


MALAYSIA'S ACTIVE ROLE IN THE UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL

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ARTICLE INFO	ABSTRACT
Article history:	<p>Purpose: The UNSC non-permanent member plays a vital role in promoting peace and security in current international affairs together with the other five permanent members. Besides the five veto powers, most of the UN members are wishing to be elected as UNSC non-permanent members. Fortunately, Malaysia has been a non-permanent member of the UNSC on four (4) occasions since it acceded to the United Nations in 1957 (1965-1966, 1989-1990, 1999-2000, and 2015-2016). Thus, this study examines Malaysia's active role in several outstanding UNSC issues. As for affirming its commitment to remain dedicated to resolving international conflict by peaceful means, protecting the world community by the rule of law, and practicing moderation.</p>
Received 14 November 2022	<p>Methodology: This study is qualitative research that uses both primary and secondary data gathered from various resources. First, primary data was gathered from various official institutions, including the official website of the UN, the UNSC, and the Malaysian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. In addition, this study conducted interviews with several experts in the field. Meanwhile, secondary data was gathered from a variety of sources, including books, magazines, reports, local and international newspapers, and internet documents.</p>
Accepted 16 January 2023	<p>Findings: Malaysia's active and committed role in ensuring global peace and security has prompted it to apply for a non-permanent seat in the UNSC. As a non-permanent member of the UNSC, Malaysia receives the recognition and honours of serving the global community. Malaysia can therefore solve international concerns brought up at the UNSC given its significant experience working with different member nations. In doing so, Malaysia supports initiatives to uphold peace and security and works to settle differences constructively.</p>
<p>Keywords:</p> <p>Active Role; Malaysia; Non-Permanent Member; Peace; UN Security Council (UNSC).</p>	<p>Research Implications: The study makes a substantial contribution to the body of knowledge, particularly regarding Malaysia's active participation as a non-permanent member of the UNSC. Consequently, this study had a favourable influence on many facets of the community. This study is specifically able to assist the Malaysian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and government agencies in dealing with international actors as well as enhancing world peace and cooperation. Meanwhile, in general, this study can boost further research for the academicians related to Malaysia's significant position in the UN as to help halt international conflicts. Furthermore, this study supports the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), which emphasize a significant reduction in all types of conflict and encourage communities and governments to work together to end disputes and insecurity.</p>
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O PAPEL ATIVO DA MALÁSIA NO CONSELHO DE SEGURANÇA DAS NAÇÕES UNIDAS

Objetivo: O membro não permanente do CSNU desempenha um papel vital na promoção da paz e segurança nos assuntos internacionais atuais junto com os outros cinco membros permanentes. Além dos cinco poderes de veto, a maioria dos membros da ONU desejam ser eleitos como membros não permanentes do Conselho de Segurança da ONU. Felizmente, a Malásia tem sido um membro não-permanente do CSNU em quatro (4) ocasiões desde que aderiu às Nações Unidas em 1957 (1965-1966, 1989-1990, 1999-2000 e 2015-2016). Assim, este estudo examina o papel ativo da Malásia em várias questões pendentes do Conselho de Segurança das Nações Unidas. Quanto à afirmação de seu compromisso de permanecer dedicado à resolução de conflitos internacionais por meios pacíficos, protegendo a comunidade mundial pelo Estado de Direito e praticando a moderação.

Metodologia: Este estudo é uma pesquisa qualitativa que utiliza dados primários e secundários coletados a partir de vários recursos. Primeiro, os dados primários foram coletados de várias instituições oficiais, incluindo o site oficial da ONU, o CSNU e o Ministério das Relações Exteriores da Malásia. Além disso, este estudo conduziu entrevistas com vários especialistas na área. Enquanto isso, dados secundários foram coletados de várias fontes, incluindo livros, revistas, relatórios, jornais locais e internacionais, e documentos da Internet.

