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Topic Guide

Granting the 6th Permanent Veto Right

Security Council



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Topic Overview

The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) has long been a pillar of global governance, yet its structure, particularly the dominance of its Permanent Five (P5) members, remains a matter of intense debate. The profound assertion, "The world is bigger than 5," captures the heart of the discourse. As the geopolitical landscape shifts, questions surrounding the potential addition of a sixth veto-wielding member to the UNSC gain prominence.

Significant areas of the world, encompassing regions like the Middle East, parts of Western Europe, and resource-limited nations, often find their perspectives underrepresented in consequential international decisions. This lack of balanced representation has led to outcomes that may not always align with their unique needs and aspirations. The P5, historically recognized due to their nuclear capabilities, symbolize an earlier global power dynamic. Yet, as we evolve into an age championing fairness, inclusivity, and global cooperation, the suitability of this legacy arrangement is frequently called into question.

As we ponder on the need for restructuring, factors such as commitment to human rights, adherence to international treaties, and the capacity to ensure regional stabilization emerge as essential criteria for potential contenders. The discussion further branches into diverse avenues of representation, accounting for the strategic and cultural significance of various global regions. Whether it's the Middle East's central role in geopolitics, Africa's contributions to peacekeeping, Asia's economic ascendancy, the burgeoning strength of Latin America and the Caribbean, or Europe's foundational influence in international institutions, each offers valid arguments. These collective considerations underscore the importance of crafting a UNSC that mirrors the multifaceted and interconnected nature of our present-day world.

Topic Background

The United Nations Security Council (UNSC), formed in 1945, is fundamental to global decision-making for peace and stability. The structure, especially the prominence of its Permanent Five (P5) members, has been under scrutiny. Historical cases illustrate both its successes and limitations.

The Syrian conflict showcases the UNSC's challenges in providing timely and effective responses due to internal divisions. The inability to act allowed the crisis to escalate, emphasizing the Council's limitations in navigating complex geopolitics. Similarly, the Russian-Ukraine conflict reveals the UNSC's intricacies in dealing with multifaceted challenges. The question arises: could a more diverse UNSC, including voices beyond the P5, have offered more effective responses to these crises?

This leads to the proposal of introducing a sixth permanent member with veto power, potentially reshaping international decision-making. The key question is not just "if" but "who." Criteria for this role include a nation's commitment to human rights, international law, and cooperation, along with the ability to foster regional stability and encourage diplomacy. This change has the potential to enrich the UNSC's collective wisdom and global dynamics.

However, the discourse doesn't end at mere qualifications. It inevitably traverses the complex terrain of global representation. Each region, be it the Middle East with its intricate geopolitics, Africa with its myriad challenges and potential, Asia with its economic dynamism, Latin America and the Caribbean with their unique socio-political landscapes, or Europe with its legacy in international diplomacy, brings forth compelling narratives. These dimensions emphasize not just the urgency of reformation but also the nuances that must guide such an endeavor.

Dimensions of the Topic:

1. Middle Eastern Representation: The Middle East, a region historically at the crossroads of major civilizations, presents an undeniable case for increased representation at the UNSC. A permanent seat for a Middle Eastern nation would not only recognize its strategic geographical importance but would also offer a voice that encapsulates the region's rich cultural mosaic. The Middle East has often found itself

at the

epicenter of global conflicts, and its inclusion in the Council would provide invaluable insights, potentially aiding in more nuanced conflict resolutions.

2. **African Continental Representation:** Africa, a continent of 54 countries, diverse cultures, and over a billion people, has long played a crucial role in global affairs. From contributing significantly to UN peacekeeping missions to being at the forefront of sustainable development and climate change discussions, Africa's importance cannot be understated. A permanent seat for an African nation would ensure that the continent's multifaceted challenges and opportunities are more adequately represented, fostering decisions that resonate with on-ground realities.
3. **Asian Continental Representation:** Asia's meteoric rise in the past few decades has firmly placed it as a pivotal player in global geopolitics. Its economic prowess, coupled with a tapestry of cultures, languages, and histories, offers a perspective that is both diverse and influential. By granting a permanent seat to an Asian nation, the UNSC would be acknowledging Asia's undeniable weight in international affairs, ensuring that decisions taken are reflective of the aspirations and concerns of a significant portion of the global population.
4. **Latin American and Caribbean Representation:** Latin America and the Caribbean, regions marked by vibrant cultures and rapidly growing economies, have steadily increased their global influence. These regions have been instrumental in driving discussions on issues ranging from climate change mitigation to addressing drug trafficking. A permanent seat for a nation from Latin America or the Caribbean would not only recognize their growing stature in global matters but also bring a unique blend of experiences and perspectives to the UNSC's decision-making table.
5. **European Continental Representation:** Europe, with its rich history of diplomacy, statecraft, and institution-building, has been a cornerstone of the international system. While Europe's influence through the current P5 is significant, there's a case to be made for more comprehensive representation that captures the continent's diversity. A new permanent seat for a European nation would acknowledge the ever-evolving

role Europe plays in global affairs, from security concerns to diplomatic outreach, ensuring that the UNSC remains attuned to the nuances of the European perspective.

