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## KENYA'S CANDIDATURE FOR A NON-PERMANENT SEAT ON THE UNSC: AN ASSESSMENT OF CONTRIBUTIONS, PRIORITIES AND CHALLENGES

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### ABSTRACT

*The United Nations Security Council has a total of fifteen members, five of those members are permanent members that include; the United States, France, Russia, the United Kingdom and China. The remaining ten members are non-permanent members elected for two year terms by the General Assembly. Kenya has been a non-permanent member before, in 1973-1974 and 1997-1998. On both occasions, its focus was on peaceful resolution of conflicts and it campaigned for the self-determination of countries seeking independence. The political and development landscape has changed in Africa so far. Kenya has so far contributed to the Somalia and South Sudan peace process backing international peace and stability in the Eastern Africa region. Kenya also takes pride in the consistent contribution of troops to peace keeping missions globally, from the second Gulf war to the current African Mission in Somalia (AMISOM). Kenya cites experience with regard to maintenance and stability of regional peace. The non-permanent members of the Security Council are elected on their ability to make contributions to the United Nations for the maintenance or restoration of international peace and security.*

**KEYWORDS:** *Non-Permanent Seat, lobbying, AMISOM*

### CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION

The United Nations Security Council is saddled with the responsibility of maintaining international peace and security as contained in Article 24 of the United Nations Charter. It is a key organ of the United Nations that is mandated to ensure peace and security in the world, while other organs of the United Nations can only make recommendations to member states. The Security Council has the power to make binding decisions that member states have agreed to carry out, under the Charter Article 25 (United Nations Charter, 2013). The decisions of the Council are known as United Nations Security Council resolution (Fasolu, 2004). It has so far been criticized for its limited success in the maintenance of



international peace and security. Although non-permanent members have no veto rights or powers unlike the permanent members and only serve for two years, they enjoy a political legitimacy the permanent members do not possess as they are elected members of the world community. This political legitimacy is craved by all members of the United Nations especially developing states. Furthermore, any adoption of a resolution, which is binding, requires affirmative votes by the non-permanent members too, as nine positive votes are required to pass a resolution of the fifteen-member council (Brosig,2018). All UN Security Council non-permanent membership is regarded as the ultimate foreign policy prize.

Kenya's candidature is anchored on the critical role that Kenya continues to play in maintaining global peace and stability. As a country, Kenya has contributed to more than forty-four peace keeping operations across the world (Wakaya,2019). Kenya is a key supporter of the United Nations peace keeping efforts in the international system. It has over the years remained receptive to requests to contribute to peace operations based on the consent of parties in the host state. Kenya has however remained cautious of involvement in peace operations that have had an enforcement element. The notable exception to the foregoing remains the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) which Kenyan forces joined in 2012. Since the end of the Cold War, Kenya has often been a key contributor to UN peacekeeping operations. Until the mid-2000s, Kenya ranked in the top 10 troop-contributing countries (Ahere, 2017).

Kenya is not a stranger to being a non-permanent member in the United Nations Security Council. In 1973 and 1997 Kenya was a member of the Security Council and its focus was on peaceful resolution of conflict and campaigned for self-determination of countries seeking independence. Since then, not only has the world politics suffered drastic changes but the African landscape changed in accordance with time as more and more countries changed from the stigma of underdeveloped states to developing states. Kenya's focus has evolved with the times to climate changes, the region's security and sustainable development. This focus has further been portrayed with Kenya's involvement in Somalia and Sudan peace process and for hosting the first global blue economy conference in November 2018. This conference offered an opportunity to advance shared priorities in supporting and



implementing the Sustainable Development Goal no 14 ..." to conserve and sustainable use the oceans, seas and marine ecosystems for sustainable development" (Juma, 2018).

World politics has since changed since the last time Kenya sat on the United Nations Security Council. The world is a witness to an increase in polarization and great power rivalry in the global system and in the world affairs. Today we are confronted by the idea of increasing great power rivalry and disintegration of global governance institutions.

The main focus of this paper is to determine the reasons behind Kenya's interest in the candidature to the United Nation Security Council for a non-permanent seat for a period of two years. Kenya's bid heavily relies on the fact that over the years it has taken an active role in maintaining international peace and stability and helping the United Nations in stabilizing the East Africa region. A set of priorities has already been set up and a goal already in place to guide the actions and contributions of Kenya in case it's candidature is successful. For this reason, this paper will take an exploratory approach as not much is known about the situation at hand. The aim is to gain familiarity with the issues, and to gain a deeper understanding about the topic.

