

Ethiopia's Impact on Global Security: Unveiling Its Role in the United Nations Security Council

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Abstract

This article delves into Ethiopia's diplomatic influence on the United Nations Security Council through a historical analysis. Despite Ethiopia's long-standing contributions to international organizations, particularly in fostering international peace and security, its multilateral engagements have often been underreported. This study intends to shed light on Ethiopia's significant yet overlooked engagement and contributions to the UN Security Council, as there is limited understanding of its involvement in the council despite being elected as a non-permanent member on multiple occasions. Adopting a qualitative approach, the research draws historical and contemporary sources, as well as in-depth interviews with high-ranking diplomats and key officials from Ethiopia's Ministry of Foreign Affairs. It stresses the significance of comprehensively examining Ethiopia's dynamic involvement in the Security Council by analyzing its accomplishments and the factors shaping its engagement. The findings suggest a need for revising the existing foreign policy and adopting clear guiding principles consistent with international legal behavior. Additionally, there is a call for further efforts, including enhancing the country's image and diplomatic initiatives to bolster its role in the UN Security Council. Ultimately, this research sets the stage for future studies on Ethiopia's diplomatic influence in multilateral international organizations.

Introduction

Ethiopia has a long history of foreign relations and diplomatic partnerships with various nations worldwide. While bilateral relations with neighboring and regional countries have been the primary focus, Ethiopia's involvement and contributions to multilateral international organizations have often been overlooked. However, Ethiopia has played a significant role in recognizing and establishing international organizations that support global peace and security.

Most of the time, the main focus area of Ethiopia's foreign relations was bilateral with its neighboring and regional counterparts (Chatham House, 2015, p. 3). The country's achievements in bilateral relations are commendable; however, the significant contribution it has been making towards the maintenance of peace and security at the multilateral level is usually overlooked. For the most part, the country's involvement and contributions to multilateral international organizations are left unnoticed.

On the other hand, historical records show that Ethiopia has been a noteworthy supporter of the establishment of international organizations dedicated to global peace and security. Despite its long history of statehood, Ethiopia remained somewhat isolated from major world political movements until the Italian invasions at the end of the 19th century. However, in the 20th century, Ethiopia emerged as a key player in both African and global diplomacy. It became a full member of the League of Nations in 1923 and has since actively participated in African and world affairs, including becoming a charter member of the United Nations and contributing to various UN-led peace support operations. Emperor Haile Selassie played a significant role in founding the Organization of African Unity (now known as the African Union or AU). Additionally, Ethiopia has strengthened its relations with regional and international organizations such as the Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD), the European Union (EU), and the Arab League (Yonas, 2018).

Furthermore, Ethiopia, with its strategic location and historical significance, has been an active participant in the UNSC's proceedings. Despite this, Ethiopia's role in the UN Security Council has not been adequately studied. Most previous research focused solely on Ethiopia's participation in field activities during peacekeeping operations (Hagos, 2016; Haile, 2006; Haile, 2012; Muluken, 2011), leaving its diplomatic accomplishments, key contributions, and factors shaping its engagement in the UN Security Council unknown.

Therefore, this study aims to explore Ethiopia's role in the UN Security Council and understand its diplomatic strategies and achievements. Through in-depth interviews with high-ranking diplomats and officials from international organizations' directorate at the Ethiopian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, this research offers empirical evidence to fill the gap in this widely ignored area and enable a more detailed evaluation in the future.

In summary, this study highlights the need for a better understanding of Ethiopia's self-motivated role in the UN Security Council. This historical analysis intends to develop preliminary groundwork and serve as a basis for future research on Ethiopia's diplomatic influence in multilateral international organizations.

Ethiopia's Evolving Role in the United Nations

Ethiopia, known as "The Cradle of Human Civilization," has a rich history of global leadership and promotion of Pan-Africanism. Its reputation for independence symbolism has extended beyond the continent, influencing regions, superpowers, and multilateral international organizations like the United Nations. In the realm of United Nations peace and security matters, Ethiopia has established a strong legacy through its extensive service. The country has been elected as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council three times (in 1967-68, 1989-90, and 2017-18) and has consistently demonstrated responsible conduct within the Council (United Nations, 2019). Despite this, the specifics of Ethiopia's position,

contributions, and evolving role within the Security Council remain somewhat unclear.

