

“Voice of the Global South: The Non-Aligned Movement in Global Governance and Multilateralism”..

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Abstract

The role of the Global South in global governance has received fresh attention due to the changing dynamics of the modern international system, which are characterized by a slow transition from unipolarity to multipolarity. Originally founded during the Cold War to preserve strategic independence from competing power blocs, the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) now has to redefine its significance in a complicated and interconnected world. The potential of NAM as a collective voice of the Global South in influencing global governance and bolstering multilateralism is examined in this paper.

The study examines how NAM member states interact with important international organizations like the UN and how they address urgent global issues like development disparities, economic inequality, geopolitical conflicts, and climate change. It contends that although NAM's political unity has deteriorated over time, its core values sovereignty, non-interference, and peaceful coexistence remain extremely pertinent when tackling today's global issues.

The study also investigates whether NAM can evolve from a primarily symbolic platform to a useful tool for advocacy and policy coordination among developing countries. It draws attention to NAM's structural constraints as well as new prospects for elevating the Global South's concerns within multilateral frameworks.

The study concludes that, despite major internal and external obstacles, NAM still has the capacity to make a significant contribution to a more equitable and inclusive system of global governance as long as it adjusts to the geopolitical realities of the twenty-first century...

Keywords: Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), Global South, Global Governance, Multilateralism
Multipolar World Order, Geopolitics.

Introduction

- Global politics, economics, and diplomacy are undergoing profound changes in the modern international system, characterized by the rise of multipolarity, the growing influence of developing nations, and an increasing crisis in the existing multilateral institutions. The Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) has grown in significance as a unified voice for the goals and concerns of the Global South in this shifting landscape. In response to bipolar rivalry, NAM was first founded in 1961 at the Belgrade Conference during the Cold War under the leadership of Jawaharlal Nehru, Josip Broz Tito, Gamal Abdel Nasser, Sukarno, and Kwame Nkrumah. It promoted values such as equality, sovereignty, peaceful coexistence, anti-colonialism, and independent foreign policy. Its continued significance as a voice of developing nations was guaranteed by the persistence of global inequalities and unequal representation in international institutions, even though its relevance was questioned after the end of the Cold War.

Global governance has been further altered in recent years by the transition from unipolarity to multipolarity and the emergence of new powers like China, India, Brazil, and South Africa. Global crises like the COVID-19 pandemic, climate change, economic instability, and food and energy insecurity have also highlighted the shortcomings of organizations like the World Bank, WTO, IMF, and United Nations, which are heavily criticized for their unequal representation and Western dominance. In this regard, the Global South, which includes developing nations in Latin America, Asia, Africa, and other regions, has called for more reforms to guarantee greater inclusion, equity, and involvement in international decision-making.

In this context, NAM has reappeared as a significant platform that opposes major power dominance while advancing multilateralism, South-South cooperation, and strategic autonomy. Interest in the concept of "NAM

2.0," which reflects the adaptation of non-alignment to modern realities, has increased due to the escalating geopolitical competition, particularly between the United States and China. The current study, "Voice of the Global South: The Non-Aligned Movement in Global Governance and Multilateralism," explores the significance of NAM in the changing international order, with a focus on its role in advocating for reforms in global governance institutions and representing developing nations.

The transition from a unipolar to a multipolar global system is a key issue of conversation in contemporary international governance discourse. According to speakers such as Andrew Hurrell and Amitav Acharya, rising powers are changing institutions worldwide with calls for more inclusive electoral processes and increased representation. In this changing context, the non-cooperation movement can be understood as a platform for collective strategic autonomy, allowing for an increasing number of international spaces to negotiate international governance reform, where the adversary turns out to be dependent on unconventional forces, rather than just historical alliances. An additional comprehensive analytical framework for understanding the contemporary relevance of the NAM is provided through this theoretical approach.

The study's main focus is determining whether NAM can strengthen multilateralism in a highly unequal international system and effectively represent the Global South. It aims to investigate the historical development of NAM, its function in international governance, the difficulties multilateralism faces, and its applicability in the developing multipolar world. The study is descriptive and analytical in character, using a qualitative methodology and secondary sources like books, journals, reports, and scholarly writings.

This study is important because it helps us understand the politics of the Global South, the multilateralism crisis, and the necessity of international institutional reform. It emphasizes how crucial it is for developing nations to work together to solve global issues and create a more just and inclusive international system.

