THE GLOBAL PEACE MANDATE OF THE UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL, CONFLICT MANAGEMENT AND THE ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN QUESTION

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Abstract

The United Nations global conflict management strategy is based on certain fundamental assumptions that require serious re-examination in the twenty-first century. This study is focused on the United Nations Security Council, its global peace maintenance responsibility mandated by the United Nations Charter and the protracted Israeli-Palestinian conflict. The doctrinal approach was employed for this study. This is with aim to assess the long-standing violence between Israel and Palestine and a possible way of effective management and possible resolution, which is the sole responsibility of the United Nations Security Council. The study shed more light on the role of the Security Council, its efforts and its challenges that are hampering warring nations from settling their disputes. The study concluded that, although the United Nations Security Council has played vital roles in instituting global peace, which is the fundamental principle of macroeconomic stability, the reforms of the Council is at the top of the most pressing global political issues facing the international community. Therefore, among the recommendations of this study is that, the reformation of the Council to mirror the present globalized world political order is of utmost significance in order to provide room for effective regional or continental representation, just as a representative government is well suited for a federating country. This would enable effective representation via regional or continental powers creating a platform for feasibly effective conflict management and possible resolution of interstate conflicts.

Keywords: United Nations, Security Council, Israeli-Palestinian, Conflict Management

Introduction

The desire to protect the interests of states inspired the creation of the League of Nations in 1919 and the United Nations in 1945. The United Nations, which was formed as a result of the traumatic experience of World

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War II, has taken its place in history as an institution that synthesizes power balances and holds the concept of an international political shelter (Ozev & Erdogan, 2019). Thus, the composition of the international structure and the outcomes experienced by humanity aided in determining the characteristics of the United Nations. However, the United Nations' failure to foster long-term peace in places with complex conflict dynamics demonstrates a critical challenge to the United Nations' success (Weiss & Wilkinson).

The umbrella organization is made up of five organs: The Security Council, General Assembly, Economic and Social Council, Trusteeship Council, and Secretariat. The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) comprises of fifteen (15) members, with five (5) permanent seats and ten (10) temporary seats. China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United States hold the five permanent seats. It is the United Nations body tasked with maintaining international peace and security among nations. The Security Council makes decisions that member-nations must carry out in accordance with Article 25 of the United Nations Charter, which states that "the members of the United Nations agree to accept and carry out the Security Council's decisions" (Sonnback, 2020).

Because conflict is an unavoidable part of organizational life, it is encapsulated as a ubiquitous component of interpersonal relationships in every society. The Israeli–Palestinian conflict has been one of the world's longest, with the Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip lasting 54 years. As part of the Israeli-Palestinian peace process, various attempts have been made to resolve the conflict (Falk, 2004). In an anarchic international environment, intractable conflicts, such as that between Israel and Palestine, are especially resistant to conflict resolution efforts and pose the greatest threat (Zartman, 1997).

Early tensions in the region were caused by public declarations of claims to a Jewish homeland in Palestine, such as the 1897 First Zionist Congress and the 1917 Balfour Declaration. The region had a small minority Jewish population at the time, which was growing due to significant Jewish immigration. Following the implementation of the Mandate for Palestine, which included a binding obligation on the British government to "establish in Palestine a national home for the Jewish people," tensions between Jews and Arabs grew into sectarian conflict (Neal, 1995). Attempts to end the early conflict culminated in the 1947 United Nations Partition Plan for Palestine and the 1947–1949 Palestine war, which marked the beginning of the larger Arab–Israeli conflict. Following Israel's military occupation

of Palestinian territories in the 1967 Six-Day War, the current Israeli-Palestinian status quo arose.

Statement of the Problem

The Israeli-Palestinian conflict is one of the most contentious in modern history. It is also one of the most dangerous, endangering both regional and international stability. As a result, the conflict drew a large number of actors, including the United Nations, the United States, and the European Union, as well as many other individual states and non-state actors. All of these actors sought, in their own ways, to assist in the management of the conflict, to contain its destructive potential, and to halt the escalation of violence. The majority of these efforts have failed, with little progress made. No other conflict has received comparable international attention or seen as many mediation attempts.

On the ground, numerous government agencies and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) work to promote development projects and protect human rights. Nonetheless, peace remains elusive, and the occupation continues. Many Palestinians saw a UN Security Council gesture as an unlikely but potentially welcome initiative that could rebalance the uneven nature of their struggle. Others, on the other hand, felt that continuing to push forward an initiative based on a two-state model failed to account for the collapse of such an option in the aftermath of the second intifada and other strategies used by the United Nations Security Council to quell the conflicts.