It also intendeds to portray the factors influencing the bid and challenges that should be considered by any state, especially an African state, that wishes to be a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council. The UN Security Council is the most prominent body of the world organization's institutional system. Through its key executive decision making powers it addresses conflicts and crises which constitute threats to international peace and security. Its decisions are binding on the entire membership. While the five permanent members of the Security Council have a pretty clear view on their role in the Council, that is less so for the non-permanent members (Verbeke, 2018).

A non-permanent membership is not power that one grabs, but authority that is conveyed and which one is expected to exercise responsibly especially considering it relies on the votes of others. The platform that is offered comes about with expectations to contribute effectively to the UN Security Council's 'primary responsibility for the maintenance of



international peace and security within the world system. Kenya must remember that a non-permanent membership is not primarily about Kenya as a country but the UN-membership at large that it is supposed to represent, on whose behalf the UN Security Council acts and who are bound by its decisions. If the candidature is successful it will be in Kenya's favor to consider that the Permanent Members are there to stay, and they know the tricks of the trade, and as for the other Non-Permanent Members: they are potential allies.

## **CHAPTER TWO: BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

Being on the United Nations Security Council involves taking far reaching decisions and addressing issues of global order. Kenya cannot claim great power status and is significantly more dependent on a world shaped by multilateralism. Multilateralism is conceptually about the pooling of sovereign resources to reach a common goal. Most of today's crises and problems cannot be solved unilaterally or by small groups of countries. They require collective efforts thus Kenya has to ignore the idea of the increasingly multipolar world and rely on multilateralism making serving on the United Nations Security Council a delicate mission. Globalization and other emergent issues such as the rise of non-state actors has meant that partnerships and regional integration are the only way that weaker states can stand up to developed ones. Kenya has to consider its own foreign policy priorities and rise to the highest standards needed to make a meaningful contribution and have the ability to influence the council's decision.

Focusing on helping to promote the legitimate interests of the African continent which does not have a single permanent seat on the council but which most of the resolutions by the Security Council concerns it should be prioritized. This idea trickles down to the peacekeeping missions and Kenya's contribution to the same and its stand since the mid-2000s. African position on such missions tends to prefer stabilization that is, deployment into an active conflict and use of force to pacify said conflict. The United Nation's approach generally prefers deployment of forces after a peace agreement has been reached to maintain the peace creating a divergence on the two positions leaving no bridges for convergence.



The growing hostility of neighboring states towards Kenya may also be a reason for Kenya's persistent lobbying for a seat in the UNSC. There has been a gradual power competition between KENYA and ETHIOPIA as to who is the designated economic, political and military hegemon in the region. ETHIOPIA is currently the non-permanent representative for East Africa, the position Kenya is eyeing in the 2021-2022 UNSC.

## **CHAPTER THREE: OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY**

### **Objectives of the study**

The main objective of the study is to identify the reasons behind Kenya's renewed bid for a non-permanent seat at the United Nations Security Council (UNSC)

### **Purpose of the study**

The purpose of the study was to have an in-depth understanding of the reasons, priorities and challenges behind Kenya's renewed bid for a non-permanent seat at the United Nations Security Council (UNSC)

### **Significance of the study**

The importance of the study stemmed from the followings:

1. It will contribute to the body of existing knowledge in academia and other fields;

## **CHAPTER FOUR: LITERATURE REVIEW**

Kenya's bid for the UNSC would best be explained by the Game theory which was pioneered by John von Neumann. It seeks to explain the science of strategy and it attempts to determine mathematically and logically the actions that players should take to secure the best outcomes for themselves in a wide array of games. The focus of the game theory is on rational choices and conflict resolution. The choices are either limited or unlimited. Games theory assumes that each state is an autonomous decision making unit, and has unique options and stipulated payoffs associated with each of the options. It forces both analysts and policy makers systematically to examine assumptions, helping to clarify the choices available and offering possibilities that may not have been explored. Kenya's bid is focused on peaceful resolution of conflict and campaigned for the self-determination of countries seeking independence. The strategy they used seemed to have worked. That is why Kenya bids for the seat again in the hopes of coming up with a strategy that will help in earning the



two third vote they need to get the seat. It all depends on how well they play their part(Udeh&Okoroafor, 2016).