Conclusões: O papel ativo e comprometido da Malásia em garantir a paz e a segurança global a levou a solicitar um assento não permanente no CSNU. Como membro não-permanente do CSNU, a Malásia recebe o reconhecimento e a honra de servir à comunidade global. A Malásia pode, portanto, resolver as preocupações internacionais levantadas no CSNU, dada sua significativa experiência de trabalho com diferentes nações membros. Ao fazer isso, a Malásia apóia iniciativas para manter a paz e a segurança e trabalha para resolver as diferenças de forma construtiva.

Implicações da pesquisa: O estudo faz uma contribuição substancial ao corpo de conhecimento, particularmente no que diz respeito à participação ativa da Malásia como membro não permanente do Conselho de Segurança da ONU. Conseqüentemente, este estudo teve uma influência favorável em muitas facetas da comunidade. Este estudo é especificamente capaz de ajudar o Ministério das Relações Exteriores da Malásia e agências governamentais a lidar com atores internacionais, assim como a melhorar a paz e a cooperação mundial. Enquanto isso, em geral, este estudo pode impulsionar mais pesquisas para os acadêmicos relacionados com a posição significativa da Malásia na ONU como forma de ajudar a deter os conflitos internacionais. Além disso, este estudo apóia as Metas de Desenvolvimento Sustentável (SDG), que enfatizam uma redução significativa em todos os tipos de conflito e incentivam as comunidades e os governos a trabalharem juntos para pôr fim às disputas e à insegurança.

Palavras-chave: Papel Ativo, Malásia, Membro não Permanente, Paz, Conselho de Segurança da ONU (CSNU).

PAPEL ACTIVO DE MALASIA EN EL CONSEJO DE SEGURIDAD DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS

Objetivo: El miembro no permanente del CSNU desempeña un papel vital en la promoción de la paz y la seguridad en los asuntos internacionales actuales junto con los otros cinco miembros permanentes. Además de los cinco poderes de veto, la mayoría de los miembros de la ONU desean ser elegidos miembros no permanentes del CSNU. Afortunadamente, Malasia ha sido miembro no permanente del CSNU en cuatro (4) ocasiones desde que accedió a las Naciones Unidas en 1957 (1965-1966, 1989-1990, 1999-2000 y 2015-2016). Así pues, este estudio examina el papel activo de Malasia en varias cuestiones pendientes del CSNU. En cuanto a la afirmación de su compromiso de seguir dedicada a resolver los conflictos internacionales por medios pacíficos, proteger a la comunidad mundial mediante el Estado de Derecho y practicar la moderación.

Metodología: Este estudio es una investigación cualitativa que utiliza datos primarios y secundarios recogidos de diversos recursos. En primer lugar, se recopilaron datos primarios de diversas instituciones oficiales, como el sitio web oficial de la ONU, el CSNU y el Ministerio de Asuntos Exteriores de Malasia. Además, este estudio realizó entrevistas con varios expertos en la materia. Por su parte, los datos secundarios se obtuvieron de diversas fuentes, como libros, revistas, informes, periódicos locales e internacionales y documentos de Internet.

Conclusiones: El papel activo y comprometido de Malasia para garantizar la paz y la seguridad mundiales le ha llevado a solicitar un puesto no permanente en el CSNU. Como miembro no permanente del CSNU, Malasia recibe el reconocimiento y los honores de servir a la comunidad mundial. Por tanto, Malasia puede resolver los problemas internacionales que se plantean en el CSNU, dada su gran experiencia de trabajo con distintos países miembros. De este modo, Malasia apoya las iniciativas para mantener la paz y la seguridad y trabaja para resolver las diferencias de forma constructiva.

Implicaciones de la investigación: El estudio supone una contribución sustancial al conjunto de conocimientos, especialmente en lo que respecta a la participación activa de Malasia como miembro no permanente del CSNU. En consecuencia, este estudio influye favorablemente en muchas facetas de la comunidad. En concreto, este estudio puede ayudar al Ministerio de Asuntos Exteriores de Malasia y a los organismos gubernamentales a tratar con los actores internacionales, así como a mejorar la paz y la cooperación mundiales. Mientras tanto, en general,

este estudio puede impulsar nuevas investigaciones para los académicos relacionadas con la importante posición de Malasia en la ONU para ayudar a detener los conflictos internacionales. Además, este estudio apoya los Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible (ODS), que hacen hincapié en una reducción significativa de todos los tipos de conflicto y animan a las comunidades y a los gobiernos a trabajar juntos para poner fin a las disputas y a la inseguridad.

