

UN Advisory Body

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The submission proposes the creation of an advisory body to the UN, that is not subject to the political influence of its national representatives. This Advisory Body would have the capacity to creatively explore new ideas to resolve global challenges. The advisory body would be formed by a consultative body with a membership of 100.000 and a reviewing body encompassing 1.000 members. The consultative body's member allocation would be based on world population distribution, not nationality. Appointments run for a three year term and members would be compensated a nominal amount for their work, based on performance drafting, proposing and voting on resolutions. Members of the reviewing board, selected continentally, work full-time establishing global priorities for the UN's actions, calling for resolutions and reviewing them for vote.





1. Abstract

The United Nations is a reactive organization which responds to situations once they have reached a crisis point and can no longer be ignored. Recent decisions have also demonstrated that it is not 'United' at all, but is easily swayed by the special interests of corporations and individual nations- particularly those that hold veto power. This has resulted in an inability of the United Nations to proactively address emerging international challenges with a creative, solution-based approach.

Although the United Nations has obvious deficiencies which should be addressed in the future, I do not believe that it must be eliminated or replaced. Instead, it should be enhanced and strengthened with the addition of an Advisory Body that is not subject to the political influence of its nationalistic membership and representatives. This Advisory Body would have the capacity to creatively explore opportunities to resolve emerging challenges such as climate change, overpopulation, international conflicts, extreme poverty and malnourishment, migration and relocation of vulnerable populations, overexploitation of the earth's natural resources, and increasing levels of unemployment resulting from automation in the workforce.

This proposal hinges on the premise that in 2017 the collective wisdom and creativity of the general population exceeds that of our elected representatives, who commonly come from a small stratum of society. Representation from across all social classes, economic groups and regions will increase the breadth of contributions to the development of the solutions required to address international threats and challenges.

Success of this model also hinges on the premise that the official representatives to the UN will need to accept, respond to, and act upon the Advisory Body's recommendations, as a failure to do so would demonstrate a disregard for democracy and the will of the masses.

The Advisory Body model I am proposing would consist of two bodies; a Consultation Body and a Review Body.

The Consultation Body would have a membership of 100,000. Membership allocation would be based on world population. Based upon current estimates, this would be approximately 1 member for every 75,000 people. Selection of the membership would be based on global population distribution and not national dividing lines. It would also be random based on location, with right of refusal for those selected and alternates from the same location then contacted until a candidate accepts the appointment. For example, Iceland would have 4 or 5 representatives, with 1 or 2 from Reykjavik and the remainder from other areas of the country. By comparison, Greater Vancouver, British Columbia would have 32 or 33 representatives, with proportional representation based upon the population of each municipality. Prince George, B.C. would have 1 member, and the rest of Northern B.C. might have 1 or 2 members whose locations would be randomly selected.

Members of this body would be appointed for a 3-year term and would be compensated a nominal amount for their work, (perhaps \$1000 USD/ year.)



Payment would be dependent on performance of work, and members would have 3 duties;

1. Voting on final resolutions placed before them. (20 per month to be considered, with a period of 3 months given to vote to accommodate members with challenges in accessing the required technology or the internet.)
2. Proposing one resolution per year.
3. Proposing three draft resolution amendments per year.

This Consultation Body would require significant technical support (and would incur significant related costs), particularly in those locations which have marginal communications and technology infrastructure.

The Review Body would have a membership of 1000, again randomly selected but this time based upon continental populations. For example, Europe would have approximately 100 representatives, South America would have about 55 representatives, and Asia would have about 550 representatives. The geographical selection would again be random, and not based on national boundaries.

Members of this Body would be appointed for three-year terms, and the position would be full-time and require relocation for the duration of the term. Compensation would be significant, (perhaps \$100,000 USD / year.) Payment would be dependent of performance of work. Again, those selected would have right of refusal with alternates from the same location then being contacted and offered the position.

