

## African Voices and Demands on The United Nations General Assembly @80

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### ABSTRACT

**Objective:** The article evaluates the voices and demands of African leaders on the United Nations General Assembly @80. The paper focuses on African leader's unified, assertive demands for a fundamental restructuring of the global order. **Method:** The study selected the demands of some African leaders through the voices of four African Presidents: Algeria- President Abdelmajid Tebboune, Kenya- President William Ruto, Nigeria- President Bola Ahmed Adegunle Tinubu, highly represented by the Vice President Kashim Shettima Mustapha and Ghana- President John Dramani Mahama. **Results:** The paper concludes that African leaders made key demands which centered on ending historical marginalization, which includes: Reform and fair representations of African States in the UN Security Council, aid dependency to self-reliance and development, fair trade and resource value addition, peace, security and human rights, climate change and sustainable development, finally, data sovereignty, migration governance and African led solution. **Novelty:** The paper recommends equitable representation in global governance by fostering fair economic partnership and development.

## INTRODUCTION

The global inter-dependence which grew out of the basic fact that the international system is composed of interdependent of political units that interact in trade, industrialisation, communication, education, transportation etc.

Member States of the United Nations were determined to save succeeding generation from the scourge of war, which has brought untold sorrow to mankind thus the organization was charged with the responsibilities of maintaining World Peace and Security and developing friendly relations among nations based on the sovereign equality of the States and peaceful settlement of disputes.

United Nations have six (6) main organs: 1. The General Assembly: the central organ of the UN, which is made up of all the member states of the organization, as each state sends five representatives but are entitled to only one vote. 2. Security Council: The permanent members of the Security Council are the five great with veto wielding powers (China, France, The United Kingdom, The United States, and Russia), having other non-permanent members elected by the General Assembly for two-year term. 3. Economic and Social Council: the organ is charged with the responsibility of promoting higher standard of living, better health, respect for human rights and international cooperation in education and the arts, it is made up of 18 member state elected by the General Assembly for three-year term. 4. Secretariat: situated in New York with a staff of over three thousand, working directly under the Secretary General. The regional headquarters

are located in Geneva, Bangkok, The Hague, Montreal, Santiago de Chile, etc, where specialized agencies have other hundreds of staff. 5. The Secretary General: Is the Chief Administrative Officer of the UN, with important political responsibilities, appointed by the General Assembly on the recommendation of the Security Council. 6. The Trusteeship Council: operating under the authority of the General Assembly to assist the UNGA in carrying out the functions of administrative and supervision of certain non-independent territories. 7. International Court of Justice: is the principal judicial organ of the United Nations. It function in accordance with the statute based upon the Statute of the Permanent Court of International Justice and forms an integral part of the UN Charter.

The United Nation has Specialize Agencies and host of Commissions were set up to accomplish the Organization goals while, collective security was the fundamental Premise upon which the UN operates.

In the UN, African states are merely concerned with problems of self-determination, racial discrimination, social and economic development and human rights.

They consider the UN as the appropriate agent for the resolution of these problems, while they have been considerably successful in mobilizing the General Assembly to pass resolutions that are designed to solve these problems but the situation in the Security Council has somewhat been frustrating because their resolutions are either outvoted or vetoed by one or more of the permanent members. This is because apart from anti-imperialist flavor of African demands, no African state is a veto wielding member of the Security Council, as the rationale behind the veto power has always been that no decision by the Security Council be made in the absence of cooperation, consent and support of the major five power who, as the victorious allied-powers during World War 11, sponsored themselves and jointly insisted on being permanent members of the Council, with their signal of “no Veto no Charter, [1], weighing the superpower influence of the Security Council, as their decisions are binding on member states, then the fate of African states in the UN is better appreciated.

However, the African region has remain under the auspices of non-permanent seats, from 1965, when the enlargement of the UN Security Council began, its worthy of note, that the Council has continually failed to act decisively and expeditiously on the challenges bedeviled the African region.

On the recent pace of Africa’s backwardness and marginalization, the leaders of African have once again raised their voices for tangible and global positions and economic development at the UNGA@80, marking the 80th anniversary of the UN Charter with the theme: “Better Together” 80 years and more for Peace, Development and Human Rights, held at the United Nations Headquarters in New York City, United States, from 22nd -30th September, 2025.

However, African leaders in their collective voices, are pushing for: 1. UN reform and fair representation. 2. From aid dependency to self-reliance and African

development. 3. Economic Justice, debt relief, fair trade. 4. Peace, security and human rights. 5. Fairer rules in global trade and climate treaties and investment into green infrastructure and energy and family. 6. Data sovereignty, migration governance, and African led solutions. As the challenge can only be resolved within the ambit of the United Nations.

