



The Role of the UN in Preventing Global Conflicts

Ashish Kumar

Department of Law, Dadabhoj Institute of Higher Education, Pakistan
adwaniashish105@gmail.com

Dr. Tansif Ur Rehman

Teaching Associate, Department of Sociology, University of Karachi, Pakistan; and
Visiting Faculty, Department of Law, Dadabhoj Institute of Higher Education,
Pakistan
tansif@live.com
<https://orcid.org/0000-0002-5454-2150>

Aliya Saeed

PhD Fellow at School of Law, University of Karachi, Pakistan
aaliasaeed@yahoo.com

ABSTRACT

International peace and security are essential components that the United Nations Organization (UNO) is involved in. The UNO is an organization that was created in 1945 after the devastation of World War II in order to avoid conflicts through diplomacy, mediation, and collective action. There is its Security Council, which empowers the peacekeeping missions involving the deployment of multinational forces to conflict areas to stabilize the regions and safeguard civilians. Another way that the UNO deals with the underlying causes of conflicts is through the promotion of sustainable development, maintenance of human rights, and dialogue between countries. Specialized entities like UNICEF and UNHCR have been involved in the effort to reduce humanitarian crises that may degenerate into violence. Nevertheless, the UNO has been and continues to be a primary institution of international cooperation despite a set of problems, such as intra-member-state politics and enforcement constraints. Its attempts to encourage negotiation, place sanctions on aggressors, as well as develop structures aimed at disarmament prove its invaluable contribution to avoiding international war and creating a safer and fairer world.

Keywords: challenges, historical context, laws, opportunities, theoretical context

INTRODUCTION

The United Nations Organization (UNO), which was created in 1945 during the period immediately after the Second World War, is the leading international organization that is tasked with the responsibility of ensuring global peace and security (Badache et al., 2022). Its original charter highlights the willingness of countries to ensure that such bitter wars are avoided as it had ravaged the world in the past two times in less than fifty years had not occurred again (Fawcett, 2025). The purpose of the UNO in averting conflict in the world is based on the special facility to create a platform to engage in dialogue, encourage diplomacy, and enforce international law (Ecoma & Ota, 2023). The UNO tries to solve conflicts in the Security Council, the General Assembly, and a massive network of specialized agencies, and thus prevents the confrontation into armed conflicts (Duursma et al., 2023).

Its preventive measures also help in managing the underlying causes of conflict, which include poverty, injustice, and inequality, which are backed up by the UNO through peacekeeping missions, conflict mediation, sanctions, and envoy deployment to crisis regions (Kobayashi et al., 2025). Besides, the UNO urges member states to comply with treaties and conventions that aim at restricting the proliferation of weapons and aggression (Paris, 2023). The issues have not been resolved, such as geopolitical tensions, financial difficulties, and doubts about the efficiency of some of the interventions; the UNO is still the main scaffold on which the global community unites to counter any threats to peace (McLoughlin et al., 2023).

The considerations of the UNO in ensuring that the world is not at war are increasingly important in a world that is becoming interdependent and unstable (Vural & Umaner-Duba, 2023). Its dedication to dialogue, cooperation, and peaceful resolving of conflicts is an indication of the long-term desire by humanity to achieve a stable and just international order (Zhang, 2024).

Research Justification

The studies conducted on the importance of the United Nations Organization (UNO) in conflict prevention are based on the fact that international conflicts in the 21st century have become more complex and frequent. The UNO came into existence at the end of World War II, and its main mission was to preserve peace and security in the world. Nevertheless, with its initial aim, there are still a lot of conflicts arising, both inter-state and intra-state. This study will critically look at the success of the UNO in conflict prevention, peacekeeping, and mediation activities in the various regions. It is crucial to understand the mechanisms of the UNO, including the power of the Security Council, peacekeeping missions, and diplomatic actions, to determine the actual impact it has. The importance of the research is also rooted in the necessity to investigate the problems that the UNO has to deal with, such as political polarization among the member states, lack of power to enforce, and financial limitations. Through shedding light on the achievements and failures in the interventions of the UNO, this paper will provide information on how this

organization can either reform or enhance its strategy of preventing conflicts.

