Philippe Roman Chair in History and International Affairs
Inaugural Lecture

Reforming the United Nations – Mission Impossible?

Professor Paul Kennedy
Yale University and LSE

Howard Davies
LSE, Chair
Reforming the United Nations: Mission Impossible?

Professor Paul M. Kennedy

11 October 2007

London School of Economics
Sir Charles Webster
Sir Gladwyn Jebb
The United Nations

The first meeting of the U.N. General Assembly on 19 November 1946.
Dumbarton Oaks, 1944
Bretton Woods, 1944
Manchuria, 1931
Vienna, 1938
The Great Depression
Parliament of Man (UK)

Paul Kennedy

The Parliament of Man

The United Nations and the Quest for World Government
Article 27

1. Each member of the Security Council shall have one vote.

2. Decisions of the Security Council on procedural matters shall be made by an affirmative vote of nine members.

3. Decisions of the Security Council on all other matters shall be made by an affirmative vote of nine members including the concurring votes of the permanent members; provided that, in decisions under Chapter VI, and under paragraph 3 of Article 52, a party to a dispute shall abstain from voting.
“Nothing contained in the present Charter shall authorize the United Nations to intervene in matters which are essentially within the domestic jurisdiction of any state or shall require the Members to submit such matters to settlement under the present Charter; but this principle shall not prejudice the application of enforcement measures under Chapter VII.”
Rwanda, 1994
Srebrenica, 1995
Sierra Leone
Article 108

Amendments to the present Charter shall come into force for all Members of the United Nations when they have been adopted by a vote of two thirds of the members of the General Assembly and ratified in accordance with their respective constitutional processes by two thirds of the Members of the United Nations, including all the permanent members of the Security Council.
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