Structure of the Security Council

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Basic Facts on the UNSC

- Established 1946
- UN HQ in NYC, permanent in session
- Rotating presidency (alphabetical order, country names in English)
- 1965 Increase of memberships (from 11 to 15)
- 1971 Rep. Of China replaced by People's Rep. Of China
- 1991 USSR replaced by Russian Federation
- The General Assembly elects 5 non-permanent members every year for a period of two years
- **UNSC Tasks:** Maintaining world peace and international security

Groups

- "P5", "Big Five" – USA, UK, FR, PR of China, Russian Federation
- "G4" - Brazil, Germany, India and Japan
- The Current UNSC (2007)
  - Africa (3 seats): Ghana, Rep. Of Congo, South Africa
  - Asia (2 seats): Indonesia, Qatar
  - Latin America & Caribbean (2 seats): Peru, Panama
  - Western Europe & Others (2 seats): Belgium, Italy
  - Eastern Europe (1 seat): Slovakia

Voting procedure within the SC

- Affirmative vote of nine members
- Veto prevents resolution
- Art. 27 of the UN Charter = Veto right
- Abstention ≠ veto (not in the charter but accepted due to the interpretation of lawyers)
- Veto ≠ avoiding discussion
- Non SC Members can participate in discussions if they are affected

Powers and Resolutions

A.) Situation endangering int. peace and security

1. Investigation of conflict
2. Recommendations for peaceful resolutions

   Legal background: **Chapter VI** – not binding – **Chapter VI res.**

B.) Breaches of peace / acts of aggression

1. Sanctions
2. Military Enforcement

   Legal Background: **Chapter VII** – binding – **Chapter VII res.** (i.e. Operation Desert Storm)

C) Furthermore so called "**Chapter 6,5**" or "**Chapter 6,75**" **resolutions** are used by the SC if the legal background isn't clear

D) Uniting for peace resolution – Issue is discussed and voted on in the GA and not SC (i.e. Korean War, Rhodesia)

Reform Plans

All reform plans expanding the SC have no prospect of success at this point of time. References and further details can be found here: www.un.org/Docs/sc