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A critical appraisal of United Nations Organisation in the maintenance of World Peace and Security, 1945 – 1990

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Abstract

This paper examines the role of United Nations in the maintenance of World Peace and Security. It discusses the origin of UNO indicating the aims and objectives. The Organs and specialized agencies came to focus. It analyzes the challenges of UNO. The researcher relied on oral interview as primary source. The data for the study was also obtained extensively from the Secondary sources like books, newspapers, articles, journals, theses, dissertations and

internet materials. The study found that UNO played an important role in settling disputes among Nations across the World. The body set-up different organs and agencies to achieve the objectives. It was found that the Veto powers exercised by the five permanent members of the security council is a serious obstacle in taking decisive actions and decisions by the UNO. In conclusion, the UNO is confronted with series of challenges.

Keywords: Organization, Origin, Peace, Security, Challenges

Introduction

The name United Nations was coined by former United States of American President, Mr. Franklin D. Roosevelt (Adesola, 2004:66-68) ^[1]. Its charter came into being when representatives of 50 countries at the United Nations Conference on International Organisation met at San Francisco between 25th April to 26th June, 1945. Poland which was not present in the conference signed the charter later, hence the number increased to 51. They deliberated on the basis of the proposals worked by the representatives of China, defunct Soviet Union United Kingdom and United States of America at Dumbarton Oaks in August to October, 1944 (Ibid, 66).

According to Eluwa, Ukagwu, Nwachukwu and Nwaubani, it is an organisation of the sovereign nations of the world aimed at preserving world peace and security and promoting world civilization (Eluwa Ukagwu, Nwachukwu and Nwaubani; 1988: 297-300). It was formally launched in April 1945 at a conference of fifty-one nations in San Francisco, USA and the Charter of the organisation was finally ratified on 24 October, 1945, a day regularly and annually celebrated as the United Nations Day (Ibid). It is important to put on record that more nations have joined the organisation with membership rising over 150.

The first specific step towards the establishment of the United Nations was inter-Allied conference that led to the Declaration of St. James's Palace on 12 June, 1941 (Inter-Allied Conference, 12 June, 1941) ^[30]. By August 1941, American President Franklin Roosevelt and British Prime, Minister Winston Churchill had drafted the Atlantic charter to define goals for the Post World War. President Roosevelt and Prime Minister Churchill met again at the White House in December 1941 for the Arcadia Conference (Arcadia Conference, December, 1941). It was here, President Roosevelt coined the term United Nations to describe the Allied countries. He suggested it as an alternative to "Associated Powers" which the US used in World War I and the British Prime Minister accepted it, noting it use by Lord Byron in the Poem 'Childe Harold's Pilgrimage (Ibid).

On New Year Day 1942, President Roosevelt, Prime Minister Churchill, Maxim Litvinov of the USSR and T.V. Soing of China signed the Declaration by the United Nations' and on 1st January, 1943 the representatives of twenty-two other nations added their signatures (Declaration by United Nations, 1942) ^[12].

The new international organisation was formulated and negotiated among the delegations from the Allied Big four at the Dumbarton Oak Conference from 21st September to 7th October, 1944 (Dumbarton Oaks Conference, 1944) ^[13]. The Representatives from the United States and United Kingdom met first, with those from the Soviet Union, after a week met with representatives from the Republic of China. They all agreed on the proposals for the aims, structure and functions of the new international organisation.

It was established that by March, 1945 21 additional states signed the Declaration by United Nations. Winston Churchill urged Roosevelt to restore France to its status of a major power after the liberation of Paris in August, 1944. The charter of the United Nations was signed on 26 June, 1945 by the representatives of the 50 countries and it officially came into existence on 24, October, 1945 upon ratification of the charter by the five permanent members of the Security Council namely the US, the UK, France, USSR and the Republic of China and by majority of the other 46 signatories.

The first meetings of the General Assembly with 51 nations represented and the Security Council took place in London in January, 1946 and debate began at once covering topical issues (The first meeting and debates of the United Nations, January, 1946)^[29].

According to Bruce, Harvey and David, in the aftermath of World War II, the UN reflected the desire of the victorious states to maintain world peace and to attack the conditions that appeared to foster war: colonialism, poverty, inequality and ignorance (Bruce, Harvey and David, 2014:299)^[8]. The UN Charter, drawn up and signed by fifty-one countries in San Francisco in 1945 was largely the product of American, British and Soviet negotiations. They also posited that much of the bargaining over the new international organisation was conducted during the Dumbarton Oaks Conference, held in Washington, D.C. in 1944 (Ibid)^[13].

