

**COMPARISON OF EXISTING SECURITY COUNCIL SYSTEM  
WITH PROPOSED REGIONAL SYSTEM WITH WEIGHTED VOTING**

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Based mainly on Joseph E. Schwartzberg, *Transforming the United Nations System: Designs for a Workable World*, Tokyo and New York: United Nations University Press, 2013, Chapter 4, "Reform of the Security Council," pp.64 – 93; supplemented by additional data from Security Council website.

## Basis for allocating weighted votes of 12 regions in proposal for reformed Security Council system:

Each regional seat holder would cast a weighted SC vote (**W**) based on the average of three terms, as indicated in the following equation:

$$W = (P + C + 8.33\%) / 3$$

wherein **P** represents the region's **population** as a percentage of the total population of all UN member nations, **C** represents the region's total paid **contributions** to the UN budget as a percentage of the total budget over a specific period (say of five years), and **8.33%** is a **constant** signifying that the global perspective of each of the twelve regions is equally worthy of respect.

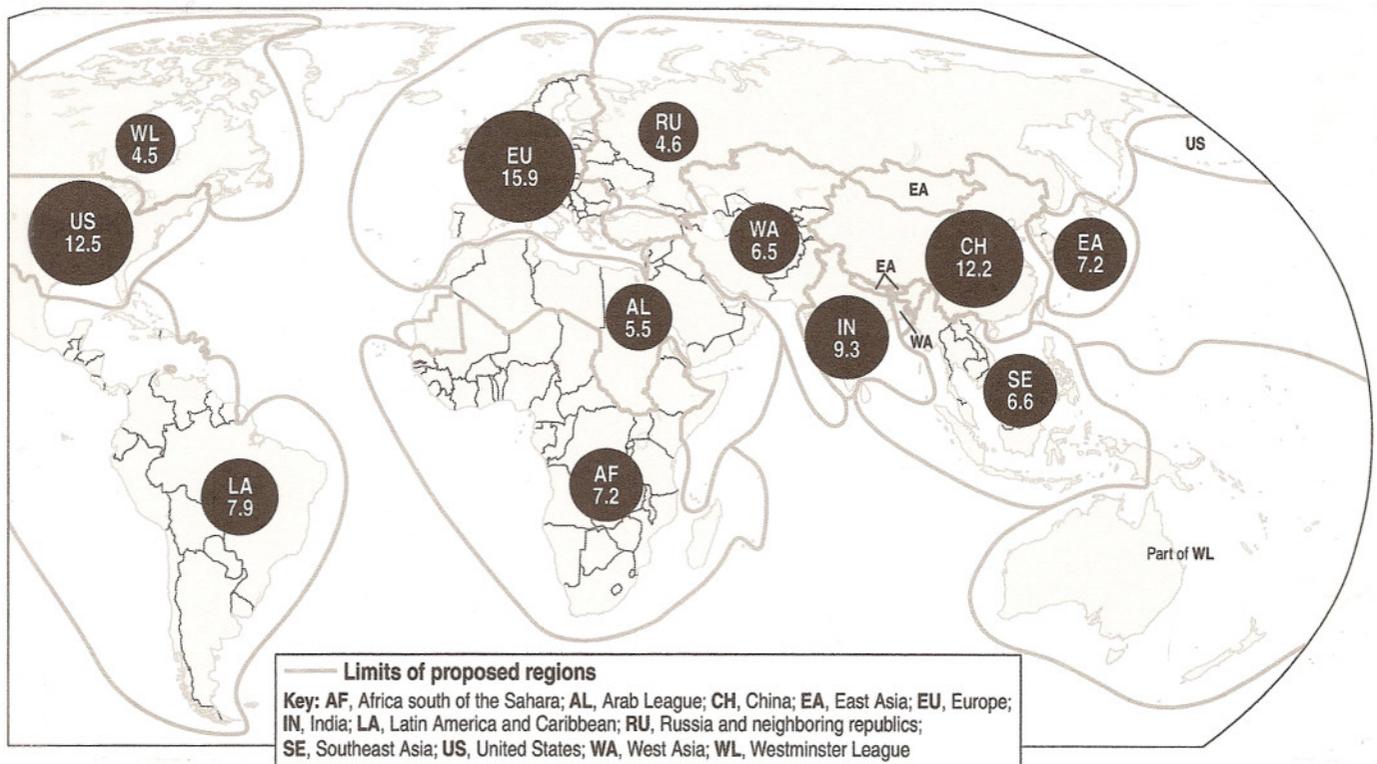


Figure 4.3. Weighted Votes of Twelve Member Regions of Hypothetical Security Council

