



## Press Corps/LatinAmerican Post

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### Press Corps

**Reporters: Andres Pere and Sofia Romero**

**Topic: UNSC/Use of the Veto**

The world's issues are ever increasing. War, poverty and political unrest have become chronic. You have been scratching your head, losing sleep, trying to find solutions. Then, on what would be just another late night, inspiration hits you. You frantically write down your idea and prepare to present it in the morning. The morning arrives. You prepare to present your idea. Your heart is racing. All it takes is one negative vote to make all of your work for naught. After you share your idea, the room falls silent. The first vote is in. Thumbs up. The second, third, fourth, fifth votes come in. All positive. Your heart begins racing. You can barely contain your excitement. After a nerve-wracking few moments, all but one of the votes has been cast. It all comes down to this. You think of all that could be accomplished with your idea in motion. All of the world's issues become things of the past. No more war, poverty or political unrest. Everyone can live happily together and have no need to fight. But your wishful thinking is interrupted. The final vote has been cast. You wait with bated breath for the results. The results come back, and your heart sinks. The votes are 14-to-1. Your idea has been vetoed. Even though the vast majority agree with your proposal, it only took one case of conflicting interests to render all of your work meaningless. You wish that you could have some control or say in these decisions but, alas, this is the way things are, and the way they will likely always be. This is how it is. This is the way of the world. This is the flawed, archaic relic of a post World-War II society, when tensions were at their highest. This is the veto system used by the United Nations Security Council.

The use of the veto in the United Nations has been a pressing issue, especially as of late. But before the issue of the veto can be explored, an explanation of the UN's origins and the origins of the veto is in order. After the Second World War, with the world's nations in ruins, it was

evident that there needed to be something done to restore peace and maintain order. So, after months of discussion between several of the world's most powerful nations, the UN Charter was ratified on October 24, 1945, leading to the official creation of the UN. The UN is made of six main organs, but the one that has the most power by far is the United Nations Security Council. The UNSC has five permanent members, the United States, United Kingdom, Russia, China and France, as well as several rotating members. These five permanent members, known as the P5, are the ones that hold the most power within the UNSC. More specifically, these countries have the ability to veto any decisions made by the UN.

The use of the veto, as well as the state of the UNSC as a whole, have become very controversial topics as of lately. Even within the ranks of the P5, the ones who hold the power to veto, there is disagreement as to whether the UNSC needs a reform. "The People's Republic of China believes that the current distribution and balance of power is necessary to keep other global powers in check." Said Ananya Rajeev, the delegate representing the People's Republic of China. Delegate Rajeev says that the current distribution of power in the UNSC is fair, stating, "the 5 permanent members are the 5 founding members and they contribute more to the UN. So honest judgement could therefore conclude that they deserve more of a say in the UN than others." While some P5 countries would take a similar stance to China regarding this issue, others certainly have differing views on the topic. "The Republic of France's view on the veto is to reform it or abolish it entirely." said Sage, the delegate representing the Republic of France.

The UNSC also has an issue with a lack of representation for regions such as Africa, South America, and Oceania. "Over half of all resolutions and meetings within the Security Council are concerning Africa, and yet we are severely underrepresented." Said Evelyn, the delegate representing the country of Algeria. Africa has historically had a lack of representation within the UNSC, despite it being the second most populous continent behind Asia. This lack of representation could stem from another problem the UNSC has. Its stagnation and archaism in the face of an ever-changing world.

Since its official establishment in 1946, the UNSC has remained unchanged in the way that it has been run. Despite every other facet of the modern world changing, the UNSC remains the same as it was almost 80 years ago, still with the same five countries leading it. "Algeria thinks that the current UNSC system is unfair because it was a post-World War II design. In order to be a legitimate organ of the United Nations, the Security Council needs to evolve and adapt to

better handle the challenges of the modern day.” Said delegate Evelyn. While it is widely agreed that a reform of the UNSC is necessary, the method by which the reform should be implemented is still unagreed upon. Delegate Evelyn said that an expansion of the UNSC would be the best way to go about a reform, stating a possible addition of 2 permanent member seats for African countries, as well as 2 more rotating seats for African countries.

Overall, it is unclear what this committee will conclude but I am sure their resolution will be fruitful.