Ethiopia is by no means new to multilateralism, international diplomacy, and international institutions. It has historically relied on diplomacy to exert influence at the regional, continental, and global levels. As early as 1923, Ethiopia became a member of the League of Nations and was among the 51 founding countries of the UN in 1945 (Embassy, Ethiopia, 2016). Throughout its involvement in these organizations, Ethiopia has leveraged diplomacy to exert influence at regional and global levels. Notably, during the League of Nations era, Ethiopia championed collective security principles, while in the UN, it advocated for Pan-Africanism and independence for colonized African territories (Atakilte & Adetula, 2017).

As one of the founding members of the United Nations and a consistent contributor to UN peacekeeping operations, Ethiopia has established itself as a key player in the global diplomatic arena. From the outset, Ethiopia has been a committed member of the UN and has played a crucial role in shaping the organization's principles and objectives. Most importantly, the diplomatic relations and cooperation that Ethiopia has been building with the UN were getting expanded and strengthened from time to time. Since its membership in 1945, Ethiopia's role in the organization has been evolving progressively. Starting from contributing a huge number of troops to the UN-led peace support operations in the fields; it has been continuously involved in the UN multilateral diplomatic activities.

Overall, Ethiopia's historical engagement with international institutions has provided a strong foundation for its diplomatic influence in the UNSC. As a country committed to multilateralism and the promotion of peace and security; Ethiopia has been an active participant in various UN forums and initiatives. Its contributions to UN peacekeeping operations and its role in mediating regional conflicts demonstrate its continued commitment to the organization's objectives. Thus, Ethiopia's evolving role in the UN continues to shape the global discourse on issues of international peace and security.

Ethiopia's Contributions to Peacekeeping Operations

Ethiopia has a long and proud history in UN Peace Support Operations and has participated and is participating in several UN missions (Haile, 2012). In the early 1950s, its troops joined a multinational UN peacekeeping force in the Korean War. Similar interventions were also made in the 1960s in the Congo conflict (Atakilte & Adetula, 2017). Then again, when the tradition resumed in the 1990s, Ethiopia sent forces to UN operations in Rwanda (1995), Liberia (2003), Burundi (2004), Sudan (2006), Abyei (2011), South Sudan (2013), Somalia (2014), Haiti (2015) Cote d'Ivoire (2016) and Chad (2017). This brings the total number of troops it has posted since the 1950s to over a staggering 80,000 personnel (Esayas, 2016; Yonas, 2018).

On a continental scale, Ethiopia has consistently worked towards uniting African nations to ensure peace across the continent.

Outside of the UN, Ethiopia's major significant deployment is in Somalia, where it maintained troops supporting the Somali Government in the framework of the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM). Ethiopia's active involvement in regional and global peacekeeping has not only contributed to the resolution of conflicts but has also earned the country respect and recognition within the international community.

The UN Peace Operations have been undergoing an evolutionary change through time; Ethiopia's contributions have also been growing progressively. But the country's involvement in peace and security goes further than contributing troops. Beyond this, Ethiopia has also been part of the United Nations' multilateral diplomacy. It has served several times as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council, the international body which is entrusted by the UN Charter with the main responsibility for maintaining international peace and security.

As a Non-permanent Member of the United Nations Security Council

The UN Security Council can be regarded as the most powerful organ of the international community and stands at the pinnacle of international peace and security (Schmitz & Schwarze, 2011). It is one of the six principal organs created by the UN Charter. The other enumerated bodies include the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council, the Trusteeship Council, the International Court of Justice, and the Secretariat. As a founding member of the United Nations (UN), Ethiopia has played a significant role in

shaping the decisions and policies of the UNSC throughout its history.

Ethiopia's involvement in the UNSC dates back to its election as a non-permanent member in 1967. Since then, Ethiopia has been a key player in addressing various security challenges, particularly in Africa. Previous studies have highlighted Ethiopia's diplomatic efforts in mediating conflicts, and it has also emphasized the importance of Ethiopia's strategic position in the Horn of Africa region, which allows it to influence regional security dynamics (Tesfaye, 2019).

Ethiopia's role within the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) has garnered significant interest among scholars and policymakers. The country's diplomatic engagement in the UNSC has been a subject of scholarly analysis in recent years, with studies by Atakilte & Adetula (2017), Tekeda (2019), and Tesfaye (2019) shedding light on Ethiopia's contributions to advancing peace and security in Africa and globally. These works underscore Ethiopia's growing significance in the UNSC and its role in shaping global security agendas.