### **Historical Perspective**

The foundation for the formation of infrastructural organizations was laid through the seventeenth century, at the conference of the Europe. Infrastructural organizations such as the League of Nations (1919-1939) and United Nations were established after the Second World War respectively.

Notably, the United Nations Organization came into existence on October 24, 1945, after its Charter had been ratified by representatives of fifty-one (51) States, but owed its birth to the series of alliances that were contracted during the war time and dismal performance of the League of Nations.

However, while the structure, procedure and processes of UN were enunciated majority of the Third World and African states in particular were still under colonial rule and so did not participate in its founding conference in 1945. Only four (4) African countries – Egypt, Ethiopia, Liberia and South Africa endorsed the Charter as original members. Africa was deprived of representation in the UN organs as a geopolitical entity, at best, they were considered alongside Asian States as Afro-Asian group. But with the independence of many ex-colonial African territories especially in the 1960s, African's present in the UN has become more visible. Today, the region constitutes the single largest bloc, accounting for fifty four (54) of the one hundred and Ninety Four (194) member-nations of the UN.

From inception of the UN, African States are mainly concerned with problem of self-determination/reliance, racial discrimination, social and economic development, and human rights within the African region and the global world under the aegis of the United Nations, as they consider the UN as the appropriate agent for the resolution of these problems.

Therefore, it is this perceived sense of political marginalization in the UN coupled with significant global changes, since the inception of the body in 1945, through the late 1980s, 2000(s) and to the UNGA @80 in September, 2025, that have led to another persistent demand of African States for a more progressive reforming of the UN organs,, especially the permanent membership of the Security Council to enhance the geopolitical representation of all regions, especially African States at the UN. The five permanent members of the UN for clarity purposes, since 1945 are as follows: China, France, Russia, United Kingdom, United State.

### **The Problem of the Study**

African States were not among the founding members of the UN, as the majority of African States were still under colonial rule when the body was established. In the United Nations, the absence and non-inclusion of any African States in the Security

Council even after their long agitation and demands has brought a lot of concerns to the region and its people, as their voices continues to echo for justice and fairness in the Organisation.

### **Theoretical Framework**

#### **National Power theory**

The theory of National Powers as portends by Dahl Robert [2], perceives power as the ability to still the possibility of action. Russel Bertrand [3] posits that National power is the protection of intended effects. National power can be distinguished in two aspects:

1. It is the use of force and violence to achieve a purpose, as asserted by Claude Jnr. [4] [5] Deutsch and Waltz [6] Claude Jnr. Sees power in a militaristic term and has the capacity to coerce, kill and destroy. Deutsch views power as similar work like money in market economy, while Waltz argues that power is interdict, the use of force by force to influence the polices of other states by the format or command and control.
2. The second distinction of National power is influence, which covers the attributes of manipulation, persuasion and authority. According to Hans Morgenthau [7] sees influence as an embodiment of power, as force like influence are conditional variables to acquire power, and the application of one state without actually using violent means influence, which in effect is power factor – power manipulated is influenced to achieve a purpose.

However, the theory of national power has been criticized as lacking in clarity and precision by scholar Rosenau James, when he argued that national power is not just about material strength, but like military or economy, instead, power depends on how effectively a state can convert its resources into influence, both domestically and internationally, power is context-dependent, relational and dynamic. Hoffman has similarly criticize the concept of power as unduly nebulous because it is impossible to subsume under word, variable as different as power as a political and power in use; power as a sum of resources, and power as act of process Stanley Hoffman (1960).

For John T. Rourke [8], sees power as a resource, which enable states to successfully pursue their national interest in international collaboration, emphasizes in this regards is placed on those domestic economies and socio-political conditions or elements of national power, as sufficient admixture or deficiency of which can make or mar respectively the role of a state in both her bilateral relations and multilateral force.

On a general note, the choice of the national power approach above other contending theories in international relations as the theoretical structure for this study is obviously based on the inextricable relationship between the African nations' domestic socio-economic and political contributions and resources which make or help its national power, and Africa foreign policies out-put or outcome in her relations with other regions that need socio-economic and political power.

### **Aim and Objective of the Study:**

The aim of this paper is to critically examine the continuous deprivation and exclusion of African nations in the United Nation's Security Council, through the voices of the African Leaders at the UNGA@80, the antecedent and contemporary condition in the international system that heightened the agitation of African Statesmen. OBJECTIVE: The paper evaluates the demands of four African Presidents Voices at UNGA@80: Nigeria, Ghana and Kenya.