Members of this Body would have the following duties;

1. Establishing global priorities requiring action by United Nations member states and representatives.
2. Drafting 'Calls for Resolutions' from the Consultation Body, giving direction based on the global priorities established by the Review Body.
3. Reviewing the draft resolutions submitted by the Consultation Body members, reviewing the amendments proposed to these drafts as submitted by Consultation Body members, and recommending their own amendments to these draft resolutions.
4. Democratically selecting those resolutions, with or without amendments, which would then be placed before the Consultation Body for a vote.

This Advisory Body model would leverage significant use of modern communication technology and analytics to then provide a clear analysis of the results to both the United Nations membership as well as the global public. This analysis should also monitor for potential tampering and influence peddling, and the identity of members of both the consultation and review bodies should be protected to avoid tampering and protect their safety.

It is anticipated that remuneration costs would be approximately \$200 million USD / year, with additional staffing, infrastructure and facilitation costs of approximately \$300 million USD / year. This would be a small allotment when compared to the current United Nations budget of \$2.8 billion USD / year.

The structure of the current United Nations model would require a significant change in that resolutions submitted by the Advisory Body to the United Nations membership with a globally supported recommendation for endorsement would



not be subject to veto. The member states would also be required to debate the resolution and submit proposed amendments back to the Advisory Body within two weeks of receipt, and would be required to conduct a final vote within 30 days.

Financing for the Advisory Body would be equitably sourced from the United Nations as per the current UN budget.

2. Description of the model

MODEL COMPONENTS

UN General Assembly

The membership composition and mandate of the UN General Assembly would remain unchanged under the proposed model. The UN General Assembly would receive resolutions which have been endorsed by the Advisory Body as a result of demonstrable global support via vote of its Consultation Body. The UN General Assembly would have up to 2 weeks to debate the resolution and either refer the resolution back to the Advisory Review Body with proposed amendments, or put it forward for vote. Final vote by the membership of the General Assembly on a resolution endorsed by the Advisory Consultation Body (with or without amendments) must take place within 30 days of final submission to the UN General Assembly. Amendments to a resolution proposed by members of the General Assembly must be ratified by a simple majority vote of the General Assembly membership to be referred to the Advisory Body for reconsideration. Actions to implement an Advisory Body resolution ratified by the General Assembly should be initiated within 30 days of the ratification vote. An Advisory Body resolution ratified by the General Assembly pertaining to issues requiring the endorsement of the UN Security Council must be submitted to the Security Council the same day, with a ratification vote of the Security Council taking place within seven days.

Under this enhanced governance model, the UN General Assembly will be engaged in more frequent consideration of specific initiatives as brought forward by the Advisory Body and commissions of the Economic and Social Council. This will require an increase in administrative support for General Assembly members.

UN Security Council

All resolutions endorsed by the Advisory Consultation Body and ratified by the General Assembly that fall under the mandate of the Security Council (issues of international peace and security) will be referred to the Security Council immediately upon ratification by the General Assembly. The Security Council must vote on the ratified resolution within seven days, and a 2/3 majority will be required to initiate implementation of the actions recommended by the resolution. There will be no veto by Security Council permanent members of a resolution of the Advisory Consultation Body that has been ratified by the General Assembly. Recommended non-military actions of the resolution are to be pursued as soon as practicable, within 30 days. Nations / military organizations subject to military action recommended by a resolution will receive corrective direction from the Security Council with an allowance of 48 hours for them to demonstrate that they are executing the corrective actions. (Unless this delay will result in irreparable harm and loss of human life, in which case the Security Council may determine



by a 2/3 majority vote that military action should take place immediately.) If the subject nation / military organization refuses or fails to implement the corrective actions with 48 hours, the military action will be deemed approved by the Security Council. If the subject nation / military organization rescinds or revokes the corrective action directed by the security Council at any time after the 48 hour period, the military action will be deemed approved by the Security Council.

