**The un united nations**

[**Najm us Saqib**](https://nation.com.pk/Columnist/najm-us-saqib)

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The inability of the UN Security Council to agree on a joint statement condemning the February 1 coup in Myanmar is understandable. To begin with, how could an agreement at the UN be reached over a military takeover when the participants, with well-known divergent standpoints, had only two hours to decide and “condemn” a military coup. Understandably also, taking appropriate or necessary steps to redress grievances of the royally disappointed people of Myanmar was not part of the agenda. As the meeting did not have enough time to get details of the early morning detentions of top leadership including Aung San Suu Kyi and then decide whether to “condemn” the military action, the UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres was gracious enough to express “grave concern” over the “declaration of the transfer of all legislative, executive and judicial powers to the military.” He was spot on to add that “these developments represent a serious blow to democratic reforms in Myanmar.”

[Bitcoin hits a new record, increasing up to $48,481](https://nation.com.pk/12-Feb-2021/bitcoin-hits-a-new-record-increasing-up-to-dollar-48-481)

The year 2021 will celebrate the 76th anniversary of the United Nations as the most representative inter-governmental organisation of the world. In addition to maintaining international peace and security, the UN also protects human rights, delivers humanitarian aid, promotes sustainable development and upholds international law. To many, the UN’s role in world affairs is “irreplaceable by any other international or regional organisations” as it has made “enormous positive contributions in maintaining international peace and security, promoting cooperation among states and international development.” The propagators further argue that the UN could still “play a pivotal and positive role in maintaining peace and security in the world.” A number of world events could be quoted to substantiate the usefulness of the Organisation, from the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948 to the role of Secretary General U Thant in helping to prevent a conflict during the 1962 Cuban missile crisis through his good offices, to adopting resolutions that laid down the principles for an eventual political settlement in 1967 and 1973, to the adoption of the Millennium Development Goals, to the placement of Kosovo and East Timor under temporary UN administration.

[Lost in love](https://nation.com.pk/12-Feb-2021/lost-in-love)

UN detractors, on the other hand, would hasten to quote numerous undesirable world events where the Organisation sadly failed in addressing issues of peace and security. For Richard Nixon, the UN had already become “obsolete and inadequate” in 1967.Unfortunately, the list on this side is comparatively longer and includes a number of instances that justifiably challenge the UN’s usefulness. In this regard, UN’s detractors quote Israel’s continued occupation since 1948, Jammu and Kashmir’s continued subjugation also since 1948, Cambodia violence from 1975 to 1979, Somalia’s civil war since 1991, the Rwandan civil war of 1994, the Srebrenica Massacre of 1995, continued Darfur conflict since 2003, Anglo-American invasion of Iraq to its inaction on the continued Syrian crisis. It is also a fact that sometimes the world body does not even express “grave concern” or “condemn” certain not-so-peaceful world events. In certain cases, for obvious reasons, it only expresses its “commitment” to doing everything to address an issue or “hopes” to receive “commitments” or “renewed commitments” by any side to resolve the issue or expresses only its “disappointment” over any undesirable outcome.

[Pakistan is secure for sports: Dr Firdous Ashiq](https://nation.com.pk/12-Feb-2021/pakistan-is-secure-for-sports-dr-firdous-ashiq)

During his first news briefing of 2021, UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres had, inter alia, “urged” Pakistan and India to “come together and seriously discuss their problems” while reminding the two countries that a military conflict could result in “a disaster of unmitigated proportions.” Mindful of the fact that such a military conflict would prove a disaster also for the whole world, Guterres desired to “finding peaceful solutions for problems that have no military solution.” That in the presence of UN Security Council’s multiple resolutions on the final settlement of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute and in the face of India’s blatant actions of August 5, 2019 including the revocation of Jammu and Kashmir’s status and the continued violations of human rights by the Indian Security Forces in the Valley, the United Nations renewing its offer of mere “good offices” is not understood. The Jammu and Kashmir dispute is one of the oldest agenda items requiring certain agreed upon actions by the United Nations including the holding of a plebiscite for the people of Kashmir to decide whether they want to accede to Pakistan or India. That, in the presence of unanimously adopted UN Security Council resolutions, why is the UN urging both India and Pakistan to “come together and seriously discuss their problems” (read bilaterally and not multilaterally), is also not understood.

[Ehsaas programme survey to be completed by the end of June: Dr Sania](https://nation.com.pk/11-Feb-2021/ehsaas-programme-survey-to-be-completed-by-the-end-of-june-dr-sania)

A deeper look at the UN decision making process might reveal the reasons and extent of action or inaction of this 75-year-old world Organisation. How the “new world order”, according to some, is increasingly proving to be a “new world disorder” has some invisible links to the Permanent-Five’s veto power; certain countries’ level of funding to the UN; certain countries’ political, economic or military power or certain countries’ strong lobbying capacity; it is anybody’s guess.

The absence of any agreement on having justifiable reforms in the United Nations is posing additional challenges for the Organisation. However, it may not be put forward as an excuse to overlook the due collective responsibilities of member states, especially the powerful P-5 group. Notwithstanding the difficulties in the way of making amendments in the UN Charter, the Organization, with the blessings of the P-5, could still make certain “adjustments” to effectively address the emerging, existing or old issues involving life and rights of the human species.

['Pakistan will continue to support Kashmiris,' says top Military officials](https://nation.com.pk/11-Feb-2021/pakistan-will-continue-to-support-kashmiris-says-top-military-officials)

All said and done, against all odds, the United Nations seems to be holding the vision of maintaining global peace and security. In its success and failure story spanning over three quarters of a century, the Organisation seems to be in good spirits in facing emerging challenges. In response to the allegation of its “dreaming more and doing less”, the UN would wish the world to trust the process and learn to appreciate the “disturbances” in its comfort zones. From its birth at the shores of WW1 to the coast of complicated hybrid war, the UN has been playing the role of a charming farmer planting dreams in real life. Being the only credible crochet hook available to the world, the Organisation is discovering its strengths and exhibiting its weaknesses at the same time. One only hopes that the present “makers, owners, movers and shakers” of the world throw discretion to the wind; revisit the UN Charter and reflect if the Organisation was actually playing its envisaged role or not—before later becomes never.