Policy Brief - Implementing the People-centred United Nations 2.0 System: Quintet of Change for Collective Action and Effective Multilateralism

Executive Summary

Based on our groundbreaking findings from using Behavioral Science to develop Educational Tools for transforming the state-centric UN System, we propose the UN 2.0 System as a scientific breakthrough for making the UN fit for Purpose and Future. By putting the Peoples, Civil Society and identity-based Regional Organizations at the centre of UN System and Operations; the UN Decision-making Structures are systematically transformed for Effective, Inclusive and Networked Multilateralism. In practice, the inclusivity, effectiveness and efficiency of United Nations are improved by reviewing Article 4 and Chapter 8 of the UN Charter for addressing, and resolving present and future global challenges. Our findings therefore, upgrades the UN and as well provide a wholesale global solution for actualizing key proposals in "Our Common Agenda" (OCA) Report, and for accelerating Sustainable Development Goals, Finally, our policy recommendations provide an opportunity for all Stakeholders to collectively take action today, in order to globally adopt the People-centred United Nations 2.0 System and Intercontinental Relations for Effective Multilateralism at the 2024 Summit of the Future, and subsequently for its ratification by Member States as a Pact for the Future for full implementation.

Introduction

In response to OCA Report, we propose the groundbreaking outcomes of our Evidence-Based Research Project (2001-2021) ahead of 2024 Summit of the Future as 21st century global solutions for Effective Multilateralism. Meanwhile, the UN Transformation Research Work along with its Educational Tools (the UN 2.0 System and Intercontinental Relations) started (since 2001) in the aftermath of the collapse of World Trade Center in New York, USA following through the events of 2007and 2009 Global Financial Crises to the Corona Virus Disaster (2019). Moreover, the passages of these monumental events are historical evidences of the failures of our global governance institutions in 21st century; hence, the research is solely undertaken for upgrading UN and introducing a new knowledge of network thinking in International Relations, so as to create innovations for eliminating gaps in global governance.

As portrayed by UN Secretary General's report on OCA that we urgently need to take collective action so as to close these phenomenal gaps now before, it is too late. In response to this special report – our research outcomes are therefore, timely in giving humanity the breakthrough choice for our collective survival.

Meanwhile, the project has recorded several scientific breakthroughs from theory to practice, garnered positive feedbacks and visibility globally (during UN75 Anniversary, and) through

publications in academic journal, libraries hosted by EBSCO Information Services and news article (that is featured on web portal of Community Research and Development Information Service (CORDIS - is the European Commission's primary source of results from projects funded by the EU's framework programmes for Research and Innovation). Other feedbacks are gotten from presentations at various international conferences or Annual Meetings (of Academic Council on the United Nations System) and participations in both Global and Educators' Challenge prize competitions (2017 and 2018) by Swedish Global Challenges Foundation).

Currently, we are working with Global Governance Innovation Network (GGIN) that is in partnership with Coalition for the UN We Need for advocacy, information sharing and exchange of ideas. In order to bring our global solution to reality, we have submitted our ideas (A UN 2.0 System and its Educational Tools for Effective Multilateralism) to a High-Level Advisory Board (HLAB) to the UN Secretary General during the just concluded Public Consultation campaign (August 2022)

Explaining The Issues Areas Of Global Concern Where Governance Improvements Are Needed;

    a. Issues areas of Legitimacy, Accountability, Trust, Leadership, Social Justice, and the Ineffectiveness of UN in 21st century

    b. Issues areas of International Peace and Security (such as the threats of World War III as it is happening in the Ukraine-Russia War, Nuclear Weapons, Cyber attacks, Pandemics amongst others)

    c. Issues areas of neglecting Environment or Environmental Governance as Global Public Goods, or Global Commons (such as Ocean, Arctic, Seas and Outer Space, and others) that requires urgent global action, and various inactions on climate related agreements such as Paris Climate Agreement (for mitigating the threats of Climate Change, Bio-diversity Loss and Pollution)

    d. Issues areas of Human Rights perspective that are based on a particular cultural value as Universal Human Rights over the values, or identities of other World Civilizations while undermining diversity, and the pursuit of common values for survival of all humankind.

    e. Issues areas of Global Inequality, Justice, Health, Education, Trade, Economy and Financial System (from threats of Extreme Poverty, Corruption, Under-development, Pandemics, Trade Wars, Migration, Global Economic and Financial crises).