Finally, the study will be vital to policymakers, academics, and other international citizens who are concerned about creating a more peaceful world. It serves as a contribution to the larger discussion on the topic of international cooperation, collective security, and the applicability of multilateral institutions in modern geopolitics.

Research Objectives

1. To discuss the historical context of the role of the UN in preventing global conflicts.
2. To highlight the theoretical context of the role of the UN in preventing global conflicts.
3. To analyze the laws regarding the prevention of global conflicts.
4. To identify the key challenges UN to prevent global conflicts.
5. To explore the opportunities for the UN to prevent global conflicts.
6. To propose effective prevention and intervention strategies.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This study employed a systematic review methodology, with research objectives established accordingly. A comprehensive literature review was conducted (Komba & Lwoga, 2020). Research findings were categorized based on their content (Hiver et al., 2021; Petticrew & Roberts, 2006), and classified information was incorporated into the study by organizing it into headings (Gan et al., 2021; Pawson et al., 2005). The evaluation of classified information and titles formed the basis of the study (Page, 2021; Rahi, 2017), ensuring the integrity of the research subject and its contents (Egger et al., 2022; Victor, 2008). The criteria for selection are listed.

- **Relevance:** Researches that directly addressed the questions posed by this study are included.
- **Quality:** Studies that meet a certain quality threshold (e.g., methodological rigor, bias risk) are included. Most of the research is from Scopus-indexed and Clarivate Analytics journals and reputed publishers.
- **Recency:** Consideration of the publication date to ensure that the review reflects the most current evidence. Most of the studies are from the last three years.
- **Language:** Only studies published in English are included.
- **Data Completeness:** Previous studies must provide sufficient data on outcomes of interest for practical synthesis; this is also ensured in this research.

This study did not use primary data from human participants; therefore, no ethics clearance letter from the ethics committee was required.

LITERATURE REVIEW

The United Nations Organization (UNO) has traditionally been considered an influential element of global conflict and war prevention (Ecoma & Ota, 2023). The Charter of the UN provided a legal and moral system in which international peace and security are required to be upheld (Fawcett, 2025). Chapter VI urges countries to

settle conflicts by peaceful means of negotiating, mediating, and arbitrating a settlement, but Chapter VII authorizes the Security Council to exercise enforcement actions (sanctions and military interventions) to achieve an amicable solution (McLoughlin et al., 2023). These mechanisms, according to scholars like Boulden (2003), are largely dependent on the political goodwill of the permanent members of the Security Council who have the power of the veto, which can hinder decisive intervention (Paris, 2023).

The UN peacekeeping operations evolved in the sense that at their establishment in 1948, they were entrusted with the responsibility of keeping ceasefires, but today they are involved in complicated activities like disarmament, electoral support, and civilian protection (Raz, 2024). When there are UN peacekeepers, the chances of conflict recurrence are lower because of the development of trust between the former enemies (Vural & Umaner-Duba, 2023).

Nevertheless, the critical views challenge the capability of the UN to avert conflict in scenarios that involve the involvement of the powerful states or the long-standing regional tensions (Duursma et al., 2023). The situation in Rwanda and Syria is problematic as the UN did not stop their atrocities in both cases despite prior warnings (Kobayashi et al., 2025). In general, the articles emphasize that, though the UNO possesses a lot of tools to avert global strife, its effectiveness is subject to early intervention, sufficient resources, and agreement among the member states (Zhang, 2024). Further reformation and reinforcement of early warning and rapid response networks are also often suggested in order to promote the efficiency of the UN in preventing conflicts.

Historical Context of the Role of UN to Prevent Global Conflicts

The UNO is the creation of World War II, a disastrous conflict that took the lives of more than 70 million people and destroyed states and empires in 1945. The UNO was set up to replace the unsuccessful League of Nations (Badache et al., 2022). The League, which was created after World War I, failed to provide the power and unanimity to prevent aggression, as was witnessed with the ascendancy of fascist powers. The founding members of the UNO were determined not to be involved in another catastrophe in the world, hence gave it more powers to ensure peace and security in the world (Fawcett, 2025). The Security Council was established as the main organ to deal with threats and was given the mandate to sanction and to make unanimous military efforts (Ecoma & Ota, 2023). The efficacy of the UNO was soon put to the test as ideological opposition between the United States and the Soviet Union tended to stifle decision-making by veto authority (Duursma et al., 2023).

