International Relations · GS - II

"The reform process in the United Nations remains unresolved, because of the delicate imbalance of East and West and entanglement of the USA vs. Russo-Chinese alliance." Examine and critically evaluate the East-West policy confrontations in this regard.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
2025	GS - II	International Relations

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
15	~250 words

Answer Hint

UNSC reform, P5, veto power, East-West divide, USA-Russia-China, geopolitical rivalry, Global South, G4, Africa, representation, multilateralism, Intergovernmental Negotiations

Model Answer

Introduction

The UN system was designed in the aftermath of World War II, while contemporary geopolitical and economic realities have changed substantially. The unresolved reform of the UN Security Council reflects both institutional rigidity and competing interests among major powers.

1. East-West confrontations

The USA and its allies generally emphasise maintaining an effective Council while confronting Russian and Chinese positions on issues involving Ukraine, strategic competition and global security.

Russia and China, as permanent members with veto power, seek to preserve their strategic influence and resist arrangements that could substantially diminish the existing balance of power. However, characterising Russia and

China simply as a unified alliance can oversimplify their distinct national interests.

2. Structural causes

The central problems include:

1. P5 veto privileges.
2. Lack of permanent representation for Africa, Latin America and major Asian powers.
3. Divergent views over expansion of permanent and non-permanent seats.
4. Disagreement over veto rights for new permanent members.
5. Requirement of broad political consensus for institutional change.

The General Assembly continues to conduct Intergovernmental Negotiations on equitable representation and expansion of Security Council membership.

3. Global South dimension

The issue is not merely East versus West. African states, the G4 and other developing countries demand greater representation and a Council reflecting contemporary geopolitical realities. The African Group has particularly stressed representation in both permanent and non-permanent categories.

4. Way forward

Reform requires text-based negotiations, wider regional representation, greater transparency, restrained use of veto, and stronger cooperation between permanent and non-permanent members.

Conclusion

UN reform remains unresolved because institutional rules intersect with great-power rivalry and divergent regional interests. A representative and effective Security Council requires moving beyond the post-1945 distribution of power towards inclusive 21st-century multilateralism.