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United Nations and Global Peace

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Abstract

The global community has been facing mistrust and confrontation with the inception of knowledge based innovative ideas in fields attributed to social, economic and technical aspect. The clash has been most of one's purpose to secure the identity without heed to the rights prevalent among humans subjecting them to dejection, cruelty, oppression with a superior imposition of powers over the weaker. The trend has been global. To meet the shortcomings, organizations like The League of Nations and subsequently The United Nations came into force. The recent global trends on countries in clash on various issues raises the inquisitiveness on how far organization like The United Nations has been helpful in mitigating the discord and maintaining global peace. It can be seen that The UN which was established as an intergovernmental organization after the World War II to uphold world tranquility and security have been effectual in harmonizing the purpose with limited shortcomings to its credit.

Keywords – *Global community, Mistrust, Confrontation, United Nations, Global peace*

Abbreviation:

EU-European Union

FAO- Food & Agricultural Organization

ILO-International Labour Organization

IMF-International Monetary Fund

ICJ-International Court of Justice

J & K-Jammu and Kashmir

NATO- North Atlantic Treaty Organization

UN-The United Nations

UNRWA- The United Nations Relief and Works Agency

UNCIP-The United Nations Commission for India and Pakistan

UNMOGIP- The United Nations Military Observer Group in India and
Pakistan

UNIPOM-The United Nations India-Pakistan Observation Mission

UNAMIR- United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda

UDHR-The Universal Declaration of Human Rights

WHO-World Health Organization

1. INTRODUCTION:

To achieve a well heeled and affluent life, we as human beings yearn for many things; for now we can act, react as well protect ourselves with sturdy gesticulation. It has been rightly felt in due course of time that man has been incarcerating with all sins committed in consonance for earthly pleasure, be it in the form of war crimes, terrorism, racial, economic, political and geographical conflict. In a way the gradual stocking of all sorts of self-destructive and technically motivated weaponry has itself destroyed the concept of humanity. For a long time, the concept of world tranquility and security has been a cause of concern due to growing discord among nations for commanding political and geographical superiority.

The jeopardy caused to international harmony and security has never been new and history shows how the World faced different aspect of disharmony, with some historians believing that it took place in Mesopotamia in 2,700 B.C.¹ The two World Wars have shown how conflicts can cause large scale devastation and destruction with deaths amounting to more than 100 million people. It was during the 2nd Italo-Abyssinian War that was fought from 03rd October 1935 to 19th February 1937; Benito Mussolini was of the view that the League is very well when sparrows shout, but no good at all when eagles fallout.² The UN which was established on 24th of October, 1945 after the Second World War i.e. 1939-1945 succeeding the League of Nations is novel to world's unruly order.

2. AMBIT OF THE UNITED NATIONS:

UN was formed to culminate every form of manmade devastation. The two World Wars have opened the eye of the international community finally calling for its establishment in the year 1945. The UN Charter which was drafted on 14th August 1941 was signed on 26th June 1945 and came into force on 24th October 1945. In the year 1945, it had only 51 members, now it comprises of 193 members. The UN as a peace keeping organization has far reaching responsibilities, right from maintaining peace and security among nations to protection of the disadvantageous members for providing humanitarian aid, to its involvement in human right activities. The UN consists of six primary organs for its functioning:

1. UN Security Council,
2. UN General Assembly, ,
3. International Court of Justice,
4. UN Economic and Social Council,
5. UN Secretariat, and

¹ Mesopotamian Warfare, available at https://www.worldhistory.org/Mesopotamian_Warfare/ (last visited on May 21, 2025).

² League of Nations, available at https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/League_of_Nations (last visited on May 21, 2025).

6. UN Trusteeship Council, the Trusteeship Council has not been in operation since 1994. Some of the specialized agencies of the UN like FAO, ILO, IMF, WHO etc. are maintaining a world order in itself.

The UN Charter provided for certain essential provisions namely:

- To take collective measures and apply diplomatic means to resolve international issues. (Article 1)
- To inculcate friendly associations among nations. (Article 1)
- To resolve disputes by means of nonviolent approach to the situation and refraining itself from intimidation or employ of force on any state. (Article 2)
- It talks about Pacific Settlement of Disputes which dictates that the parties shall resort to mediation, arbitration, conciliation, enquiry, negotiation, judicial settlement. To have resort to different arrangements, regional agencies, and added peaceful means to solve their issues. (Article 33)
- It provides that Members shall make themselves available to the UN Security Council when call upon and support by providing forces and other facilities including Rights of passage. (Article 43). This includes services like providing national air-force contingents. (Article 45)
- It provides for a right of self-preservation if there is any unwarranted attack against a Member. (Article 51)

