

UNSC: Restructuring and Reforming the Security Council

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In the second committee session, the diligent members of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) attempted to form a plan that would reform the structure of the Security Council to make it more efficient. Most of the debate was centered around how many delegates should be in the council to begin with. At first there was some contention, as the delegate from France proposed that the UNSC should be made up of twenty-five members, while the delegate from the Russian Federation argued that twenty nations would be more beneficial. Eventually they settled at twenty-five delegates, including five permanent nations with veto power (P5), six other permanent members without the veto power (Brazil, India, Japan, Saudi Arabia, Germany, and South Africa), eight elected nations from various regions around the world, and six rotating nations that have never been in the Security Council before.

The eight elected positions will be voted upon in eight regions around the world, including South America, Latin America, Western Europe, Eastern Europe, Eastern Asia, Southern Asia & Oceania, Africa, and the Middle East. There was also some debate about the veto power of the P5 nations. In the Security Council, China, the United States, Russia, the United Kingdom, and France all have the power to veto any resolutions suggested by the rest of the council. A simple majority in the UNSC includes nine votes with no vetoes from any of the P5 nations. The delegate from France attempted to bring up discussion about reforming the immense power of the veto, but the representative of the United Kingdom was insistent on keeping the P5 the same. After a long and late session, no resolutions have been introduced but much progress has been made pertaining to the new structure of the Security Council.