



7-9 APRIL 2016

OPEN FORUM ON UN REFORM
AGENDA GUIDE

1. CONCEPT AND PREPARATION

1.1 Letter from the Executive Board

Dear Delegates,

Welcome to the Open Forum on UN Reform at the Delhi University Model United Nations Conference 2016. A fusion of conventional debating and Model UN format, this simulation is an attempt to retain focus on objective discussion, consensus building and documentation, while far removed from hard-lined procedures or adherence to foreign policy or portfolio representations.

Essentially thus, in this committee you will not be representing nations or any other entity but you, yourself and will be expected to put forth your own well-reasoned opinions based on the research on UN Reforms that we would guide you through in this Background Guide. Please also note that we shall be following procedures similar to the UN4MUN rules of procedure that can be found [here](#).

The subject at hand of UN Reform is one of the most pressing issues of International Politics. Since the establishment of the organization in 1945 there have been many proposals, studies, and discussions around the question of reform. This is still a hotly debated matter. There are both political and legal aspects to the process of reform. Some proposals may require amendment of the Charter, while the organs without Charter amendment may take other measures. Over the years, various subsidiary bodies have been charged with making proposals for reforms. There have also been groups outside of the UN institutional framework that have made proposals.

We expect you as a committee to decide which are the most important issues that you want to tackle first during the sessions based on the broad outlines provided in this background guide.

We cannot stress the importance of thorough research to perform well in this committee and want to remind you that the background guide should only be a stepping-stone for the rest of your research. As the executive board of this committee, we will do our best to direct the debate to its most constructive outcome but it is you on whose shoulders most of the substantive burden shall lie. We will of course be open to any questions or doubts you may have and feel free to contact us at the undersigned.

We look forward to seeing you and making some progress on ideas regarding reforming the UN.

Thanks and Best Regards,

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1.2 Procedure

There is **no fixed or binding procedure** for the Open Forum. The moderators shall be conducting informal voting time and again during the course of the discussion to adjudge the method of discussion that the members wish to take.

- There may be opening statements (60-90 seconds) from every member at the beginning of every session.
- The participating members along with the Director and the Deputy-Director may set the agenda of discussion, including its structure and division for the purposes of a fruitful deliberation.
- After setting aside of the list of topics of discussion, each of them may be picked up and discussed thoroughly. Here, we may choose to use the ‘Moderated Caucus’ style of debate or open a Provisional Speaker’s List.
- Members may form small-sized groups and break into informal discussions amongst themselves (similar to an Unmoderated Caucus at a Model UN conference). The purpose of these groups should not be to further one set of points, rather it will be to hear different ones and collate them.
- Documentation process takes place either alongside or towards the end of the discussion. A vote will be conducted in the beginning of the session to ascertain the same. You are requested to give the same a thought and come with a response.

1.3 Preparation Guidelines

The Open Forum on UN reform at DUMUN 2016 is not an MUN simulation but indeed a collective group of people that gathers to discuss reform of the organization. Its proceedings will be slightly different from that at most Model UN conferences. Therefore, given below is a small list of guidelines that may help you be better prepared for this discussion:

- You will not be representing countries, stakeholders, political parties or regions but yourselves. The views that you shall present in the committee shall be your own and those that reflect the interests of one particular country or individual.
- Research must be all encompassing, such that your points should be considerate of all aspects of the reform of the United Nations. This would mean that you must be equipped with the knowledge of the procedures of the various organs of the United Nations, their past work, successes and failures (case studies inclusive) as well as popular critiques. After having familiarized yourself with the same, it would be advisable to come up with an analysis of your own that you may present at the forum.
- In this committee, the final aim is to come with a comprehensive, practical and workable list of points suggesting reform after keeping in mind mandates and processes of the concerned structures of whose reformations you have called for.
- While it is a competitive committee where the most wholesome and substantively sound points are likely to be taken note of, we encourage you to think that you have indeed met to reform the UN. Open-mindedness and inclusiveness to the points made by others will be appreciated whilst rhetoric for the sake of it will be not. Discussion (not debate) must remain constructive at all points in time.

2. ABOUT THE UNITED NATIONS ORGANIZATION

2.1 Origins

On January 1, 1942, representatives of 26 nations at war with the Axis powers met in Washington to sign the Declaration of the United Nations endorsing the Atlantic Charter, pledging to use their full resources against the Axis and agreeing not to make a separate peace.