Kegley notes that the United Nations is the best-known global organisation and its universal membership distinguished it from most of the other international organisations (Kegley, 2007: 173). It has been argued that in principle, any sovereign state accepting the UN's regulations and principles can join but the great powers have often let political considerations dictated which countries are admitted (Ibid).

Peace and security represent the hallmark in the thinking and establishment of the United Nations Organisation. The world leaders created this international organisation to maintain and keep peace across the world. That is the primary focus and objective for the establishment of the United Nations Organisation.

It was for this reason that Adesola posits that the United Nations Organisation was established with the following aims:

1. To maintain international peace and security
2. To develop friendly relations among nations
3. To co-operate internationally in solving international economic, socio-cultural and humanitarian problem (Adesola, 2004: 66)^[11].

Objectives of the United Nations Organisation

Article I of the UN Charter defines the UN's objectives as centered on:

- (a) Maintaining international peace and security
- (b) Developing friendly relations among nations based on respect for the principle of equal rights and the self-determination of peoples.
- (c) Achieving international co-operation in solving international problems of an economic, social, cultural or humanitarian character and in promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and for fundamental freedoms for all.
- (d) Functioning as a centre for harmonizing the actions of nations in the attaining of these common ends.

From the above objectives, it is clear that the primary function or objective of the UNO is the maintenance of world peace through collective security. In order to achieve its primary function of the maintenance of world peace and security, the organisation sets up different organs.

Organs of the United Nations Organization

There are six principal organs established by the UN Charter in 1945. They are: General Assembly, Security Council, Economic and Social Council, the trusteeship council, the Secretariat and the International Court of Justice.

General Assembly is the only organ that represents all member states and decision making follows the principle of majority rule. According to Ilesanmi, this is where representatives of all member nations are present (Ilesanmi, 1975-70-74)^[18]. Decisions are reached by voting and each country has a vote.

The Security Council consists of five permanent members: United States, Great Britain, the Soviet Union, France and China are the five permanent members of the supreme organ of the organisation. The council has also non-permanent members, six initially and now ten (Eluwa, Ukagwu, Nwachukwu and Nwaubani, 1988: 299-300).

It existed when the charter was signed at the end of the World War II. In addition to their permanent seats, each member has the right to veto actions considered by the council. These two features of the Security Council give its permanent members substantial influence, over matters of peace and security coming before the UN (Bruce, Harvey and David, 2014: 300)^[8].

However, it is been argued that the absence of Germany and Japan today is not a healthy development. Both have completely recovered from their defeat in World War II and have demonstrated their good citizenship as members of the society of states, so many believe that Germany and Japan should assume role in the Security Council to commensurate with their current standing in the international community (Barry, 1997:59-82). The ten non-permanent members are usually elected for two years each by the General Assembly among its membership. The main duty of the Security Council is to prevent the outbreak of wars. Every member of the United Nations is expected to obey their decisions. The council is particularly concerned with world peace (Ilesanmi, 1975:71-72)^[18].

The Secretariat consists of a Secretary-General and International Staff. It is the administrative bureau of the organization. The Secretary-General is appointed by the General Assembly. The Secretary-General picks his workers from among member-nations. He gives annual report of the activities of the UNO and reports any matter that may threaten world peace to the Security Council (Ibid). He visits member nations in times of peace and war. The UNO Secretariat is located in New York City in USA.

Economic and Social Council

The main function of this council is to supervise the economic, social, cultural, educational and health agencies of the UNO. Decisions are reached by a simple majority; it is responsible to the General Assembly. According to Ilesanmi, its co-ordinates all the activities of the United Nations specialized agencies and cater for the welfare of people of member nations (Ibid).

The Trusteeship Council

This council is primarily concerned with the welfare of the people in countries that are not yet independent. It watches over the interests of "trust territories" not yet fully self-governing (Eluwa Ukagwu, Nwachukwu and Nwaubani, 1988:300-302).

The International Court of Justice

The court has its headquarters at Hague, Holland, it comprises 15 judges elected by the General Assembly and Security Council.