A conflict erupted between Israel and Hamas, which maintains de facto control of Gaza, from May 10 to May 21, 2021. This has, however, been fraught with difficulties, which this study addressed, as well as the challenges and opportunities with various peace and security initiatives, in an attempt to assess the UN's success in its primary task. In the context of the current unrest, this study examined the United Nations Security Council's Global Peace Mandate and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Methodology

The author determined that a doctrinal and qualitative approach to data collection and analysis was appropriate. This entailed the examination and analysis of existing scholarly data in order to gain a descriptive account of the case study, the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, and the Security Council's global peace mandate.

Peace Mandate of the United Nations Security Council

This is where most experts affirm power lies within the UN. It is also the most controversial body within the body of the UN. The composition of the Security Council has been a source of contention, particularly since the Cold War's end. Some critics argue that the Security Council and its five permanent members reflect the power structure that existed at the end of WW II, when much of the world was under colonial rule. Reform efforts have been elusive, but have focused on efforts to make the Security Council's work more transparent, as well as on demand from important non-permanent members such as Brazil, Germany, India, and Japan (the so-called G-4), to gain permanent membership, or at the very least special status in the Security Council (Encyclopedia.com, 2018).

The council has a variety of dispute resolution tools at its disposal, ranging from mediation to military action. When a threat to international peace is brought to the Security Council's attention, the council first attempts to reach an agreement between the disputing parties (Uwimana, 2006). The council may use its own member delegations to mediate, refer the matter to the General Assembly for discussion, or appoint the Secretary-General, the head of the United Nations Secretariat, to act as a mediator. If no peaceful solution can be reached and the disputing factions resort to violence, intimidation, or force, the Security Council can enact policy resolutions to resolve the conflict or restore peace. Economic sanctions, such as trade embargoes or prohibitions on governments borrowing from international funds, are sometimes part of this policy. However, under Security Council rules, no nation or group of people can be denied humanitarian assistance.

Conflict Management

Conflict is a natural part of life because humans are bound to have competing interests when they interact with one another (Anioke, 2012). It is an interpersonal process that results from disagreements about goals or methods for achieving those goals. It could be defined as "a process that begins with one party believing that another party has adversely affected, or is about to adversely affect, something the former cares about" (Newstrom & Davis, 2002). Competition for resources, task interdependence, jurisdictional ambiguity, and status struggle are identified as antecedents to intergroup conflict (Luthans, Luthans & Luthans, 2015). Conflicts are a reality of management and organizational behaviour that can be linked to power and politics (Mullins, 2016). Contrary to popular belief, conflict does not always have a negative impact and can sometimes have a

positive impact that leads to better problem solving and decision-making (Hellriegel & Slocum, 2003).

Along the same vein, conflict management is a strategy used to reduce the frequency of destructive encounters by strengthening conflict inhibitors and avoiding triggering off events. Conflict management is an umbrella term. When disaggregated, three meanings are discernible, that is, a term, an approach, and a discipline. As a term, conflict management refers to a process whereby dispute is reduced and therefore brings about a positive change in behaviour. As an approach, it is a systematic method of dealing with the causes, symptoms, dynamics, transformation, containment, settlement, and resolution. The notion of "management" suggests that people can be directed or controlled as though they are physical objects. The distinction between conflict management and conflict resolution is based on whether or not the fundamental causes of the conflict can be eliminated. Conflict resolution entails reconciling or eradicating fundamental differences and grievances at the root of a conflict, whereas conflict management entails controlling, limiting, and containing conflict behaviour in order to make it less destructive or violent (Mitchell & Banks, 1996).

Israeli-Palestinian Question and Recent Developments

The Israeli-Palestinian conflict began at the turn of the twentieth century. The Partition Plan, adopted by the United Nations in 1947, sought to divide the British Mandate of Palestine into Arab and Jewish states. The State of Israel was established on May 14, 1948, sparking the first Arab-Israeli War. The war ended with Israel's victory in 1949, but 750,000 Palestinians were displaced, and the territory was divided into three sections: the State of Israel, the West Bank (of the Jordan River), and the Gaza Strip (Council on Foreign Relations: Global Conflict Tracker, 2022). Tensions in the region rose in the years that followed, particularly between Israel and Egypt, Jordan, and Syria.

