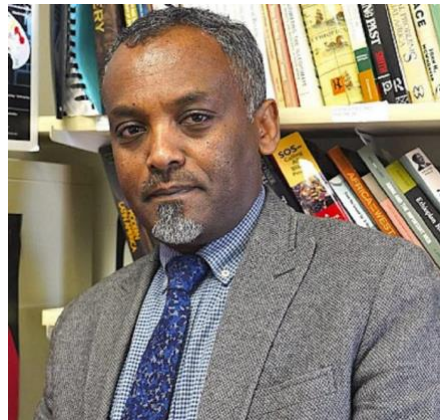


Africa's Bid for Permanent Seat at UNSC Part of Struggle to Realize Fair World: Expert

Professor Shimelis Bonsa
(Professor of African politics and history at the University of New York in USA)
December 15, 2021
Source: ENA



December 15/2021 /ENA/ Africa's bid for a permanent seat at the UN Security Council is part of the struggle to create a new and fair world by changing the course of Western philosophy, according an expert.

Recently, Senegalese President Macky Sall and South African President Cyril Ramaphosa denounced the "unfair" representation of Africa in the UN Security Council, regretting that no African country is a permanent member.

Prime Minister of Ethiopia, Abiy Ahmed, has also joined other African leaders in calling for an African country to be included in the United Nations Security Council (UNSC).

Professor of African politics and history at the University of New York in USA, Shimelis Bonsa said Africa's bid for a permanent seat on the UN Security Council is part of the struggle to realize fairness in the world.

Shimelis stressed that Ethiopia should continue its struggle to liberate Africans from all forms of oppression and maintain its historic place in the continent.

Citing that the demand for African nations to have a permanent seat at the UN Security Council has a long history, he said African freedom fighters and forefathers had fought for Africa`s permanent seat at the UNSC as a question of fairness and equality.

The Security Council from its establishment was set up to protect the interests of the winners of World War II and it denies representation of the rest of the world, according to the expert.

He said the resurgence of Africa`s struggle for a permanent seat at the UNSC is now a viable option in light of the realities of the world.

Taking the current global political alignment in to consideration, the request for Africa`s permanent seat at the UNSC is more likely to be accepted, the expert indicated.

He noted that the current struggle for justice and equality by Africans with the theme "We must decide our destiny by our own" will intensify the struggle to secure a permanent seat in the council.

"The movement must be seen as part of the struggle to create a new and fair world by changing the course of Western philosophy," he affirmed.

African countries should strengthen their ongoing efforts to create economic and political integration through various ways including the implementation of free trade as it provides the continent a strong and shared vision of development, he underlined.

Demands of African Nations For Permanent Seat at UNSC Is “Plausible”: Morgan State University Scholar

Professor Getachew Metaferia
Morgan State University Political Science and International Relations
December 15, 2021
Source: ENA.



The call by African countries to have a permanent seat at the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) is “plausible,” Professor Getachew Metaferia said.

Morgan State University Political Science and International Relations, Professor Getachew Metaferia told ENA that currently there is a voice coming from the leaders of African countries for the continent to have a permanent seat at the UN Security Council.

The call by African countries to have a permanent seat at the SC is plausible he said, recalling that Ethiopia’s Prime Minister, Abiy Ahmed, has naturally joined the drive.

The Professor said “The logic behind the call is not only the continued marginalization and neglect of Africa in international politics, but it has continued to be a driving force behind the advancement of Western countries and the rest of the world by supplying its scarce raw material and providing market for imported goods.”

Its fast-growing population of 1.3 billion is expected to double by 2050 and has a consumer minded youth which is an overwhelming majority in Africa he said,

adding "such wealth and potential seem not given respect and weight, and the continent is taken as a weak appendage of the developed world."

Such a desire in the past remained unsuccessful, Professor Getachew said recalling that countries such as India and Japan had unsuccessfully desired to join the permanent UN Security Council. Earlier, at a broader scale, in the 1970s the developing countries, known as Group 77 called for a New International Economic Order (NIEO).

The group urged for the restructuring of the international order, set up when they were under the yolk of colonialism, and the system remained detrimental to their development, he noted.

The NIEO called for correction of injustices to drop the widening gap between the global north and south countries and accelerate economic and social development. This, they argued, will promote enduring peace and justice worldwide.

"That call also failed. It must be remembered that a US high official said that the global system was perfect for them and must not be altered," Professor Getachew said.

The call by African countries to have a seat on the permanent Security Council could similarly face an insurmountable hurdle, he stressed.

To be effective, there must be a parallel and concerted efforts by regional organizations such as the Organization of American States (OAS) and others from Asia, including the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), to join the drive.

The Professor further stated "the UNSC is a force with absolute authority to find any issue, even outside of its mandate, as a threat to international peace and security and intervene."

Ethiopia was spared from military intervention by the UNSC, thanks to the two non-western countries, China, and Russia, who wield their veto power.

The two countries saved Ethiopia. Had the SC succeeded and taken any measure against Ethiopia, under the cover of keeping peace and security, it would have had an enduring negative impact on Ethiopia, the region, and beyond, he underscored.

He said "This is not lost on the mind of African countries and their friends. No wonder, Ethiopia's "No More" battle cry and slogan against unnecessary interference by outsiders has resonated in Africa and beyond."

At the end, the call for Africa joining the UN Security Council's permanent membership is rightly out of frustration with the Security Council.

"To address such issues and long-standing grievances by Africans and other developing countries, the UN and the global structure in general must be reexamined and altered. It must cope with the rapidly changing time," Professor Getachew elaborated.

Moreover, he stressed that the current global reality is starkly different from the situation when the UN was established he said, adding African leaders must also be serious about their efforts to develop their countries and ensure peace and human security for their citizens.

They must adamantly fight corruption, enforce the rule of law, combat poverty, develop their economy, and empower their people. Such effort cannot be realized when there are sycophants and power-hungry leaders.

"It is only when African leaders take their job seriously and honestly to serve their people and improve the situation on the ground that others will take them seriously. Quite a lot of home work on the table," he stressed.