Kenya's bid can also be explained by the Securitization theory which shows how countries try to be dominant over each other. The theory shows that national security policy is not naturally designated but carefully chosen by politicians and decision makers. It also entails being able to challenge hegemonic ideas that have been set. Many countries therefore wish to sit on the United Nations Security Council due to the influence it confers a state over others.

### **Kenya On the Security Council in the Past**

#### **First Sitting (1973-1974)**

On 25 October 1973, Kenya played a significant role in the maintenance of peace and stability in the middle east through the proposition for the adoption of the Security Council resolution 340 (1973), which demanded that an immediate and complete ceasefire be observed and that the parties return to the positions occupied. This resolution helped reduce the war casualties on both the Israeli and Arab side. This resolution also aided in the formation of the Second United Nations emergency force.

#### **Second Sitting (1997-1998)**

During this term, KENYA voted on the Security Council resolution 1146 (1997) on the extension of the mandate of the UN Peace-keeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP)]. In 1998 the open-ended process of negotiations initiated by the Secretary-General in July 1997 and aimed at achieving a comprehensive settlement; reaffirms its position that a Cyprus settlement must be based on a State of Cyprus with a single sovereignty and international personality and a single citizenship, with its independence and territorial integrity safeguarded, and comprising two politically equal communities as described in the relevant Security Council resolutions. This resolution aided in the self-determination of Cyprus from mainland Greece.

Kenya also voted on the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1132, concern at the situation in Sierra Leone, the Council, acting under Chapter VII of the United Nations



Charter, imposed an oil and arms embargo on the country. Acting under Chapter VII, the Security Council demanded that the junta relinquish power and to cease all attacks and violence in the country, so that humanitarian aid could be delivered to the civilian population. Sanctions were then placed on Sierra Leone military government, which included a travel ban on members of the junta and their immediate families and an oil and arms embargo.

Additionally, Kenya wished to further discuss proposals and amendments before the United Nations Security Council resolution 1134, was put to vote. Adopted on 23 October 1997, after recalling resolutions 687 (1991), 707 (1991), 715 (1991), 1060 (1996) and 1115 (1997) on the monitoring of Iraq's weapons program, the Council demanded that Iraq co-operate with weapons inspection teams from the United Nations Special Commission (UNSCOM) and expressed its intention to impose travel bans on Iraqi officials in the event of non-compliance.

### Comparison to Other African Countries

During the inception of the United Nations, Many African countries had not yet gained independence from their colonial masters. The only African country that had a seat on the UNSC was Egypt. From 1952-1962 Africa was not represented on the UNSC majorly because of conflicting interests between the veto powers who doubled as colonial masters in African countries and the bid for self-determination by many African states. Below is a table indicating the membership by African countries in the UNSC to date:

Table 1: African Countries represented in the UNSC

YEAR	COUNTRY
1946	Egypt
1949-1950	Egypt
1962-1964	Ghana, Morocco, Ivory coast
1965-1967	Mali, Nigeria, Uganda, Ethiopia
1968-1970	Burundi, sierra Leone, Zambia
1970-1972	Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sudan, Burundi



1973-1975	Guinea,Somalia,Sudan,Kenya, Mauritania, Cameroon, Tanzania
1976-1978	Benin, Libya, Tanzania, Gabon, Nigeria, Mauritius
1979-1981	Zambia, Tunisia, Uganda, Niger,
1982-1984	Uganda, Zaire, Togo, Zimbabwe, Egypt,
1985-1987	Madagascar, Congo, Ghana
1988-1990	Algeria, Ethiopia, Cot d'ivoire,Senegal,Zaire
1991-1993	Zimbabwe, Morocco , Djibouti
1994-1996	Botswana, Nigeria, Rwanda, Egypt, Guinea Bissau
1997-1999	Kenya, Gambia, Gabon, Namibia
2000-2002	Mali, Namibia, Tunisia, Mauritius, Guinea
2003-2005	Cameroon, Guinea, Benin, Tanzania
2006-2008	Burkina Faso, South Africa, Libya, Gabon, Nigeria, Uganda
2009-2012	Nigeria, South Africa, Gabon, Libya
2012-2015	Morocco, South Africa, Togo, Chad, Nigeria,
2016-2019	Angola, Nigeria, Egypt, Senegal, Ethiopia, Equatorial Guinea, Cote d'ivoire, South Africa,