Nevertheless, the UNO had significant roles to play in peacekeeping, conflict mediation in Korea, the Middle East, and the Congo (McLoughlin et al., 2023). With time, it came up with various preventive diplomacy instruments and peacekeeping missions (Zhang, 2024). The historical context informed the mission of the UNO of total war, institutions failed during the pre-war period, and the post-war agreement to prevent global war and achieve collective security (Raz, 2024).

Theoretical Context of the Role of the UN to Prevent Global Conflicts

The effectiveness of the United Nations Organization (UNO) in avoiding international conflict can be explained by the use of different theoretical perspectives of international relations, liberalism, and constructivism. The liberal theory gives importance to global institutions such as the UN in facilitating peace, cooperation, and the rule of law among the states. To this perception, the UNO is a brokering agent and facilitator of diplomacy, which minimizes the chances of war through dialogue, collective security, and multilateral involvement. Collective security, which forms the main idea of the UN Charter, implies that aggression committed by one member will be viewed as aggression against the rest of the parties, thereby discouraging the aggressive parties.

Constructivist theory also brings forth the role played by the UN in crafting international norms and identities. The UN not only intervenes in the wars but also creates a culture of peace and conflict resolution through the peacekeeping missions, resolutions, and

Humanitarian activities. Disarmament, development, and human rights promote long-term prevention of conflicts, which is another contribution of the UNO through the establishment of international standards and human rights. These theoretical prisms highlight the fact that the UNO is not just a response instrument, but rather a force of peace. Its impact goes beyond the military intervention to encompass the diplomatic, social, and economic instruments that can deal with the causes of conflict in the world.

Laws Regarding the Role of the UN to Prevent Global Conflicts

The UN Charter (1945) is the treaty of the United Nations, and it is the main document of the legal operations of the peacekeeping activities of the United Nations. Key provisions:

1. **Article 1:** It creates the intention of preventing international peace and security.
2. **Article 2(4):** Forbids the use or threat of force on the territorial integrity or political autonomy of a state.
3. **Chapter VI (Articles 33-38):** Provides Pacific Settlement of Disputes, where states are required to settle disputes by peacefully negotiating, mediating, conciliating, arbitrating, or setting disputes in court.
4. **Chapter VII (Articles 39-51):** Empowers the Security Council to enforce measures, including sanctions and military force, in case of a threat to the peace, violation of the peace, or aggression. Voting Security Council Resolutions.
5. **Security Council resolutions are legally-binding on all member states in Chapter VII: The Council can:** Impose economic sanctions. Approve group military intervention. Set up peacekeeping or enforcement campaigns.
6. **The International Humanitarian Law (IHL):** Although not universal, IHL treaties (such as the Geneva Conventions) complement the UN mechanisms to ensure the safety of civilians and the prevention of the development of conflicts.

Challenges for the UN to Prevent Global Conflicts

There are many international issues associated with global conflict prevention by the United Nations (UN). State sovereignty is one of the major challenges because member states tend to be defiant of outside interference on domestic matters, where the UN is unable to take decisive action. Vetoes often happen on cases where political differences between permanent members of the Security Council block any resolutions that may be vital to prevent the conflicts. Also, there are financial constraints and reliance on voluntary donations, which do not contribute to the prompt implementation of peacekeeping missions.