UN Economic and Social Council

The Economic and Social Council and its Commissions will work closely with the Advisory Review Body to identify and refer issues of international interest. At its annual meetings in April and July of each year, the membership will be asked to create a prioritized agenda for the Advisory Body to address throughout the year. The advisory body will then consult with the appropriate Commissions on an ongoing basis to present effective guidance to both the Advisory Consultation Body and the Advisory Review Body. The Advisory Review Body will provide the appropriate Commissions with relevant draft resolutions at the time of receipt from members of the Advisory Consultation body. The Advisory Review Body will engage and consult with the appropriate Commission in a meaningful way while considering the merit of draft resolutions, and proposed amendments to these resolutions. The Advisory Body will provide any analysis and comment sheets (regarding resolutions) from the relevant commissions to its Advisory Consultation Body at the time that that body conducts a vote on a resolution. Any amendments to a resolution proposed and endorsed by the General Assembly will be forwarded to the relevant Commissions at time of receipt, and analysis and comment sheets on the proposed amendments will be provided to the Consultation Body at the time that that body votes on the proposed amendments.

Implementation of Actions

The relevant Commissions will be engaged by the UN in the implementation of any actions resulting from the ratification of an Advisory Body resolution. The Commissions will provide guidance in the effective implementation of actions, and will serve to monitor the effectiveness of the actions implemented and report back to the General Assembly and the Advisory Body.

Review of Effectiveness

If the relevant Commission determines that the action has been ineffective, it may recommend to the General Assembly that the action be discontinued. The General Assembly, by simple majority vote, may ratify the recommendation of the Commission and discontinue the action. At this point, the issue will again be referred to the Advisory Body with the purpose of identifying a different resolution.

The relevant Commission may determine that there are obvious improvements that may be made to an action previously ratified by the General Assembly. The recommended improvements will be put forward to the General Assembly for ratification. The Advisory Body will receive notification of the recommendation, but no action will be required if the General Assembly ratifies the Commission's recommendation. If the General Assembly does not ratify the recommendation, the recommendation will then be put before the Advisory Consultation Body for vote. If the Advisory Consultation Body votes to endorse the recommendation of the Commission, the recommendation will be returned (with the endorsement of the Advisory Consultation Body) to the General Assembly for reconsideration.



UN Secretariat

The Secretariat will provide support staffing to the Advisory Body in the following areas;

- Administration
- Finance and accounting
- Translation
- Technological support
- Procurement
- Communications
- Human Resources (selection and replacement of Advisory Body members)

It would be expected that the Secretariat would identify redundancies and opportunities for improved efficiencies within the greater UN organization as the Advisory Body is implemented. For example, there may already be support staff stationed in many of the more challenging regions where Advisory Consultation Body members may reside. This support staff may be able to assist with translation, technological support, procurement, communications and human resource tasks associated with the Advisory Body.

UN Advisory Body (Proposed)

CONSULTATION BODY

Composition

The Advisory Consultation Body would consist of 100,000 members randomly selected from all social strata from every region of the world, equitably distributed based on population density. The only disqualifying factors would be age (members must be age 18 or older) or cognitive disabilities that prevent a randomly selected candidate from effectively engaging in the decision-making process. Support would be provided by the UN for randomly selected members who are illiterate, or have other disabilities that interfere with their ability to independently conduct their duties on the Consultation Body. If a randomly selected candidate declines the appointment, a second candidate will be randomly selected from the same community / immediate vicinity. If this candidate also declines, the process will be repeated until a candidate is identified who will accept the appointment. Terms will be for three years.

Compensation

Advisory Consultation Body members will be presented with 260 resolutions a year for consideration and vote. They will be compensated at a rate of \$3 USD per resolution upon confirmation of vote, totaling a maximum of \$780 USD / year. In addition, the member will receive \$100 USD for completion of a draft resolution (staff support will be available) and \$40 USD for an amendment to a draft resolution. (Maximum of 3 amendments per year, staff support will be available.) (Dollar figures quoted are 2017 USD)

Purpose

The purpose of the Consultation Body is to provide broad and diverse representation from across the globe, and to analyze and evaluate resolutions recommending action on globally significant issues and challenges. The Advisory Body will provide an apolitical perspective to an otherwise deeply political organization. Its strength lies in its ability to represent global perspectives on a scale (membership 100,000) that has yet to be seen in any political organization.



If the results of a vote on an Advisory Body resolution are globally supportive, it will be difficult for the nationally appointed members of the General Assembly to oppose that resolution without being perceived as acting against the best interests of the general global population.