The United Nations Organisation also has specialized agencies in order to facilitate the achievement of its aims and objectives Ilesanmi listed the agencies as: World Health Organisation, which main function is to fight diseases throughout the World, United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organisation, established to fight ignorance, Food and Agricultural Organisation, whose duty is to advise and help many countries of the world on how to improve their methods of farming, International Labour Organisation concerned with Labour related issues and United Nations International Children Education Fund which primary function is to provide for the educational needs of children across the world (Ilesanmi, 1975:73)^[18].

Generally, the General Assembly meets annually usually from October. The Secretariat is permanently in session while the Security Council can be called upon anytime in the year to meet and discuss issues of world "importance".

The United Nations Organisation in maintaining World Peace and Security

It is not subject to debate that the United Nations Organisation is primarily established to maintain peace and security across the world. The UNO has directed serious attention towards achieving and maintaining international peace and security. The organisation has made bold attempt to develop friendly relations among nations of the world. There is no doubt that peace and security occupied the minds of the great powers who created the UNO. The world leaders through the UNO have been attacking the conditions that appeared to promote and foster war such as colonialism, poverty, inequality and ignorance.

Tangible Achievements of UNO in maintaining World Peace and Security

World peace is the notion of freedom, peace and happiness among and within all nations and people. World peace is an idea of promoting violent free world in which countries willingly co-operate either voluntarily or adopting system of governance that eradicate violence, crisis and warfare.

First, the UN acts a forum for diplomacy and facilitates communication among member states. Activities directly related to the settlement of disputes are listed in Article 33 of the Charter and include negotiation, inquiry, mediation and arbitration (Article 33 of UN Charter, 1945). The UN can facilitate each of these. Arbitration for example refers to a situation where in, conflicting parties agree to be bound by solutions arrived at third parties which is another approach to conflict resolution (Bruce, Harvey and David, 2014:304)^[8]. In 1998, Peru and Ecuador agreed to submit their border dispute to binding arbitration by the United Nations, Brazil, Argentina and Chile (Ibid). This was sequel to the fact that Peru and Ecuador fought briefly in 1995 over the fifty-mile stretch of territory.

Another mechanism mentioned in Article 33 is adjudication. This refers to a situation in which a dispute is brought before an International Court. The International Court of Justice located at Hague, Holland is the judicial organ of the UNO. It has proven useful in a number of cases as it has judged cases involving issues ranging from frontier disputes to nuclear testing (Ibid). A good example was in 1979 when United States went to the ICJ after Iranian students seized American diplomats (Bodie, 1995).

Another attempt made by the UNO to promote Peace and Security across the world was its involvement in Korean war, 1950-1953. In June 24, 1950, North Korea launched a carefully planned offensive against South Korea and the United Nations convened its members to put a stop to the invasion. The UN commission reported the invasion immediately to the UN Secretary-General. The Security Council called for a cessation of hostilities and on all member states to render every assistance to the United Nations. On June 27, the United States tabled a resolution that "The Members of the United Nations furnish such assistance to the Republic of Korea that may be necessary to repel armed attack and to restore international peace and security in the area (Resolution of United States on Korea on June 27, 1950). This was in addition to earlier directive by President Truman of the use of US naval and air forces to end the crisis (An interview with Dr. Duyile, 16-7-21).

When the resolution was passed, A UN command under General MacArthur was established and sixteen UN member nations contributed armed forces (Ibid). The UN Command, defeated the North Korean forces in South Korea in September, 1950.

On the urging of the UN Commander, General MacArthur, the UN General Assembly then adopted a resolution on October 7, 1950 recommending that all necessary acts be taken "for the establishment of a unified independent democratic government in the severing state of Korea" and all appropriate steps be taken to ensure conditions of stability throughout Korea (Adopted Resolution of October 7, 1950 of UN General Assembly).

At the end of the war in June 1953, an armistice was declared in July 1953 and Korea was officially separated by the 38th parallel (Ibid). On August 8, 1990, the UN Security Council unanimously approved the admission of both Koreas.

At least, three million North Koreans died in the war. According to Ayobolu Segun if General Douglas Macthur had his way many more would have perished as he had proposed dropping:

"Between 30 and 50 bombs, over North Korea under cover of darkness could end the war in ten days" (*The Nation*, June, 2017)^[36].

United Nations Organization in Peace Keeping Operation or Venture Peace Keeping

Peace keeping is a process of keeping the mandate for which the United Nations is established, which is the maintenance of peace and security across the world. The primary objective of keeping peace across the world is for the avoidance of third world war. This is based on the catastrophic and devastating experiences of the first and second world wars.