Palabras clave: Papel Activo, Malasia, Miembro no Permanente, Paz, Consejo de Seguridad de la ONU (CSNU).

INTRODUCTION

The UN Security Council (UNSC) is known to be the principal organ of the United Nations (UN) which played an essential governance role in the international system including the power to establish peacekeeping and special political mission, impose sanctions on member states or refer matters to the International Criminal Court (ICC) and authorize the use of military force (Security Council Report, 2020). It is known to be the most powerful decision-making of the UN body with a mandate constituted in the UN Charter in maintaining and dealing with matters of global peace and security. Although it is frequently criticized for failing to appropriately address the needs of the twenty-first century, the United Nations Security Council is the organization that is widely acknowledged for maintaining world peace and security (Council on Foreign Relations. 2021). Enshrined under the Articles of the UN Statute of ICJ the UNSC held the responsibility to admit new member states to the UN, appoint the UN Secretary-General, and UN Senior officials apart from the select of judges in the International Court of Justice.

The UNSC is comprises of 15 member states wherein five (5) are Permanent Members; Russia Federation, the People's Republic of China, the United Kingdom (UK), the United States (US), and France, whereas ten (10) are non-Permanent members consisted members of the UN across world continents elected by the UN General Assembly (UNGA) to serve for two (2) year term (Fenton, 2017). The UNSC is the only body in the UN system allowing the use of veto against or preventing the adoption of any draft decision which can be only exercised by the Permanent members (Security Council Report, 2020).

Malaysia has been truly respected to be elected as a non-permanent member of the UNSC on four (4) occasions: 1965-1966, 1989-1990, 1999-2000, and 2015-2016. The admission of Malaysia's membership in the UNSC enables the representation of the voices of the developing world, Southeast Asian region, non-aligned groups, and the Islamic community which is often side-lined by the big influences in the international arena. Certainly, Malaysia's good bilateral or multilateral relations with other countries have helped Malaysia during its mandate of the Council. With the support of the international community, Malaysia

successfully leads various initiatives on contentious issues arising in Asia and the Middle East, in African and European regions.

Holding Malaysia's last membership in the UNSC (2015-2016), Malaysia determined and promoted the continuity of advocating a vision of peace through moderation with the theme "Peace and Security through Moderation" (Ministry of International Trade and Industry, 2015) besides providing support to countries in need. Nevertheless, Malaysia has yet to emphasize the need for reform at the UNSC. To date, Malaysia's values of impartiality and strong leadership through its long-standing non-aligned position enabled Malaysia to carry out responsibilities in the Council dealing with global matters without fear or worry.

Therefore, the primary objective of this study is to examine Malaysia's active role as a non-permanent member of the UNSC in three aspects: Children and Women Protection in Armed Conflict, Regional Disputed Conflict and Peacekeeping Mission, and Security Council Reform. This study begins with Malaysia's advancement as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council and her active role in peace and security practices since joining the UN and the UNSC in the literature review section. The study's findings and discussion follow. Finally, the study concludes with the study's conclusions, practical contributions, and future agenda recommendations.

METHOD

This study acquires a qualitative approach to understanding the complexity of relationships between international actors. Significantly, qualitative information has a rich and holistic approach to this type of work (Miles & Huberman, 1994). Furthermore, the qualitative research method helps researchers study human conduct and the interactions between public feelings, attitudes, and perceptions. Thus, this study included both primary and secondary data. First, the Primary data was collected from various institutions, such as the official website of the UN, the website of the Malaysian Department of Foreign Affairs, and the official website of the UNSC. As well, the researchers have conducted interviews with several experts in the field. Meanwhile, secondary data were collected from a variety of sources, including books, magazines, reports, local and international newspapers, including documents from the Internet.