At the Quebec Conference in August 1943, Secretary of State Cordell Hull and British Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden agreed to draft a declaration that included a call for “a general international organization, based on the principle sovereign equality of all nations.” An agreed declaration was issued after a Foreign Ministers Conference in Moscow in October 1943. When President Franklin D. Roosevelt met with Soviet Premier Joseph Stalin in Tehran, Iran, in November 1943, he proposed an international organization comprising an assembly of all member states and a 10-member executive committee to discuss social and economic issues. The United States, Great Britain, Soviet Union, and China would enforce peace as “the four policemen.” Meanwhile Allied representatives founded a set of task-oriented organizations: the Food and Agricultural Organization (May 1943), the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration (November 1943), the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (April 1944), the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank (July 1944), and the International Civil Aviation Organization (November 1944).

U.S., British, Soviet, and Chinese representatives met at Dumbarton Oaks in Washington in August and September 1944 to draft the charter of a postwar international organization based on the principle of collective security. They recommended a General Assembly of all member states and a Security Council consisting of the Big Four plus six members chosen by the Assembly. Voting procedures and the veto power of permanent members of the Security Council were finalized at the

Yalta Conference in 1945 when Roosevelt and Stalin agreed that the veto would not prevent discussions by the Security Council. Roosevelt agreed to General Assembly membership for Ukraine and Byelorussia while reserving the right, which was never exercised, to seek two more votes for the United States.

Representatives of 50 nations met in San Francisco April-June 1945 to complete the Charter of the United Nations. In addition to the General Assembly of all member states and a Security Council of 5 permanent and 6 non-permanent members, the Charter provided for an 18-member Economic and Social Council, an International Court of Justice, a Trusteeship Council to oversee certain colonial territories, and a Secretariat under a Secretary General. The Roosevelt administration strove to avoid Woodrow Wilson's mistakes in selling the League of Nations to the Senate. It sought bipartisan support and in September 1943 the Republican Party endorsed U.S. participation in a postwar international organization, after which both houses of Congress overwhelmingly endorsed participation. Roosevelt also sought to convince the public that an international organization was the best means to prevent future wars. The Senate approved the UN Charter on July 28, 1945, by a vote of 89 to 2. The United Nations came into existence on October 24, 1945, after 29 nations had ratified the Charter.

2.2 Functions

While the United Nations may seem like a daunting bureaucracy, at its core it is an efficient body that does not get as much credit as it deserves. Although certain aspects, such as the Security Council, are outdated, most member states are committed to improving the organization so that it can remain a relevant body in the future. The United Nations and all of its subsidiary bodies set the

tone of the international community. Despite its shortcomings, the United Nations is the closest thing we have the moment to international oversight. In the future, the United Nations may serve as a model to promote international cooperation and it may even lay the framework for a system of international governance. Here are the main bodies of governance and their functions:

1. UN General Assembly

The General Assembly is the primary body of the United Nations. All member states can engage, diplomatically, with their foreign counterparts to discuss questions of international peace and security, general principles of cooperation, and make recommendations within the scope of the Charter for peaceful dispute resolution. Each member state has one vote and important resolutions, such as those made by the Security Council, require two-thirds majority, while other issues require a simple majority. Recently, there has been an effort in the Security Council to achieve consensus for resolutions, rather than simply taking the matter to a vote. These efforts have helped resolutions more inclusive in that they are working to incorporate a wider variety of positions on topics, as opposed to the traditional ‘take it or leave it’ mentality. All resolutions made in the General Assembly are non-binding, however, they have a weight of their own. Many of the resolutions made in the General Assembly have spurred international action on various issues, which have in turn saved the lives of millions of people around the world.

- The First Committee of the UN General Assembly

The First Committee, which is also known as the Disarmament and International Security Committee, deals with threats to global peace. This committee handles with disarmament and international security concerns. The First Committee reaffirms the general principles of security and peace maintenance. The First Committee is a place where states discuss and propose tools to better

understand international security issues. In working together to increase global security, member states negotiate disarmament treaties. Oftentimes, international norms are founded in these discussions. Governments learn how to cooperate and build consensus, rather than confront one another militarily.

The first committee, however, is a stagnant committee at best. Many of the member states are merely representatives of their country's defense forces. These representatives tend to reiterate their country's positions, but rarely press diplomatically for necessary comprehensive solutions. Oftentimes, these representatives are constrained by their country policy on these topics, much of which is outside of their power. However, these problems highlight the difficult nature of the topic at hand; many states have not changed their positions regarding disarmament in decades. Most of the dissenters in this committee openly reject the position of the majority and rarely comply with the resolutions compiled by this committee.