1. Complicated modern conflicts with non-state actors, terror, and cyber war also make the work of the UN more difficult.
2. The regional organizations, at times, have divergent interests that diminish coordination and effectiveness.
3. The absence of binding measures to enforce states to abide by resolutions of UN resolutions implies that aggressor states can disregard warnings at a minimal cost.
4. Bureaucratic inefficiencies reduce the fast response to new crises, and inequitable representation of various people in decision-making bodies brings concerns of bias and lack of legitimacy.
5. The lack of trust and support for the initiatives of the UN is caused by the skepticism of people towards the effectiveness of the UN.
6. The issue of humanitarian interests and protection of civilians in wars and conflicts often confronts the political interests, which complicate the quick response and exacerbate crises. All these challenges demand far-reaching reforms, an amendment in international cooperation, and the renewed determination to follow the principles of the UN Charter to avoid global conflicts efficiently.

Opportunities for the UN to Prevent Global Conflicts

The fact that the United Nations (UNO) has a distinct mandate and resources gives it ample opportunities to avert international war. To begin with, universal membership by the UNO offers a platform through which a dialogue and negotiation can be conducted, allowing the states to settle the disagreements. UNO is able to handle tensions through preventative diplomacy before it is translated into violence. The other opportunity is in peacekeeping missions, which can be deployed to stabilize situations in a region, observe ceasefires, and safeguard civilians. The ability of the UNO to sanction and sanction collective action as provided in Chapter VII of the UN Charter generates a powerful preventive measure against aggression. Moreover, by organizing international development aid and humanitarian intervention, the UN can assist in eliminating the causes of the conflict, i.e., poverty, inequality, and human rights abuse. Its specialized entities, such as UNICEF, UNDP, and UNESCO, work towards the establishment of resilience of societies and social cohesion. The early warning mechanism and the conflict analysis tools also contribute to the efforts of the UNO in identifying the emerging crisis and

responding to it in advance.

Lastly, the norms against war crimes and impunity are strengthened by international law and accountability promoted by the International Court of Justice and tribunals. Through these mechanisms, the UNO is enjoying potent potential to maintain international peace and security in a highly interconnected world.

DISCUSSION

The United Nations (UN) is very instrumental in the prevention of global conflict by way of diplomacy, peacekeeping, and international law. It was formed in the year 1945 following World War II, and its main aim is to uphold global peace and security.

Peacekeeping missions are authorized by the UN Security Council, which is allowed to mediate conflicts and even impose sanctions in order to discourage aggression. Special agencies such as UNESCO/UNICEF deal with underlying situations of conflict, such as poverty, inequality, and illiteracy. The UN also facilitates the communication of the countries and encourages the signing of treaties such as the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty to restrain the arms race. Its effectiveness is, however, usually determined by the cooperation of the member states and the veto power of the five permanent members of the Security Council. In spite of these, the UNO has been the

The primary international mechanism of collective action to avert war, solve crises, and create a more stable international order, by agreement and humanitarian intervention.

CONCLUSION

The United Nations is very crucial in thwarting international conflict through diplomacy, peacekeeping, and global collaboration. The UNO achieves this by enforcing the provisions of the UN Charter, encouraging dialogue, and providing solutions to problems that cause conflict in the world to keep it peaceful and secure. Its agencies strive to alleviate poverty, defend human rights as well, and promote sustainable development, which aids in achieving stability. Nevertheless, in spite of the difficulties like political fragmentation and the lack of resources, the UN is the most generalized area of taking action collectively, which proves that global solidarity is the key to avoiding and solving any conflicts in every corner of the world.

Recommendations

- 1. Empower Preventive Diplomacy:** Professionally deploy mediators and special envoys to contextual situations likely to bring conflict between parties.
- 2. Engage more young people and women in the process of peace:** The Empowerment Support program that empowers women and the youth as agents of peace and reconciliation.
- 3. Enhance Early Warning Systems:** Get more skilled in data gathering and real-time analysis to be able to see the signs of tension growth and avoid its breaking out into conflict.