LITERATURE REVIEW

The review of related literature explains Malaysia's advancement as a non-permanent member of the UNSC and its active participation in peace and security practices. The UNSC members are divided into two divisions, five permanent members and ten non-permanent

members. The ten non-permanent members will be selected by the UN General Assembly for a two-year appointment. Malaysia is an Asian country that has been elected as a non-permanent member. More than 50 UN member states have never served on the UNSC as non-permanent members (United Nations, n.d.). Despite being a small nation in Southeast Asia, Malaysia has made a significant contribution to world peace through the UNSC. Malaysia has served as a non-permanent member of the UNSC for four alternating years: 1965–1966; 1989–1990; 1990–2000; and most recently, 2015–2016. It showed how vital a part Kuala Lumpur played in maintaining world security.

Since Malaysia's admittance to the UN, she has worked hard to uphold international peace and security, earning her recognition throughout the world. The establishment of the ONUC force aims to facilitate and assist the post-colonial government of Congo during the withdrawal of Belgian troops by maintaining law and order (United Nations Peacekeeping, 2001). Thus, the Malayan Armed Forces (MAF) were selected to participate in ONUC while a contingent of Malaysian military personnel, notably known as the Malayan Special Force (MSF) was deployed in the Congo mission (Ramli, 2015). Malaysia's credibility in promoting peace and security efforts has been impressed with MSF's performance in the Congo. Malaysia was respected with the privilege to be selected as the primary state from Southeast Asia to deliver an extensive role in global policy decision-making at the UN level in the UNSC (1965-1966) for its first term (Ramli, 2016).

Following the second term in 1989-1990 Malaysia's international approach and policy practices aim to seek friendship with member states to secure mutually beneficial relations and interests as well as political security and stabilization. This effort is necessary to contribute to the country's progress and prosperity in the region. Nevertheless, Malaysia has yet to continue and pursue its international peace and security agenda. Malaysia obtained 143 votes during the selection as a non-permanent member of the UNSC, while membership in the UN stood at 170 (Ramli, 2016). The result demonstrates a high level of support from the international community around the world.

In 1999-2000, Malaysia's third mandate as a non-permanent member of the UNSC was another triumph. Malaysia obtained 174 votes from 193 member states (Ramli, 2016). This is an international affirmation, of faith, and trust in Malaysia's efforts to facilitate and promote the consolidation of peace among war-torn countries. In advancing the role played within the UNSC, Malaysia has pursued other aspects to play a meaningful role in security matters on two fronts (Ramli, 2016). Malaysia was commissioned by the UN Special Committee of Peacekeeping Operations (C-34 Committee) in conducting a comprehensive review of all

relevant peacekeeping issues and operations and to improvise the deployment and security of peacekeepers. Barlow (2001) asserted that Malaysia is an active member of the organization. Kuala Lumpur has taken part in almost all UN peacekeeping operations. For example, the UN Operation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Bosnia and Herzegovina Protection Force, the Namibia Transition Assistance Group, the Somalia operation, the East Timor mission, and the Interim Force in Lebanon.

Result of the strong mandate and good testimony of Malaysia in peace-building efforts, Malaysia was once again selected for the 4th term being a non-permanent membership in the UNSC (2015-2016) by attaining 187 votes from 193 member states with one (1) abstention (Gabriel, 2014). Malaysia further exerts its influence and commitment in the international arena by providing an infantry battlegroup for the UN Standby Force for peacekeeping operations during UN Peacekeeping Summit in New York. Meanwhile, Malaysia highlights the focus of an open discussion on contemporary threats and challenges to avoid the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, technologies, and other crises of relevance (Richard, 2012). Malaysia participates significantly in international counterterrorism initiatives. In addition, His Excellency Ambassador Hussein Haniff (Malaysian Permanent Mission to the United Nations, 2015) asserts that Malaysia is unwavering in its separation of terrorism and self-determination. Malaysia affirms its fullest commitment to work together with all UN and UNSC members to always maintain peace and security (Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Malaysia, 2015b). Hence, the next segment focuses on three of the UNSC's crucial issues Children and Women protection in armed conflict, disputed regional conflict and peacekeeping mission, and the UNSC Reform.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Malaysia's active role within the UNSC matters

Children and Women Protection in Armed Conflict

Holding membership in the UNSC, Malaysia plays an active role in addressing the unprotected and voiceless children and women who suffered from the violent conflict specifically the Israel-Palestine and Afghanistan issues. In this matter, the UNSC has not done any justice to the Palestine people (Razali Ismail, personal communication, April 7, 2021).

