other relevant factors should be a fundamental aspect of the new structure. Additionally, incorporating robust checks and balances within the model is crucial. These mechanisms will ensure that no single nation or group of nations can wield disproportionate influence, assuring Member States of a fair and balanced global governance system.

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[19] *Ibid.*

That being said, recognizing and addressing existing power dynamics is crucial to gain the support of major powers and ensuring a balanced approach to governance reform. Engaging major powers in the design and planning process of the new governance model is paramount. By actively involving influential nations, their concerns can be understood, and the resulting model can be crafted to accommodate their interests while striving for a more equitable distribution of power. Collaborative dialogue and negotiations with these major powers will contribute to a governance structure that respects the dynamics of global influence and encourages collective decision-making.

It is crucial to note that the fear of losing the veto power, a significant tool for Member States in the current United Nations Security Council structure, might be a point of concern for existing major powers. This tool allows nations to unilaterally block resolutions, often to protect their vital national interests. To address this apprehension, it is essential to propose alternative safeguards within the new model. These safeguards should assure Member States that their crucial interests will still be protected without relying on the veto power. Engaging in discussions to define and implement such alternative mechanisms will be crucial in building trust and overcoming this particular fear.

Questions to Consider

1. What adaptations or modifications would be needed to align this model with your country's unique circumstances and values?
2. How does this model impact your country's sovereignty and decision-making autonomy on global matters?
3. Does this model ensure equitable representation for all nations, irrespective of their size, population, or economic strength?
4. How does this model enhance accountability of global decisions and actions?
5. How are conflicts and disputes between Member States expected to be addressed within this model?
6. How does this model integrate the protection and promotion of human rights globally?
7. How does this model respond to global crises, emergencies, and unforeseen challenges?
8. Does this model provide a platform for diverse voices and perspectives to be heard and considered in decision-making?
9. How can a country align its national policies and strategies with the principles and objectives of this new governance model?

Further Reading

1. [United Nations Reform Must Finally Become Reality, Speakers Stress, Demanding More Action to Address Compounding Crises, as General Assembly Wraps Up Annual Debate (United Nations)](#)
2. [UN Strengthening and Reform (Better World Campaign)](#)
3. [The UN Turns Seventy-Five. Here's How to Make it Relevant Again (Council on Foreign Relations)](#)
4. [Restructuring the United Nations System: Institutional Reform Efforts in the Context of North-South Relations (Cambridge University Press)](#)
5. [The Origins of the UN Veto and Why it Should be Abolished (Global Governance Forum)](#)