



Deutsche Gesellschaft
für die Vereinten Nationen e.V.
United Nations Association of Germany

RESOLUTION OF THE FEDERAL EXECUTIVE BOARD ON 8 MARCH 2020

Proposals on United Nations reform on the occasion of the 75th anniversary of the UN in 2020 from the membership of the German Association for the United Nations

The United Nations we need

This year the United Nations is commemorating its 75th anniversary under the theme: "The future we want, the United Nations we need: reaffirming our collective commitment to multilateralism".

This statement is in response to the call of the world organization to civil society, among others, to contribute their ideas on the theme of the anniversary to an international debate.

Established after the failure of the League of Nations and in the wake of the Second World War and the Holocaust, the United Nations represents an important milestone in international efforts for peace and security, development and prosperity, human rights and sustainability.

The United Nations and the many specialized agencies and programs established under its roof have been able to save and improve the lives of millions of people. The world organization is and remains an indispensable pivot of multilateralism.

At the same time, however, the promise of "never again" has not been met in view of a multitude of violent conflicts that have resulted in countless victims and unimaginable humanitarian emergencies. Too often the organs of the UN, above all the Security Council, are unwilling or, due to internal deadlock, unable to take effective action to meet their responsibilities.

Moreover, despite decades of efforts, key problems and concerns such as conventional and nuclear disarmament or effective action to combat climate change have remained unresolved and remain on the agenda.

The United Nations we need is an organization that is more than just an instrument of its member states. We need a renewed and strengthened UN which represents the centre of an effective global domestic policy in terms of politics and international law. This centre needs to be equipped with the necessary resources and instruments and needs to derive its legitimacy also from the participation of civil society in its decisions.

On this occasion, we seize this moment to formulate the proposals below. Although we are convinced of the need for numerous changes that will require an amendment to the Charter, including, for example, a reform of the composition and decision-making procedures of the Security Council, we wish to focus on a few selected points.



1. Ability to act in violent conflicts

- A reaffirmation by the Security Council and the General Assembly of their commitment to the principle of the responsibility to protect;
- A decisive recourse to the subsidiary responsibility of the General Assembly in the field of peace and security in cases where the Security Council does not fulfil its primary responsibility;
- A review under international law of the application of the right of veto by the five permanent members of the Security Council before the International Court of Justice in cases of serious violations of human rights such as genocide, war crimes or crimes against humanity, as well as in other abusive cases affecting them;
- Strengthen the instruments of conflict prevention and post-conflict rehabilitation in the UN system;
- Inviting the UN Secretary-General to present a concept on how to establish a permanent intervention force under UN command in order to be able to act without delay in situations of crisis and conflict;

2. Shaping global domestic policy

- Democratic representation of the world population that extends beyond the executive branch of member states by establishing a United Nations Parliamentary Assembly as a subsidiary body of the General Assembly;
- Participatory involvement of the world's population through the establishment of the instrument of a World Citizens' Initiative, through which proposals receiving a sufficient number of signatures from states in all regions of the world can be placed on the agenda of the General Assembly and/or the Security Council;
- A strengthening of the role of the President of the General Assembly through a truly competitive election, an extension of the term of office to at least two years and adequate funding;

3. Effective action against climate change and for human rights

- Consideration by the General Assembly of the establishment of a UN Environment and Climate Council, building on a development of existing structures, in order to systematically address the urgent tasks facing humanity in the field of environmental and climate protection, to coordinate efforts and to implement them as quickly as possible in a binding dialogue with the states;
- A strengthening of the role of the International Criminal Court. Vetoes in the Security Council to prevent the referral of a case to the court should be reviewed under international law before the International Court of Justice.

Financing and outlook

- Prompt and full payment of all compulsory contributions to the UN budget by all Member States; in case of unwillingness to pay, clear indication of possible loss of voting rights (Article 19, UN Charter);
- Voluntary contributions should for the most part be granted without being tied to a specific purpose.
- In the long term, we would like to discuss a fulfilment of the "San Francisco Promise" by convening a general conference to review the Charter under Article 109(3).