During the attack on the Taliban in Afghanistan, things were catastrophic. Malaysia has taken proactive measures to defend its position and stand with the need to protect children and women in the attack of the war. Under resolution 1612, the Afghan government complied with the resolution (Security Council, 2005). In the meantime, Malaysia did contribute to the peacekeeping mission by sending a troop of Malaysian police along with the UN Assistance

Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) in a mission extended by the Security Council in mobilizing and stabilizing the peace in Afghanistan. As an outcome of efforts and commitment to the peacekeeping mission, the International Stabilization Assistance Force (ISAF) recognized Malaysia for its work in Afghanistan from 2003 to 2014 (Malaysian Permanent Mission to the United Nations, 2015).

Malaysia has voiced disappointment over the inability of the international community, particularly the UNSC, to prevent Israeli aggression on Palestine. To a significant extent, Malaysia was seen as a leader in fighting Israel's occupation of the West Bank and Jerusalem even before choosing the role of non-permanent member of the UNSC. Malaysia will indeed keep pushing for immediate action from the global community, primarily the UN Security Council, to compel Israel to cease assaulting the Palestinians. As well as keep backing all initiatives for a fair and long-lasting resolution, particularly via dialogue comprising all concerned parties premised on legitimate UN peace agreements and international treaties (Bedi, 2021). Malaysia has called for actions to be seriously considered by the UNSC and the international community, such as the implementation of internationally recognized initiatives; Oslo Accords, Madrid Term of Reference, Arab Peace or any relevant resolution, and UN protection in addressing the crisis, bilateral negotiations between Israel and Palestine and upholding the lawful right to self-rule of Palestinians (Malaysian Permanent Mission to the United Nations, 2015).

Thus, one of the notable significant unequivocal commitments demonstrated by Malaysia is during the votes in the Israel-Palestine disputed issues where successful UN Resolution adoption in demanding the cut off to all occupation's Israeli settlement in Palestinian territory. It was the first victory upon which the US constantly vetoed resolutions condemning their closest ally, Israel. Alternatively, Malaysia commends the United States for the diplomatic initiatives to restore peace negotiations. Hussein Haniff, Malaysian Permanent Representative to the UN, "Malaysia wishes to see continued peace talks and negotiations between Palestine and Israel" (Malaysian Permanent Mission to the United Nations, 2015). Malaysia stands firmly behind all efforts to achieve a diplomatic and peaceful solution to the Israeli-Palestinian crisis through dialogue and negotiations.

Disputed Regional Conflict and Peacekeeping Mission

Malaysia has been an active member of the UN since becoming a member of this international organization in 1957 (Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Malaysia, 2015a). He joined the United Nations Peacekeeping Framework in 1960 as one of the countries sending armed

forces to help the Congo achieve independence. In addition, Malaysia has been actively engaged in over 30 UN peacekeeping activities globally and has deployed nearly 30,000 military and police personnel as peacekeepers (Hamid, 2019). Besides, the undivided commitment and sacrifices of Malaysia in rendering support and assistance in the region of Africa reflect a shining leadership example in managing global affairs in the UN Security Council by cooperating between the UN and African Union. In the case of Somalia, Malaysia has been actively involved in assisting and supporting them in their quest for freedom through their means and styles (Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Malaysia, 2015a). Malaysia voted in line with several resolutions 2244, 2221, 2232, and 2245 adopted during deliberations in Somalia during its tenure at the Security Council.

Meanwhile, in the case of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, the Security Council has not made a statement and has been slow to respond (Mohd. Azizuddin Mohd Sani, personal communication, August 18, 2021). However, Malaysia as a non-permanent member of the UNSC (2015-2016) has struggled for Palestinians' rights and lands from the Israeli Occupation. The significant accomplishment that Malaysia granted for the Palestinians was the approval of the UNSC 2334 Resolution that enquiring the Israeli government to end the unlawful building of Jewish neighbourhoods on Palestinian soil.