Duties

The duties of a Consultation Body Member will be to;

1. Consider Advisory Body resolutions and supporting information and cast a vote endorsing or opposing those resolutions.

- Generally, the Consultation Advisory Body will be provided a period of 3 months to evaluate and vote on resolutions submitted by the Review Body.
- Exceptions will be made in the case of emergency resolutions regarding military engagement or actions, or emergency resolutions addressing globally significant natural or human-created disasters.
- If affordable technology is available to provide notifications to members regarding emergency resolutions, it will be provided to those (primarily in the third and developing worlds) who require due to inability to access the electronic platform on a daily basis.
- Voting results will be displayed publicly using an algorithm that converts a global Mercator projection using green (proportionally significant endorsement), orange (proportional mix of endorsement and opposition) and red (proportionally significant opposition).

§ There will be an endorsement scale ranging from;

- Globally encompassing green would be considered ‘very strongly endorsed’
- Predominantly green with some orange regions: ‘strongly endorsed’
- Mix of green and orange, possibly with some red regions: ‘endorsed’
- Predominantly orange with some green and red regions, or proportionally equivalent red and green regions, or red, orange and green regions: ‘inconclusive’
- Mix of orange and red regions, possibly with some green regions: ‘opposed’
- Predominantly red with some orange regions: ‘strongly opposed’
- Globally encompassing red: ‘very strongly opposed’

§ Resolutions that are ‘very strongly endorsed’ or ‘strongly endorsed’ would be referred directly to the Security Council for ratification

§ Resolutions that are ‘endorsed’ or ‘inconclusive’ would be referred to the Advisory Body for amendment proposals

2. Provide draft resolutions for evaluation by the Advisory Review Body

- Guidance to the membership on draft resolution ‘themes’ will be provided by the Advisory Review Body, in consultation with the UN commissions.
- Draft resolutions will be required to meet a concise format requirement. UN secretariat support staff will assist members in successful utilization of the format to express their concepts.
- Draft resolutions will be submitted in groups or ‘themes’ to the membership for consideration. For example, ‘governance’ may be one theme, while ‘infrastructure’ may be another.
- Members will be restricted to submission of 1 draft resolution per year.



3. Provide amendment recommendations on draft resolutions of the Advisory Body

- Resolutions that receive either ‘endorsement’ or ‘inconclusive’ ratings after a vote of the Advisory Consultation Body will be referred to the Advisory Body for amendment.
- Advisory Review Body members, Advisory Consultation Body members, and UN commissions can propose amendments.
- Final amendments will be determined by the Advisory Review Body, and then referred to the Advisory Consultation Body for vote.
- Advisory Consultation Body members will have the opportunity to draft 3 amendments per year.

REVIEW BODY

Composition

The Advisory Review Body will be composed of 1000 members randomly selected from all social strata and all regions throughout the world. They would be equitably distributed by population density, with the allocation of members calculated on a continental population basis. The only disqualifying factors would be age (members must be age 18 or older) or cognitive disabilities that prevent a randomly selected candidate from effectively engaging in the decision-making process. Support would be provided by the UN for randomly selected members who are illiterate, or have other disabilities that interfere with their ability to independently conduct their duties on the Consultation Body. If a randomly selected candidate declines the appointment, a second candidate will be randomly selected from the same community / immediate vicinity. If this candidate also declines, the process will be repeated until a candidate is identified who will accept the appointment. Appointment to the Advisory Review Body will be for a term of three years.

Compensation

The Advisory Review Body members will be compensated at a rate of \$100,000 USD/ year. (2017 dollars.) It will be acknowledged that this compensation rate may cause lifestyle shock and safety issues for members of third or developing world countries, so guidance counselors will be made available throughout the term and for a period of 5 years after to assist vulnerable members.

Purpose

The Advisory Review Body will be composed of members employed full-time in the capacity of facilitating the presentation of meaningful and effective resolutions for consideration and vote by the Advisory Consultation Body. It will also be the intermediary body between the existing UN Organs and the Advisory Consultation Body, with an emphasis on collaboration with the various UN Commissions.