Most of the existing literature highlights Ethiopia's proactive response to UN calls for troop contributions since the organization's inception. The country's involvement in UN-led Peace Support Operations has been lauded for its success and commendable performance (Haile, 2006; Haile, 2012; Muluken, 2011). On the other hand, Ethiopia's participation in United Nations multilateral diplomacy as a non-permanent member of the UNSC raises questions about its role, diplomatic strategies, and approach to proposed Security Council reforms. This

article aims to address these inquiries by examining Ethiopia's history, practical experiences, policy implications, and overall diplomatic role within the framework of multilateralism and collective security in the UNSC.

In conclusion, Ethiopia's role in the United Nations Security Council has not received adequate attention or thorough study, leading to a lack of comprehensive understanding. This article seeks to analyze Ethiopia's diplomatic influence within the UNSC by exploring its historical context, practical experiences, policy implications, and overall contribution to multilateralism and collective security within the Council.

Research Methods and Materials

Research Design

This study aimed to explore Ethiopia's role in the United Nations Security Council, focusing on a less explored area within the Ethiopian context. An exploratory research design was chosen to delve into this topic, emphasizing idea discovery and flexible approaches, as advocated by Kothari (1990). The qualitative research approach enabled a holistic exploration of Ethiopia's involvement in the Security Council and its implications.

Sampling Technique

The research targeted officials and experts from the Ethiopian Ministry of Foreign Affairs Peace and Security Directorate. A combination of non-probability sampling methods including snowball and purposive sampling techniques were employed. This deliberate choice of informants, as suggested

by Bernard (2002), included former ambassadors, active diplomats, and representatives with insights on Ethiopia's engagement in the UN Security Council.

Data Collection Methods

Both primary and secondary sources were utilized for this study. Primary data was gathered through semi-structured interviews with key informants, while secondary data originated from pertinent documents within the Ethiopian Ministry of Foreign Affairs database. The study collected data from Security Council resolutions and press releases to deepen the analysis and offer a comprehensive understanding of Ethiopia's diplomatic influence.

Data Analysis Techniques

Qualitative analysis techniques were employed to interpret and analyze the collected data. A comparative analysis was utilized to compare information from varied sources descriptively. Data were categorized, sub-categorized, and organized into themes, capturing the essence of Ethiopia's role in the UN Security Council.

Results and Discussion

This section presents the results of the study on Ethiopia's diplomatic influence in the United Nations Security Council (UNSC). The data was collected through in-depth interviews, focus group discussions, and a review of secondary sources. The findings are triangulated and analyzed under three broad themes: the status of the United Nations Security Council in the larger context of Ethiopia's foreign policy, followed by a critical

analysis of Ethiopia's evolving roles in the Security Council, and Ethiopia's perspectives on Security Council Reform.

The study revealed Ethiopia's growing diplomatic influence in the UNSC, emphasizing its commitment to peace and security. The results included Ethiopia's key role in promoting peace and security, support for African issues, and advocacy for UNSC reform. Challenges such as power imbalances and geopolitical tensions were identified, but Ethiopia's strategic diplomacy and leadership were highlighted as strengths.

The United Nations Security Council in the Larger Context of Ethiopia's Foreign Policy

The desire for active engagement in global affairs often drives countries to strive for a spot in the Security Council (Kuziemko & Werker 2006, p.2). Membership in this council provides states with the opportunity to influence binding resolutions, advance national interests in conflicts, and enhance their status within the international community (Lai & Lefler, 2009, p. 3; Lundin, 2017, pp. 7-9). Many of Africa's policies concerning the Security Council can best be viewed as a microcosm of their broader, fundamental foreign policy goals. While this is true for most, if not all, states, the combined effects of their ambitions on the international stage and their obvious material constraints create a distinct and complex approach to the Council (Serrão, 2011, p. 4). Despite these limitations, participation in the Security Council is seen as

a privilege, as expressed by Ndiaye, M., former African Peace and Security Program Director of the African Union, who stated that nearly every African country aspires to join the United Nations Security Council:

Every country in Africa aspires to become a member of the UN Security Council; not only for the interest but also for Collective Security (personal communication, April 29, 2019).