- The Second Committee of the UN General Assembly

The Economic and Financial Committee handles macroeconomic policy questions pertaining to economic growth and development, including international trade and finance. This committee also concerns itself with globalization, poverty eradication and the development of human capital. As a part of the larger task towards revitalizing the General Assembly, the Second Committee is working to improve inter-committee efficiency and quality of debate.

- The Third Committee of the UN General Assembly

Also known as the Social, Humanitarian and Cultural Affairs committee, this group discusses a variety of sociocultural issues affecting people around the globe. This committee works closely with the Human Rights Council (UNHRC). On the whole, the committee has advanced international

norms, such as education for all, the rights of children, indigenous issues, the right to self-determination, and the advancement of women.

- The Fourth Committee of the UN General Assembly

This committee discusses matters relating to special political issues and decolonization. This committee deals with decolonization, refugees, human rights and peacekeeping.

- The Fifth Committee of the UN General Assembly

This committee deals with the administrative and budgetary issues. The Fifth Committee is extremely important because the committee can make no resolutions or actions without prior examination. In order for a resolution to consider, the Fifth Committee that estimates the costs of any related expenditures must first prepare a budget.

- The Sixth Committee of the UN General Assembly

Also known as Sixth Legal, this committee is the forum through which member states can discuss the legality of resolutions proposed in the General Assembly. The Sixth Committee is an important body because it holds the General Assembly accountable to international law. This committee provides a considerable amount of oversight within the United Nations.

2. The Security Council (UNSC)

Created to promote international peace and security after World War II, the Council's structure is somewhat outdated, with 5 permanent members and 10 non-permanent members. All of the permanent members- the United States, the United Kingdom, China, France, and the Russian Federation- were Allies during the Second World War. The non-permanent members are selected on

a rotating basis in the General Assembly and serve two-year positions. Each member has the right to vote on resolutions made in the Council, but only permanent members have the power to veto resolutions. The structure of the Council is often criticized because all of the power resides in the permanent members, many of who were former colonial powers. Developing nations feel at a disadvantage and often call for changes to be made to grant emerging nations (specifically BRICs) membership, and ultimately veto power, in the Security Council.

The Council meets whenever a situation arises which threatens international peace; a representative from each member state is always present at the UN headquarters so that the Council can meet at any time necessary. The Council is often the forerunner in determining whether such threats exist. The Security Council has the power to undertake investigations and mediation, dispatch missions, appoint special envoys, and set forth principles for an agreement. When disputes are hostile and the parties are unlikely to come to a resolution peacefully, the Council can issue a cease-fire and even dispatch military observers or peacekeepers to the region. Other powers endowed to the Security Council include the power to enforce economic sanctions, blockade, collective military action or severance of diplomatic relations.

3. The International Court of Justice (ICJ)

The ICJ is the world's court. The ICJ was established at the same time as the United Nations. The ICJ deals with two types of cases. First, the ICJ is responsible for resolving legal disputes which are brought to it by member states, especially when jurisdiction is difficult to determine. Member states, which bring their legal disputes to the ICJ, have already accepted the jurisdiction outlined by the ICJ, meaning that they agree to comply with the decisions made in the Court. Second, the ICJ offers legal advice to various bodies within the United Nations and other specialized agencies. When the ICJ is requested to provide an advisory opinion, it may hold oral and written proceedings. The ICJ rules

based on international treaties and conventions in force, international customs, the general principles of law, and past judicial decisions.

4. The Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)

ECOSOC is where the world's economic, social and environmental challenges are discussed. ECOSOC has two main functions, both of which are relatively new. First, the Annual Ministerial Review is a meeting in which progress towards internationally agreed development goals (IADGs) is assessed. Second, the Development Cooperation Forum (DCF) is a biennial gathering to enhance the effectiveness of development programs by providing policy guidance and recommendations to improve the quality of such programs.

2.3 Criticisms and need for reform

Despite its many successes in the areas humanitarian and developmental work, the organization is not without its share of failures, criticisms and limitations. Off late, its reform has come under intense scrutiny and debate in academic and political circles.

A detailed critique of the United Nations may be found [here](#).

