

## PEACE AND SECURITY: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

### The UN Charter and Peace:

- **Article 2** of the UN Charter prohibits coercion and war (the threat or use of force) in international relations and requires UN members to resolve their international conflicts through peaceful means.
- **Article 26** states that plans should be submitted for the regulation of armaments, however, no system has been established
- **Article 33** of the UN Charter outlines methods by which UN members should resolve their conflicts peacefully, including by “negotiation, enquiry, mediation, conciliation, arbitration, judicial settlement, resort to regional agencies or arrangements, or other peaceful means of their own choice.”
- However, **Article 51** of the UN Charter provides the possibility for “individual or collective self-defence if an armed attack occurs against a Member of the United Nations, until the Security Council has taken measures necessary to maintain international peace and security.” Some have abused this provision to launch illegal military attacks against other states for their political purposes.

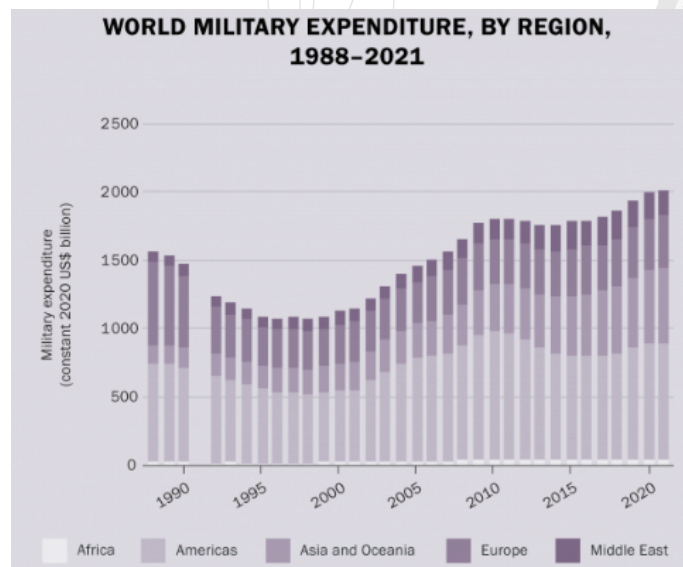
### UN Organs and Mechanisms for Peace and Security:

- **UN Security Council:** It works to determine whether actions constitute a threat to peace or an act of aggression, and has the remit under the UN Charter to enforce measures to maintain or restore peace. Measures could include economic sanctions or referral to the ICJ. The Council has 15 members, 10 elected for a 2 year period and 5 permanent members with the power to veto actions: China, UK, France, US and Russia.
- **UN General Assembly:** The main deliberative body of the UN where all member states have one vote. Any issue can be raised, discussed and acted upon so long as it doesn't clash with actions of the Security Council. Though its resolutions can be influential, they are generally not binding.
- **International Court of Justice (ICJ):** Part of the UN responsible for legal disputes between members. UN Secretariat/Secretary General - Can assist states resolve disputes through negotiation/ mediation. UN Secretariat also hosts peacebuilding bodies e.g. Peacebuilding Commission.

### Summary of UN Peacebuilding Fund and Peacebuilding Commission:

**Peacebuilding Fund:** The fund works as the UN's first response to respond to, and prevent, violent conflict. It is largely funded by states, with Germany the top donor in the 2020-24 period. It funds post-conflict peacebuilding projects, with the aim of addressing the problem of limited financing of peacebuilding.

**Peacebuilding Commission:** The Commission is an inter-governmental body composed of 31 Member States and representatives of key international organisations such as the IMF. It works to promote a strategic approach to peacemaking, provide support to conflict-affected countries, and share advice on peacebuilding across the UN.



### Disarmament:

**Promoting and facilitating disarmament** are core functions of the UN, deriving from the UN Charter Article 26, UN General Assembly resolutions, and other agreements including the key Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. The UN approach is to control 'conventional weapons' and work for the abolition of weapons of mass destruction, and those of which the use would violate international humanitarian law.

**Despite this**, world military spending has reached an all-time high of USD 2.1 trillion

## PEACE AND SECURITY: WHAT TO THINK ABOUT

### The Six Highlighted Proposals from the Consultation:



<sup>1</sup>World Bank, "Nearly 2.4 Billion Women Globally Don't Have Same Economic Rights as Men", March 1, 2022, Accessed March 8, 2023, URL - <https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2022/03/01/nearly-2-4-billion-women-globally-don-t-have-same-economic-rights-as-men>

<sup>2</sup>Stockholm International Peace Research Institute, "World Military Expenditure Passes \$2 Trillion for the First Time" April, 2022, Accessed March 2023, URL - <https://www.sipri.org/media/press-release/2022/world-military-expenditure-passes-2-trillion-first-time>

## **Prevention of war including nuclear war. Strengthening of international mechanisms for the peaceful resolution of conflicts.**

The UN Summit of the Future to affirm the inadmissibility of the threat or use of nuclear weapons and reaffirm the mandate of the UN General Assembly to act in order to prevent or respond to acts of aggression when the Security Council fails to do so.

All nuclear armed states to operationalize this by adopting no-first-use policies, taking all nuclear forces off alert and ending the stationing or deployment of nuclear forces in foreign territories.

The UN Summit of the Future to highlight the obligations under the UN Charter to refrain from the threat or use of force in international relations and to resolve international disputes through peaceful means.

All UN member states to accede to the compulsory jurisdiction of the International Court of Justice for disputes that cannot be resolved through other peaceful means by 2035.

## **Implementation of Article 26 of the UN Charter through plans and action for disarmament to release resources for economic and social development**

Calls on the UN Summit of the Future to reaffirm the obligation under Article 26 of the UN Charter to establish a plan for arms control and disarmament with the least diversion of resources for economic and social development.

The UN Security Council, UN General Assembly and other relevant UN bodies to take action with respect to Article 26.

All states to act on this obligation through ratification of bilateral and multilateral arms control agreements, reductions of military budgets and increases in financing for sustainable development goals, climate protection and contributions to the UN and its specialized agencies.

## **A United Nations Emergency Peace Service**

The establishment of a United Nations Emergency Peace Service (UNEPS) - a standing force of approximately 13,000 professionals (civilians, police, military etc.) to be available for immediate deployment in crisis situations as authorised by the UN Security Council.

## **Inclusion of nuclear abolition in the post-2030 SDGs, with the goal of complete elimination by 2045**

Calls for the UN Summit of the Future to support inclusion in the post-2030 SDGs, the goal of nuclear abolition with global abolition no later than 2045. Nuclear abolition is a universally binding legal obligation, as affirmed unanimously by the ICJ in 1996 and again by the UNHCR in 2018.

Suggests that the abolition of nuclear weapons needs to be discussed from sustainability perspectives, as there is no truly sustainable world with nuclear weapons.

## **Advancing the human rights to peace, nuclear abolition and climate protection (in the ICJ and Human Rights Council).**

The proposal calls on the UN Summit of the Future to reaffirm the human rights to peace, nuclear abolition and climate protection, and calls for full implementation of these rights in UN Human Rights bodies. An example:

The Human Rights Council should take action when a UN member seriously violates the right to peace through illegal military operations or acts of aggression.

## **Eliminating Security Council veto and establishing three additional security councils: Peacebuilding, Climate Security and Health Security**

The establishment of a UN Peacebuilding Council, Climate Security Council and Health Security Council which explores the objectives, mandate and governance for these councils that could find acceptance by a majority of UN Members.