



A Yearbook on Turtle Ride of UN

THE PERSPECTIVE OF RUSSIA – UKRAINE WAR

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"Life is a living hell for the people of Ukraine," said the UN secretary general Antonio Guterres in United Nations Security Council (UNSC). The Council has undergone more than 40 debates since the full-scale invasion of Russia in Ukraine. The United Nations was established as the pioneer in preserving international peace and security. The realpolitik game of security council members has rendered it ineffective and impotent.

Russian bureaucratic foot-dragging in Security Council

Russia vetoed the US-backed UNSC resolution proposed for ending the war in Ukraine on 23rd February 2022. Even since then, the united action against the Russian invasion has moved down the hallway. The resolutions passed in the General Assembly are like public opinion polls, these don't have any real implications as economic sanctions, and deployment of military action.

In 1945, after fascist and totalitarian regime domination, wartime allies thought of institutional frameworks such as the Security Council and General Assembly to oversee the peaceful settlement of disputes. However, UNSC has the prominent responsibility to design a framework for the institutions of the UN system to contribute to a peaceful settlement of the conflict. But UNSC's working mechanism got paralyzed because threats towards international peace and security started to come from P5 countries including the US and USSR in the cold war period. The resolutions of collective security organizations only found a way in real politics when great powers didn't have any direct stake in that conflict.

At the beginning of the invasion, on February 25, 2022, 81 of the 193 member states of the UN had passed a resolution condemning the Russian invasion of Ukraine. Russia vetoed it on the logic that it doesn't have the Russian side of the story in that resolution. Ukrainian activities namely shelling the people of Donetsk, and Luhansk, and also Ukraine didn't implement the Minsk agreements. These are Putin's war propaganda which he made by compromising war history. He denied that the Russian army is attacking civilians and bombing cities. In response, Ukraine reiterated that nothing justifies the shelling of a kindergarten and orphanage.

It has been a policy of Russian counterparts that according to Nicolas de Rivi re, the U.N. ambassador to France, they try to draw out discussion of the war in Ukraine and kill too much time of Council devoted to the conflict. Every time there is a proposal for a meeting on Ukraine, Russians propose another one on a different policy issue.

A yearbook of resolution after resolution trapped in the face of the Security Council

After the Russian invasion of Ukraine, UNGA adopted a resolution on March 2, 2022 against the aggression of Russia. On March 4, the UN Human Rights Council passed another revolution for the " swift and verifiable withdrawal of Russian armed troops. On March 5, they called for the immediate establishment of an " independent international Commission of Inquiry ". On March 30, the UN appointed three human rights experts to investigate the dire humanitarian crisis created by Russia in Ukraine and to see how violation of international law is taking place. On April 7, the UN

general assembly suspended Russia for human rights abuses. On April 26, the UN body asked P5 members to justify their use of veto power which they are misusing deliberately.

On 23rd February 2023, UNGA passed a resolution condemning Russian atrocities in which 141 of the 193 countries voted against Russia. On 24th February a special session marking one year of the Russia- Ukraine war, revealed the fault lines within the organization. If the security council is meant to be the common ground for diplomacy, it has become no man's land. The foreign minister from both Russia and China were absent. Russian ambassador to the UN objected to the fact that a Ukraine representative would approach the microphone before the security council members. He demanded another moment of silence for all the war victims after the Ukrainian foreign minister requested a moment of silence for martyrs in war. China's 12-point resolution proposed dialogue and negotiation between the warring parties. Ukraine and other Baltic countries have simultaneously criticized it because the peace plan called for the upliftment of unilateral sanctions on Russia and no mention of Russian war atrocities.

Although Ukraine welcomes this peace initiative, the future of implications of this peace plan is highly debated. UNSC has failed to de-escalate the crisis because it is paralyzed by a self-interest-motivated mechanism with absolute power to make peace in the 21st century.

Although the UNGA resolution on 23rd February was non-binding, it revealed the largest sentiment of the global body on the event of Russia- the Ukraine war. The UN is a good mirror of the state of world politics. The UN watchers have always said the world is not a big democracy of what is expected from the UN. Rather UN tries to find some shared common ground. But still, a majority of countries look towards the UN to provide a solution to emerging situations. Russia has exercised its veto power more than any country in the world and Ukraine demands its expulsion from the UNSC. As the security council has produced a deadlock UNGA can step up to make recommendations. In 1956 the general assembly established the UN emergency force in the Middle East but the only problem is these resolutions are non-binding, countries are not bound to implement them. Russia- Ukraine crisis has made the dismantling of a radical overhaul of the UNSC a need of time.

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