3. EFFORTS FOR REFORMING THE UN

I. Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization

OVERVIEW

The Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization was established by RES/A/3499 on 15th December 1975 by the General Assembly. Article 13, paragraph (1)(a), of the Charter of the United Nations mandates the General Assembly to initiate studies and make recommendations for the purpose of encouraging the progressive development of international law and its codification. Pursuant to this mandate, the General Assembly has, on several occasions, established a number of ad hoc and special committees for the purpose of codifying and/or developing rules of international law on particular topics. The Codification Division of the United Nations Office of Legal Affairs has served as the Secretariat of those committees. This website provides information on the current and recently completed work of some of those committees (established after 2000), including their mandate, background, working methods and outcomes.

At its twenty-ninth session (1974), the General Assembly decided to establish an Ad Hoc Committee on the Charter of the United Nations to consider, inter alia, any specific proposals that Governments might make with a view to enhancing the ability of the United Nations to achieve its purposes as well as other suggestions for the more effective functioning of the United Nations that might not require amendments to the Charter ([resolution 3349 \(XXIX\)](#) of 17 December 1974 entitled “Need to consider suggestions regarding the review of the Charter of the United Nations”).

At its thirtieth session (1975), the General Assembly considered the report of the Ad Hoc Committee together with the item on the strengthening of the role of the United Nations. At that session, the Assembly decided to reconvene the Ad Hoc Committee as the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization to examine suggestions and proposals regarding the Charter and the strengthening of the role of the United Nations with regard to the maintenance and consolidation of international peace and security, the development of cooperation among all nations and the promotion of the rules of international law ([resolution 3499 \(XXX\)](#) of 15 December 1975 entitled “Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization”).

Since its thirtieth session, the General Assembly has reconvened the Special Committee every year, considered its successive reports and renewed and revised its mandate on an annual basis in its resolutions on the topic of the Report of the Special Committee. (Taken from <http://legal.un.org/committees/charter/>)

MANDATE

Under the terms of General Assembly [resolution 70/117](#) adopted on 14 December 2015 (operative paragraph 3), the Special Committee was mandated, inter alia, to continue its consideration of all proposals concerning the question of the maintenance of international peace and security in all its aspects in order to strengthen the role of the United Nations 2016, including strengthening the relationship and cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations or arrangements in the peaceful settlement of disputes. It was also mandated to continue to consider, in an appropriate, substantive manner and framework, including the frequency of its consideration, the question of the implementation of the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations related to assistance to third States affected by the application of sanctions under Chapter VII of the Charter

based on all of the related reports of the Secretary-General and the proposals submitted on the question; keep on its agenda the question of the peaceful settlement of disputes between States; consider, as appropriate, any proposal referred to it by the General Assembly in the implementation of the decisions of the High-level Plenary Meeting of the sixtieth session of the Assembly in September 2005 that concern the Charter and any amendments thereto; and continue to consider, on a priority basis, ways and means of improving its working methods and enhancing its efficiency with a view to identifying widely acceptable measures for future implementation. (Taken from: <http://legal.un.org/committees/charter/>)

The Committee has been instrumental in the formulation of several texts that have subsequently been adopted by the General Assembly. These texts include Manila Declaration on the Peaceful Settlement of International Disputes (1982), Declaration on the Prevention and Removal of Disputes and Situations Which May Threaten International Peace and Security and on the Role of the United Nations in this Field (1988), Resolution on Prevention and Peaceful settlement of disputes (2002) and the Handbook on the Peaceful Settlements of Disputes (1992).

The Committee is highly consistent in its work towards amending the Charter and strengthening the organizational structures of the United Nations. It comes out with reports and resolutions for the same purpose. It is highly advised that the various documents of it be perused to get a better idea of the committee's work and its methods.

KEY READINGS

1. Documents (2016 session) - http://legal.un.org/committees/charter/current_session.shtml
2. Resolutions - http://legal.un.org/committees/charter/current_session.shtml
3. Annual Reports - http://legal.un.org/committees/charter/current_session.shtml
4. Other Documents - http://legal.un.org/committees/charter/current_session.shtml

II. Open-ended Working Group on the Question of Equitable Representation on and Increase in the Membership of the Security Council and Other Matters related to the Security Council

OVERVIEW

In a September 2002 report, the then United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan spoke of the “stalled process of Security Council reform.” He stated that nearly after a decade of discussions in the UN, “a formula that would allow an increase in Council membership is still eluding Member states.” (In Strengthening the United Nations: An Agenda for further change, Doc A/387/57) The same translated into the aforementioned Working Group taking up the responsibility to revisit and propose the reworked Security Council as well as the of the membership of it. It’s work remains

unsatisfactory according to several experts on the matter, due to the obvious fact of it not having translated into visible action.

