

Security Council Reform
Comments by JES

Presently, the UN Security Council is the least democratic organ of the United Nations system, including only 15 members out of the 19 legally eligible nations. Of these, only the five permanent members (P5) endowed with the power of the veto really matter. Among the ten non-permanent members (with non-renewable two-year terms) there is a profound European bias. The veto power often prevents desperately needed SC humanitarian action. Diplomats argue – forcefully, but erroneously – that serious reform in SC membership and voting methods is not possible and fail to consider the range of possible “win-win” scenarios that rational and just reforms could bring about. Particularly appealing would be a regionally organized universal agency each of whose twelve competitively elected seats would have an objectively determined weighted vote. This would necessitate the establishment of new diplomatic protocols, which we discuss at some length.