### **Arguments in favor of Kenya's Bid**

Kenya's candidature for inclusion as a non-permanent member of the United Nations Security Council, has elicited tremendous and overwhelming support both within and outside the country. This support cuts across individuals, groups and organizations to foreign countries. Even so the argument still stands that, members of the Security Council should have contributed to the United Nations financially, militarily and diplomatically, participate in mandated peace operations and contribute to the voluntary activities of the UN in the areas of security and development and diplomatic activities in support of United Nations objectives and mandates (Ally, 2005). The key factors argued in favor of Kenya's candidacy are peace keeping operations, existing foreign policies, objectives under the African Union, natural resources and dedication to sustainable peace and development.

### **Peacekeeping Operations**

Kenya's contribution to peace operations regionally dates back to 1979 but in terms of support to UN operations, Kenya's first contributions were military observers for the UN Iran-Iraq Military Observer Group (UNIIMOG) from 1988-1990. Since then, Kenya has



deployed troop contingents to among others, the UN Transition Assistant Group (UNTAG) in Namibia, the UN Protection Force (UNPROFOR) in Croatia, the two UN missions in Liberia (UNOMIL and UNMIL), the UN Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL), the UN Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), the UN Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA), the UN Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO), the UN–African Union Mission in Darfur (UNAMID) and the UN Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS). It has also deployed military observers to a number of missions including those in Namibia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Kuwait, Western Sahara, Mozambique, Rwanda and Angola. Kenya also has a representative at the UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) in New York. Kenya’s maintenance of constant representation at DPKO indicates the importance that the Government of Kenya has attached to remaining updated about developments, as well as lobbying for or influencing decisions that would affect Kenya’s current or future deployments (Ahere, 2017).

The most significant deployment of Kenyan troops to date has been in Somalia. The initial deployment occurred on 16 October 2011, when Kenyan troops entered Somalia to launch a military offensive against al-Shabaab. In mid-2012, the Kenyan troops were changed into AMISOM following UN Security Council resolution 2036 (Ahere, 2017). Since then Kenya has participated in the Somalia peace process and contributed to the adoption of the Somali Federal government’s document-National Stabilization Plan and the need for all processes to include a framework for sustainable and gradual return program for refugees; the decision that the Federal Government of Somalia to convene and lead reconciliation conference with the support of Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD) with a view to charting out a roadmap on the establishment of interim administration and formation of permanent regional administrations; lobbying that IGAD Member States and the international community to support the speedy establishment and strengthening of a professional Somali national army, and the provision of humanitarian services to communities in the liberated areas; reinforcing military operations in Somalia, to effectively counter threats from Al Shabaab and encouragement of Somalis to participate in the 2016 electoral process (Juma,2018).



Further contributions by Kenya is to the South Sudan peace process which is still underway by engaging the negotiation process, including bolstering the capacity of IGAD's mediation team. Kenya had until recently, provided a large contingent in UNMISS. Kenya's swift acceptance of the UN Security Council request to deploy additional troops (under the IGAD Protection Force) to UNMISS provided an indication that in principle, the country is open to continuation of support to the South Sudan peace process. Unlike the situation in Somalia where the KDF has lost soldiers, in mid-2014 Kenya's Senate approved the UNMISS deployment after considering among other reasons, that KDF "... soldiers will not be a fighting force but ... mandated to defend civilians and provide a safe corridor for those seeking refuge in UN camps." (Ahere, 2017). Kenya is guided by this principle as a loyal and faithful member of the United Nations as far as external relations are concerned. More particularly, Kenya's efforts towards peace-making and peace keeping activities are underpinned by the principles established in Article 240 of the 2010 constitution of Kenya stipulates how peacekeepers can be deployed. The primary decision to deploy for regional or international peace support operations is made by the National Security Council (NSC).

### **Objectives Under the African Union (AU)**

Kenya's objectives under the AU are to boost intra-African trade and realization of Africa's potential as a cornerstone for global economic growth. Kenya will also continue to support Africa's strategic partnerships with other regions aimed at promoting global peace and security and achieving the sustainable development agenda in the Post-Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) period (Howell, 1968). This agenda feeds into Kenya's idea of multilateralism a concept they wish to realize through the United Nations.