Literature Review-

Since the end of the Cold War, research on the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) has changed significantly. NAM was primarily seen in earlier research as a strategic reaction to the bipolar rivalry between the US and the USSR by recently independent states in Asia, Africa, and Latin America. Nonetheless, NAM is increasingly interpreted in modern literature as a more expansive political and diplomatic platform that reflects the goals of the Global South in multilateralism and global governance.

Abdussalam Jaldi makes a significant contribution to this understanding by highlighting the multilateralism crisis brought on by unequal representation and Western dominance in organizations like the World Bank, IMF, and United Nations. He contends that structural disparities in global governance have been strengthened and trust among developing nations has been undermined by the failure to adapt these institutions to the shifting realities of global power.

The historical significance of the Bandung Conference and the influence of NAM and the Group of 77 in fostering unity among recently independent states are also highlighted by academics. NAM later institutionalized anti-imperialism, sovereignty, economic justice, and peaceful coexistence as core values. It is commonly acknowledged that leaders like Nehru, Nasser, Tito, Sukarno, and Nkrumah transformed non-alignment into an active foreign policy framework that gave developing nations diplomatic agency and international visibility.

NAM's interaction with international governance organizations is the subject of another significant body of literature. Research demonstrates that NAM has continuously promoted reform of the Security Council, increased representation for developing nations in international economic organizations, and democratization of UN decision-making. One significant attempt to reorganize the global economic system in favor of the Global South is frequently attributed to its support for the New International Economic Order (NIEO).

Additionally, recent research connects NAM to current global issues like debt crises, inequality, pandemics, and climate change. Particularly, the COVID-19 pandemic is thought to have exposed profound disparities in global governance, bolstering calls for more inclusive and equitable multilateralism. In this regard, NAM is increasingly seen as a forum for advocacy on behalf of the Global South as a whole.

Scholars characterize NAM as regaining relevance in the form of "NAM 2.0," which emphasizes strategic autonomy rather than strict neutrality, due to the rise of multipolarity and growing rivalry between major powers. However, literature also recognizes internal obstacles that frequently limit collective action, such as member state diversity, inadequate institutional frameworks, and restricted enforcement capabilities.

Overall, the literature indicates that even though NAM was founded during the Cold War, it is still relevant today as a voice of the Global South in discussions about multilateral reform and global governance. By analyzing NAM's changing role in international relations, this study aims to fill in the gaps regarding its practical efficacy in today's multipolar world.

Although the historical development of the NAM, its anti-colonial stance, and its contribution to South-South cooperation have all been studied within, its contemporary significance has received relatively little attention in the context of the new multipolarity and ongoing reform of global governance institutions. It has not securely

integrated recent projects such as debates on UN reform. By exploring the growing qualities of the NAM as the collective voice of the global South within an emerging multilateral system, it looks to fill those gaps.

Research Methodology-

In order to investigate the function of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) as the formalized voice of the Global South in multilateralism and global governance, this study employs a qualitative, descriptive, analytical, and exploratory methodology. It focuses on comprehending how NAM changed from a Cold War political organization to a modern platform supporting international institutional reforms, fair global governance, and developing nations' interests in a multipolar world.

Because it deals with the interpretation of political concepts, diplomatic strategies, and international relations theories like non-alignment, multilateralism, and South-South cooperation, the study employs a qualitative methodology. In addition to scholarly writings on global governance and the Global South, it primarily draws from secondary sources, such as books, scholarly journals, research articles, official NAM documents, United Nations reports, and publications of international organizations like the IMF, World Bank, and UNDP.

Thematic and historical approaches are both employed for analysis. While thematic analysis looks at important issues like NAM's role in global governance, reform of multilateral institutions, South-South cooperation, and its relevance in the emerging multipolar world, the historical method traces the origin and evolution of NAM from the Cold War and the decolonization period. The study is further informed by theories of multilateralism and international cooperation, postcolonial theory, and perspectives from the Global South, all of which contribute to the explanation of global inequality and the drive for institutional reform.

The study's scope includes NAM's involvement with international organizations, its role in representing developing nations, obstacles to multilateralism, and its significance in modern world politics, especially in the post-Cold War and multipolar context. The study acknowledges that global developments are constantly changing, but it is restricted to secondary data sources and excludes fieldwork and interviews.

