

Divergent Global Agendas: A Textual Analysis of UNGA 80th Session Speeches

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October 2025

Abstract

The 80th session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) occurred during a period marked by profound global instability, prompting a reassessment of multilateralism itself. This study employs computational text analysis on the speeches of five key nations (Brazil, China, France, Nigeria, and the USA) to quantitatively map the discourse and reveal national priorities. The analysis demonstrates a sharp ideological split: while four nations focused on shared global challenges, cooperation, and institutional reform, the United States articulated a distinctly negative and nationalist agenda centred on internal crises, border security, and sharp critique of global agreements like those concerning climate and energy. These findings highlight a significant divergence in how powerful states conceptualise global governance and collective action.

1 Introduction

Eighty years after its founding, the authority of the UN stands challenged, operating at a crucial crossroads where multilateralism faces consolidation of “international disorder”. Nations across the globe are grappling with multiplying conflicts (Gaza, Ukraine, Sudan, Haiti), climate collapse, economic imbalances, and the rise of unilateral action. This paper seeks to analyse the rhetoric used by Brazil, China, France, Nigeria, and the USA at the UNGA 80th session to understand how these nations define their diplomatic priorities and whether they maintain a consensus on global issues. By utilising sentiment analysis, topic modelling, and keyword frequency analysis, we quantify the ideological distance between countries advocating for sustained cooperation and those prioritising immediate national interest.

2 Methodology

The corpus for this analysis consists of five UNGA 80th session transcripts. The texts were processed using R, incorporating tokenisation, stop word removal, and filtering. Three computational methods were applied:

1. **Sentiment Analysis:** The AFINN dictionary method was used to assign a quantifiable emotional score to each speech, measuring the average tone expressed.
2. **Topic Modeling:** Latent Dirichlet Allocation (LDA) with $k = 3$ topics was applied to the document-term matrix (DTM) to identify the underlying thematic clusters driving the discourse.
3. **Keyword Frequency:** Counts of four predefined policy terms (*climate*, *development*, *security*, and *sovereignty*) were calculated to highlight explicit national emphasis.

3 Results

3.1 Sentiment Analysis

Sentiment analysis revealed a strong dichotomy in the emotional tenor of the speeches (Figure 1). Nigeria registered the highest positive sentiment (around 120), reflecting an “undying faith in the redemption of humanity” and strong commitment to peace. Brazil (around 100) and China (around 70-80) also maintained positive scores, driven by topics like development, progress, and defending democracy. France exhibited a moderate positive score (around 40). The USA recorded the only negative sentiment score (approximately -40), consistent with a critical, conflict-focused address that targeted perceived global failures and the actions of the previous US administration.

3.2 Topic Modelling

The LDA model successfully identified three distinct thematic clusters (Figure 2):

1. **Topic 1 (National Critique & Regional Focus):** Characterised by terms such as *europe*, *energy*, *country*, and *ago*. This topic was overwhelmingly dominated by the USA, whose speech focused on contrasting the present with the past (“Six years have passed since I last stood in this grand hall”) and criticising “suicidal energy ideas” in Europe.
2. **Topic 2 (Shared Global Security and Climate):** Defined by terms including *challenges*, *climate*, *global*, *security*, and *world*. This topic represents the core

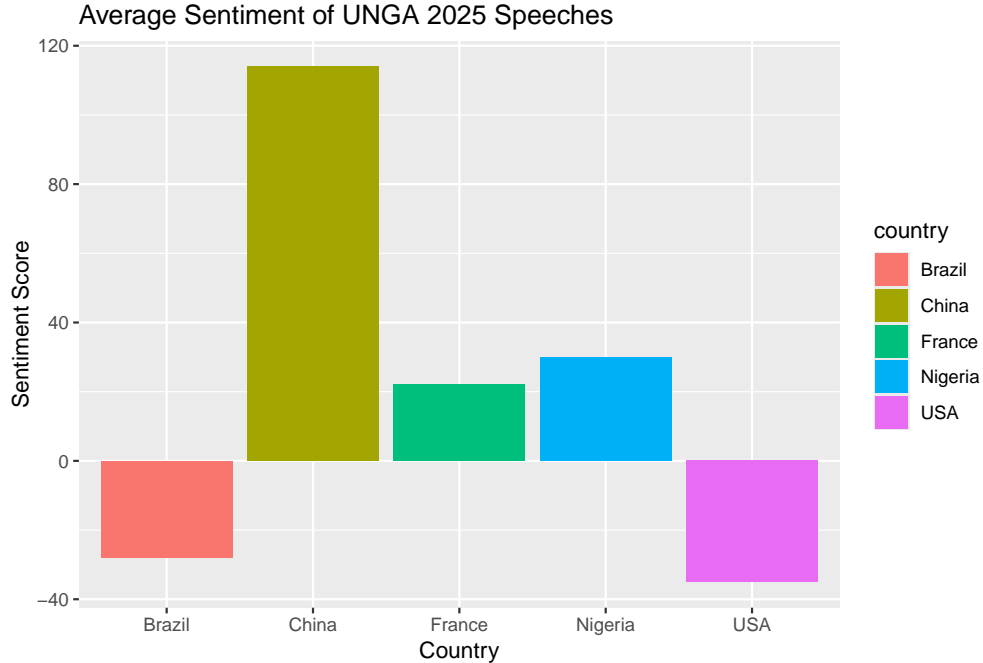


Figure 1: Average Sentiment of UNGA 80th Speeches (AFINN Method)