Linking Global Governance 2.0 Architecture To Support Gender Equity, Youth And The Needs Of Future Generations

    a. In order to support Gender Equity, Youth and Future Generations, the UN 2.0 System is built as the core of people-and-region centric Multilateralism (Fig, VII

and VIII) that is expandable for connecting the Youth (such as UN Youth Council), and giving them a voice and representation at the General Assembly so as to be part of Global Decision-making. With increased spectrum of actors of global governance (including Women and Young people) coming together to address global challenges, the core of a democratic, networked and people-centered UN 2.0 System thus supports gender equity, and the needs of future generations. One of such needs of the Future Generations is the right to a healthy or sustainable environment that is free from threats of climate change, Nuclear Weapons, Cyber-attacks, Pandemics and other global catastrophic risks for their survival, economic and social development. Another critical need is the right to peace and security, which is more guaranteed in a world of regions than of nation states.

Fig. VII A UN 2.0 System: The Core of a People & Region-centered Multilateralism & Symbol of Global Governance 2.0 Architecture

Fig. VIII Operations of a UN 2.0 System: The People & Region Centric Innovations

Conclusion

By taking urgent action today, our policymakers stand the chance of restoring global leadership, legitimacy, accountability and trust that are needed for building Effective United Nations, and Governance Innovations that works for the betterment of the human condition, and global peace. In addition, our policy recommendations are inputs and solutions for actualizing the high-level OCA proposals such as Future Generations, Emergency Platform, A New Agenda for Peace, Digital Compact, Outer Space Dialogue and the Biennial Summit (for Collaborative Economy and Management of Global Commons). Finally, the global adoption of our unifying and system-wide transformation proposal are anticipated at the 2024 Summit of the Future for accelerating the implementation of existing Agreements such as Sustainable Development Goals.

Policy Recommendations

As an improved global order, highest priority is placed to protect global commons as a new Norm in post-Covid era. Resulting from our newly proposed global practice - is the Quintet of Change (as called for in the OCA Report) that infuses the Global Union Model (fig. I) as a global family structure, and the Practice of Intercontinental Relations for systemic transformation of UN. Technically, by amending Article IV and Chapter VIII of the UN Charter – the Westphalian State System, the International or the UN System and the state-

centric multilateral Global Decision-making Structures are transformed in order to meet the geopolitical realities of today. Below are governance improvements that are achievable in short and long terms:
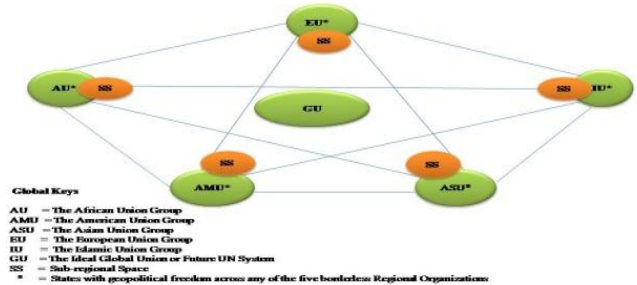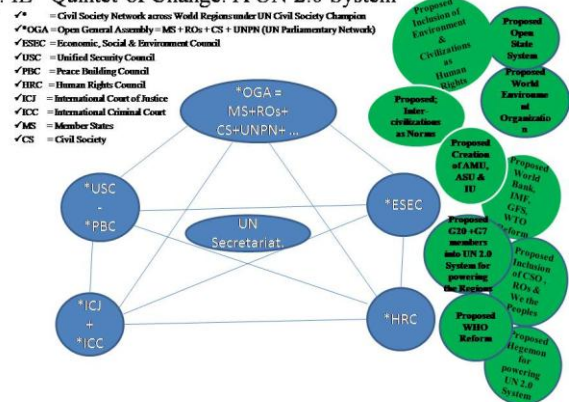