### **RESEARCH METHOD**

Secondary data, through live television coverage, BBC, CNN, Arise TV, Channel TV. Also, through textbooks Journals and online research

#### **The UNGA @80**

The opening of the UN General Assembly (UNGA) commenced on September 9, 2025, however, the main events unfold during the "high level Week" from September 23-30, 2025 at UN Headquarter in New York. According to UN, the year's theme, "Better Together" 80 years and more for peace, development and human rights emphasis reinvigorating multilateralism, accelerating progress on the sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and addressing global challenges amid geopolitical shifts, technological advancement, and climate urgency.

It gave opportunities to "High-level Week", (which heads of states, ministers and top diplomats gathered to speak and negotiate), provides a rare global forum as leaders around the world raised issues, push proposals, and influence global policy.

The "African Voice" at UNGA@80 and their demand for African development are as follows:

1. Push for UN reform and fair representation: several Africa leaders stressed that the current global order, specifically institutions like the United Nations Security Council (UNSC), is outdated and does not reflect today's geopolitical realities, as their arguments were informed that Africa deserves permanent and meaningful representation.
2. From aid dependency to self-reliance and African development: African countries are faced with shrinking global aid flows and a legitimacy crises in the traditional aid model, African leaders and their voices are calling for a shift towards self-reliance: By rebuilding economies through domestic revenues, trade, mineral processing, and investment rather than relying on foreign "charity"
3. Economic/Debt relief, fair trade and resource value addition: African leaders and their voices are demanding for fairer access to global capital, debt relief, better lending condition and urged that Africa's mineral and resource wealth be processed and developed within the continent rather than exported as raw materials.

4. Peace, security and human rights as a way of address conflicts and global injustice: The African leaders and their voices are demanding for coordinated global responses to conflicts, including in and beyond, focusing on the need for respect for sovereignty, humanitarian law and equitable treatment of refugees which include calls for global responses to crises such as Gaza or Sudan.
5. Climate Justice and Sustainable Development: African leaders and their voices are charting a way forward stressing that Africa bears the brunt of climate change despite contributing little to global emissions. As they are calling for climate finance, fairer rules in global trade/climate treaties, and investments into green infrastructure and energy.
6. Data sovereignty, Migration governance, and African led solution: African leaders and their voices as they look beyond traditional aid and focuses on African-owned infrastructure in governance, for example - improving migration data systems with African leadership backing, to ensure migration policies reflect real African experiences and morbidity patterns.

Looking at the above, the challenges facing Africa with global forum is that Africans are not just asking to be heard but expected to be treated as an equal partner, with rightful influence in global governance, economic, climate policy and sharing of the international order.

The fact remains that African countries have more recently been in the forefront of the demand for a continental review of the UN Charter, referencing that membership of the Organisation have sharply increased from 51 in 1945 to 194 in 2025, and there has been a fundamental changes in the contemporary distribution of economic and military might which has now made invalid the assumption underlying the decision of the 1945, on the countries to be permanent members of the United Nations Security Council.

Notably, the context for UN reforms by African nations and other concerned regions, states that the General Assembly Working Group was established in 1993 to consider the “Question of Equitable Increase in the Membership of the Security Council”, [9]. The Working Group reached a consensus on the need to expand membership, that “a simple enlargement of the Council by itself will not be sufficient” to improve not only its legitimacy standing but also the effectiveness of the actions of the Council, [10]. In this context also, African nations cannot effectively speak or decide on what happens or happening in their region because non-membership of the Security Council, as their matters have always been decided by Great powers at the detriment of the African countries. The use of veto power by the big five renders African issues and concerns on only the interest of UNSC and not the interest of the Africans, so pathetic, as the treatment against the African nations in the veto power under the UN Charter, is summarized as “the mice would be disciplined and the lions would be free” [11][12][13][14][15]. The veto power was designed as the instrument of domination and collective leadership in the hands of the United Nations Security Council.

## **RESULT AND DISCUSSION**

### **Selected African Leaders Voices- UNGA@80**

#### **Algeria President - President Abdelmajid Tebboune - 2019-2025**

He reaffirmed the unwavering commitment to the privileges enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, Sovereign equality of states, peaceful settlement of disputes, non-interference in internal Affairs and the right of people to self-determination as they are the foundation of a just and stable international order. He further reiterated that Africa remain central to Africa's foreign policy as Algeria advocate for strengthening African solutions to African problems and for correcting historical injustices by ensuring fair representation of Africa within global governance institutions, particularly, the United Nations Security Council. On climate change, he calls for equitable eliminate action that recognizes the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities. Developing nations must be supported through technology transfer, climate finance, and capacity building to achieve sustainable development without compromising their right to growth. Moreover, multilateralism must be preserved and revitalized.