As the humanitarian situation remains fragile, the volatile security situation, and exacerbation of domestic economic challenges experienced in Somalia, Malaysia continues to support and assist Somalia by deploying troops for UN Operation in Somalia II. In addition, Malaysia has undertaken several development initiatives in Somalia by providing and replenishing water sources for remote areas of the Somali people (Wah & Jumrah, 2017). Moreover, Malaysia also condemned the terrorist group known as Al-Shabab, which caused the disordered condition in Somalia (Wah & Jumrah, 2017).

As a member of the UNSC, Malaysia introduced the concept of security and development for the implementation of peace operations. The purpose of the concept mentioned is to become the basis for keeping peace and growth, perhaps to help resolve brutal conflicts constructively. Providentially, the UN accepted the proposed concept and, in the meantime, recalled it as "Disarmament, demobilization and reintegration", approved by Security Council Resolution 1171 (1998) to implement peacekeeping operations (Ramli, 2016). The consistency and dedication of Malaysia to the UN mission, particularly the deployment of the Royal Military Police to serve in the UN Mission of Support in East Timor (UNMISSET) (2003) under the International Police Unit. In supporting the peacekeeping mission in Timor-Leste, Malaysian Lieutenant General Khairuddin Mat Yusof was appointed as the force commander

of that peacekeeping operation by the Timor-Leste police force (Fernandez, 2005; Ramli, 2016).

UNSC Council Reform

The UNSC viewed and proven inefficient and pushed on the need for the reform process to retain its effectiveness, and legitimacy, and fairly represented fitting geopolitical realities and dynamics of the UN in the 21st century. The first and only time that the UN Security Council successfully reformed was in 1965 when the UN membership stood at 114 where the Security Council expanded from 11 members to 15 members, whereby non-permanent member seats increased from six (6) to ten (10) while the permanent members remained same (United Nations Security Council, 2021).

In March 1997, Razali Ismail, the United Nations General Assembly's 51st session President (United Nations General Assembly, n.d.), proposed several stages of a reform plan known as the Razali Reform Plan aiming to break the deadlock of reform after decades of discussion (United Nations, 1997). He proposed to have “an equitable representation on and increase in the membership of the Security Council and other matters related to the Security Council” (United Nations, 1997). The permanent members did not explicitly reject it but implicitly put forth their demands. Razali Reform Plan is the outcome of the debate over the enlargement of the UN Security Council (Bourantonis & Magliveras, 2002).

Despite multi-faceted challenges faced and member states by the UN, Malaysia remains committed and supportive of all kinds of comprehensive efforts of membership expansion in reforming the Security Council to advance legitimacy, equal representation, democratic practices, accountability, and transparency. For instance, Malaysia calls for a transparent decision-making process to expand UN membership allowing a more comprehensive, democratic, and unbiased geographical representation in the security council (Ismail & Al-Attas, 2014). In this regard, Razali Ismail said that Malaysia is supporting the growth in the number of members of the UN Security Council to make the Council hear more voices (personal communication, April 7, 2021).

The seven-decade existence of the UN body is about time to change as the composition of the UN Security Council needs to be reformed and expanded for a fair regional representation in enhancing its effectiveness. Therefore, the enlargement of the UN Security Council members and fair regional representation will reflect the current amount of UN membership but replicate the ability of the UNSC to signify the interest of all member states (United Nations, 2020). Malaysia urgently calls for reform of the UNSC very soon. As stated by Rajmah Hussain,

Ambassador of Malaysia to the United States, France, and Austria, and as well as, Permanent Representative of Malaysia to the United Nations (Asia-Pacific Leadership Network, n.d.), it is hard to reform the UNSC, Malaysia must continue to discuss the UNSC reform comprehensively (personal communication, September 3, 2020). Therefore, recognizing the existing opportunities and challenges for reform at the UNSC, Malaysia strongly encourages all member states to work in a multilateral manner to identify opportunities to move the process forward. The most important result is that all the interests of UN members are safe and robust.