This is a kind of operation in which the UN can employ military force. Its purpose is conflict management or settlement and it does not involve assigning guilt or

identifying an aggressor (Bruce, Harvey and David, 2014)^[8]. It involves recognition that a violent conflict or threat to peace is at hand. Here, the role of the UN is to stop fighting already under way, separate the warring parties and create conditions for them to negotiate instead of fight (Ibid).

It began with Suez Canal crisis in 1956, where it dispatched lightly armed peacekeeping forces of varying magnitudes to many trouble spots. It was said that more than thirty peacekeeping missions have been concluded since then and there were fifteen in place in 2002 (Ibid, 306). Till date, the largest peace keeping operation by far was the force deployed to the former Yugoslavia from 1992-1995. The operation involved about 39,000 military personnel and cost \$4.6 billion (Ibid). It was established that nearly 1800 peacekeepers and observers have been killed in line of duty since the operation started.

United Nations involvement with Central Africa began with the operation in the Congo in 1960 which was the first peace keeping venture in Africa. So, the civil war in the newly independent Congo in 1960 was brought under control by the UN which sent peace keeping troops there.

On 12 July, 1960 President Kassavubu and Prime Minister Patrice Lumumba jointly made an urgent appeal to the UN to send troops to help protect the Congo from external aggression. The Security Council saw Belgian action in the Congo as a serious threat to internal peace and Security Council of UN (An interview with Dr. Nwachukwu John on 18-4-21).

By, its resolution of 14 July, 1960, it demanded immediate withdrawal of Belgian troops and authorized the Secretary General to provide the government of Congo with military assistance as may be necessary (Ibid). By July 15, 1960, 600 troops from Ghana, Tunisia, Morocco and Ethiopia were enroute to Leopoldville (Frank, 1963:18). By the time the Congo crisis ended in 1964, the UN had spent 392.8 Million Dollars (Ibid, 47). According to Ali Mazrui, "the uniqueness of the UN operations in the Congo was that it was a question of maintaining law and order internally and the world body was involved at the invitation of the country itself (Mazrui, 1967: 239)^[20].

Hence Bruce, Harvey and David posit that peace keeping operations are almost always carried out only with the consent of the conflicting parties (Bruce, Harvey and David, 2014: 306)^[8].

The UNO played a major role in resolving the Cuban Missile crisis between USA and USSR in 1962. In 1962, USSR was building nuclear missile installations in Cuba which was brought to the notice of USA President, Kennedy, USA saw this development as a threat to upset the nuclear balance and also saw the nuclear missile as capable of destroying most US cities. Although, the USA President decided to keep this information secret but informed the Acting Secretary-General U Thant. (<https://www.walterdorn.net/pub/144>).

On Saturday, October 20, 1962, Admiral John McLain, military adviser at the US Mission to the United Nations informed Thant's Military adviser, Major General Indar Jit Rikhye about the Missiles (Admiral John McLain Message to Major-General Indar Jit Rikhye, October 20, 1962).

In this dangerous crisis, the Secretary-General of UN, U Thant play a significant role in de-escalating and then resolved the nuclear conflict between the two super powers. During this period of crisis, the USA Commended U Thant for the vital role he played between the super-powers to

avoid war. President Kennedy posited that "U Thant has put the world deeply in his debt (An interview with Hon. Efosa Igunbor on 6-1-2021).

From October 26-28, 1962, negotiations intensified, Thant was playing a significant role in developing proposals for a settlement between the United States and Soviet Union and also attempting to bring a change in Castro's position (Nassit, 1988: 31).

The Secretary-General of UNO Dag Hammarskjold, pioneered the UN's third-party role for instance by securing the release of eleven American fliers held captive in the people Republic of China in 1954-55 and again during the Suez crisis of 1956 (Brian, 1973:117-159)^[10].

Between the first and second engagements with the Congo, the UNO had also been involved in other parts of Africa particularly Rwanda. The inter connections between the Rwandan genocide of 1994 and the subsequent war.

The UNO and Collective Security

The UN Charter identifies international peace and security as the organization's first goal and the UN's founders wanted the organisation to play a central role in collective security (Bruce, Harvey and David, 2014: 304-306)^[8]. Collective security means that all members agree to oppose together a threat to the security of any of them (Robert, 1996: 309-336). Chapter VII, Articles 39-46 of the UN Charter call on all members to make available to the Security Council by special agreement, armed forces and facilities for the purposes of maintaining international peace and security. (Articles, 39-46 of the UN Charter, 1945). This section of UN Charter provides the basis for UN authorized military actions against aggressor states. However, the Soviet-American aggressiveness made it difficult for the permanent members of the Security Council to concur on the term for a UN military force and no agreements with individuals' states were ever reached (Bruce, Harvey and David, 2014: 306)^[8].