In the aftermath of the 1956 Suez Crisis and Israel's invasion of the Sinai Peninsula, Egypt, Jordan, and Syria signed mutual defence treaties in anticipation of an Israeli troop mobilization. Following a series of manoeuvres by Egyptian President Abdel Gamal Nasser, Israel pre-emptively attacked Egyptian and Syrian air forces in June 1967, kicking off the Six-Day War. Following the war, Israel gained control of Egypt's Sinai Peninsula and Gaza Strip, Jordan's West Bank and East Jerusalem, and Syria's Golan Heights. Six years later, in what is known as the Yom

Kippur War or the October War, Egypt and Syria launched a surprise two-front attack on Israel in order to reclaim lost territory; the conflict resulted in no significant gains for Egypt, Israel, or Syria.

Egyptian President Anwar al-Sadat declared victory in the war, which allowed Egypt and Syria to negotiate over previously ceded territory. Finally, in 1979, after a series of cease-fires and peace talks, Egyptian and Israeli representatives signed the Camp David Accords, a peace treaty that ended Egypt and Israel's thirty-year conflict. Despite the fact that the Camp David Accords improved Israel's relations with its neighbours, the issue of Palestinian self-determination and self-governance remained unresolved. In what is known as the first Intifada, hundreds of thousands of Palestinians living in the West Bank and Gaza Strip rose up against the Israeli government in 1987. The Oslo I Accords of 1993 mediated the conflict by establishing a framework for Palestinian self-government in the West Bank and Gaza, as well as mutual recognition between the newly established Palestinian Authority and Israel's government. The Oslo II Accords, signed in 1995, expanded on the first agreement by mandating Israel's complete withdrawal from six cities and 450 towns in the West Bank.

In September 2000, sparked in part by Palestinian grievances over Israel's control over the West Bank, a stalled peace process, and former Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's visit to the al-Aqsa mosque, Islam's third holiest site, Palestinians began the second Intifada, which lasted until 2005. As a result, the Israeli government despite opposition from the International Court of Justice and the International Criminal Court, approved the construction of a barrier wall around the West Bank in 2002 (Burton, 1993).

In 2013, the US attempted to restart the West Bank peace process between the Israeli government and the Palestinian Authority. Peace talks, however, were stymied in 2014 when Fatah, the Palestinian Authority's ruling party, formed a unity government with its rival faction Hamas. Hamas, a branch of Egypt's Muslim Brotherhood founded in 1987 in the aftermath of the first intifada, is one of two major Palestinian political parties and was designated a foreign terrorist organization by the US in 1997. Clashes in the Palestinian territories triggered a military confrontation between the Israeli military and Hamas in the summer of 2014, during which Hamas fired nearly three thousand rockets at Israel, prompting Israel to launch a major offensive in Gaza. This ended in late August 2014, with Egypt

mediating a cease-fire agreement, but only after 73 Israelis and 2,251 Palestinians were killed. Following a wave of violence between Israelis and Palestinians in 2015, Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas declared that Palestinians would no longer be bound by the Oslo Accords' territorial divisions. In March and May of 2018, Palestinians in the Gaza Strip staged weekly demonstrations at the Gaza-Israel border. The final protest took place on the seventieth anniversary of the Nakba, the Palestinian exodus that accompanied Israel's independence. While the majority of the protesters were peaceful, some stormed the perimeter fence, hurling rocks and other objects. According to the UN, 183 demonstrators were killed and over 6,000 were injured by live ammunition (Spreeowl, 2021).

In addition, in May 2018, fighting erupted between Hamas and the Israeli military, resulting in the worst period of violence since 2014. Prior to the cease-fire, militants in Gaza fired over a hundred rockets into Israel; Israel responded with strikes on more than fifty Gaza targets during the 24-hour flare-up. The administration of Donald J. Trump made reaching an Israeli-Palestinian agreement, a foreign policy priority. However, in 2018, the Trump administration cancelled funding for the UN Relief and Works Agency, which aids Palestinian refugees not only in occupied territories but also in Jordan, Syria and Lebanon (The Guardian, 2018). Further to that, the administration relocated the US embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem, reversing a longstanding US policy. The decision to relocate the US embassy was welcomed by Israeli leaders but condemned by Palestinian leaders and others in the Middle East and Europe. Israel regards Jerusalem as its "complete and united capital," whereas Palestinians regard East Jerusalem as the capital of a future Palestinian state. The Trump administration released its long-awaited "Peace to Prosperity" plan in January 2020, which Palestinians rejected due to its support for future Israeli annexation of West Bank settlements and control over an "undivided" Jerusalem (Spreeowl, 2021).