Groups and their representations

1. G4 Countries: The G4 countries, namely India, Brazil, Germany, and Japan, aspire to become permanent members of the UNSC for several reasons. They seek greater global influence and a chance to better reflect the current geopolitical balance of power. With a commitment to the UN's principles, these nations are ready to shoulder more responsibility for international peace and security. Their large populations, significant economic contributions to the UN, and support for multilateralism justify their desire for permanent UNSC membership. Moreover, they emphasize their regional stability efforts, advocating that their inclusion could contribute to conflict resolution in their respective regions. The G4's pursuit of UNSC reform represents a complex debate involving diverse national interests, global politics, and the evolving dynamics of the United Nations.
2. Uniting for Consensus (UfC): also known as the "Coffee Club," is a group of countries opposed to adding new permanent members to the United Nations Security Council (UNSC). Instead, they advocate for expanding the number of non-permanent seats, arguing that it promotes greater representation and prevents further concentration of power. Prominent members include Italy, Argentina, and Pakistan. While they haven't achieved comprehensive UNSC reform, their opposition to permanent member expansion has been influential in the ongoing debate about the UNSC's structure, setting them in contrast to countries like the G4 that seek permanent UNSC seats.

Current Regulations of the Security Council according to the Laws of the General Assembly

1. In accordance with [Article 23 of the Charter](#), as amended on 17 December 1963 ([resolution 1991 A \(XVIII\)](#)), which came into force on 31 August

- st 1965, the General Assembly increased the number of non-permanent members of the Security Council from 6 to 10.
2. 10 [non-permanent members](#) elected by the General Assembly for a term of two years. In accordance with [rule 142 of the rules of procedure](#), the General Assembly elects each year five non-permanent members of the Security Council.
 3. The following pattern of selection has been determined by the council on their eighteenth meeting during 1963, as follows:
 1. Five from African and Asian States;
 2. One from Eastern European States;
 3. Two from Latin American States;
 4. Two from Western European and other States.
 5. As outlined in rule 144 of the procedural guidelines, a departing member cannot seek immediate re-election. In conformity with rule 92 of the procedural guidelines, the election is conducted through a secret ballot, and there is no requirement for nominations. As per rule 83 of the procedural guidelines, non-permanent members of the Security Council are chosen through a two-thirds majority vote.

Points of Debate

1. **Eligibility Criteria for the Sixth Veto Power:** What should be the baseline criteria to determine a country's suitability for the sixth permanent seat? Should it be based on a nation's historical commitment to peace, its adherence to international treaties, or its geopolitical significance?
2. **Balancing Regional Representation:** With various regions vying for greater representation, how can the UNSC ensure a balanced approach that accommodates diverse geopolitical interests while maintaining its efficiency and effectiveness?
3. **Veto Power Implications:** How would the introduction of an additional veto power affect the decision-making dynamics of the UNSC? Would it make the council more representative but less agile, or would it offer a more holistic perspective leading to better-informed decisions?
4. **Historical Precedence vs. Present Dynamics:** Should the selection of a new permanent member be based more on historical contributions

to global peace and security or on contemporary geopolitical significance and influence?

5. **Potential for Power Imbalances:** How can the UNSC ensure that introducing a sixth permanent member does not lead to power imbalances or disrupt the current equilibrium? Would this new addition lead to new alliances or divisions within the council?
6. **Impacts on Global Conflicts:** How might the inclusion of a new veto-wielding member influence the UNSC's approach to ongoing global conflicts? Would it provide fresh perspectives leading to innovative solutions or further complicate matters?
7. **Addressing Underrepresentation:** How can the UNSC address concerns about underrepresentation without necessarily introducing a new permanent member? Are there alternative mechanisms or reforms that can make the council more inclusive?
8. **Future Precedence:** If a sixth permanent member is introduced, would it set a precedent for more additions in the future? How can the UNSC maintain its exclusivity while also adapting to changing global dynamics?

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