For countries like Ethiopia, membership in the UN Security Council is a central component of foreign relations. Ethiopia has a rich history in multilateral diplomacy and upholding collective security principles (Fortuna, D., personal communication, February 27, 2019). Ambassador Tekeda Alemu, former Permanent Representative of Ethiopia to the United Nations, claims that his country fully recognizes the legitimacy of the United Nations Security Council by stating “*We [Ethiopia] respect the principles embodied in the UN Charter*” (personal communication, April 15, 2019). The Ambassador further stated that Ethiopia joins the Security Council to fulfill its international responsibility;

We [Ethiopia] are part of the international community, the UN Security Council has a responsibility for international peace and security and we join the Security Council not merely for pursuing our national interest, but to maintain

international peace and security as well (personal communication, April 15, 2019).

Ethiopia views its role in the Security Council as fulfilling international obligations rather than solely pursuing national interests. With the majority of Security Council discussions revolving around Africa and the Horn of Africa, Ethiopia sees its membership as a means to represent pan-African ideals and the interests of the African Union. According to most of the key informants, the main principles guiding Ethiopia's involvement in the United Nations in general and the Security Council in particular are:

- Responsibility towards the national interest, the African continent, and the international community as a whole.
- To promote global peace and security through the peaceful settlement of disputes.
- To advocate for the prevention of conflicts and the strengthening of all available tools of the United Nations.
- To provide valuable insights to the UN Security Council members as a key partner to Collective Security.
- To encourage greater cooperation between the United Nations and regional and sub-regional organizations in the maintenance of

international peace and security.

- To enhance the role of regional and sub-regional arrangements in improving collective security.
- To engage in regional and international economic cooperation for socio-economic development
- Contribute to the enhancement of UN Peace Support Operations in the face of evolving global security challenges.

Ethiopia's Role in the United Nations Security Council

Ethiopia's tenure on the UNSC signifies a momentous chapter in its international diplomatic endeavors. Being one of the first sub-Saharan African nations to hold a non-permanent seat, Ethiopia has consistently championed African and developing world interests while contributing to global peace and security efforts.

Foundation of Diplomatic Influence

Rooted in its legacy as a founding member of the United Nations, Ethiopia's diplomatic influence is underpinned by a steadfast commitment to multilateralism and collective security. Over the years, Ethiopia has actively engaged in conflict resolution, peacekeeping missions, and advocacy for human rights within the Council.

Leveraging Expertise and Influence

Throughout its term on the UNSC, Ethiopia strategically utilized its diplomatic expertise and regional clout to shape the Council's agenda and decision-making processes. The country has played a pivotal role in advocating for peaceful conflict resolutions, particularly in the Horn of Africa region, and has been actively involved in UN peacekeeping initiatives. Ethiopia has also been instrumental in drafting and supporting resolutions on critical issues such as conflict prevention, counterterrorism, and humanitarian aid (Embassy of Ethiopia, 2017).

Contributions and Impact

Ethiopia's appointment to the UNSC for the 2017-2018 term showcased its growing stature as a significant player on the global stage. With a deep historical background as one of Africa's oldest independent nations, Ethiopia offers a unique outlook on peace and security matters. Its contributions have been key in conflict resolution, fostering sustainable peace, and addressing pressing security challenges within the Council (Atakilte & Adetula, 2017).

Comprehensive Approach to Peace and Security

Adopting a multidimensional approach to peace and security, Ethiopia recognizes the interconnectedness of sustainable peace with development efforts and conflict root causes. Within the UNSC, Ethiopia consistently advocates for integrating development programs and humanitarian aid into peacebuilding strategies. This holistic approach sets the stage for comprehensive initiatives geared toward establishing lasting peace and stability in conflict-affected regions

Strengthening Partnerships and Initiatives

A focal point of Ethiopia's UNSC tenure has been reinforcing collaboration between the UN and the African Union in peace and security realms. Notably, during its presidency, Ethiopia spearheaded the High-Level Open Debate on UN Peacekeeping Operations Reform, garnering unanimous support from all Council members for enhancing the efficacy of peacekeeping missions through improved planning and operational efficiency (Embassy of Ethiopia, 2017).

Persistent Engagement and Leadership

Under its presidency, Ethiopia led discussions on critical issues including UN peacekeeping reform, and conflict resolutions in Somalia, South Sudan, and the Chad Basin, underscoring its active role in international peace and security matters (Embassy of Ethiopia, 2017).