multilateral concerns of France, Brazil, and Nigeria, focusing on international security, conflict zones (Gaza, Ukraine), and the climate crisis. For these nations, this engagement is often tied to demands for institutional change, such as the Security Council expansion to include Africa.

3. **Topic 3 (Multilateralism and Development):** Key terms are `humanity`, `cooperation`, `u.n.`, `development`, and `china`. This theme was strongly driven by China, promoting its Global Development Initiative and principles of cooperation and shared future. Brazil and Nigeria also engaged with this topic, seeking debt relief and development financing, and advocating for a stronger voice for the Global South.

3.3 Keyword Frequency Analysis

Analysis of specific key policy terms further defined national agendas (Figure 3):

1. **Sovereignty:** The USA used this term most frequently, framing it as the right to “control their own borders” and rejecting mass migration, which was characterised as an “invasion”. The US also used tariffs as a defence mechanism against nations, including imposing major tariffs against Brazil due to “judicial corruption” and the “targeting of political critics”. In contrast, Brazil also frequently discussed sovereignty, but in the context of defending its independence against unilateral, arbitrary measures

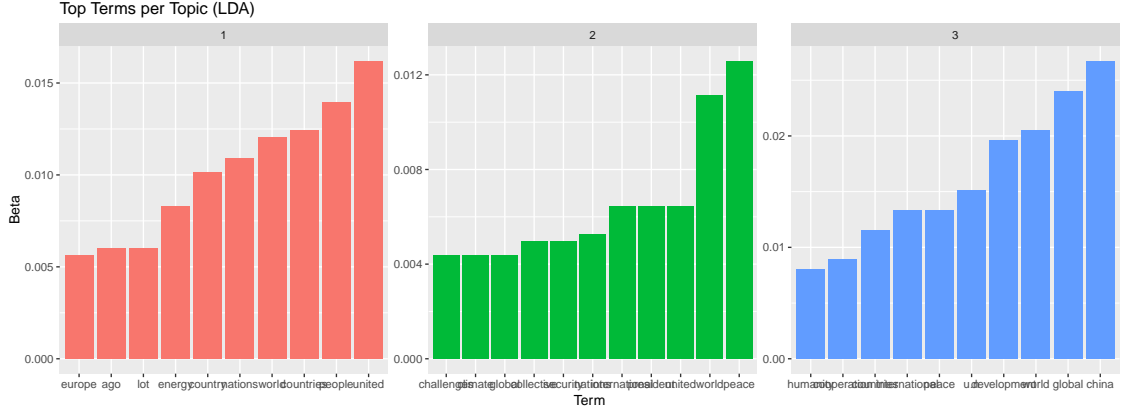


Figure 2: Top Terms per Topic (LDA $k = 3$)

and interference in internal affairs aided by a far-right nostalgic for old hegemonies, arguing that its sovereignty is non-negotiable.

2. **Climate:** Brazil and France prioritised this term. Brazil committed to reducing its emissions by between 59 and 67% [9] and launched the “Tropical Forests Forever Fund”. France warned about climate change and the collapse of biodiversity. The USA stood in stark opposition, calling climate change “the greatest con job ever perpetrated on the world” and a “hoax” [12, 13].
3. **Development:** China used this term most, linking it to global governance and economic growth. Nigeria emphasised development not just as an economic goal, but as a direct path to peace, calling for a new and binding mechanism to manage sovereign debt, a “sort of International Court of Justice for money” to allow emerging economies to escape economic straitjackets. This approach frames development and economic stability as essential inputs for achieving national and regional security.
4. **Security:** The USA focused its security rhetoric on military might, border defence, and using force to “blow... out of existence” drug cartels and Venezuelan terrorists. China and France discussed security largely in the context of global peace, peacekeeping, and counter-terrorism.

4 Discussion and Conclusion

The combined textual analysis reveals a global discourse at the UNGA 80th session sharply split between two fundamentally different approaches to international relations.

