

Reforming the UN to allow for rapid responses to international issues.

### History of the Problem

The international community gathered in the wake of the Second World War and declared that the despair of the Second World War would never occur again. To reach these ends the United Nations was created. Charged with insuring the “common security of all of the nations, the Security Council was placed as the chief organ of the UN. It held the power to sanction war, impose punitive measures on member nation, and alter the charter. All of this power was given to such an exclusive body in the hopes that it would be able to act quickly and effectively to solve crisis in human rights and international stability. Reality has proven different from this high ideal. Time and time again, Crisis has plagued the world, ranging from war to arms races and continued disasters of human rights. Time and time again, the international community has gathered in the wake of such events and pledged reform in the UN, but the UN is still slow to respond to this crisis. Warren Hogue of the New York Times explained the difficulty of building a United Nations force to respond to the problem of Lebanon. “There’s an inclination of the part of world leaders, when you have crises like the current one in Lebanon, to turn to this building behind me (indicates the UN Building) and think that the solution lies there. A number of world leaders expressed today that a multilateral force should be sent to the Sothern border of Lebanon to stop the hostilities there. That’s much more easily said then dune. For one thing it takes months to create a UN force... and another is that there already is a force there and its been there for 28 years.”

### Past UN action

The United Nations has called for military forces to respond to world issues in the past. First in response to the invasion of South Korea, and would go on to authorized The Persian Gulf War among other conflicts. Despite the success of these actions the UN was slow in responding to other conflicts. The Darfur conflict it the most resent example. In response to these short comings the UN commissioned a study on possible solutions to the issue of slow UN response time. The Brahimi Report was issued in 2000 and recommended the United Nations maintain a brigade sized force to respond to conflict in no more the 90 days. The Report has yet to be taken up by the UN as policy.

### Conclusion

It will be your responsibility as representatives of your respective countries is to give voice the policy stance that has been take by your nation on the issue of UN peace keeping in the past. The main issue for debate at this conference will be whether to adopt the recommendations of the Brahimi report, adapt the recommendations, or to take no action at all. If a standing army is to be created then how will the current UN charter be altered to accommodate these decisions? And if not how will the can the current system be improved? Remember that your committee cannot actually change any part of the charter or create an army, you can only recommend to the Security Council to change current policy.

Questions to consider

What are the good and bad points to the Brahimi report?

Is it the place of the UN to take a part in military operations?

How would any program created be staffed and funded?

Is there a role for regional military alliances or organizations (EU, African Union, NATO) in international peace keeping.

Can and how should a UN army be controlled to insure that it is used to the common benefit of all nations.

Sources.

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