Unilateral actions, conceive measures, and double standards undermine trust and threatens International peace, as he promised that Algeria stands ready to work with all partners to promote dialogue, cooperation and respect for international law, as he concludes that "Let us reaffirm our generations by choosing cooperation over expectancy.

#### **President of Kenya, William Ruto - Voice at the UNGA@80**

During his speech, he congratulated UN President, and pledged Kenyans full support throughout her tenure as she heads Assembly into the future. He reiterated that 80 years ago, in the aftermath of the global destruction a devastation war, the international community came together in hope, and created this Organisation, the United Nations, as a shield against the horror of war, as a platform for dialogue, and as a bridge for a better era more secured for global community. He further explained that what is not mention today is that the United Nations grew out of the failure of the League of Nations that existed between 1919-1945. The League of Nations did not collapse for lack of good intentions or noble objectives, formed at the end the World War I. It is humanity first attempt to birth a permanent international organization, to stop aggression and war and bring nations together. Its ambitions were to achieve global security disarmament, peaceful resolution and cooperation on humanitarian and social issues. Despite this ideals, the League of Nations failed, became helpless and powerless. By the late 1930s its credibility had gone, with the outbreak of the world War II, it was rendered irrelevant.

He asserted; Madam President, this history is both a lesson and a warning.

Institutions will rarely fail because they lack vision or ideas, more often they drift into irrelevant when they do not adopt or hesitate to act and until they lose legitimacy. To remain relevant, institutions must be re-imagined and aligned with emerging realities.

Eight (8) decades ago, founders of UN failed to correct the failed issues of the League of Nations. By creating a stronger, more inclusive oraganisation and engaging in

the principles of “we the people of the United Nations, are determined to save succeeding generation from the scourge of war.

Today, we are gathered for the UN @80, the question is unavoidable, if the UN is relevant to the demand of our time, can it continue to serve humanity in the face of current realities? Or has it become a relic of a by-gone era? Conflict ranges in Eastern Europe, Middle East, Sahel, the horn of Africa and beyond. Climate disaster grow by the day, inequality deepens, Pandemic looms and technological disruption out-paces governance, instead of trust, mistrust is spreading, instead of solidarity, fragmentation is taking root, the place of hope, anxiety fills our global community, we are living to borrow from the walls of the founders of this institution, not in larger freedom, but in group uncertainty. At this moment of turbulent when we must need a strong United Nations, the organization faces its deepest crisis in credibility and capacity, funding cuts have paralyzed its operations. Bureaucracy has slowed its response. The Security Council remains frozen in the post war structures of 1945, unable to act conclusively with fairness and with speed, however, state with absolute conviction that the UN has been of the humanity’s greatest achievements.

For eight decades, it has held back the specter of global war, calmed conflict from Cambodia to Liberia and stood guard in some of the world’s most dangerous places through the courage of its peacemakers and peacekeepers. Few institutions in humanity’s history can claim such a legacy. The UN had stood at the humanitarian crisis, from famine relief in the horn of Africa to emergency shelter for millions of Syria and Ukraine refugees. It was at the forefront in the eradication of small pox, coordinated global response to HIV and AIDS, Ebola and Covid-19, and continued to Champion universal vaccination.

Its agencies have advanced women’s rights, protected children, safeguarded refugees, and set global norms on everything from disarmament to climate action. The UN Sustainable Development Goals (UNSDGs) remains a share blueprint for human progress. These are achievements no nation could have achieved alone however rich, however great or however powerful. And yet every institution, no matter how noble its origins or impactful, its legacy, must adapt to changing times or slide into irrelevance.

Today, the United Nation stands at a crossroads of renewal on one hand or decay on another. Put differently, after 80 years, the rhythms of time are calling on us to re-imagine the original promise that inspired the founding of the United Nations and that is the quest for global peace, development and human rights. But this call must now be answered in a global context that is profoundly different from the Post War era in which the UN was conceived then.

We would be denying the hard truth, if we say that the United Nations is delivering as it should. On peace and security, its voice is too often owned by the rivalries of great powers, while some nations simply ignore its resolutions and do as they please. Too often, the UN’s blur helmet, as once a symbol of moral authority, no longer commands the same respect. From the conflicts in Gaza to Ukraine, to the crisis in Sudan,

DRC Congo, Somalia, and the Sahel, the actors precede undeterred by the United Nations calls. Kenya speaks from the experience of a nation deeply invested in multilateralism for decades, have place our troops and police in arms way for peacekeeping missions across Africa and beyond, from Somalia to Democrat Republic of Congo, from South Sudan to most recently in our neighborhood here in Haiti, over the past 15 months. We are proud to have led the multinational security support of mission in Haiti, not because it has been easy, but because solidarity is the essence of the United Nations.

