

How Can Africans Have A Stronger Voice at the UN?

The United Nations General Assembly has held annually in September in New York, United States. At this gathering, both government and non-state entities observe an important multilateralism ritual. High hopes are placed on this international gathering to resolve or address the majority of the development impediments in multilateral activities in developing nations, especially in Africa. The theme of this year's event is "Gender equality now for a sustainable tomorrow." Climate change and environmental and disaster risk reduction are critical concerns in the 21st century, and 2022 is crucial for achieving gender equality in these areas.

The relevance and necessity of the unique relationship between Africa and the United Nations should be reconsidered and explored in greater depth. The two most important topics that ought to be emphasised in any debates that take place on the various levels are "*development and security*." I believe the 17 "sustainable development goals" may be boiled down to two words: *development and security*. Multilateral bargaining between the developed and the developing countries is where the SDG agenda is most likely to become a reality. Since these problems are consistent across Africa, only if Africans can speak with one voice might a solution be reached.

Development: Africa and the UN must prioritise food security as a development concern and can only accomplish this by embracing the technological transformation. One of the primary causes of security instability is a deprivation of access to and shortage of food. Fundamentally ensuring the achievement of such a crucial objective is ensuring the full participation of beneficiaries. Notably, the bottom-up and top-down implementation of the socioeconomic development agenda is crucial. The process must be inclusive, taking into account indigenous knowledge systems. Moreover, the United Nations or developed countries' assistance should not be based on the donor's and recipient's perspectives but rather a shared priority for both parties.

The practicality of such ambitious projects in Africa ought to take ownership of its development and security agendas. Access to capital, massive debt, a shortage of agricultural inputs, instability, implementation, and poor governance are the primary barriers that are stopping Africa from attaining its sustainable development goals (SDG).

At the core of these issues is the urgent need for the agricultural practices that are now labour-intensive and subsistence-based to be modernised and mechanised. In addition to the apparent truths of poverty, instability, and climate change, which is exacerbated by desertification and deforestation, there are other factors to consider. In this manner, the UN and donor countries can provide financial and technical support. All stakeholders can contribute to the results' planning, implementation, and evaluation with a sense of responsibility and perseverance.

As we have seen, the notions of development that are backed by research showed that any development should be local and acclimated to the environment. This must take into account any and

all development strategies in Africa, particularly those pertaining to the agricultural sector. The UN General Assembly makes recommendations to States on international matters within its jurisdiction, including the examination of SDG implementation plans. In addition, it has taken action across all United Nations pillars, including in political, economic, humanitarian, social, and legal problems. Consequently, Africa should actively participate and urge a reconsideration of the SDGs in light of their deficiencies.

Security: How can the United Nations Security Council and the architecture of peace be transformed to be more inclusive, notably of the 1,3 billion people who live in Africa? The restructuring of the United Nations Security Council will benefit the African people, who have been treated unfairly for decades. The potential consideration will also contribute in restoring the partnership on a positive note.

There are two fundamental arguments for this claim. The continent that is home to over a quarter of the world's states is the only major region without a permanent seat at the United Nations. That Africa was stripped of its veto power in the UN Security Council is proof that the amount of injustice at the UN is intolerable. Second, the majority of United Nations peacekeeping missions are based in Africa. Clearly, there is an urgent need to boost African representation on the United Nations Security Council (UNSC), and Africans' full involvement in the decision-making process cannot be compromised.

The UN and major world powers' support for an African seat on the Security Council is a given. The African Union and the African states it exemplify must also take the initiative in the fight to secure the seat. I am optimistic that the African Union will not make a historical blunder by proposing or supporting a single nation for UNSC membership. The pursuit of a representative for Africa on the UN Security Council is non-negotiable. Given the African vacuums, the dominant nation may employ various strategies to divide Africans. Therefore, the political elite should play a deliberate role in ending the existing isolation from the world power game to escape such drama and complexity.

The AU Assembly of Heads of State convenes twice yearly to set priorities and present a unified agenda to the United Nations General Assembly. The strategy must also include a rotating country delegation to represent the African agenda at the United Nations. Specifically, the implementation of decisions and accords is required to bolster the development and security agenda. Africa and the United Nations must shift their relationship from one of disillusionment to one of constructive partnership.

The strategy will assist Africa in being heard in a definite manner, avoiding a dispersed and discordant voice. Similarly, we must ask why 55 African nations send delegates every year to the United Nations General Assembly in New York rather than speaking with one voice. Why can the scarce resource have provided by taxpayers' squander without restraint? The extravaganza must be constrained, and Africa must demonstrate its sense of responsibility and obligation not only to the

United Nations but also to the electorate. While Africa is home to millions of individuals living below the poverty line, it should rigorously investigate the expenditure of taxpayer funds.

In conclusion, the possibility of cooperation between Africa and the United Nations is a topic that must be reviewed in a proactive manner to break the cycle of poverty and insecurity. Africa should aim to cease receiving food aid from USAID, JICA, KOICA, EU, and other donor nations by 2030 [based on SDG goals](#). Africa has to reach a consensus and make a steadfast pledge. As long as food AID persists, it will continue to demean our lives and keep us in a lower evolutionary state. Keep in mind that if Africa keeps becoming a dumping ground for "Food AID," we will never be able to reclaim our pride or fully develop our natural and people resources.

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