Foundation for Global Governance and Sustainability (FOGGS)

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Chapeau

1. While the world is now different from what it was at the UN's creation in 1945, **the UN Charter's core principles and provisions remain valid today**. What needs to change is how these principles and provisions are being applied in international and national politics, and in the interactions among states, as well as non-state actors.
2. Of paramount importance is to **respect cultural and political diversity**, and seek innovative ways and means to apply the UN Charter, in order to secure peace and achieve sustainable development with human rights for all.
3. **A new division of the world into opposing camps should be pro-actively avoided**, among other things because of the major destructive capability that nuclear weapons and increasingly digital tools provide to all relevant sides. The gradually more assertive voice of an increasing number of actors, especially from the Global South, who refuse to side with one or the other camp and claim their rightful place in the management of our world should be heeded, as the voice of the majority of the world's states and people and the most representative expression of "the international community".
4. Only by **acting with urgency now** to confront the different crises at hand, on the basis of the UN Charter, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and existing structural and operational tools, can we truly chart a path towards an effective multilateral system that works for all.
5. **SDG 16, on good governance and the rule of law, is essential for peace, development and human rights**, because it sets the foundations for effective and accountable institutions responsive to the needs of the people. It needs to be urgently adhered to within and between countries.
6. The above points should be the foundation of a much-needed **culture of peace, solidarity and shared prosperity** that should replace that of confrontation and zero-sum games that seems to be still prevailing despite assertions to the contrary.

7. It is necessary to promote resilience, immediate response capabilities, and a whole-of-society, can-do culture and dynamic to achieve sustainable development, human rights and peace for all. This includes **formal recognition of an empowered civil society** within the global governance architecture, with greater support for women's leadership and initiatives, including in expanded early warning and early action systems, and engaging local actors in the humanitarian-development-peacebuilding nexus. The wisdom of traditional and indigenous knowledge and ways of dealing with people, the planet and the economy should be paid attention to.

Chapter I. Sustainable development and financing for development

See proposal for the establishment of a Global Resilience Council (GRC) under Chapter V below.

Chapter II. International peace and security

1. The **peaceful resolution of disputes**, as foreseen in Article 33 of the UN Charter, should be placed at the centre of UN action in the peace and security domain. The peaceful settlement of a dispute does not mean that accountability for war crimes or the crime of aggression is forgone, nor that the territorial integrity or self-determination of nations is disregarded. Rather, settling a dispute according to international law involves a step-by-step approach and due process, whereby the parties air their grievances and claims before an impartial entity with authority to hear and decide the case.
2. Pay more attention to **the Humanitarian-Development-Peacebuilding Nexus**, inter alia bringing women to the table across the entire spectrum of issues and all stages of a conflict/peace process (before-during-after); and ensuring youth participation and that the voice of young people is heard. To these ends, civil society organizations, local communities and governments (central/local) should work in tandem, with decentralized authority, decision-making, finances and accountability. UN Country Teams coordinated by the UN Resident Coordinator should actively facilitate peacebuilding partnerships of government and civil society, drawing on the relevant local expertise and UN experience. The actual work should be mostly carried out by local and national peace facilitators, mediators and networks of monitors.

See proposals for UN Security Council reform and systematic use of Article 99 of the UN Charter under Chapter V below.

Chapter III. Science, technology and innovation and digital cooperation

No major proposal at this stage

Chapter IV. Youth and future generations

No major proposal at this stage

Chapter V. Transforming global governance

Establishment of a Global Resilience Council

1. Putting human security at the centre of global governance requires mobilizing state and non-state resources to address global challenges of a non-military nature. A **Global Resilience Council (GRC)**, intergovernmental in its final decision-making but inclusive of all relevant actors in the process of getting to decisions and in implementation, is a way to bring about new dynamism and end fragmentation in addressing challenges such as climate change, pandemics, food and water insecurity, biodiversity loss, increasing economic inequalities.
   1.1. Such a Council would support both SDG implementation, by addressing the aforementioned threats that undermine it, as well as traditional peace and security, by focusing attention, energy and resources on these threats that are common to all parts of humanity, taking minds away from killing each other.
   1.2. It could be established as a subsidiary body of the UN General Assembly and could include a representative number of countries of all sizes and from all regional and functional groups, as well as regional organizations, if the member states belonging to such an organization agreed to be collectively represented by it on the Council. Members would be elected for set terms, say of three years, and would be immediately eligible for re-election. Substantive decisions would be made by enhanced majorities on the basis of the number of states voting in favour and the percentage of the world population they represent, with no veto prerogatives for anyone.
   1.3. The GRC would engage the UN system and the broader system of multilateral and plurilateral organizations to ensure effective implementation of agreements reached, like the Paris Agreement on climate change. On a case by case basis, the UN Secretary-General might be asked to convene an "Emergency Platform" in support of the implementation of a GRC decision or decisions on a certain issue under the purview of the GRC. Such platforms would typically engage all relevant UN system agencies, other multilateral, regional or plurilateral organizations, relevant member states, and possibly influential non-state actors (see below).
   1.4. The new Council would have an organized system of engaging non-state actors, including parliamentarians, local authorities, civil society, indigenous peoples, scientists, religious leaders and the private sector.
   1.5. The SOTF could either negotiate and include in its outcome the detailed arrangements for the GRC, or could agree on its establishment in principle and leave the specific modalities to be worked out through an open-ended working group of the General Assembly during its 79th session.