Duties

The duties of an Advisory Review Body member will include;

1. Engagement with the UN General Assembly (via the Secretariat) and the UN Commissions to establish prioritization of themes for resolutions addressing globally urgent issues.

- After each of the two annual meetings of the Economic and Social Council, the Advisory Review body will receive the resolution theme recommendations from the Council.



- The Advisory Review Body will communicate with the Secretariat to ensure that the recommendations of the Economic and Social Council are aligned with the priorities of the UN General Assembly.
- The Advisory Review Body will receive directly from the UN General Assembly or Security Council theme recommendations for resolutions regarding urgent issues involving the maintenance or re-establishment of international peace and security.

2. Presentation of themes for resolutions to the Advisory Consultation Body, with initial guidance for drafting of resolutions by Advisory Consultation Body members.

- Members will work with the Secretariat to draft clear and concise guidelines for the type of resolutions being requested from the Advisory Consultation Body members.
- The Advisory Review Body will provide these guidelines to the Advisory Consultation Body with relevant background information establishing the case for prioritization of the themes.

3. Review of draft resolutions submitted by Advisory Consultation Body members.

- Members will eliminate any duplicate submissions, retaining the ones with the most clear and concise wording.

4. Communication with UN Commissions regarding draft resolutions.

- The Advisory Review Body will submit the draft resolutions to the UN Economic and Social Council Commissions for consideration.

5. Selection of draft resolutions to be submitted to the Advisory Consultation Body for vote.

- The Advisory Review Body will receive and review the background information and recommendations of the UN Commissions.
- Members will vote to select the resolutions (5 per week) that are deemed to have the greatest potential for the successful and effective implementation of actions that will produce positive results.
- The Advisory Review Body will present the selected resolutions to the Advisory Consultation Body, with a concise background information package, for vote.

6. Recommendation of amendments to draft resolutions.

If a vote of the Advisory Consultation Body on a resolution results in an 'endorsed' or 'inconclusive' result, the Advisory Review Body will;

- Submit the resolution to the relevant UN Commission for review and receive amendment recommendations with additional background information from that Commission for consideration.
- Recommend amendments to the draft resolution.
- Select by vote the best amended version of the draft resolution.

7. Resubmission of amended draft resolutions to the Advisory Consultation Body

- The Advisory Review Body will resubmit amended resolutions, with concise background information regarding the amendments, to the Advisory Consultation Body for vote.



8. Submission of resolutions meeting the endorsement threshold to the UN General Assembly

- Resolutions and amended resolutions that meet the Advisory Consultation Body voting threshold of ‘strongly endorsed’ and ‘very strongly endorsed’ will be immediately submitted to the UN General Assembly for consideration under the format and timelines previously outlined in this proposal.

9. Facilitation of review of resolutions returned to the Advisory Body from the General Assembly with amendment recommendations.

- General Assembly amendment recommendations will be immediately provided to the relevant Commission for review.
- Recommendations of the relevant Commission regarding the General Assembly’s proposed amendment will be provided, with the amended resolution, to the Advisory Consultation Body for vote.
- If the amended resolution is again ‘very strongly endorsed’ or ‘strongly endorsed’ it will be considered ratified by the General Assembly.

10. Collaboration with the Secretariat in communicating the results of Advisory Consultation Body votes to the global population.

- The Advisory Review Body will review media release proposals from the communications arm of the Secretariat for effectiveness in informing the general global population of the results of votes, and the implementation actions proposed.

11. Review of effectiveness of actions implemented in response to ratified resolutions.

If, on advice of a UN Commission, the General Assembly votes to rescind an action implemented as a result of a ratified resolution, the Advisory Review Body will;

- Consult with the relevant Commission with the intent of identifying a different action which may achieve the desired result
- Provide theme recommendations for changes to the original ratified resolution to the Advisory Consultation Panel, with background information.
- Receive new draft resolutions addressing the issue from the Advisory Consultation Body
- Review and vote on the new draft resolutions, selecting the best one to refer to the Advisory Consultation Body for vote.
- Refer the new resolution, if ‘strongly endorsed’ or ‘very strongly endorsed’, to the General assembly for ratification
- Conduct the previously outlined amendment process on the new resolution if it is deemed ‘endorsed’ or ‘inconclusive’ by the Advisory Consultation Body.