The mandate of Multinational Security Support Mission (MSS) is coming to an end in a few days. As the Lead Nation, he beg to be allowed to briefly share their experiences, the successes and the challenges. As both a cautionary tale and living lesson about the strengths and weakness of the current global security governance architecture. For far too long, the people of Haiti called out to the world. Too often their pleas were met with silence, hesitation or half measure. Haiti became a tragic reminder of what happened when international community looks away, and offers half-hearted support. When Kenya responded to the quest for the Haiti authorities, it was with believe that we were joining a genuinely multinational effort. We welcomed and fully embraced resolution 2699 by which the United Nations Security Council authorized the MSS with Kenya as the lead nation. Drawing on our decades of peace, support operations, we stepped forward, stepped up and deployed our officers to confront the rampant menace of the gang violence in Port-au-Prince and its enormous damages. The mission has operated in a volatile environment under-enormous constraints. It has been underfunded, unequipped and operated below 40% of its authorized personnel strength. Our Police Officers have valiantly shouldered responsibilities without the full logistical support that would accompany any mission that stood out for the United Nations.

Despite these challenges, and against all odds, the MSS has delivered results many thought were impossible. The Presidential Palace, once under siege from gangs is today restored as the seat of government. The police headquarters and the police training centre, once overrun by gangs are now secured, with the academy resuming the training of new police officers, over 700 of whom graduated a few months ago. Schools that have been shattered by violence have reopened with children back in class, leaving and progressing. Roads once manned or blocked by gangs have now been free flowing traffic, cases of kidnapping and extortion have reduced sharply. The airport and the seaport once surrounded by gangs are now abuzz with normal operations. These begs the question, if so much could be achieved with limited resources and stretched personnel within just 15 months, what more could have been accomplished if the United Nations frantically and had truly acted together in solidarity with the people of Haiti? From this podium, the President of Kenya assured all partners and actors, that with the right personnel, adequate resources, appropriate equipment and necessary logistics, Haiti security can be restore, gangs can be neutralized, and the safety of streets, schools, hospitals and homes secured. The continued harassment, abductions and criminal acts undermining the lives

of Haitians are unacceptable, unjustifiable and must be stopped by the organisation, the United Nations.

As the UN Security Council deliberates on the next steps, we must not lose sight of the fact that the situation in Haiti demand sustained, coordinated international attention. A careful and orderly transition from MSS is essential to consolidate the hard-earned gains so far achieved. He urged the Security Council and all partners to remain steadfast in ensuring that Haiti moves forward on a path of peace, stability and renewal.

On human rights, he said, our principle is clear and unwavering. The protection of civilians and respect for humanitarian law cannot be applied selectively. We cannot condemn suffering in one place and turn a blind eye in another. Kenya is gradually concerned by the humanitarian catastrophe in Gaza and by the immense suffering of civilians caught in the devastation of the military operations, and at the same time, we call for unconditional release of Israeli hostages. In line with the Africa Union and United Nations resolutions, we also call for a permanent ceasefire for strict interference to international humanitarian law and for the launch of a credible political process. Only such a process can one vision of our two states solution can be realized, and where Israel and Palestine can side by side live in peace, security and stability.

Kenya is equally deeply troubled by the worsening humanitarian situation in Sudan where innocent citizen are caught in the cross-fire over in the needless war. We fully endorsed the squad, comprising Egypt, Saudi-Arabia, the United Arab-Emirate, and the United States affirming all parties including self and external actors to respect Sudan's sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity and affirming total rejection to any attempt to divide the country, reaffirming their unwavering support for a unifying Sudan, for the benefit of its people.

Those who looked to the future for a clear vision, know that climate change is not only the British threat of our age, but also one of the transformational opportunities of our time. The global stock-taking has made it plain that the world is off-track, current nations should determine their contributions on climate temperature as it rises far beyond expectations, this is the different between survival in one hand and devastation for millions across the world, on the other.

Kenya in Africa are not passive victims of this crisis as the country is taking bold steps, showing that climate change action is not just only possible but can also be the foundation for inclusive growth. We are building a climate resilience society by embedding adaptation into every sector, to sustainable mining and artificial intelligence, as this ambition is visibly on ground. Today, 93% of Kenyan's electricity comes from renewable sources from the wind, solar, etc. he further explained that Kenya is expanding investments in immobility climate mass agriculture, clean cooking solution and green manufacturing, also pioneering nature compatible solutions, such as sustainable waste management and circular recovery interventions.