In 1990, after the occupation of Kuwait by Iraqi, the collective security was invoked. This was made possible because of United States and the Soviet Union were in agreement and there were careful negotiations between them and with other major powers. Hence it was possible for the UN authorized military actions against Iraq. There was of course, no standing UN military force for the operation, rather a multi-national coalition was assembled on an adhoc basis (Ibid). Though, the United States dominated the coalition and controlled both military and political strategy, the UNO still did general supervision.

The UNO and Peace-Building

The UN's original peacekeeping role standing between hostile forces has been expanded to peace-building activities such as maintaining security or stability within a wide area (as in Southern Lebanon), providing humanitarian assistance (Cyprus), disarming insurgents (Nicaragua) and monitoring elections (Namibia, Nicaragua and Haiti (Ibid, 308). It is increasingly helpful in aiding the establishment of democratic governments when the parties involved want such help, sometimes in collaboration with regional IGOS like the organization of the American States (Boutros Boutro-Ghali, 1992)^[33]. UN agencies and partners worked with the government of Bangladesh to respond to the humanitarian crisis as more than 600,000 Rohingya people fled from violence in Myanmar including by providing

refugees with food, sanitarian supplies, health care and other essential aid.

The UN intervention in Iraq was a serious effort in the maintenance of world peace and security. Iraq invaded Kuwait on August 2, 1990. Both Iraq and Kuwait are independent neighboring countries. They are located in the Middle East Region of the world.

There are 18 Provinces in Iraq. The aim of Iraq was to make Kuwait the 19th Province hence announcing that it has invaded Kuwait territory to make it the 19th Province. Iraq wanted to build a hegemony in the Middle East Region and monopolized Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (An interview with Barrister Charles Aiyamekhue 10-3-2021).

Kuwait is country rich in crude oil in the Middle East.

1. UNO imposition economic sanction on Iraq which is in accordance with UN Article 41, which may include, complete or partial interruption of economic relations and severance of diplomatic relations.
2. Therefore, Iraq wanted to exploit Kuwait oil postal telegraphic, radio and other means of communication and governance of diplomatic relation.
3. All members of the UN were not allowed to visit Iraq either by land, air or sea, meaning that, Iraq was regarded as dead lock country
4. Trading relations between other countries of the world and Iraq was prohibited.
5. All forms of communication were bared by the UN Security Council
6. No Iraq national was permitted to seek medical care abroad
7. Imposition of military in accordance to Article 42
8. All the oil wealth source of Iraq was destroyed (<http://peacekeeping.UN.org-> unikom. United Nation, Iraq-Kuwait observation mission-Background United Nations Peacekeeping).

The UN condemned Iraq act of aggression and demand for immediate and unconditional withdrawal from Kuwait. Article 39 stated that Security Council shall determine the existence of any threat to the breach of peace or not an act of aggression and shall make reconciliation, or decide what measure shall be taken in accordance with 41 and 42 to maintain international peace. The invasion of Iraq was done by 26 countries under the leadership of the USA.

The war between India and Pakistan in 1948 over possession of the disputed state of Kashmu was stopped by UN (Eluwa, Ukagwu, Nwachuku and Nwanbani, 1988).

In recent times, the UNO has been involved in keeping peace in Lebanon. In 1956, the UNO prevented attack by UAR on Lebanon (Okafor, 1982: 92)^[22].

The UNO has demonstrated adequately from the above achievements its pivotal role in the maintenance of peace and security since its establishment in 1945. It is possible to say that UN learnt much from the failure of the League of Nations especially as it failed to restrain aggression by Germany, Japan and Italy during the 1930s hence it collapsed and Second World War started in 1939.

Challenges of UNO

Inspite of the achievements of the United Nations Organisation, it has been confronted with series of challenges which render it incapacitated from the full

realization of its stated objectives is contained in its Charter. This setback is attributed to the disunity within the UN, more especially in the security council.

