## Special issue

Peace studies



## **Low Effectiveness** in Decisions

Critics argue that the General Assembly's decisions often lack enforcement mechanisms, making them ineffective in resolving international conflicts. To explain further, the ineffectiveness of the General Assembly is often criticized due to the absence of robust enforcement mechanisms. This means that while the General Assembly can make resolutions and decisions, it lacks the power to ensure that these decisions are implemented effectively, especially in the context of resolving international conflicts.

Limited Enforcement Authority: The United Nations General Assembly serves as a forum for member states to discuss and make recommendations on international issues. However, unlike the United Nations Security Council, it does not possess the authority to enforce its decisions with measures like sanctions or military actions. This limitation makes it challenging to compel countries to comply with its resolutions.

**Dependence on Member States:** The effectiveness of the General Assembly heavily relies on the willingness of member states to adhere to its resolutions voluntarily. If a member state chooses not to comply, there are often few means available to hold that state accountable.

Political Considerations: International politics and power dynamics can significantly influence the enforcement of General Assembly decisions. Powerful nations may be more resistant to complying with resolutions, and there is often a lack of consensus on how to respond to violations.

**Resource Constraints:** The General Assembly may lack the resources and infrastructure needed to implement and monitor its decisions effectively, particularly in complex situations such as conflict resolu-

Overlap with the Security Council: Some argue that the existence of the United Nations Security Council, which has more significant enforcement capabilities, can overshadow the General Assembly's efforts and further contribute to its ineffectiveness.



## Unequal Representation

Some argue that the Assembly's structure does not adequately represent the diverse interests and needs of the United Nations General Assembly doesn't adequately represent the diverse interests and needs of all member states. This concern primarily stems from the following factors:

Size and Power Disparities: The General Assembly follows a one-country, one-vote principle, which means that small nations have equal voting power with large and influential countries. Critics argue that this doesn't reflect the actual power dynamics in the world, leading to the dominance of a few powerful nations in decision-making.

Permanent Members and Veto Power: The UN Security Council, with its permanent members and veto power, holds significant influence over global affairs. This can undermine the General Assembly's authority, making it seem like a less relevant decision-making

Geopolitical Divides: Geopolitical divides among member states often lead to regional and political blocs forming within the General Assembly. This can result in voting patterns that prioritize regional interests over global ones.

Financial Contributions: Member states' financial contributions to the UN budget can impact their influence within the General Assembly. Countries that contribute more financially may seek to assert greater control or influence in decision-making.



sometimes constrained by geopolitical interests. This

article delves into the importance of critiquing the Unit-

ed Nations and exploring areas where it can improve its

effectiveness.

significance, it is not immune to criticism. As President

Fbrahim Raisi of Iran prepares to address the United

Nations General Assembly in New York, it is an opportune

moment to reflect on the necessity of criticizing the United

Nations, particularly in light of its perceived inefficien-