If, on advice of a UN Commission, the General Assembly ratifies a change to an action resulting from a resolution, the Advisory Review Body will receive notification for information only.

If a UN Commission recommends a change to an action resulting from a resolution, and the General Assembly does not ratify it, the recommended change will be presented to the Advisory Consultation Body for vote.

- If the vote results in a ‘very strongly endorsed’ or ‘strongly endorsed’ result, the recommended change will be submitted to the General Assembly with note of the result of the Consultation Body’s vote.
- If the vote results in a ‘endorsed’ or ‘inconclusive’ vote, the amendment process outlined previously in this proposal will be followed.



3. Motivation

CORE VALUES

The composition of the Advisory Body ensures that democratic representation across all strata of society and all regions of the globe will be achieved. The success of the proposal will hinge on the assumption that this broad decision-making base will make decisions that are globally beneficial. If the collective soul of humankind is in fact evil, and not good, then this model will admittedly fail.

DECISION-MAKING CAPACITY

Decisions will be made in a timelier way than they are under the current UN Model, due to increased engagement of the existing organs. The timelines proposed in this proposal allow for extensive but not excessive deliberation periods for matters that are less urgent and more complex. Security issues of greater urgency will be dealt with in the expedited timeline outlined in the proposal, with the removal of powers of veto for Advisory Body resolutions presented to the Security Council (by way of ratification of the General Assembly).

EFFECTIVENESS

The implementation of an Advisory Body will provide clear validation of globally significant decisions and actions ratified by the General Assembly and Security Council. The sheer scale of the Advisory Consultation Body (100,000 members) will make it extremely difficult for any nation to unilaterally oppose these decisions, as it would clearly provoke international backlash against that nation, with subsequent remediating or punitive actions.

RESOURCES AND FINANCING

The addition of the Advisory Body will come at increased cost to the UN, and by extension its members. However, there will significant benefit in the global distribution of wages and stipends to the broad base of the Advisory Body Membership. The finance model of the UN will not change, although there will need to be increased pressure on nations to meet their obligations. The overall increase in the UN budget will be relatively small compared to the current budget.

TRUST AND INSIGHT

This proposal will result in a significantly greater degree of trust in the UN from the global population, due to the scale and diversity of the Advisory Body membership. The simple and concise presentation of voting results globally (colour-coded Mercator projection) will make it easy for the layperson to see how the results were distributed. The transparency of the resolution process will also enhance trust in the decision-making process. The fact that the Advisory Body is randomly selected, and not composed of politicians, will also provide support for the validity of the decisions made by the UN, and will put increased pressure on the member nations to implement the actions ratified by the UN.

FLEXIBILITY

The proposed model is flexible and responsive, due to the utilization of technological advances in communication and the leveraging of the established organs to enhance the viability and effectiveness of the new Advisory Body. Elements such as the number of members, decision-making timelines and compensation rates may be easily considered and ratified by the Advisory Body



itself, in conjunction with the General Assembly. The proposed model will result in a significant reduction of partisan politics in the engagement of the UN, and a positive shift towards an emphasis on collaborative problem-solving.

PROTECTION AGAINST THE ABUSE OF POWER

The apolitical, non-partisan composition of the Advisory Body will protect against manipulation and abuse of power. Because the scope of work of the Advisory is based on global and regional population densities, and not international borders, it will mitigate the concerns of undue interference in internal affairs of nations. The Advisory Body will be sourced from broad economic and social strata, and therefore will not be vulnerable to influence by special interests groups and lobbyists.

ACCOUNTABILITY

There will be an increase in the accountability of the UN membership, as there will be a transparent mechanism for communicating the will of the global population in relation to the decisions and actions of the UN. Although the mechanisms for implementation of actions will not be dramatically altered, the global pressures on 'rogue states' will increase because there will be less debate between nations on the validity of proposed actions. The organization will be less subject to the whims of politicians and special interests due to the engagement of such a significant and broad representation of the global population.