The first major challenge is that little progress is made in the promotion of peace because of its inability to reduce armaments. One of the objectives is nuclear disarmament. It has also failed to stop or prevent conflicts through effective and timely intervention (Eluwa, Ukagwu, Nwachuku and Uwanbani, 1988: 303). The USA and Soviet Union are hardly agreed on major issues and the use of their veto powers to frustrate much needed, urgent action (Ibid). The Hungarian crisis of 1960 are a few of the instances where opposing forces frustrated UN urgent and effective action (Ibid).

The second challenge is the failure of most member-nations to pay their dues regularly. Member states make contributions to the UN budget based on their relative wealth, so that the eight richest states contribute roughly 70 percent of both the regular and peacekeeping (Bruce, Harvey and David, 2014: 302)^[8]. Some states have expressed their dissatisfaction with the budgetary politics in the UN by withholding portions of their assessed contributions. The UN's chronic financial crisis leave the organisation poorly positioned to carry the burdens assigned to it (Kegley, 2007: 180). So, the UNO has not been able to raise sufficient money to meet some of its commitment and obligations world over. The third world countries contribute very negligible amount to the organization thus making it difficult for the body to fully realize its objectives (Okafor 1993. 93).

Again, the fact that the five permanent members of the Security Council each possesses the veto, follows many examples of inequality (Donnelly, 2006: 81-104)^[14]. The UN has also not performed creditably on the issue of dismantling apartheid because the western countries led by the United States, Britain and France oppose meaningful sanctions (Eluwa, Ukagwu, Nwachuku and Nwanbani, 1988: 303).

The wide spread exceptions and routine violations of UN decision have led Stephen Krasner to characterize the notion of sovereignty as "Organised hypocrisy" (Stephen, 1999)^[19]. There is the contention that there is an agreement in the UN Charter not to use military force except with the approval of the Security Council or on the ground of self-defence). Unfortunately, the violators of this Charter suffer little or no punishment.

Another fundamental challenge centres on peacekeeping operations. The peace keeping operation almost carried out only with the consent of the conflicting parties (Clarke, 1997) when the UN takes side in civil war as in Somalia, it is less successful (Ibid).

According to Kegley, the past ten years have been sobering, reducing confidence in the UN's ability to fulfill its ambitious goals by building global norms and international law to regulate unacceptable state behaviour (Kegley, 2007: 180). The doubts were compounded by a string of scandal including charges of mismanagement in the 1990s Iraqi "Oil-for food program", sexual abuse of women in Congo by UN peacekeepers and inaction in the face of genocide in the Darfur region of Sudan, which left 300,000 people dead and 2Million displaced in the sanctuary of refugee camps (Ibid).

The cold war created serious obstacle in the performance of the functions of the UN. During the cold war, the UN had

little success with conflicts involving both USA and USSR because each could veto any proposed UN action. To faith in the UN's ability quickly eroded when it soon became paralyzed by the unforeseen cold war conflict between the United States and the Soviet Union (Ibid, 174-176).

Again, the UNO member nations have not been keeping up with the spirit of the Charter of the organization which debar wars between member nations. As a result, there have been interventions and wars of aggressions between member nation (Okafor, 1982:93)^[22].

Considering the catalogue of challenges confronting the United Nations Organisation, it is not surprising that the organisation is finding it very cumbersome to wholistically realize its primary objective of maintaining world peace and security.

Conclusion

The United Nations Organisation was formally launched in April, 1945 at a Conference of 51 nations in San Francisco, USA. The Charter of the organisation was finally ratified on 24 October, 1945. The five permanent members of the Security Council are USA, UK, France, USSR and China. Article I of the UN Charter defines the objectives of UNO. Peace and security represent the hallmark in the thinking of the world leaders who established the UNO. The leaders created this international organisation to maintain and keep peace and security across the world. It can be argued that the primary function or objective of the UNO is the maintenance of world peace through collective security.

Six principal organs and specialized agencies were established by the UNO to facilitate the achievement of its aims and objectives. The organs are General Assembly, Security Council, the Secretariat, Economic and Social Council and the Trusteeship Council and the International Court of Justice. The specialized agencies include, Educational Scientific and Cultural Organisation, Food and Agricultural Organisation International Labour Organisation and United Nations International Children Education Fund.

The UNO has been very formidable in the maintenance of world peace and security. This paper demonstrated adequately the pivotal role played by UNO in maintaining world peace and security.

The challenges of nuclear disarmament, failure of most member nations to pay their financial dues, constant violations of UN decision by powerful nations, and use of veto power by some permanent members of the Security Council render it incapacitated from the full realization of its primary function of maintaining world peace and security.

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