The analytical framework integrates theories of pluralism, views from the global right, and historical institutionalism. The evolution of the NAM from the Cold War to the contemporary multipolar system is traced using historical institutionalism, and the analysis of structural heterogeneity within worldwide institutions using global higher perspectives is less complex. Using qualitative thematic analysis, the study assesses four main reforms: (i) NAM; (ii) its position in global governance; (iii) transformation of multilateral institutions; and (iv) new issues in multipolar internationalism.

Reliability, relevance, and updating have been considered when determining resources. Because in authority and immediate relevance to the objectives of the study, academic books, peer-reviewed journal articles, official UN documents, NAM summit declarations, G20 and BRICS reports, and reports throughout international organizations such as the IMF, UNDP and World Bank were selected to record the current conversion process in 2025 were extra safe.

All things considered, the methodology offers a precise and organized framework for evaluating NAM's ongoing significance as the Global South's voice and its contribution to the advancement of more inclusive and equitable global governance.

NAM as the Institutionalized Voice of the Global South

One of the most significant political platforms in international relations that reflects the aspirations of the Global South as a whole is the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM). NAM has served as a diplomatic and institutional tool for developing nations to express their political, economic, and strategic concerns in international affairs since its official founding at the Belgrade Summit in 1961. The movement gradually expanded into a more comprehensive expression of postcolonial solidarity, sovereign equality, economic justice, and the reform of the international order, despite its initial creation in the particular context of the Cold War bipolar rivalry.

NAM's historical origins can be found in the decolonization wave that followed World War II, when newly independent nations in Asia, Africa, and Latin America had to deal with significant political and economic difficulties in addition to pressure from the US and the USSR. In this situation, several developing world leaders aimed to pursue an autonomous foreign policy that would protect national sovereignty and steer clear of allying with either superpower bloc. By highlighting values like peaceful coexistence, anti-colonialism, racial equality, non-interference, and respect for sovereignty, the Bandung Conference of 1955 helped to shape the ideological framework of non-alignment. When NAM was formally founded under the direction of Jawaharlal Nehru, Josip Broz Tito, Gamal Abdel Nasser, Sukarno, and Kwame Nkrumah, who saw NAM as an active political movement dedicated to peace, decolonization, and global justice, these ideas later became essential to the organization's identity.

Additionally, NAM became closely linked to the idea of the "Global South," which is a general term for developing nations that have experienced colonialism, economic reliance, and political marginalization in the international system. These nations were able to unite disparate voices into a more cohesive political identity

through NAM. The movement offered support for economic development, a shared diplomatic platform, collective bargaining power in international institutions, political solidarity against colonialism and imperialism, and representation in international decision-making processes. In this way, NAM enhanced the Global South's influence in international relations and formalized its political identity.

NAM's function as a collective diplomatic platform that brought disparate developing nations together around common political goals has been one of its major contributions. Member states found common ground in opposing dominance by major powers and promoting a more equitable international order, despite differences in geography, culture, and political systems. NAM encouraged South-South cooperation and frequently aligned voting behavior in the UN General Assembly on issues like decolonization, apartheid, Palestinian self-determination, nuclear disarmament, economic development, and reform of international institutions through summits, ministerial meetings, and coordinated diplomatic efforts. NAM became a powerful pressure group in multilateral diplomacy as a result.

NAM's steadfast dedication to anti-colonialism and sovereign equality has been a key component of its identity. The movement continuously defended the right to self-determination, equality among states, non-interference in domestic matters, territorial integrity, and national independence. It vehemently opposed racial discrimination and apartheid and actively supported liberation movements in Asia and Africa. These values served as the moral and political cornerstone of the collective identity of the Global South and represented the actual historical experiences of colonized societies.

NAM tackled global inequality and economic justice in addition to political issues. The movement vigorously backed calls for a New International Economic Order (NIEO) in the 1970s, which aimed to improve trade relations, guarantee technology transfer, bolster developing nations' authority over natural resources, and boost their involvement in international economic organizations. Working closely with the Group of 77, NAM emphasized the need to reorganize global economic governance in favor of developing nations and assisted in amplifying the economic demands of the Global South.

NAM further promoted South-South cooperation as a substitute tactic to lessen reliance on political and economic systems controlled by the West. In trade, investment, technology sharing, education, scientific research, and development partnerships, it promoted cooperation. Modern frameworks of cooperation among emerging economies are still influenced by this notion of reciprocal cooperation among developing nations.