In the country's diplomatic history, the years 1967-1968, 1989-1990, and 2017-2018 hold special significance as it was during these periods Ethiopia was seated as a non-permanent member of the UNSC (Berhanu, 2018). In the main, its honorable contributions in its strong-minded involvements in such multilateral arenas have gained the country immense respect and confidence in the eyes of the international community and particularly fellow Africans (Esayas, 2016). Expressly, during its third tenure (2017-18), Ethiopia has been described as a champion of the Council by its UN ambassador, for

discharging its continental responsibilities by mobilizing support for objectives that the AU wanted to promote (Tekeda, 2019, p. 4).

Ethiopia's Diplomatic Strategies in the UNSC

Ethiopia employs a multifaceted approach to diplomacy within the UNSC, including negotiation, alliance-building, and leveraging its regional leadership to advance foreign policy goals.

National Issue: Ethiopia has shifted its focus towards prioritizing national interests by redefining its foreign relations strategies to address internal vulnerabilities and challenges effectively (Chatham House, 2015, p.2), and this is further emphasized by Ms. Fortuna, D., former Director General of International organizations at the Ethiopia Ministry of Foreign Affairs,

Every country gives priority to its national interest, likewise, Ethiopia's National Interest comes first, especially in circumstances (contexts) involving its state of affairs (personal communication, February 27, 2019).

Continental (African) Issue: Ethiopia's diplomatic efforts aim to promote and safeguard Africa's interests, enhancing regional stability and advocating for democracy and good governance across the continent.

- **Representation of African Interests:** Ethiopia, as a member and

host of the African Union, carries special responsibilities toward Africa, championing the continent's interests within the UNSC.

- **Historical Support:** Ethiopia's historical backing of anticolonial and anti-apartheid struggles in Africa has earned respect and enabled the country to discharge its African responsibilities effectively.
- **Leadership in the African Group:** Ethiopia's leadership within the African Group (AG) in the UNSC has further propelled its diplomatic influence, with active contributions to resolving regional disputes and supporting peace operations in various African countries.

Global Perspective: Ethiopia's diplomatic stance towards global issues and partnerships emphasizes loyalty to principles over pleasing specific countries, maintaining independence in decision-making, and aligning positions with core values rather than following major powers indiscriminately. Furthermore, Ethiopia's commitment to multilateralism and collaboration with other UNSC members underscores its dedication to conflict prevention, consensus-building, and advancing international security norms.

Challenges and Limitations in Ethiopia's Diplomatic Influence in the United Nations Security Council

Ethiopia's role in promoting peace and security within the UNSC has not been

without challenges. The complexity of conflicts, limited resources, and competing priorities within the Council have posed significant hurdles. Despite these challenges, Ethiopia has remained steadfast in its commitment to peace and security, continuously seeking innovative solutions.

However, Ethiopia has faced obstacles in its pursuit of influence within the UNSC. The geopolitical dynamics, including the veto power of permanent members, have limited Ethiopia's ability to shape decisions on critical issues. Nevertheless, Ethiopia has utilized its diplomatic skills and alliances with other countries to overcome these challenges and elevate its voice on the global stage.

Future Prospects

Ethiopia's diplomatic influence in the UNSC is expected to grow as the country continues to play an active role in regional and global affairs. With its strong commitment to peace, security, and development, Ethiopia is well-positioned to contribute to the UNSC's efforts in addressing emerging challenges, such as climate change, terrorism, and conflict prevention. This historical analysis provides not only valuable insights into the country's diplomatic journey in the UNSC but also serves as a foundation for future diplomatic endeavors.

Among others, since the UN was formed when most African countries were under colonial subjugation, they do not perceive it as either fair or representative. Similar to the views of other African Countries Ethiopia does not believe the current Security Council structure is fair. Given that, Bantihun, G., said: *“We [Ethiopia] do not believe it is fair, Africa*

as a whole agreed and signed the Ezulwini Consensus” (personal communication, February 11, 2019). For that reason, Ethiopia remains strongly supportive of UN reform, including the structural reform of the Security Council.

Along with other countries of the global South, Ethiopia has shown concern over the imbalanced power arrangement in key UN institutions. Ethiopia has also advocated the democratization of the UNSC, for example by proposing a permanent seat for Africa. Moreover, following the Ezulwini Consensus, Ethiopia is also a party; that wants to see reform in a manner that the continent is fairly represented in the UNSC (Atakilte & Adetula, 2017, p. 5).

