

UN Reform: Pathways to Representative Global Governance

March 2026

Globalist International Research Division

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White Paper v3.0
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Executive Summary

The United Nations faces a legitimacy crisis rooted in institutional designs reflecting 1945 power structures rather than 2026 realities. The Security Council's veto system paralyzes decisive action.

This paper examines reform pathways:

- Near-term adjustments** (Years 1-5): Procedural reforms, working methods improvements
- Medium-term restructuring** (Years 5-20): Security Council expansion, weighted voting pilots
- Long-term transformation** (Years 20+): Fundamental restructuring (if political conditions permit)

Core Finding: The Article 108 amendment process grants each P5 member veto power over Charter changes—including changes to the veto itself. This creates a catch-22: reform requires P5 agreement, but P5 benefit from status quo.

1. The Legitimacy Crisis

1.1 Security Council Representation Gap

Region	States	Population	Permanent Seats	Rotating Seats
Africa	54	1.4B	0	2
Asia-Pacific	48	4.6B	1	5
Latin America	33	650M	0	2
Western Europe	28	750M	3	3

1.2 Veto Abuse (1946-2026)

- Russia/USSR: 143 vetoes
- United States: 82 vetoes
- UK: 29 vetoes
- France: 16 vetoes
- China: 17 vetoes

2. The Reform Trap

2.1 The Article 108 Catch-22

Constitutional Barrier: Article 108 requires two-thirds GA vote AND ratification by two-thirds of members INCLUDING ALL P5.

The Trap:

1. Reform requires P5 agreement
2. P5 benefit from status quo
3. Therefore, P5 block reform
4. Reform impossible without P5 cooperation

2.2 What Would Force Reform?

- Catastrophic crisis (nuclear war, pandemic, climate collapse)
 - Generational political change
 - Complete UN collapse
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3. Reform Scenarios

3.1 Scenario A: Incremental Improvements

- Transparency requirements for SC meetings
- E10 empowerment (elected members)
- Veto justification mandates

3.2 Scenario B: Partial Restructuring

- Modest expansion: Add 4 permanent members (no veto)
- Weighted voting pilots in General Assembly

3.3 Scenario C: Fundamental Transformation

Requirements:

- P5 willingness to surrender veto power
 - Crisis forcing institutional redesign
 - Parallel institutions bypassing UN
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Conclusion

The UN's legitimacy crisis is real. Solutions are technically straightforward (weighted voting, veto limitation). Implementation is politically blocked by P5 interests.

The Bottom Line: Pursue incremental reforms; build alternative venues (G20, regional organizations); maintain institutional designs for future implementation.

For inquiries: research@globintern.org

Version: 3.0 (March 2026)

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