In addition, Karim (2019), the Malaysian Ambassador to Iran from 1990-1992, Spain from 1992-1994, and other diplomatic missions included Austria, the United States, Romania, Bangladesh, Germany, China, and the author of a book entitled 'New Narrative of Malaysian Foreign Policy' contended that the UN on many occasions just focused and acted on the matters that highlighted by the veto powers of the UNSC. Amongst matters that the veto powers concern seriously is combating terrorism activities including the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) and granting the allies of the United States to act on it (Karim, 2019, p. 99). This demonstrates the overrule and misconduct of the UNSC in directing the solution regarding international issues.

No doubt that the current world environment makes it difficult to reform the UNSC, but still there is a significant and crucial need to make changes in the UNSC, especially in their Veto powers. Hamid (2019) argued that the current situation is not like that of 1945, since many powerful countries are competing against each other. As well, emerging issues are much more complex than before, including wars, natural disasters, terrorism, cybercrime, human trafficking, and, most recently, the COVID-19 pandemic. It will be more damaging if only a few countries decide for the entire international community. Therefore, Hamid (2019) strongly urged for the reform of the UNSC to indicate the real situation and highlight a fair geographical representation and follow with the abolition of the veto powers. As Rajmah Hussain put it (personal communication, September 3, 2021),

"The privileges of having a veto in the permanent members cannot be resolved and the resolution cannot be passed. For change or reform at the United Nations Security Council, it is less likely to happen because they (the permanent members) like to control things. Things that are not in their favour and have a tendency to be rejected."

How necessary the reform of the UNSC is, there are still conditions to be considered. The world is in the middle of a critical period in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic and economic turmoil, and United Nations Security Council reform is likely pending. However,

today the world is confronted with the current COVID-19 pandemic, Razali Ismail (personal communication, April 7, 2021) said:

"I would support the increase in membership to bring more voices into the Council, but I do not think the Permanent Members in the Security Council are in favour of expansion. Additionally, as nations are in response combating the widespread disease and economic recovery during this pandemic, therefore, it is less likely the reform by expanding the Council size could take place."

The international community, including Malaysia, must first come to grips with the domestic situation and then address the international scenario.

CONCLUSION, CONTRIBUTIONS, AND FUTURE AGENDA

Malaysia is known as a small state, nevertheless, never fails to exercise its active role and influence on UN Security Council matters. The pursuit of diplomatic competence and the initiative taken have allowed Malaysia to accomplish her role and responsibilities as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council. Therefore, Malaysia as having such active elements seeks to make a constructive contribution to protecting international peace and security. Given Malaysia's services and experiences at the United Nations as well, she is prepared to be elected with a larger nomination. As holding the last two terms (2015-2016) as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council, Malaysia affirmed its pledge to remain committed to resolving international conflict by peaceful means, safeguarding the civilians through the rule of regulation, and practice of moderation.

The study contributes significantly to the existing knowledge specifically Malaysia's active role as a non-permanent member of the UNSC. As a small country geographically located in the Southeast Asian region, Malaysia is capable of fostering peace and security in a world of uncertainty, full of unethical situations and antagonistic kind of relationships. Moreover, this study positively impacted a wide range of society. The knowledge and data obtained could assist individuals to comprehend the significance of Malaysia being a non-permanent member of the UNSC. And facilitates Malaysia's Ministry of Foreign Affairs to enhance Malaysia's position so that Malaysia can regain the UNSC as a non-permanent member in the future. Moreover, this research supports the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), which emphasize a considerable reduction in all types of conflict and call on communities and governments to cooperate to put an end to disputes and insecurity. To do this, developing nations like Malaysia must participate more in the UNSC, the accountable body that works to advance peace and stability in world affairs.

Regarding the upcoming agenda on Malaysia as a non-permanent member of the UNSC, it is recommended that attention be paid to potential strategies and tactics that could support and encourage Malaysia to be chosen as a non-permanent member of the UNSC in the future. Every UN member wants to hold the prestigious position of non-permanent member of the UNSC since it is so valuable.

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