Global Keys
AU = The African Union Group
AMU = The American Union Group
ASU = The Asian Union Group
EU = The European Union Group
IU = The Islamic Union Group
GU = The Ideal Global Union or Future UN System
SS = Sub-regional Space
* = States with geopolitical freedom across any of the five borderless Regional Organizations

Fig. I   A Global Union Model: The Built Intercontinental System

Fig. II.   Quintet of Change: A UN 2.0 System

✓* = Civil Society Network across World Regions under UN Civil Society Champion
✓*OGA = Open General Assembly = MS + ROs + CS + UNPN (UN Parliamentary Network)
✓ESEC = Economic, Social & Environment Council
✓USC = Unified Security Council
✓PBC = Peace Building Council
✓HRC = Human Rights Council
✓ICJ = International Court of Justice
✓ICC = International Criminal Court
✓MS = Member States
✓CS = Civil Society

a. Update Multilateralism and Operationalize inclusivity as networks of States and Non-state Actors (involving the States, identity-based Regional Organizations, Civil Society and We the Peoples for participation) at the center of UN Decision-making and Action-taking, in order to solve human problems and address global challenges for the benefit of Youths and Future Generations (fig.VIII).

b. Implement the proposed Open State System (fig. III) for replacing the Westphalian State System that allows for States to either exit, or join any preferred identity-based Regional Organizations (such as EU, AU amongst others are to be created) for Economic Union, Social Union or Political Union irrespective of their geographical locations toward a Borderless and Democratic World. In practice, the new global phenomenon of open globalization is already taking place as Ukraine (now in War with Russia) has declared the intent to join EU (while Finland and Sweden are also joining) for solidarity, prosperity, peace and effective collective security.

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Fig. III Open State System in the Intercontinental System Network

- A proposed Open State System for an interconnected world of disparate People, Civilizations, Institutions, Nations and Regions with shared and equal Sovereignty
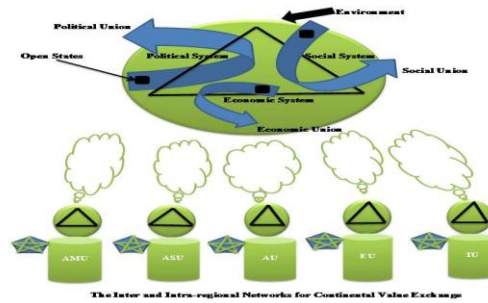
c. Upgrade the General Assembly in order to include Member States, identity-based Regional Organizations such as Africa Union (AU), European Union (EU) and Create the Asian Union (ASU), the American Union (AMU) and the Islamic Union (IU), and also include Non-State Actors (such as UN Youth Council, A Civil Society High Level Focal Point and UN Parliamentary Assembly (UNPA) as Advisory Body for people participation

d. Upgrade the Security Council so as to include EU, AU, AMU, ASU and IU, and also include the Civil Society Network as Defenders of global commons (Civilizations, Environment and Human Rights) for balancing geopolitics, and democratic deficits. However, as input to the proposed "New Peace Agenda" and "New Social Contract"(fig. IV and fig. V) – the granting of Regional Organizations with rights of statehood, sovereignty and veto would enhance conflict prevention, peace, effective collective security, and sustainable development.

Fig. IV A Notion to Protect Global Commons: The New Social Contract for Post-Covid United Nations & Innovations
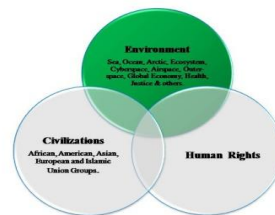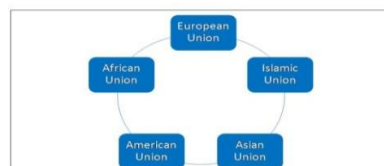

Fig. V A New Peace Deal: The Core of UN 2.0 System & a Unified World Government for Intercontinental Relations

e. Create a Peace Building Council with the mandate to efficiently lead on conflict prevention and development of peace building policies for people-centered Peace Operations.