We hosted the inaugural African climate Summit, where the continent adopted "The Nairobi declaration on climate Action and call to Action", just two weeks ago (2025),

in Addis Ababa, Africa came together once more at the Second Africa climate Summit to reaffirm our continent and strengthen our ambition for climate positive growth. Africa is not just a victim of the crisis by as a source of solutions, with climate action, driving economic growth, transformation and job creation for our continents, ambition, cannot stand on will power alone, but implementing our new indices will require \$56 billion U.S dollar, that is why we call on the global communities to unlock the \$300 billion agreed at Bakko and to accelerate negotiation towards the \$1.3 trillion Gold and under the Bakko-Bellem Road Map without affordable finance and without reform of the international financial architecture, the promise of climate reform will remain constraint. He described climate change as an existential threat and reaffirmed Kenya's goal of 100% clean energy by 2030.

In the Aftermath of the World War II, the institutions were created to stabilize the global economy and rebuild war torn Europe, at that time, their designs reflected the power and interest of the victorious nations, who are also the primary shareholders and beneficiaries. The IMF was thrust with upholding the Gold standard exchange rate system while World Bank was established to finance Europe reconstruction. But, have since involved into development Finance institutions, but its structures, decision making and governance remains dominated by the Western Nations. Today the global context is vastly different, the global standard collapse five (5) decades ago and Europe has long, been rebuilt, yet the governance of this institutions has not kept pace with needs of multipolar world, especially the need of poor and developing nations. The mismatch between shareholders and stakeholder has become starkly visible, for instance, the IMF's Resolution Allocation Doing Rights 64% went to wealthy nations, with little need for liquidity support. They did not need the money anyway, but they got 64%. While the poorer countries received just 24%, What a disconnect? The imbalance highlights how the very Institutions meant to safeguard global financial stability, often perpetrate inequality and instability. He further stated that, he has argued repeatedly "that the current global financial activities pushes poor countries with high interest rate and enormous conditionalities, while rewarding rich nations with lower interest rate and softer lending rates.

Its rules, priorities and allocations mechanisms consistently favours those already prosperous while dropping venerable economies, with high borrowing cost and inadequate access to emergency support, and concessional funding. It is imperative to transform this institutions into genuinely independent apolitical global bodies that their operations are aligned with their global mandates. Such a shift will democratize decision making, restore credibility and allow the IMF and the World Bank to serve all countries fairly rather than reinforcing old hierarchies.

But Africa is not merely waiting for external prescriptions, we are taking bold and deliberate steps to strengthen our financial independent, safeguard our stability and accelerate our development.

Kenya, for instance, fully endorsed the establishment of the alliance of Africa Multilateral Financial Institutions, launched with the African Union (AU) in February, 2024. This alliance together with our home-grown Banks, the African Finance Cooperation, the Trade and Development Bank, Shelter Afrique, Africa Africari, African Development Bank, Africa Trade and Investment Development

Insurance and Zabri, are institutions that embodied Africa's determination to mobilise resources, finance trade and become resilient on our own terms. At the same time, African Union (AU) is championing 3 transformative institutions: 1. African Central Bank, which will issue a single currency and free our trade from dependent from foreign money. 2. The Africa Monetary Fund, position to stabilize our economies and give us true financial sovereignty. 3. African Investment Bank designs to mobilise resources for infrastructure, industrialization and integration that African need to rise. And to complete this vision, the African Financial Agencies, understands our realities, values, our uniqueness tells our stories with fairness and truth which has already been established.

For decades, Africa has spoken in one voice, demanding for justice, equity and representation in the highest organ of global governance, this demand however continue to be ignored, deterred or endlessly be debated to the detriment of both Africa and the legitimacy of the United Nations itself. You cannot claim to be the United Nations while disregarding the voice of 54 nations, it is not possible. Africa is no longer willing to wait on the margins of global governance, while decisions on peace, security and development are made without our understanding, without our perspectives and without our voice. Africa's exclusion is not only unacceptable, unfair, gruesomely unjust, it also undermines the very credibility of the United Nations.

Africa dominates most of the Security Council agenda, provides the largest contingences of the UN peace-keeping forces here, but bears the heaviest cost of instability, yet, we remain the only continent without a Permanent Seat at the main table where decisions about our destinies are made. Africa deserves at the very least two permanent seats, with full rights, including additional non-permanent seats under United Nations Security Council. The world must understand that reforming the Security Council is not a favour to anybody, it is a necessity for the United Nations own survival, if the UN is to remain relevant. In this century, it must reflect today's realities and not the post-war power arrangement of 1945.