3. GLOBAL EVENTS:

The 1947-48 civil wars in Palestine which broke out as a result of the UN's Resolution passed by the General Assembly to adopt the UN Partition Plan for Palestine leads to the 1st Israel-Arab War of 1948.³ After the War of 1948 though the UN Conciliation Commission for Palestine and the establishment of the UN Relief and Work Agency for Palestine Refugee was seen it turned out to be futile. The most striking fact that comes to the fore in the clash between a country like Israel and Hamas, a Palestine militant group which started on 07th October, 2023, was the United Nations inability to contain the war with the estimation that at least 50,144 Palestinians have died in the Gaza strip while 113,704 have been reportedly injured as per the UNRWA Situation Report. An interesting data that was most shocking was the resolution passed by The UN General Assembly on immediate humanitarian truce in Gaza and aid access, which was voted on 12th December 2023 showing that 153 voted in favor, 23 abstained with 10 countries voted against it, namely the Czech Republic, Israel, Guatemala, the United States, Austria, Liberia, Nauru, Papua New Guinea, Micronesia and Paraguay, thereby showing dissonance among the states on such vital humanitarian issue.⁴ It was stated by ICJ that country like Israel must prevent and punish for incitement of genocidal acts and allow civilian access to humanitarian aid, raising questions as to the practical implications of the United Nations measures- Application of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide in the Gaza Strip (*South Africa v. Israel*).

The 20th NATO Summit which was organized in the Palace of the Parliament, Bucharest, Romania from 02nd to 04th April 2008 had made Ukraine and Georgia to think for a better international alliance which would provide security from a probable unaccounted Russian invasion. On 22nd February 2013 The Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine which approved the

³ 1948 Arab-Israeli War available at https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/1948_Arab%E%80%93Israeli_War (last visited on May 21, 2025).

⁴ United Nations General Assembly Resolution ES-10/22 available at https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_Nations_General_Assembly_Resolution_ES-10/22 (last visited on May 21, 2025).

EU-Ukraine Association Agreement signing it on 27th June 2014 had caught the attention of Russia. The Russian-Ukraine War which began on 20th February 2014 in the backdrop of the above factor saw Russia's full scale invasion on 24th February 2022 resulting in devastation of all forms, killing numerous innocent lives. The impact of the War was such that entire international community had to undergo politico-economic changes including India with crude oil being purchased at reduced rate from Russia. An evacuation mission was carried out by the Government of India in the name of operation Ganga evacuating nearly 25,000 Indian nationals from Ukraine.

The discord between India and Pakistan leading to the Wars of 1947 and 1965 on the Kashmir issue and the most recent 2025 diplomatic crisis on the aftermath of the Pahalgam terrorist attack on innocent civilians had a far reaching international effect which initially began with the establishment of the UNCIP in 1948 to mediate the contention, the UNMOGIP and the UNIPOM to supervise the ceasefire in Kashmir. The fact J&K had been a vital part of India cannot be denied with the evidence of signatories to the Instrument of Accession i.e. Maharaja Hari Singh of J&K State and Governor-General of India, Mountbatten of Burma which was signed on 26th and 27th day of October, 1947, still the international community had failed to acknowledge the issue and bring an amicable solution. Islamic Republic of Pakistan's state sponsored terrorism in the name of Kashmir and the constant cease fire violation is creating unwarranted tensions and disharmony with the loose attitude of the international community halting peace and stability in the region.

4. FINDINGS:

UN as an organization has been performing creditable vocation when it comes to maintain peace and security with a miniscule of consequential failure. Through its specialized agencies it could maintain a world order by providing necessary assistance in times of need. Certain areas relating to maintenance of peace and order has been highly criticized in 1990s. The UN operation in Somalia II which took place from 1993 to 1995 subsequent to the occurrence of the Somalia Civil War in 1991 was considered a void effort after United States withdraws from the intervention following the Battle of Mogadishu in the year 1993. In order to assist in the realization of the Arusha Accords which was signed on 4th August 1993, the UNAMIR was established on 5th October 1993 could not contain the Rwanda Genocide of 1994. These instances have been raising question on the effectiveness of the Organization which can be attributed to the following factors:

- Lack of coordination among the powerful nations forming the Security Council
- Showing slack attitude in the execution of the measures undertaken by the UN General Assembly
- Biasness in providing assistance; influenced by factors like regionalism, religious and ethnic identity etc.

The UN with its drawbacks has been performing well to subdue regional tensions with its effective policy. Its working mainly depends on coordination and reciprocal arrangements. In a nutshell it is still a child to be nurtured.

5. CONCLUSION:

The constant disorder of the geo-political situation has turned the whole World into a global dumping ground of carcasses; due to its own acts i.e. the act of terrorism, the act of detestation, the act of ascendancy and the act of loathe. The forum of United Nations General Assembly which has been constantly used to bring forth the various global issues

at a general discussion level with some critical issues like the present Russia-Ukraine War, the Middle East unrest since 2023 and the India-Pakistan conflict taking years to get it resolved. But the matter of concern is that the United Nations has failed to take necessary steps when it comes to containment of violation of international peace and security when powerful developed nations are involved in a dispute. This loose attitude shows the inefficiency of the UN General Assembly to take action as provided under Article 2 of the UN Charter. The formation of the NATO Alliance has further deteriorated the relationship between Russia and the member countries of the Alliance backed by the USA. The UDHR which was on 10th of December 1948 accepted by the UN General Assembly enshrining rights and fundamental freedom for human existence have turned out to be only on papers. The recent carnage of lives in the war torn areas of Ukraine and Palestine has shown how much united is the United Nations Organizations and its failure to resolve issues with serious violations of Article 1, 3 and 28 of the UDHR.