### **Existing foreign policies**

Kenya's existing foreign policies portray the country's dedication to not only itself but its relationship to the global world that is, promoting multilateralism and promoting the interests of Kenyan Diaspora and partnership with the Kenyans abroad. To achieve this, it has identified the five pillars of peace, economic, diaspora, environmental and cultural. Its guiding principles are the sanctity of sovereignty and territorial integrity, peaceful co-



existence with other nations, resolution of conflicts by peaceful means, promotion of regional integration, and respect for international laws and norms (Mugambi,2015).

### **Natural Resources**

In 2013, a minerals explorer company called Cortec announced the discovery of rare earth deposits worth \$62.4 billion (Sh6.24 trillion) in Kwale County. It was said that the deposits could make Kenya the second-largest producer of the mineral. Six years down the road, no effort has been made to exploit the resource thus Kenya remains seated on billions of natural deposits. Rare earth mineral elements are used in manufacturing many products including electronics, computers, cameras, aircrafts, refining crude oil, televisions, wind turbines and even hybrid cars. Kenya discovered commercial oil in 2012 in its Lokichar basin translating into revenue for the country. It is sufficient to recognize the role of Kenya as another major power. Kenya is also an economic powerhouse in the region and over the years, Nairobi has become the multinational capital of the region.

### **Sustainable Peace and Development**

Kenya is a founding and active member of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR). With its 12 Member States, its main aim is to promote sustainable peace and development. In its ten years of existence the ICGLR has offered a good platform for Kenya to engage in addressing conflicts in the great lakes region. The political crisis in Burundi, South Sudan, and CAR as well as the continued existence and operation of negative forces in eastern DRC has been of great concern to Kenya and other member states. Kenya's place as an anchor State within the Horn of Africa and Great Lakes region and its proximity to Somalia has exposed the country to attacks and persistent terrorism threats. The Ministry has in liaison with relevant MDAs engaged in preventive diplomacy that essentially seeks to disrupt and prevent the planning and execution of terrorist activities at source (Juma, 2018).

### **Kenya's Leadership Role**

Kenya as a contender to one of the non-permanent seats allotted to Africa offered by the Security Council has played various leadership roles not only in the African context but also at the global level.



### **Global**

After independence Kenya became a non-permanent member of the Security Council twice in 1973 and 1997. Kenya has demonstrated commitment towards world peace and security. This is evident in the unassailable role of Kenya in international diplomacy which underscored Kenya's determined effort to secure a non-permanent seat in the UN Security Council. Kenya's foreign policy guidelines stipulate that the maintenance of peace is at the heart of the five pillars next to economic diplomacy, peace diplomacy, environmental diplomacy, cultural diplomacy and diaspora diplomacy. To support the maintenance of peace Kenya participates in several international institutions, including the first and fourth committees of the UN General Assembly.

### **African**

The economic pillar of Kenya in African countries begun with Kenya's recognition of the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (IGCLR), and the African Union (AU). This is manifested by its investment in the facilitation of numerous peace processes in Africa, including those in Mozambique, Sudan, and South Sudan. Kenya has also been instrumental in the implementation of peace agreements and in doing so regularly deploys peacekeepers. The leadership role was further cemented by not only being the founding member but an active one of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR).

### **East-Africa sub-regional level**

Kenya is a leader in the East-African region. Given its geo-strategic location in East Africa, Kenya is considered by Western powers as an important partner in the global war on terrorism. Kenya's military cooperation, including deployment to peacekeeping missions, enhances the prospects of obtaining development aid and other forms of support from major powers and other bilateral donors. In the cases of South Sudan and Somalia, the deployment of peacekeepers has enhanced Kenya's international image as a stabilizer and solidified its influence in international diplomatic circles, especially with respect to matters of peace and security in Africa (Ahere, 2017).



### **Arguments Against Kenya's Bid**

Arguments against are based on corruption and peacekeeping operations, economic capability, military technology, democratic practices and human rights abuses. Kenya is a key proponent of the East African Community as well as the Inter-governmental Authority on Development (IGAD). Even though Kenya has been a big contributor to UN peace operations in the past, there has been a decline in contribution in recent years. This decline correlates with Kenya's increasing important role within the Africa Peace and Security Architecture and may hint to shifting priorities with regard to contributing to the regional standby force rather than UN missions. Kenya is located in a volatile region of Africa. The percolation of these conflicts into Kenya has come with increased internal security challenges that have included terrorist attacks. This has stretched the country's security resources (Ahere, 2017).