Despite the stated evidence and weaknesses of the United Nations, it still remains humanities best chance at global solidarity. No other institution have the universal legitimacy or covering power of the UN, from coordinating Humanitarian system in terms of war and disaster to mobilizing the global response to Covid-19, to driving consensus for climate change, through the Paris-Agreement, UN has consistently shown that the world can achieve together what no nation can accomplish on its own, however mighty, great or powerful.

Hausalt Handark Hanstrow, the UN Second Secretary General, once observed “The United Nations were not created to take humanity to heaven but to save it from hell” that mission is as urgent as the moment when conflict has multiplied, when climate change threatens every economy, and when inequality is widening, the need for a functional credible effective and a multilateral system have never been this greater, it is through the UN that nations have pulled resources to vaccinate billion children, to protect refugees through the UNICEF, and to keep the peace in more than 70 missions across the world. Without the UN, these achievements, would not have been possible, that is why we must resist the temptation to give up on the UN or abandon it. We must make it fit for purposeful reform of its structures, strengthen its mandates, and ensure its decision reflects today’s realities rather than the geopolitical map of bye-gone era.

Kenya stands ready to do its own part to enable the organization to go through this phase of renewal successfully as envisage by the Secretary General at the UN @80 Reforms.

In conclusion, the 80th Anniversary of the United Nations must be more than a commensuration; it must be a turning point for the organization. Let us cease this moment to re-image and rebuild the UN into a body that commands legitimate response with speed and delivers justice for all.

President of Nigeria highly represented by the Vice President, Kashim Shetima Mustapha

We are here to strengthen the process for peace, development and human rights.

However, Nigeria have four points or key demands for the United National General Assembly, to outline how we can do this:

- a. Nigeria must have a permanent seat in the UN Security Council, this should take place as a part for wider process of international reform.
- b. Urgent action to promote State sovereignty, debts relief and access to trade and finance.
- c. Countries that have minerals must benefit from it.
- d. Open the digital space, and make other countries to benefit

Key themes from President Tinubu’s UNGA@80 Address

1. Renewed call for Multilateralism:

He reaffirms Nigeria’s belief with United Nations as a crucial platform for global cooperation, peace, development and human rights. He stressed that the UN must evolve to meet today’s challenges, not remain anchored solely to its founding structure from 1945.

2. United Nations Reform and Nigeria’s Role

A major point was Nigeria’s call for a permanent seat on the UN Security Council as part of broader institutional reform. President Tinubu argued that Nigeria’s demographic weighs over 236 million people and its contributions to peace and security makes it deserving of this position for fairer global representation. He supported the

UN@80 initiatives, aimed at making the United Nations more relevant, efficient, and effective by nationalizing structures and eliminating duplication across its programmes.

3. Security, Peace, and Shared Responsibility:

President Tinibu emphasized that global security cannot be achieved by countries acting alone. He said shared responsibility, especially in confronting modern threat such as terrorism and non-state actors. Nigeria's significant peacekeeping records participation in fifty one (51) of 60 UN missions, which was highlighted to underline its commitment to collective peace.

4. Climate Action and Sustainable Development:

President Tinubu reiterated that climate change is not an abstract future problem but a security and migration challenges affecting nations today. Nigeria calls for strategic use of climate funds to build resilient communities, improve access to technology, and advance sustainable housing and education.

5. Economic Reform and development:

President Tinibu outlined Nigeria's economic market, distortion like subsidies and currency controls, to foster innovation and growth. He urged the UN and global partners to support debt relief and establish mechanism for more equitable international financing. He further proposed creating a binding mechanism, likened to an "International Court of Justice, to help emerging economies escape debt constraints and drive sustainable development.

6. Fair Benefits from Strategic Minerals:

He pushed for countries rich in natural resources, especially critical minerals, to ensure local benefits through investment, processing, and job creation, rather than exporting raw materials.

7. Closing the Digital Divide:

He stated there should be rapid technological change, then he called for a global initiative to reduce the digital divide, ensuring emerging economies are included in technological progress, and that advances, even as AI benefit all nations.

8. Stance on Global Conflict:

The President affirmed Nigeria's support for a two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestine conflict as the most dignified path to lasting peace, that is, human life and dignity must not be compromised in geopolitical debates.

In summary, President Tinibu's speech at the UN@80, championed renewed multilateralism, institutional reform, inclusive development, and collective action, urging global leaders to make the UN more effective in tackling pressing global crises, from security and climate change to economic inequality and technologies exclusion.

**Ghana's President's Speech at the 80th United Nations General Assembly (UNGA80) - His Excellency, John Dramani Mahama -GHANA**

Narrated that he wish that history will recall all our time here in this UNGA@80 hall, as one that gave the reality to Michael Jackson song "Heal the World, make it a better

place, for you and for me and the entire human race, there are people dying, if you care enough for living, make it a better place for you and me”

He stated that, America and Europe, are people who have brought great distinction to the countries that they decided to call home, just like the experiences of the migrant and the children before them dead, I dare say, these are not evaders, these are not criminals.