Many academics questioned the applicability of NAM following the end of the Cold War because the bipolar international structure had collapsed. Instead of going extinct, NAM expanded its agenda to address global inequality, sustainable development, climate justice, human rights, globalization, and the reform of multilateral institutions. NAM still promotes the democratization of international relations in the modern era, especially the United Nations Security Council's reform, increased representation for developing nations, fair global economic policies, and respect for multilateralism and sovereignty. Additionally, it provides a forum for nations in the Global South to jointly address new issues like pandemics, climate change, financial instability, and geopolitical rivalry.

Internal diversity among member states, a lack of legally binding enforcement mechanisms, a decline in cohesiveness following the end of the Cold War, and competition from other regional and economic groupings are some of the major obstacles that NAM faces despite its ongoing relevance. Its capacity to convert collective declarations into tangible policy outcomes is frequently constrained by these factors. However, NAM's function as a symbol and tool of Global South solidarity has been strengthened by the persistence of global inequality and discontent with current international institutions.

In summary, the Global South's voice in international relations has been institutionalized thanks in large part to the Non-Aligned Movement. NAM has continuously represented the political, economic, and strategic concerns of developing nations, from its beginnings in anti-colonial struggle to its current advocacy for global governance reform. The fundamental problems of inequality, underrepresentation, and uneven global power structures have not been addressed, despite the fact that the international system has undergone substantial change since its founding. Because of this, NAM is still a significant institutional representation of the goals and collective agency of the Global South in modern global politics.

NAM and Global governance –

Since the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) has continuously worked to democratize international politics and advance a more inclusive and equitable global order, the relationship between the movement and global governance represents an important aspect of modern international relations. Since its founding during the Cold War, NAM has served as a platform for developing nations to express their demands for changes to institutional, political, and economic systems that are primarily controlled by powerful states. NAM has become a critical voice opposing structural injustices ingrained in organizations like the United Nations, International Monetary Fund, World Bank, and World Trade Organization in the context of global governance, which is defined as the system of international institutions, regulations, and mechanisms that manage global issues like peace, security, trade,

development, and climate change. NAM's developing nations have long maintained that these organizations fail to effectively represent the interests of the Global South and instead reflect Western dominance.

The democratization of international relations based on the idea of sovereign equality among states, regardless of their economic or military might, has been one of NAM's main goals. Equal participation in international decision-making, respect for national sovereignty, non-interference in domestic matters, peaceful cohabitation, and collective security through multilateral cooperation have all been emphasized by the movement. In this sense, NAM has helped developing and recently independent nations become more politically involved in international diplomacy, especially through the UN system. In order to strengthen the Global South's voice in international forums, NAM member states have frequently worked together within the UN framework on issues like decolonization, nuclear disarmament, Palestinian self-determination, opposition to apartheid, and peaceful dispute resolution.

Reforming the UN Security Council has been one of NAM's most significant areas of involvement in global governance. The P5's hegemony, the unequal veto system, and the underrepresentation of regions like Africa, Asia, and Latin America have all been criticized by the movement on numerous occasions. It calls for a more democratic and representative Security Council with increased participation from developing nations, arguing that the current structure reflects post-World War II power realities rather than current geopolitical conditions. NAM's overarching objective of reorganizing international organizations to more accurately represent global diversity and equality is intimately related to this demand.

However, these requirements are valid, as evidenced by the latest diplomatic projects. During the G-20 Presidency (2023) and Voice of the Global South Summit, India continues to push for comprehensive reform of the UN Security Council, reinforcing many longstanding aspirations in the name of contemporary international institutions being contemporary geopolitical realities.

NAM has also had serious concerns about economic governance, especially with regard to organizations like the World Bank and IMF, which developing nations contend are marked by unfair voting procedures, Western leadership dominance, and policy conditionalities that frequently harm poorer countries. In response, NAM backed the 1970s New International Economic Order (NIEO) proposal, which called for improved trade relations, technology transfer, debt relief, more control over natural resources, and greater involvement of developing nations in international economic decision-making. The Global South's initial attempt to reshape global economic governance in a more equitable and balanced manner was exemplified by this initiative.

Additionally, NAM has advocated for South-South cooperation as a substitute framework for improving developing nations' standing in international governance. NAM has worked to strengthen collective bargaining power and lessen reliance on Western institutions by promoting cooperation in trade, development, science, education, and technology among nations in Asia, Africa, and Latin America. The rise of emerging economies and coalitions like BRICS, which further contribute to the diversification of global power structures, reflects this vision in the modern era.