Peacekeeping operation records by the country are flawed starting with the relationship between Kenya and the UN with regard to the country's deployment to UNMISS souring in 2016. The lowest point of this relationship was the UN Secretary-General's dismissal of the Kenyan Force Commander on 1 November 2016. This followed a damning report showing "a lack of leadership in the UN mission" in the failure to protect civilians during violence in Juba between 8-11 July of the same year. In a terse rejoinder a day after the sacking of its Commander, the Kenyan government disagreed, saying the responsibility to protect civilians could not be borne by an individual, given the complex nature of the conflict. The internal security challenges that have plagued Kenya in recent years have had an impact on the perceptions of the public as well as the politicians as far as deployment to peace operations is concerned. It is the sentiment that rather than deploying troops in foreign lands, they should be used in maintaining law and order within Kenya and preventing terrorist acts.

Although Kenya has embraced democracy, following the idea portrayed by the Constitution of Kenya instituting checks and balances whereby the executive, the legislature and the judiciary are not to interfere with each other and the politics and governance of the country, Kenya's electoral process has been characterized by electoral malpractices. Thus, in the general elections of 2007 that sparked domestic violence of such magnitude that it fixed the



global eyes on the country and 2017, especially the 2007 elections, there was an overwhelming evidence that the election was massively rigged. This was evident in the various concerns expressed in very strong terms by the courts and the people.

## **CHAPTER FIVE: METHODOLOGY**

Retrospective study investigates a phenomenon or issue that has occurred in the past. In this research it is used in consideration of Kenya's non-permanent membership in the past and the agenda's set then in relation to the ever changing world views and the situation in Kenya now which has changed in the last decade or so. Comparing the situation in Kenya in 1973 and 1997 to the situation in Kenya now creates different sets of priorities and challenges to focus on. Kenya has not only has gained economic and political stability over the years but is on its way to gain regional hegemony. The study followed a qualitative research paradigm which leaned more towards desktop research. Data were collected using existing sources – both historical and current – as well as document analysis. Secondary data is used to contribute toward the formation of background information by using existing documents and records collecting between the year 2017 and 2019 relating to Kenya's candidature and bid for a non-permanent seat on the United Nation Security Council by gathering information from journals, newspapers, magazines, colloquium and periodicals.

## **SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION**

Kenya's bid to the Security Council is underpinned by the following factors: peacekeeping operations, natural resources, regional hegemony, existing foreign policies, its dedication to sustainable peace and development and Kenya's leadership in the world, Africa and East-Africa region. Even with such advantages on the table there are disadvantages such as; a decline in peacekeeping operation effort, economic incapacity occasioned by huge indebtedness and corruption and difficult domestic politics. Kenya is located at the heart of an intricate conflict system in the Horn of Africa. Most countries that are within close proximity to Kenya have gone through civil war, and these have had humanitarian consequences that have percolated into Kenya, especially related to Somalia since 1991. This has in turn internationalized these conflicts and brought negative impacts on security in Kenya, including through the proliferation of small arms and light weapons.



No matter how you look at it a two-year term on the United Nation Security Council is a significant limitation which generally works to the detriment of the non-permanent members. Inequality is a term that is not foreign to the United Nation Security Council rather it becomes a question of formal rights and privileges of some but not others. It is also about adequate resourcing and diplomatic expertise in order to take informed decisions. Focus should not be limited by Kenya as a representative of the continent but broadened to encompass African as a whole. Even so acknowledging that two years is an extremely short time to expect the realization of any goals by the non-permanent members is important. In two years', time different countries will be voted in with different focus and agendas already in place.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

Kenya should consider that having a seat on the Security Council is no simple matter and the few agendas they wish to present before the Council will not necessarily be picked or even considered. Making a difference should not be a selfish motive but should be in consideration of African continent they represent. Making an effort to mitigate the challenges stated in the study should be a priority especially economic incapacity and difficult domestic politics. Solving domestic problems is crucial and maintaining good relationship with other UN members.

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