Almost all of the AU member states have always been very strict on the parameters established by the African common position. From the very beginning of the African representation to the current AU activity in the debates, the countries have been emphatic in stating that no solution other than the one presented by the Ezulwini Consensus will be accepted. This could be perceived as an attempt to spoil the reform process, for the real interest of Africa to assume a more decisive position in the Council (Silva, 2015). By the same token, Fortuna, D., emphasized that Ethiopia does not have any individual position regarding UNSC reform:

Ethiopia does not have any individual position; it supports the reform of the United Nations Security Council through the common Position of the African Union (personal

communication, February 27, 2019).

Furthermore, she has underlined that the Ezulwini consensus has been the common position of Africa and Ethiopia subscribes to that position. By the same token, most of the key informants affirmed that the position of Ethiopia is governed by the position that has already been taken by the African Union.

In general, most of the key informants pointed out that the UNSC is well-motivated, but is erroneously put together in the face of today's world and has ceased to do the job it was intended to do. For that reason, they have suggested that the Council needs to be transformed to represent each region of the world. Though they have predicted that the reform may not be realized anytime soon, they have jointly called for a Council with universally accepted authority.

In conclusion, Ethiopia's diplomatic influence in the United Nations Security Council serves as a testament to its unwavering commitment to global peace and security. This historical analysis underscores Ethiopia's invaluable contributions to the Council and its enduring impact on international diplomatic relations. As Ethiopia continues to strengthen its position as a significant player in global affairs, its contributions to the UNSC will undoubtedly continue to hold substantial value in advancing global peace and security. In navigating complex geopolitical challenges, Ethiopia's diplomatic influence in the UNSC remains pivotal in shaping the future of global security governance and promoting a more peaceful world for all.

In summary, this study affirms that Ethiopia's diplomatic influence in the UNSC plays a significant role in its foreign policy. Ethiopia has effectively utilized its position in the Council to advocate for peace and security in Africa and beyond and has been a staunch proponent for reform within the Security Council.

Conclusion

Ethiopia's diplomatic influence in the United Nations Security Council is a testament to its active engagement in international affairs and its commitment to advocating for national and continental interests. Through strategic alliance-building and effective negotiation, Ethiopia has navigated the complexities of international diplomacy and contributed to the UNSC's mission of maintaining global peace and security. Despite facing challenges inherent to the structure and politics of the UNSC, Ethiopia's role as a non-permanent member demonstrates the potential for small and medium-sized states to shape the international agenda.

Ethiopia's diplomatic influence in the United Nations Security Council has been shaped by its historical engagement, leadership in the African Group, contributions to peacekeeping operations, and commitment to multilateralism. Despite challenges, Ethiopia has successfully navigated the complex dynamics of the UNSC and made significant contributions to global peace and security. As Ethiopia continues to play an active role in international affairs, its diplomatic influence in the UNSC is expected to grow, further solidifying its position as a key player in shaping global decision-making processes.

To put it in a nutshell, the United Nations Security Council plays an important role in ensuring global peace, which is the bedrock of macroeconomics, and Ethiopia reposes the UNSC as a good platform for realizing all-embracing peace, security, and development. In its last three tenures in the Council, it has contributed its share in maintaining international peace and security. Especially, in its first and second stints in the Council, it has played a notable role in the decolonization of its fellow African countries. Moreover, at a time when global security challenges abound and where the UN, and particularly the UNSC, needs structural reforms, Ethiopia also seeks reform of the Council through the African Union position.

Key Policy Recommendations

Based on the key findings of the study the following recommendations are forwarded to be adopted and improve the future performance and contribution of Ethiopia to the United Nations in general and the Security Council in particular. Some of the recommendations include:

Internal Stability. The works done domestically are believed to be the basis for a given country's foreign relations. Nevertheless, the contemporary internal politics of Ethiopia is a cause for concern. For the most part, its profound poverties coupled with ethnic divisions co-occurring with occasional instabilities are causing internal chaos and displacements. Hence, it is suggested that work be done to overhaul a national political consensus and promote the unity of its citizens. Moreover, to consolidate its regional

power position and receive more recognition and credibility, Ethiopia needs to improve its internal political condition and increasingly play a more constructive role in the Horn of Africa. However, if it cannot manage these local or regional challenges aptly, it might not be in a situation to handle whatever is happening at the international level. How Ethiopia addresses its domestic challenges could be a test for the country on the global stage. It is, therefore, imperative for the Ethiopian government to address its domestic challenges to strengthen its international standing.