The United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Bahrain agreed to normalize relations with Israel in August and September 2020, becoming only the third and fourth countries in the region to do so after Egypt in 1979 and Jordan in 1994 (China Daily, 2020). The Abraham Accords were signed more than eighteen months after the United States hosted Israel and several Arab states for ministerial talks in Warsaw, Poland, about the future of Middle Eastern peace. Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas has rejected the agreements. The agreements were also rejected by Hamas (Council on Foreign Relations: Global Conflict Tracker, 2022).

An Israeli court ruled in October 2020 that several Palestinian families living in Sheikh Jarrah, an East Jerusalem neighbourhood would be evicted by May 2021 and their land would be given to Jewish families. Several Palestinian families from Sheikh Jarrah filed an appeal to the court ruling in February 2021, sparking protests around the appeal hearings, the on-going legal battle over property ownership, and the demand for an end to the forcible displacement of Palestinians from their homes in Jerusalem. Palestinians began demonstrating in the streets of Jerusalem in late April 2021 to protest the impending evictions, and residents of Sheikh Jarrah, along with other activists, began hosting nightly sit-ins. After a court ruled in favour of the evictions in early May 2021, the protests grew in size, with Israeli police using force against demonstrators. Following weeks of daily protests and rising tensions between protesters, Israeli settlers, and police during Ramadan, violence erupted on May 7, 2021 at the al-Aqsa Mosque compound in Jerusalem, with Israeli police using stun grenades, rubber bullets, and water cannons in a clash with protestors that injured hundreds of Palestinians (Council on Foreign Relations: Global Conflict Tracker, 2022).

Following the clashes in Jerusalem's Old City, tensions in East Jerusalem rose, exacerbated by the celebration of Jerusalem Day. After several days of violence in Jerusalem, including the use of lethal and nonlethal weapons by Israeli police, Hamas, the militant group that governs Gaza, and other Palestinian militant groups launched hundreds of rockets into Israeli territory on May 10, 2021. Israel retaliated with air strikes and later artillery bombardments against Gaza targets, including several air strikes that killed over twenty Palestinians (Council on Foreign Relations: Global Conflict Tracker, 2022). While claiming to be targeting Hamas and other militants, as well as their infrastructure, such as tunnels and rocket launchers, Israel expanded its aerial campaign, hitting residential buildings, media headquarters, refugee camps, and healthcare facilities. Egypt brokered a cease-fire between Israel and Hamas on May 21, with both sides claiming victory and no reported violations. Over the eleven days of fighting, more than 250 Palestinians were killed and nearly 2000 others were injured, while at least thirteen Israelis were killed. Authorities in Gaza estimate that tens of millions of dollars in damage was done, and the United Nations estimates that the fighting displaced more than 72,000 Palestinians (Council on Foreign Relations: Global Conflict Tracker, 2022).

Theoretical Underpinning of Israeli-Palestine Question

Many theories have been proposed in order to provide a solid foundation for understanding conflicts. Needs theories, for example, attempted to link conflicts with unmet needs. Unmet needs cannot cause frustration aggression theory but can lead to frustration and induced aggression, because it provided explanatory tendencies for the protracted Israeli-Palestinian conflict and the factors responsible for its sustenance (Brown, 1994). This study adopts structural theory of conflict and transcend model theory as its theories.

Structural Analysis

The economic, social, political, ethnic, and religious configurations that largely determine accessibility to resources that may serve as conflict triggers are the focus of structural theory. In effect, conflict is built into the structure and organization of societies. The issue of political and economic exclusion manifested in injustices, poverty, exploitation, and relative deprivation, according to the theorists, is critical to understanding conflict or violence. It explains how political elites use ethnicity and religion as platforms for citizen mobilization, keeping society divided and generating multidimensional conflicts such as the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and many others.