Table 4.1 Regions to be represented in proposed UN Security Council

Region	No. of UN members	Population (%)	Total GNI (%)	Weighted vote (%)
Africa South of the Sahara	43	11.68	1.47	7.16
Arab League	21	5.21	2.81	5.45
China	1	19.79	8.61	12.24
East Asia	6	3.43	9.95	7.24
Europe	41	7.97	31.27	15.86
India	1	17.25	2.33	9.30
Latin America and Caribbean	33	8.46	6.92	7.90
Russia and Neighbours	6	3.07	2.62	4.67
Southeast Asia	12	8.97	2.53	6.61
United States	1	4.56	24.71	12.53
West Asia	12	8.62	2.51	6.49
Westminster League	15	1.02	4.27	4.54
<b>Total</b>	<b>192</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>100.00</b>

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## PART A: REPRESENTATIVENESS

Variable	Existing System	Proposed System
<b>Number and percentage of UN member nations represented.</b>	15 nations; 7.7% of present total of 193 (12.0% of total of 121 when SC was enlarged in 1966).	193 nations (directly or indirectly), 100%.
<b>Number and percentage of UN Member nations with permanent membership in SC.</b>	5 nations; 2.6% of present total of 193 (4.0% of total of 121 in 1966).	193 nations (as above).
<b>Nations that have never served on SC.</b>	68 nations; 35.2% of current membership with a total population of 335 million	None would be omitted.
<b>Maximum years of membership of a non-P-5 nation</b> (as % of years of eligibility).	20 years for Japan (53.3% of years since admission to UN in 1956); 20 years for Brazil, (28.6% of its 70 years of membership).	None would be omitted.
<b>Population included in SC member nations</b> (% of world total).	Fluctuates markedly, but generally declining; down from 58% in 1973, when Chinese People's Republic took its seat; to 32% in 2015. Exceeded 50% in only 9 years when India was a member.	100% at all times.
<b>Population of P-5 nations</b> (% of world total).	Declining steadily from 37% in 1973 (see chart) to 27% in 2015	Not applicable.
<b>Population of non-P-5 members of SC</b> (% of world total).	Fluctuates markedly; high of 25% in 2012, low of roughly 3% in 1986.	100% at all times.
<b>GNI of SC members</b> (% of world total).	Fluctuates markedly, but generally higher than for population; 44% for P-5 in 2013 (latest data available).	100% at all times..
<b>Weighted voting</b>	All nations' votes of equal weight; thus in 1992 SC the vote of Cape Verde was equal to that of India whose populations was almost 2,500 times greater.	Voting weights of both individual nations and regions are allocated according to objective and rational formulae.
<b>Inequities in representation by electoral groups.</b>	Substantial:: East Asia and Pacific with 53 member nations and 59% of world's population has only 3 seats (20%), (including that of P-5 member, China). Eastern Europe , with 23 member nations and 3.8% of world's population has 2 seats, (including that of P-5 member, Russia).	No inequities since voting weights are allocated according to an objective formula.
<b>Overall assessment</b>	<b>Was never equitable, and has become increasingly inequitable over time.</b>	<b>Maximizes equity.</b>

**NOTE:** "World totals" for population and GNI in this presentation exclude roughly 35 million persons living in dependent territories (e.g. Puerto Rico) and other areas not members of the UN (e.g. Taiwan,) and their combined GNI.

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## PART B: MISCELLANEOUS POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS

Variable	Existing System	Proposed System
<b>Coherence of regional groups from which members are chosen.</b>	Several groups (e.g. "Asia and Pacific") have substantial lack of coherence.	Nine multi-national regions are relatively coherent; three others (China, India, USA) consist of a single nation (see map).
<b>Interaction between seat holder and other countries they ostensibly represent.</b>	Minimal, if any. Non-permanent members vote for what they believe is in their own country's best interests.	System requires intra-regional consultation and protocols to formulate policy and guide elected SC representatives. ( It will also promote cooperation in other essentially regional matters).
<b>Political pressure on relatively weak member nations.</b>	System lends itself to coercion and/or bribery of weak SC members by relatively strong members.	System is virtually immune to coercion or bribery since it is much more difficult to apply such practices to a region than to an individual weak nation.
<b>Merit as a factor in selecting SC representatives.</b>	May or may not be a prime consideration; most elections are uncontested.	Highly important because of requirement of multiple candidates from each multi-national region, as well as competitive selection process for choosing candidates within each multi-national region.
<b>Veto</b>	Frequent use of the veto prevents, delays and/or weakens vitally needed SC decisions.	No vetoes; decisions made by varying super-majorities of weighted votes depending on the issue.
<b>Flexibility</b>	Relatively inflexible.	Voting weights periodically adjusted in accordance with democratic and economic changes,  Nations may shift from one region to another or have dual regional representation, dividing their voting weight accordingly.
<b>Political Feasibility</b>	Not applicable; this is the status quo.	<b>Virtually nil at the outset; but will gain steadily growing support in the General Assembly and in civil society as the out-datedness, unfairness, and other shortcomings of the present system are recognized.</b>  <i>"It always seems impossible until it's done."</i> -Nelson Mandela