Regular Membership. Ethiopia is one of the founding members of international organizations such as the League of Nations and the United Nations as well as one of the foremost African countries to be selected as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council, following the expansion of the council in 1966. Furthermore, it is a seat of the Organization of African Unity, now the African Union, the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, and the third city for international affairs after New York and Geneva. Against this backdrop of Ethiopia's extraordinary legacy in promoting Pan-Africanism and giving global leadership, it appears queer to learn that Ethiopia made it to the membership of UNSC only three times in its history. In nearly 75 years of the Organization's history, Egypt which received its independence from Britain in February 1922 was a Council member for five terms; Nigeria which became independent in October 1960 has joined the Council five times, while South Africa has managed to serve in the high table three times in the last fifteen years only. Therefore, given its

diplomatic centeredness and being in one of the most conflicted regions in the world, it would not be unreasonable for Ethiopia to join the UN Security Council at least once every five or ten years.

Documentation: Maintaining detailed records of the roles, accomplishments, challenges, and votes cast as well as the experiences gained during a country's presence in the UN Security Council is very crucial. Some countries focus almost entirely on the period they are in the Council, whereas other countries use their membership to enhance their ongoing influence in certain areas after they have left as well. Not only this, but well-documented files can also be valuable inputs for a country intending or rejoin the Council as well as to explain its progress and even norms relatively. Most of the key informants, who have represented Ethiopia in its third stint, utterly stated that they began their term out of scratch and this has its own adverse effects. Henceforth, well-organized documentation of files is imperative and the next term of Ethiopia also needs to be put into consideration regarding its past practices in the Council.

Foreign Policy: Several world countries have had a long history of external relations and they use foreign policy as a tool for their foreign affairs. Then, in this dynamic world, the foreign policy document needs to be revised and updated accordingly. The current foreign policy of Ethiopia has set various strategies for implementing the core objectives of external relations, yet it has never been revised since its introduction in 2002. Meanwhile, many significant changes have been noticed, and hence it is suggested to be

dynamic in line with these global changes. Among others, even though Ethiopia has been a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council about three times, the foreign policy document does not mention it. There is not even a single phrase talking about its role, aspirations, guiding principles, or prospects in the Security Council. Henceforth, the Ethiopian Ministry of Foreign Affairs needs to revise its policy, taking into account all these and other internal as well as external situations, in an all-inclusive manner.

Expertise: Having well-organized staffing and highly experienced experts can take a country far in the UNSC. In the same way, Ethiopia, given its large-scale and multidimensional responsibilities, needs to assign highly qualified experts and well-trained diplomats who are loyal to the rule of law and the constitution for the UN mission. Then again owing to the prospect reforms and growing responsibilities, the mission in New York is expected to increase in size; hence it is important to ensure that there are enough well-qualified, veterans as well as young diplomats to cover the intensive workloads. Given that, there should be an independent office, focusing particularly on an effective division of labor exclusively devoted to the UN mission as well as the ever-broadening Security Council agenda.

Aspiration: Ethiopia is gradually described as a regional powerhouse in the Horn of Africa, in consideration of its military, diplomatic power, and demographic size. Its increasing engagement in regional peace and security issues further indicates that it has the will to lead and influence the region. However, its aspirations are neither explicitly

acknowledged by the government, nor defined in its official foreign policy document. Especially, the country has not taken any position nor has it an aspirational target for an elevated position in the envisioned reform of the UN Security Council. Hence, given its enormous potential, the Ethiopian Ministry of Foreign Affairs needs to set a clear objective, and strategies, and declare its explicit aspirations concerning permanent membership in the UN Security Council.

International Image: In the realm of multilateral diplomacy, the perception of a nation by the international community holds immense significance. Most notably, the Security Council member state's commitment to the objectives of the UN Charter, the

various international instruments, and a nation's respect for its citizens and the nation's laws and its international obligations, especially the human rights instruments it has signed and voluntarily ratified through its legal mechanisms are highly acclaimed. While Ethiopia has been historically viewed as a symbol of drought and poverty, it is important to acknowledge its resilience against colonialism and its rich ancient civilization. However, its recent struggles with domestic peace, security, and development could harm its international image and progress. It is, hence, necessary that for a country allegedly expected for a permanent UNSC seat, the state of its domestic security and development affairs be improved remarkably to enhance global perception.

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