Therefore, the slave trade must be recognized as the greatest crime against humanity. As Africa champion on reparation, Ghana intend to introduce a motion on this August body to that effects, more than 12 and half million Africans were forcibly taken against their will and transported to create wealth for the powerful Western Nations. We must demand reparation for the enslavement of our people and the colonisation of our land that resulted on the theft of our natural resources as well as the looting of the artifacts and other items of cultural heritage that have yet to be returned in total.

Recognize the value of our land and the value of our lives, ask the colonisers, as well as the government that happily pay the reparations to formal slave owners as compensation for the loss of properties” and that property in which they receive compensation was referred to enslave people who have been free.

However, an increasingly insecure world is witnessing upward spending on the defense budget of bilateral partners, and on official Development Association (ODA). Since July 2024, it is estimated that there has been a 40% drop in humanitarian aid globally.

In this era of global uncertainty, Africa must exercise sovereignty over its natural resources to raise the necessary funding, to ensure the well-being of its citizens. The days of persuading our vast concession areas for foreign interest for exploitation must come to an end. We will continue to work out for foreign investment, but we must negotiate better for a bigger share of the natural resources that belong to us. We must insist on value addition to these resources, we are tired of the continued image of poverty striking disease seen in our various rural communities, living at the periphery of huge foreign control natural resource concession areas. We are tired of having people extract the most out of us, in return, they offer us the very least by way of respect, consideration and dignity. We are tired of not being represented in ways that review in richness and complexity of our history or acknowledge all that we have overcome to arrive here, with untold possibilities.

Speaking further, that to echo the India-American writer author – Arundhati Roy: “Another world is not only possible, she is on her way, on a quiet day, I can hear her breathing” and he added, “I hope this new world that is arriving, is a place of safety and equality for women and girls. (Ghana Mission.org, 2025).

The summary of the speech are as follows:

1. Celebrating UN at 80 and Need for Recalibration:

President Mahama, began by marking the 80th Anniversary of the United Nations by highlighting how dramatically the world and global community have changed since the establishment of UN in 1965, with the UN membership having nearly quadrupled.

He argued that this evolution calls for a “reset” agenda for the UN to remain relevant and effective in tackling today’s global challenges.

2. Ghana’s Domestic Reset Agenda, Mahama outlined government’s “Reset Agenda” to transform Ghana’s economy on the following ways: a. Significant reduction in inflation from 23.8% in December, 2024 to 11.5% in August, 2025. b. Strengthening of the Ghana Cedi (once rated one of the best performing currencies globally. C. Improved sovereign credit rating and initiative like the 24-hours economy designed to boost productivity and competitiveness.

3. Africa’s Growing Roles and demands for equity:

President Mahama, emphasized that Africa’s role in the world’s future is undeniable, noting that the continent’s contributions to development, human potential and ecological stability is topnotch. He further stated that there are so much of challenges in structural inequalities in global governance, demanded for the UN reform, which includes permanent African representation on the UN Security Council to reflect current realities rather than the Post War II order.

4. Global Crisis and Humanitarian concerns:

President Mahama summed up some difficult issues as follows: a. He called for an end to the crime in Gaza and spoke on the humanitarian crisis in Sudan, advocated for honest dialogue and practical global responses, b. he also urged the international community to properly support Refugees from the conflict zones.

5. African resources and Sovereignty, and future Generations: The President stressed the importance of African countries exercising sovereignty over their natural resources, by pushing for fairer terms in foreign investment and resources utilization that benefit local economies.

6. Representation, Gender Equality and Future Generations: President Mahama highlighted the significance of women’s empowerment and representation, as he lauds Ghana’s female Vice President, calling future UN Secretary General to that effect, and also invoked the need for equity, justice, and opportunity for youth and future generations are consensus was that the und the world.

## CONCLUSION

**Fundamental Finding:** The current multilateral system, designed in 1945 is archaic and inequitable, necessitating that Africa’s 1.4 billion people be represented with permanent seats on the UN Security Council, and have fair share of the world economies.

**Implication:** Africa is a central actor in global affairs, not a marginal one, and the UN should reflect the realities of its 80th anniversary. **Limitation:** There should be equitable

representation in global governance and its economic activities. **Future Research:** African leaders voices once again echos and demands on securing Permanent UN Security Council seats for Africa, restructuring international finance for sustainable development, and advancing economic independence through trade and industrialization.

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