With regard to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, the conflict is centred on religious differences between the parties. The region's proximity to the Middle East, particularly as an Islamic territory close to places like Saudi Arabia where funds flow freely for Islamic propagation, makes the region vulnerable to Islamic fundamentalism. In effect, the socioeconomic and political structure of the Middle East allows miscreants to be easily recruited to foment trouble. This theory may not be sufficient to justify the lingering rivalry known as the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict, especially given the observation that it is focused on material interests and a single factor. As a result, combining it with others may provide additional insight (Anifowose, 2006).

Transcend Model

The Transcend model linked the causes of war and conflict with ways to overcome them, making it ideal for this work. Transcend model has significantly contributed to in-depth analysis in peace and conflict studies,

Glorious Preye Summersett and Adebola A. Alade

by connecting what happened prior to the conflict to the conflict situation and the necessary procedure to achieve peace (Aloa & Nwogwugwu, 2015). The conflict triangle was adopted, which consists of behaviours, attitudes, and contradictions, to emphasize the relationship before violence. When an attitude of tolerance and understanding is present, and the contradiction is manageable, the behaviour will be nonviolent (Galtung, 2010).

In contrast, if attitudes show intolerance, the situation becomes unmanageable. Prior to violent conflict, there must be polarization, which may result in some forms of aggression due to misaligned goals. This is why it was observed that there is no conflict without identifiable causative factors. In the case of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, it could include, among other things, colonial manipulation, ethnic nationalism, exclusionary politics, and religious intolerance. Conflict issues build their pillars, but in order to maintain peace, the pillars must be kept as low as possible.

Transcend model thus focuses on peace by taking a peace approach as a relationship between parties that can be transformed rather than a security approach. The security approach regards the opposing party as an enemy who must be destroyed. As a result, governments frequently use a security approach to stem the tide of violence, believing that stopping physical violence will end the crisis. They carry out their own agenda in an exclusive manner, without taking into account the feelings of the opposing parties. This complicates matters by giving the impression that the violence is over, but it is only waiting for the slightest provocation to resurface (USAID, 2013). Through emphatic and creative nonviolence, the peace approach is expected to produce security. The implication of this theory is that governments should take a peace approach to conflict resolution rather than a security approach, in order to win the war against violence.

The Security Council and the Israeli-Palestinian Question (Selected Resolutions since 2011)

a. *Resolution 2028 adopted by the Security Council at its 6693rd meeting, on 21 December 2011*
    The United Nations Security Council condemned Israel's occupation of the Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, since 1967 and its settlement activities in the Occupied Palestinian Territory. It reiterated the applicability of the 12 August 1949 Geneva Convention on the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War to the region.

b. *Resolution 2229 adopted by the Security Council at its 7477th meeting, on 29 June 2015*

The Security Council voiced concern about the tumultuous situation in the Middle East, which was likely to worsen until and unless a comprehensive solution to the Middle East problem was reached. Furthermore, the Council reiterated its 17 July 2000 resolution 1308 without attempting to undermine the Secretary-General's report on the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) of 3 June 2015 (S/2015/405). The primacy of both parties (Israel and the Syrian Arab Republic) adhering to the terms of the 1974 Disengagement of Forces Agreement was emphasized by the Council. Further to that, the Council agreed with the Secretary-General's assessment that military activities in the separation zone risked exacerbating tensions between Israel and the Syrian Arab Republic, compromising the two countries' ceasefire, and endangering local civilians and UN personnel on the ground.

c. *Resolution 2334 adopted by the Security Council on 23 December 2016*

According to reports, the Security Council was guided by the purposes and principles of the UN Charter, and reiterated, among other things, the inadmissibility of territorial acquisition by violent means. It reaffirmed Israel's legal obligations and responsibilities under the Fourth Geneva Convention of 12 August 1949, relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War and recalled the International Court of Justice's advisory opinion issued on 9 July 2004. The Council also condemned all measures intended to change the demographic composition, character, and status of the occupied Palestinian territory since 1967. The Council also expressed concern about Israeli settlement activities that were jeopardizing the viability of a two-state solution based on the 1967 lines, and reaffirmed its commitment to researching pragmatic strategies and approaches to ensure full implementation of its relevant resolutions.

d. *Resolution 2555, Situation in the Middle East adopted by the Security Council, 2020*

The Security Council noted that the first step toward resolution was to create a peaceful environment for both Israelis and Palestinians. Following the heightened state of violence between Israel and Occupied Palestine, the Security Council called for an immediate retreat between the state of Israel and Palestine. The Council encouraged both parties to engage in peace talks aimed at resolving differences and solidifying borders. It stressed the importance of fostering peaceful relations

between Arab Muslims in Israel and Israelis by exposing them to one another's cultures.