Despite doubts about its applicability, NAM adjusted to new global challenges following the end of the Cold War. Globalization, climate change, terrorism, financial instability, sustainable development, and digital inequality are just a few of the topics it added to its agenda. Additionally, the movement has continuously upheld the values of international law and multilateralism while criticizing unilateral military interventions. Global crises like the COVID-19 pandemic and climate change have highlighted disparities in global governance in recent years, especially in areas like financial aid and vaccine distribution, supporting NAM's claim that current institutions do not sufficiently support developing nations.

Since developing nations frequently suffer disproportionately from climate change despite having contributed the least to historical emissions, climate governance has emerged as a particularly significant area of NAM's engagement. As a result, NAM has promoted equitable international climate agreements, the idea of shared but distinct responsibilities, financial and technological assistance from developed nations, and climate justice. This is in line with the larger demand from the Global South for sustainable development and equitable environmental governance.

Nonetheless, NAM still faces a number of difficulties, such as internal diversity among its member states, a lack of legally binding enforcement mechanisms, a decline in cohesiveness following the end of the Cold War, and competition from other regional and economic organizations. Opponents contend that its impact is frequently restricted to statements rather than actual institutional changes. As the collective voice of the Global South in discussions of global governance, NAM continues to have political and symbolic significance despite these drawbacks.

In conclusion, by promoting democratization, economic justice, sovereign equality, and multilateral cooperation, NAM has significantly influenced global governance. The fundamental problems of structural inequality and unequal representation still exist, despite changes in the international system and the emergence of new global challenges. NAM is an enduring manifestation of Global South solidarity and agency in international politics

because it continues to be a crucial platform for developing nations to collectively demand greater participation, justice, and reform in the global governance system.

NAM in the emerging multipolar world-

A shift from a unipolar order to an emerging multipolar world, characterized by the dispersion of power among several major states and growing centers of influence, is increasingly defining the modern international system. International politics have changed in the twenty-first century as a result of the relative decline of Western dominance, the emergence of emerging economies, the intensifying geopolitical rivalry, and the reorganization of international economic ties. The Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), a collective platform that represents the interests and strategic autonomy of the Global South, has regained significance in this changing environment. In a world shaped by multipolarity, strategic rivalry, technological competition, and global governance challenges, NAM's fundamental principles are still applicable today, despite the fact that it was first founded during the Cold War to avoid alignment with rival power blocs led by the US and the USSR.

The rise of major and regional powers like China, India, Russia, Brazil, South Africa, and other powerful nations in Asia, Africa, and Latin America is closely associated with the emergence of multipolarity. The dominance of Western-led institutions has been undermined by these developments, which have also increased the influence of emerging economies on world affairs. This shifting balance is reflected in organizations like the G20 and BRICS as well as increasing South-South cooperation. In this regard, NAM continues to provide a forum for developing nations to engage with various international actors on their own terms, defend their interests collectively, advance strategic autonomy, and fend off dominance by rival power blocs.

Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates make up most of the international locations that emerged in the BRICS in 2023–2024, showing the growing influence of emerging economies on global governance. Contributes to the figure. Their shared aspirations show how important global-right alliances are becoming in establishing a multipolar international order.

The idea of "strategic autonomy" or "neo-non-alignment," which stresses flexible and issue-based foreign policy decisions rather than strict neutrality, is increasingly linked to NAM in the modern era. Based on national interests, many developing nations now seek diverse partnerships with superpowers like the US, China, and Russia, especially in sectors like trade, energy, technology, and security. This strategy captures the realities of technological reliance and economic interdependence that characterize contemporary international politics. In order to keep smaller states out of great-power rivalries, NAM continues to promote values like sovereign equality, non-interference, peaceful coexistence, and multilateral cooperation.

As developing nations have a greater impact on global trade, energy markets, manufacturing, population dynamics, and climate negotiations, multipolarity has also strengthened the Global South's position in international relations. Through the institutional framework that NAM offers, these nations can jointly call for changes in global governance, such as increased representation in international organizations, fair economic relations, climate justice, development funding, and technology transfer. In this way, NAM still represents the Global South's long-standing desires for equity and participation in international decision-making processes.

In addition to more general geopolitical tensions involving military alliances, trade disputes, and technological competition, the modern international system is shaped by growing rivalry among major powers, especially between the United States and China. Many developing nations aim to avoid strict alignment with any one bloc in such a divisive environment. As a result, NAM serves as a diplomatic arena that encourages communication, diplomacy, and the peaceful settlement of conflicts while allowing states to maintain balanced relations with several powers. The movement's emphasis on supporting multilateralism and opposing bloc politics highlights its significance in reducing international tensions.