f. Upgrade the Economic and Social Council into Economic, Social and Environment Council so as to initiate green policies for regulating the economic space, environment and for the development of all-inclusive social space that is corruption free, and allows for Civil Society and Private Partnerships.

g. Increase International Court of Justice partnership with International Criminal Court and strengthen the court against political pressure so as to widen Justice Net, and to effectively and efficiently adjudicate fairness, human rights, good governance and justice in the application of open, or common International Law (Intercontinental Law) at local, national, transnational, regional and global levels for protecting our global commons and Justice for all.

h. Review the Human Rights Council so as to recognize a healthy Environment as human right (this aspect has been passed into a historic UN Resolution on July 28, 2022), and as well recognize the identities of world civilizations as human right under the watch of Civil Society Network.

i. Create a World Environment Organization (WEO) as the Specialized (Technical or Functional) Agency for responding to Environmental Challenges.

j. Reform World Health Organization so as to rapidly collaborate with the proposed WEO and, respond to emergencies at all levels of Governance when it concerns Global Health Disasters

k. Reform World Trade Organization for inclusivity of Developing Countries in Trade Governance as in the Global Union Model, in order to reduce global inequality

l. In the long term - implement the proposed G20 + 7 N Governance Innovation as (input to Biennial Summit) a post-Covid Global Order, and Response for spurring borderless Regional Integration & Cooperation for ending Endemic Poverty, Migration Crisis, Digital and Development (Vaccine) Divide, & for addressing Climate Change & other complex global challenges . This is a wholesale global solution that is to be implemented by G20 and G7 and in partnership with International Monetary Fund, World Bank, Regional Development Banks and UN for powering the Regions

Fig. VI A G20+7N Innovation for Post-Covid Global Order & Economic Recovery
– for powering the Regions and spurring borderless Regional Integration & Cooperation as a global
response for ending Endemic Poverty, Migration, Digital and Development Divide, & for addressing
Climate Change & other complex global challenges
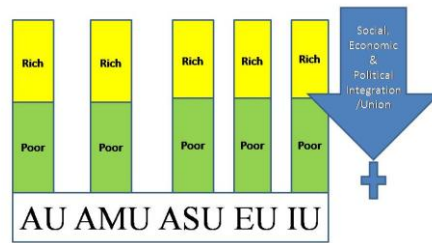
m. Democratize and Translate Veto so as to shift power to the Regions for the purpose of defending global commons (such as Continental Identities, Environment and Human Rights) as a proposed Norm, or practice. Arising from this new multilateral global order within the UN, the EU would become a Global-Regional Actor with Statehood Rights and Sovereignty, and as well as AU and others in the long term). However, Veto is vital on a positive note for asserting Global Leadership and re-establishing Legitimacy, Accountability and Trust needed (by either co-opting or exerting hegemonic influence on Member State) for the formation of a stronger and Open International Society, (and as a panacea for setting a New Peace Agenda and Social Contract). To this end, the Regional Organizations would be responsible for putting legal obligations on its Member States, in order to effectively and efficiently manage global commons by enforcing common International Law or Intercontinental Law (as a New Vision in the Rule of Law) for improved global governance. In the final analysis, Power balancing between the P5 and the proposed Global-Regional Actors is essential for guaranteeing collective security and for a peaceful, stable, and equitable world.

Policy Implication

Central to implementing our research findings, we strongly call for solidarity and stronger political will that are lacking in practice so as to include the proposed Peoples, Civil Society and identity-based Regional Organizations in global decision-making and action taking (as the EU and AU are yet to have the same statue as Permanent Member at the UN: the assignment of statehood, sovereignty and veto power in order to urgently restore global leadership, trust and foster global peace, security and justice). However, the five Permanent Members of the Security Council may lack the unanimity to collectively agree to either upgrade United Nations, or review the UN Charter. This is as a result of the fears accompanying balance of power for the prevalence of arrogance and anarchy. In the case of this form of international quagmire, our Policymakers at the General Assembly should collectively invoke the UNGA Resolution 377A – the Uniting for Peace Resolution in order to override Veto.

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