KEY READINGS

1. Full Report -

[http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/61/47\(SUPP\)&Lang=E](http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/61/47(SUPP)&Lang=E)

2. International Law Scholar Bardo Fassbender's analysis-

http://www.mpil.de/files/pdf3/mpunyb_fassbender_7.pdf

3. Academic analysis (including cases) of the Charter's failure by Yonatan Lupu in the Berkeley Journal of International Law -

<http://scholarship.law.berkeley.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1324&context=bjil>

III. Ad Hoc Working Group on the Revitalization of the General Assembly

OVERVIEW

The General Assembly (GA) is the only universally representative body of the UN system, and it has the mandate to deal with a wide-range of critical global issues. Given the significance of this body, Member States have been discussing how to improve the GA's effectiveness and relevance for 24 years. Beginning in its 60th session, skipping only the 61st, the General Assembly has annually established an [Ad Hoc Working Group \(AHWG\)](#) on the revitalization of the work of the General

Assembly to make recommendations about GA revitalization to the general membership. The working group, which is open to all Member States, typically aims to negotiate a resolution that can be adopted by consensus in the General Assembly. The group is also chaired by two countries (usually one from the North and one from the South), which are appointed by the President of the General Assembly at the beginning of each year.

The four key thematic clusters of these revitalization discussions have been 1) enhancing the role and authority of the General Assembly, 2) the role of the GA in the [election of the Secretary-General](#), and 3) improving the working methods of the Assembly and most recently, 4) strengthening the institutional memory of the Office of the President of the General Assembly.

ROLE AND AUTHORITY OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

For many states, the desire to strengthen the GA stems from the perception that there is a power disparity between the GA and Security Council (SC). Major proponents of revitalization, such as the members of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), argue that the Charter sought to establish the SC and the GA as separate but equal bodies, with the GA as the “chief deliberative, policymaking and representative organ.” However, given the universal membership of the GA, its decision-making process tends to be more divisive and slow-moving than the more exclusive Security Council, which also has the authority to produce legally binding decisions. Another issue for many Member States is concern that the Security Council has overstepped its mandate by considering issues that are not directly related to peace and security, such as HIV/AIDS and climate change.

In light of these concerns, member states have discussed a number of recommendations to enhance the role and authority of the GA. These include improving coordination between the presidents of the Security Council and the General Assembly, more consistently implementing GA resolutions,

holding thematic debates on critical topics with participation by experts and national policy makers, strengthening the selection process for and role of the president of the GA, and improving the visibility of the GA in the media.

SELECTION AND APPOINTMENT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

This second key cluster in the revitalization debates also relates to the relationship between the GA and the Security Council. Historically, the SC, after much deliberation, selects one candidate for Secretary-General and then recommends this candidate to the GA for approval. However, following this year's negotiations in the AHWG, the General Assembly recently adopted [A/RES/69/321](#). This resolution established basic selection criteria for the position of Secretary-General, called for the presidents of the SC and GA to issue a [joint letter](#) calling for nominations, and proposed that the General Assembly conduct informal dialogues with candidates at the GA.

The resolution did not, however, include a request for the Security Council to present more than one candidate to the GA, a measure that many states support. It also did not address the question of the term of appointment for the Secretary-General, such as the proposal to appoint the Secretary-General for a single term of seven years instead of a renewable five-year term. Notably, although GA resolution [A/RES/51/241](#) required consideration of the Secretary-General's term of appointment, such a discussion has yet to take place.

WORKING METHODS

On the subject of working methods, there have been a number of provisions adopted since the revitalization discussions began. These include, but are not limited to, measures to streamline the agenda, consolidate documentation, and improve procedural matters such as dates, promptness, rules of procedure, and voting. Member States have also pushed forward initiatives to improve

reporting from the Secretary-General to Member States, as well as the working methods and coordination among Main Committees.

In resolution [A/RES/68/307](#), the General Assembly decided to hold elections for the non-permanent members of the Security Council and ECOSOC members six months before taking office beginning in the 70th session. This provision was adopted in order to give elected Member States adequate time to prepare for their new roles. Another recent development under the working methods cluster was the creation of a website dedicated to the revitalization of the General Assembly, which was established by resolution [A/RES/67/297](#).