- 4. Enhance Interaction with the People and fight Misinformation:** Propaganda and conspiratorial violence incitement should be countered with reliable information campaigns.
- 5. Identify the root Causes of Controversy:** Reduce poverty, inequality, and lack of means of production, which in the majority of cases are the predisposing factors of violence, using sustainable development efforts.
- 6. Improve Peacekeeping Mandates:** Ensure that the peacekeeping activities are properly mandated with proper mandates that are realistic and sufficient resources are allocated to calm down the turbulent areas.
- 7. Improve Local Network Partnerships:** Enlist other partners like the African Union, ASEAN, and the EU in the concerted efforts to prevent conflicts.
- 8. Invest in Capacity Building of Prevention of Conflict:** Those member states that are yet to attain good institutions, the rule of law, and responsible security services are helped to build these attributes to prevent internal wrangles.
- 9. Promote Disarmament and Arms Control:** Adopt universal conventions to help reduce the proliferation of weapons that increase conflicts.
- 10. Support Inclusive Governance:** Progressive political systems that are accommodative to diversity, to the rights of the minorities, and of the marginalized groups.

Research Limitations

The research work about the United Nations Organization (UNO) and its role in preventing a global conflict is limited in several aspects. To begin with, primary data on confidential UN deliberations is not available, which limits the information on real-time decision-making. Second, the secondary sources used in the analysis are prone to the bias of the writers or politics. Third, conflicts in the global arena are complex and diverse, and this implies that generalization may simplify the dynamics in the region.

Fourth, the speed of change in the geopolitical processes can make findings obsolete. Also, the UNO has a difficult task of measuring its preventive impact as there are no standard indicators and multiple actors, such as regional organizations and influential member states. There are also language barriers and inconsistencies in translation in the UN documentation. Lastly, a lack of sufficient time limited the case study comparison through a deeper case study. To overcome these limitations, future studies should include more access to data and longitudinal analysis to enhance findings validity.

Research Implications

The study of the United Nations Organization (UNO) role in the prevention of global conflict has a major implication on worldwide peace and global security. It shows the UN's ability to mediate in disputes, send peacekeeping missions, and enforce international and international laws by utilizing diplomatic pressure and collective action. The knowledge of such mechanisms aids policymakers in coming up with better conflict prevention strategies. In addition, the study highlights how the UN system and particularly the Security Council needs structural changes to

guarantee they can respond to crises in a timely manner and without favoritism. It also refers to the significance of the multilateral collaboration and the involvement of the regional organizations to supplement the work of the UN. The study highlights the necessity of early warning mechanisms, a more robust humanitarian response, and sustainable development to intercept the causes of conflicts. The findings have been informative to future strategies, educational programs, as well as global governance policies, which are designed to ensure the maintenance of international peace and international conflicts in the future.

Future Research Directions

There are various potential avenues that future studies about the role of the United Nations (UN) in conflict prevention in the world can pursue. Researchers would have the opportunity to evaluate the emerging technologies (which include artificial intelligence, cybersecurity structures, and digital diplomacy) and how they could improve early warning mechanisms and peacekeeping. Comparative analysis of the success of UN interventions in various territories would provide information about the best practices and contextual solutions. The other significant focus area is to look at how climate change, scarcity of resources, and conflict interact and how the UN can respond to the multidimensional threats. Moreover, the studies should examine the potential of reform to the processes of making decisions in the Security Council, such as suggestions to restrict the veto right in cases of humanitarian emergencies, to reinforce a collective action. Lastly, an investigation into collaboration with the UNO and regional organizations, civil society, and the private sector can potentially assist in fostering new approaches in conflicts between regions and encouraging sustainable peace. These guidelines have the potential to make the UNO suit the changing international security issues.

REFERENCES

- Badache, F., Hellmüller, S., & Salaymeh, B. (2022). Conflict management or conflict resolution: How do major powers conceive the role of the United Nations in peacebuilding? *Contemporary Security Policy*, 43(4), 547–571.
<https://doi.org/10.1080/13523260.2022.2147334>
- Duursma, A., Bara, C., Wilén, N., Hellmüller, S., Karlsrud, J., Oksamytna, K., Wenger, A. (2023). UN peacekeeping at 75: Achievements, challenges, and prospects. *International Peacekeeping*, 30(4), 415–476.
<https://doi.org/10.1080/13533312.2023.2263178>
- Ecoma, C.S., & Ota, E. N. (2023). International conflicts and conflict resolution: Periscoping the role of the United Nations. *Khazar Journal of Humanities and Social Sciences*, 26(2), 25–48.
<https://doi.org/10.5782/2223-2621.2023.26.2.25>
- Egger, M., Higgins, J. P., & Smith, G. D. (Eds.). (2022). *Systematic reviews in health research: Meta-analysis in context*. John Wiley & Sons.
- Fawcett, L. (2025). The changing regional faces of peace: Toward a new multilateralism? *Contemporary Security Policy*, 46(2), 372–401.