The speeches from Brazil, China, France, and Nigeria form a “Multilateral Consensus” driven by positive sentiment and convergence on collective global issues. These nations used

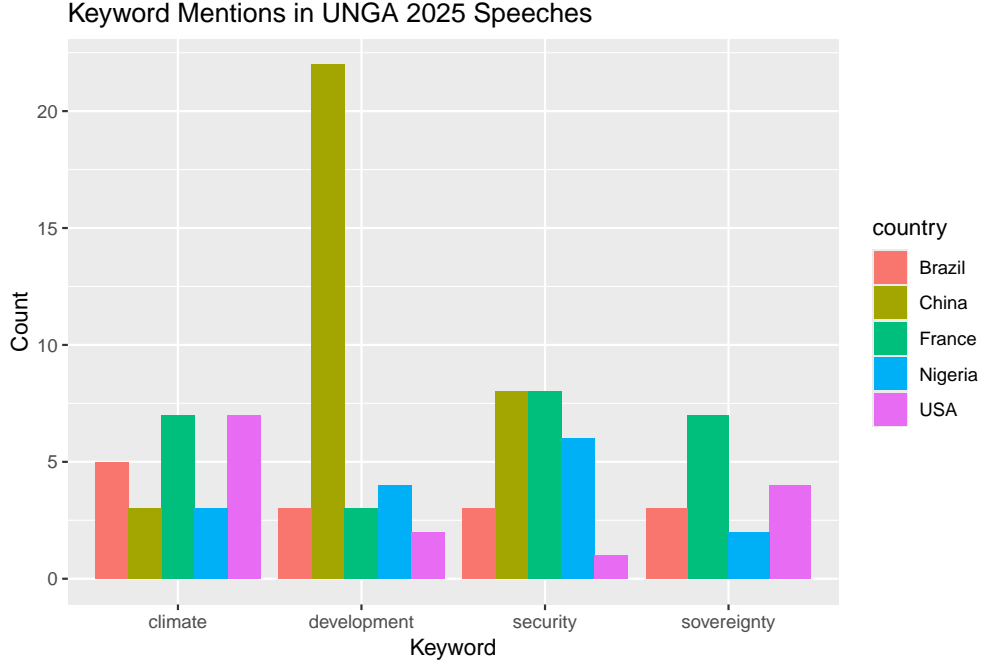


Figure 3: Keyword Mentions in UNGA 80th Speeches

the forum to address urgent transnational issues, pushing for institutional action against “international disorder”, which they argue is marked by “repeated concessions to the politics of power”,. France noted that the collective capacity to resolve conflicts is hindered by the “obstructionism of a few”,. Brazil explicitly highlighted that a critical resolution for the two-state solution in Palestine was “obstructed by a single veto”. Despite frustrations with the slow pace of progress, these nations demand deeper institutional change, including UN Security Council expansion for greater representation, particularly for Africa. Furthermore, countries like Nigeria explicitly link their focus on security with economic stability, stating that the path to sustainable peace lies in growth and prosperity and requires a “new and binding mechanism to manage sovereign debt”. China also concretely outlines its commitment to multilateralism through the Global Development Initiative, Global Security Initiative, Global Civilization Initiative, and Global Governance Initiative, which aim to build a “community with a shared future for humanity”, while upholding sovereign equality and international rule of law.

The United States speech, however, articulated a profound ideological deviation. Its unique concentration on Topic 1 (National Critique and Energy), coupled with the only negative sentiment score, signals a shift towards a worldview defined by transactional, unilateral national interest. This discourse explicitly rejected two global consensus issues (climate change and controlled migration), labeling the former a “scam” and framing the latter as an “invasion” created and financed by the UN itself,. The US approach is characterized by aggressive protectionism and the assertion that countries “can only do well when they’re

working with us”. This transactional stance was demonstrated by the imposition of major tariffs against Brazil in response to perceived “judicial corruption” and the targeting of political critics,. Furthermore, the US frames its security policy not through diplomacy but through displays of force and willingness to use power to “blow you out of existence” against perceived threats, such as drug cartels.

On the opposing side, the USA speech articulated a critique of the established international order. The unique concentration of the US discourse in Topic 1, combined with its negative sentiment score, demonstrates an internal focus emphasising national strength (“strongest borders, the strongest military”) and correcting inherited domestic “calamity”. This discourse framed two critical global challenges, migration and climate change, as attacks on national sovereignty or economic hoaxes. The USA explicitly criticised the UN for funding an “assault on Western countries and their borders” and dismissed climate policy as “suicidal energy ideas” that lead to destruction. Furthermore, the US address was unique in its public targeting of allied and neighbouring nations, criticising European energy policies and announcing tariffs against Brazil for “judicial corruption”.

This quantitative division underscores the current fragility of the international system. While the majority of the analysed nations advocate for a peaceful, cooperative, and reformed multilateral future, the uniquely negative and isolationist posture of the USA suggests a powerful challenge to the principles of collective governance defined by the UN Charter. The resulting polarisation threatens to undermine the collective will required to address shared global crises, transforming the UNGA from a forum of consensus into a platform for competing, and often mutually exclusive, national agendas.