Strengthening the institutional memory of the Office of the President of the General Assembly (OPGA) This final theme became its own separate cluster in the 64th session. One of the major issues considered in this cluster is funding for the OPGA and the provision of adequate staff. Historically, funding for the OPGA has been largely provided by the President's country of origin, which can make it difficult for the nationals of less wealthy countries to seek the post. The establishment of a Trust Fund has in part addressed this for the Office, but contributions to the fund have been minimal.

The revitalization discussions and resolutions have made some strides in improving the efficiency and role of the GA. However, many still see GA discussions as slow-moving and repetitive, and note that many resolutions have yet to be implemented. Starting in the 62nd session, the Ad Hoc Working Group has periodically requested an Inventory Chart of the implementation status of revitalization resolutions. The most recent chart was distributed during the 69th session annexed to AHWG report [A/69/1007](#). All past reports of the AHWG can be found in the sidebar, with Inventory Charts in the annexes of reports from the 62nd, 63rd, 67th, 68th and 69th sessions.

The work of the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Revitalization of the Work of the General Assembly, including reports and resolutions can be found [here](#).

IV. High-Level Panels

UN Secretary Generals have established a number of high-level panels to promote new thinking and to jump-start reform action by governments. However, the eminent members of such panels -- often-former heads of state, foreign ministers and other luminaries -- are usually rather conservative and "realistic" and they rarely challenge existing power arrangements. Because the eminent persons are too busy to spend much time on their duties, much of the work of the panels devolves to a small core staff and particularly the powerful post of staff director. But there are exceptions, the Commission on Global Governance, who worked independently of the UN, produced an interesting and moderately creative report in 1994.

In his second term as Secretary General, Kofi Annan established three panels to make recommendations on UN reform. In 2004, the "Panel of Eminent Persons on United Nations-Civil Society Relations" released a report that drew much criticism from NGOs who feared that the proposed changes could weaken the role of NGOs at the UN. Later in that same year, the "Panel on Threats, Challenges and Change" released its report which discussed some controversial issues including Security Council enlargement and the "responsibility to protect" doctrine. Towards the very end of Annan's term, the "Panel on System-Wide Coherence" released a report proposing to streamline the UN's work in development, humanitarian assistance and the environment.

While these panels solicited broad inputs, their conclusions are generally tailored to please the US and other powerful players at the UN. If implemented, their proposals may or may not actually

improve the workings of the world body. The books on UN reform by Brian Urquhart and Erskine Childers, though not the result of a panel process, remain by far the most thoughtful and original contributions to the UN reform discussion.

More information on the High-Level Panel on System-Wide Coherence can be found [here](#).

More information on the High-Level Panel on Threats, Challenges and Change can be found [here](#).

More information on the Cardoso Panel can be found [here](#).

More information on the Independent Working Group on the Future of the UN can be found [here](#).

V. Peacekeeping Operations of the United Nations

With 124,000 civilian and military personnel deployed in all corners of the world, the UN's peacekeeping forces are the largest and most visible segment of the world's body global presence. Their significance has dramatically increased in the last decade and they're expected to take on even larger role in the next.

Since the first UN peacekeeping mission was established in 1948 in the Middle East, 63 peacekeeping operations have been implemented. Sixteen of those continue to be actively pursued today, doing everything from patrolling areas of recent violence, clearing land mines, and delivering aid to helping refugees and supporting free and fair elections.

With thousands of blue helmets deployed in the world's hot spots at any given time, peacekeeping operations represent the single largest item in the UN's budget, with almost \$8 billion set aside just for 2010.

What began as a collective force for the maintenance of peace (here; lack of violence) across the world has come under extreme criticism, ranging across from the completely doing away with the force to revisiting training procedures for the same. It is believed that the UN's peacekeeping operations have been dogged by allegations of corruption, abuse, and failure to act in situations of extreme violence.

More information on the criticisms of the UN Peacekeeping Forces may be found here:

- <https://www.foreignaffairs.com/reviews/review-essay/2000-03-01/paving-road-hell-failure-un-peacekeeping>
- <http://www.worldaffairsjournal.org/blog/roland-flamini/more-force-less-peacekeeping-un-troops>
-

Important articles (archived) on the budgets, important failures etc. may be found here:

- <https://www.globalpolicy.org/component/content/article/199/40885.html>

A historic trajectory to UN peacekeeping (analysis included) can be found here:

- <http://ir.lawnet.fordham.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=2223&context=ilj>