- <https://doi.org/10.1080/13523260.2025.2460130>
- Gan, J., Xie, L., Peng, G., Xie, J., Chen, Y., & Yu, Q. (2021). Systematic review on modification methods of dietary fiber. *Food Hydrocolloids*,*119*,106872. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.foodhyd.2021.106872>
- Hiver, P., Al-Hoorie, A. H., Vitta, J. P., & Wu, J. (2021). Engagement in language learning: A systematic review of 20 years of research methods and definitions. *Language Teaching Research*,*13621688211001289*. <https://doi.org/10.1177/13621688211001289>
- Komba, M. M. & Lwoga, E. T. (2020). Systematic review as a research method in library and information science. In P. Ngulube (Ed.), *Handbook of research on connecting research methods for information science research (pp. 80-94)*. IGI Global Scientific Publishing. <https://doi.org/10.4018/978-1-7998-1471-9.ch005>
- Kobayashi, K., Krause, K., & Yuan, X. (2025). (Re) setting the boundaries of peacebuilding in a changing global order. *Contemporary Security Policy*,*46*(2),226-252. <https://doi.org/10.1080/13523260.2025.2466287>
- McLoughlin, S., Gifkins, J., & Bellamy, A. J. (2023). The evolution of mass atrocity early warning in the UN secretariat: Fit for purpose? *International Peacekeeping*,*30*(4),477-505. <https://doi.org/10.1080/13533312.2023.2236929>
- Paris, R. (2023). The past, present, and uncertain future of collective conflict management: Peacekeeping and beyond. *Journal of Intervention and Statebuilding*,*17*(3),235-257. <https://doi.org/10.1080/17502977.2023.2170546>
- Page, M. J., McKenzie, J. E., Bossuyt, P. M., Boutron, I., Hoffmann, T. C., Mulrow, C. D., Shamseer, L., Tetzlaff, J. M., & Moher, D. (2021). Updating guidance for reporting systematic reviews: Development of the PRISMA 2020 statement. *Journal of Clinical Epidemiology*,*134*,103-112. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jclinepi.2021.02.003>
- Pawson, R., Greenhalgh, T., Harvey, G., & Walshe, K. (2005). Realist review – A new method of systematic review designed for complex policy interventions. *Journal of Health Services Research & Policy*,*10*(1),21-34. <https://doi.org/10.1258/1355819054308530>
- Petticrew, M., & Roberts, H. (2006). *Systematic reviews in the social sciences: A practical guide*. Blackwell Publishing. <https://doi.org/10.1002/9780470754887>
- Raz, I. G. (2024). China's new mediating role and the Palestinian-Israeli conflict. *Israel Affairs*,*30*(5),1090-1112. <https://doi.org/10.1080/13537121.2024.2394320>
- Rahi, S. (2017). *Research design and methods: A systematic review of research*,

sampling issues, and instruments development. *International Journal of Economics Management Sciences*, 6(2), 403.

<https://doi.org/10.4172/2162-6359.1000403>

Victor, L. (2008). Systematic reviewing in the social sciences: Outcomes and explanation. *Enquire*, 1(1), 32-46.

<https://www.nottingham.ac.uk/sociology/documents/enquire/volume-1-issue->

Vural, Y., & Umaner-Duba, G. (2023). Shaping territorial solutions to the Cyprus conflict: The role of international organizations. *Regional & Federal Studies*, 35(2), 283-303.

<https://doi.org/10.1080/13597566.2023.2294940>

Zhang, Q. (2024). Prevention as a norm cluster? Mapping China's contestation on atrocity prevention. *International Affairs*, 100(1), 241-260.

<https://doi.org/10.1093/ia/iad224>