Security Council reform

2. The resurgence of large scale violence and war is indicative of deteriorating relations between the world's major powers, as well as simmering tensions between and within other states. The main body assigned responsibility by the UN Charter to maintain international peace and security, namely the Security Council, is all too often incapable of discharging that responsibility because of the use of veto by one or the other of its permanent members. It is also plagued by a lack of proper representation of the UN membership that has significantly increased since the one and only increase in the Council membership in the 1960s. **Security Council reform** is therefore of paramount importance for the prevention of armed conflict and the peaceful resolution of disputes, as well as for tackling violent conflicts once they have erupted. The UN's credibility and legitimacy in the peace and security domain depends on that.
   2.1. Increasing the Security Council non-permanent seats by ten to bring the Council's overall membership to 25, if adequately distributed, would make the Council much more representative.
   2.2. The new tier of ten members could serve longer terms than the currently elected ten members and could be eligible for immediate re-election. The ten new seats could be allocated as follows: three for Africa, three for Asia, two for Latin America and the Caribbean, one for Western Europe and Others, and one for Eastern Europe.
   2.3. If this proposal gets adopted by the Summit of the Future with a two-thirds majority, the General Assembly should immediately initiate a UN Charter amendment to that effect. Article 27 of the Charter should be amended to reflect the new composition of the Security Council, with decisions on procedural matters requiring an affirmative vote of any fifteen out of the twenty-five members, while resolutions on substantive matters would require fifteen votes, including the concurring votes of the five permanent members, with abstentions not considered as vetoes.
   2.4. Every effort should continue to be made to curtail the use of veto power through further Charter amendments no later than the 100th anniversary of the UN in 2045.

Systematic use of Article 99

3. **Article 99 of the UN Charter** authorizes the UN Secretary-General (UNSG) to bring an issue that in his/her opinion threatens international peace and security to the attention of the Security Council and ask for action to be taken. Article 99 should be used more frequently and assertively by the Secretary-General, possibly through a monthly or quarterly review of the state of world peace, which the Secretary-General would present to joint sessions of the UN Security Council and the General Assembly, indicating the situations where Article 99 might apply, also as an early warning / preventive measure.
   3.1. As and when a breach of the peace comes to the attention of the UNSG, the first step should be to establish a fact-finding mission to objectively determine the

state of affairs. If the situation warrants it, the Secretary-General should immediately initiate preventive diplomacy measures and, if need be, also preventive deployment of observers or other unarmed personnel with approval from the Security Council or, if the Council is unable to act, from the General Assembly.

3.2. If preventive diplomacy fails and violent conflict ensues, the Secretary-General should step-up diplomatic efforts to end hostilities and find a mediated solution, which may involve the deployment of a UN peacekeeping force. It is worth noting that it is not for the UN Secretariat to find solutions – unless being asked – to the underlying problems which led to military confrontation, but it is for the UN Secretary-General to find means and formats, in which a political dialogue, reconciliation and eventually a negotiated agreement may be pursued to end the war.

3.3. Once the armed conflict ends, the Secretary-General should seek support from Member States for recovery, post-conflict reconstruction and peace-building efforts. Benchmarks that trigger each of these phases should be clearly outlined by the Secretary-General in his/her reports to the Security Council and the General Assembly. Past practices should inform these decisions, as well as the evidence gathered for the specific case during the fact-finding mission. Regional and civil society organizations should be consulted and involved throughout the process, as should be the range of UN system agencies, including the Bretton Woods Institutions. However, the onus of reaching a ceasefire and eventually a peace agreement rests with the states directly and indirectly involved in a conflict.

NOTE : The above inputs draw on work done by FOGGS and partners over several years, including discussions held, events carried out and publications produced in conjunction with the Peacemaking Reflection Group of former UN system staff (PRG) and the Global South Perspectives Network (GSPN). Language for this submission has been taken from the following publications, among other FOGGS produced or contributed-to documents: P. Bettelli, G. Kostakos and Y. Yasukawa, Eds., *An Enhanced Role for the UN in Peace & Human Security*, PRG/FOGGS, September 2023 and P. Bettelli, S. Chaturvedi, M. Heyn, G. Kostakos, K. Leitner, F.M. O'Donnell, G. Rosenblum-Kumar, P. Schumann and V. Zhagora, *Contribution to the UN Secretary-General's New Agenda for Peace*, PRG/FOGGS, January 2023. More on the Global Resilience Council (GRC) proposal can be found at the dedicated web page.