At this point, the above submissions cut across the various analyses of the resolutions by the Security Council and reflect the findings from the existing literature on the conflict between Israel and Palestine. Despite the United States' opposition as an ally of Israel, the majority of United Nations Security Council members were determined to issue a statement regarding the on-going conflicts between Israel and Palestine. Blaming Israel for failing to recognize UN Security Council Resolution 2334 (2016), with many UN members believing that Israel's actions as an occupying power in Palestine are illegal and that its use of lethal force is disproportionately harsh. It was discovered that most Security Council meetings on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict ended in deadlock.

With its veto power, the United States was observed to be preventing a United Nations Security Council meeting from discussing the escalating violence between Israel and Palestine. It was also established that Israel is defying the resolution, that its occupation is more entrenched than ever, that the violence used to maintain the occupation against Palestinians is increasing, and that the international community has no strategy to end what has been referred to as the world's longest military occupation. It was also discovered that the Security Council has always focused on the issue between Israel and Palestine over the last ten years, but Israel has failed to honour the Security Council's resolution on the lingering conflict. The data analysed also showed that the Security Council has been steadfast in resolving the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. However, as a superpower member of the Security Council, the United States has always exercised its veto power when it comes to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Strained relationship between the countries that comprise the UN Security Council has also posed a serious challenge to the Security Council's objectives. Since Russia's intervention in Ukraine in 2014, tensions between Russia and France, the United Kingdom, and the United States have risen, raising concerns that this crucial United Nations organ is incapable of defusing crises. Given that allies conspire to use their veto power to obstruct relevant resolutions that could have resulted in a unanimous decision on peace and conflict resolution.

Conclusion and Recommendations

The Madrid Middle East Peace Conference, held thirty years ago, sought to end the Arab-Israeli conflict and launched what is now known as the Israeli-Palestinian peace process. Three decades later, the world and the region have undergone consequential changes that bear little resemblance to the end of the Cold War in 1991. Nonetheless, Israeli and Palestinian leaders continue to engage in conflict as if nothing has changed. The Madrid conference took place in a world that was unipolar. Today, we are witnessing a revival of great power rivalry. President Obama had set the goal of withdrawing the US from the region, but was thwarted by the quest to defeat ISIS. This continued under President Trump, and President Biden is now following in those footsteps while attempting to avoid geopolitical losses as Russia and China expand their influence and pursue their interests across the Middle East. Both Russia and China have offered to host talks between Israelis and Palestinians, posing a challenge to the traditionally dominant U.S. third-party role. Meanwhile, as fighting between Israel and Hamas raged in May 2021, China used the occasion to accuse the US of obstructing the United Nations Security Council's efforts to take action on the conflict, as Washington objected to what it saw as an unbalanced statement calling for a cease-fire and prevented the Council from acting.

As a result, the following steps are recommended to address the various obstacles to resolving the Israeli-Palestinian conflict:

1. Despite the fact that the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) has played critical roles in establishing global peace, which is a fundamental principle of macroeconomic stability, UNSC reform is at the top of the list of the most pressing global political issues confronting the international community. As nearly all countries continue to clamour and drum up support for UNSC membership expansion. However, no expansion has occurred thus far, as some countries fear that an "expansion-only" reform would be merely a "sticking plaster," delaying the implementation of deeper "structural" reforms. Based on the analysis of UNSC resolutions, it is agreed that expansion at the current levels under consideration will provide only modest improvements in equity and will also come at the expense of efficiency, unless world leaders agree to lower the threshold for the proportion of members who must vote in favour of a resolution for it to pass.

2. Future UN peacekeeping operations must take an integrated approach. That is, the Council must strive for and enable, using its available resources and foreign policy tools, a unified and representative Palestinian leadership committed to pursuing the same platform, to the marginalization of violent extremists, and to recognizing continued division, eroding legitimacy, repression, and bad governance. Also, the Palestinians should be aware that without such unity, democracy, and accountability, they will be unable to face the formidable challenge of ending occupation and pursuing peace.

3. Overall, taking into account the problems and challenges arising from the Security Council's apparent and latent functions, it would be predictable that the United Nations Security Council be restructured to enable it to execute its conventional functions, particularly in light of new challenges, conceptions, hopes, and experiences of developing states and modern world realities.

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