As emerging economies increasingly challenge the dominance of Western financial institutions like the IMF and World Bank, economic multipolarity has further increased the significance of NAM. Fair trade practices, increased representation for developing nations, alternative development financing methods, and less reliance on developed economies are just a few of the reforms in global economic governance that NAM continues to support. In keeping with NAM's long-standing goals of economic justice and sovereign equality, efforts to diversify global economic structures are reflected in the rise of organizations like the New Development Bank and other regional financial arrangements.

Even so, NAM still faces several difficulties in the multipolar era, such as limited economic integration, weak institutional mechanisms, internal diversity among member states, and divergent geopolitical alignments. It is frequently challenging to reach consensus on complicated international issues due to the disparate national interests of member nations. Furthermore, NAM's unity and collective power have occasionally been diminished by the emergence of regional organizations and strategic partnerships.

However, NAM's future in a multipolar world rests on its capacity to adjust to new circumstances through enhancing institutional coordination, encouraging South-South cooperation, participating in digital and technological governance, and creating group strategies on global issues like public health, energy security,

climate change, and debt crises. NAM can continue to serve as a crucial diplomatic platform for furthering the interests of the Global South if it is successfully reoriented.

In conclusion, the Non-Aligned Movement's significance in modern international relations has been restored by the rise of a multipolar world. The fundamental ideas of sovereignty, equality, strategic autonomy, and multilateralism are still very important even though the nature of international politics has changed dramatically since the end of the Cold War. In an increasingly complex and competitive world, NAM continues to give developing nations a collective voice in global governance and is a crucial tool for advancing a more inclusive, democratic, and balanced international order.

Reforming Multilateralism: The Voice of the Global South

As institutions established following World War II are increasingly criticized for being unfair, unrepresentative, and incapable of tackling current global issues, the modern international order is experiencing a growing crisis of multilateralism. Global South developing nations contend that rather than reflecting contemporary geopolitical realities, the current system still reflects power structures from the middle of the 20th century. The Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) has become a significant collective voice in this regard, promoting the democratization of global governance and the reform of multilateralism. Representation, sovereignty, economic justice, and fair participation in international decision-making are all closely related to the call for reform, with NAM aiming to change international organizations into more equitable and inclusive systems.

Cooperation between states via organizations like the United Nations, International Monetary Fund, World Bank, and World Trade Organization, which serve as the foundation of the post-1945 global order is referred to as multilateralism. Despite the fact that these organizations were created to foster cooperation, peace, and development, developing nations contend that they are increasingly controlled by Western nations and have unfair decision-making processes. Geopolitical rivalry, economic inequality, inadequate crisis responses, and growing unilateralism have all contributed to the worsening of the multilateralism crisis, making institutional reform a key demand of the Global South.

The Global South, which is made up of developing nations in Latin America, Asia, Africa, and other regions, contends that existing institutions continue to perpetuate inequality and dependency while failing to fairly represent their interests. By encouraging sovereign equality, non-interference, peaceful coexistence, and inclusive decision-making, NAM has been instrumental in expressing these concerns. It has specifically advocated for reform of the UN system, particularly the Security Council, which is criticized for its lack of accountability, transparency, and equitable regional representation and is still dominated by five permanent members. NAM advocates for increased participation from developing nations, veto power reform or limitation, and membership expansion.

Another major area of concern is economic governance, since organizations like the World Bank and IMF are thought to reflect Western interests through unfair voting procedures and conditional policies. As a result, NAM and the Group of 77 have called for reforms like more equitable trade and development financing, debt relief, technology transfer, and fairer representation. Global inequality has also been brought to light by climate change, with developing nations promoting financial assistance, climate justice, and the idea of shared but distinct responsibilities.

Global multilateralism's shortcomings were further revealed by the COVID-19 pandemic, especially in the areas of vaccine distribution, healthcare access, and economic recovery. This led to a resurgence of criticism of uneven international responses. In response, NAM has highlighted the significance of South-South cooperation as a complementary approach, encouraging cooperation in trade, technology, health, and development while bolstering alternative organizations like the New Development Bank and BRICS to lessen reliance on systems dominated by the West.

In the same vein, over 100 rising countries came together here for India's Global South Summit in 2023 and 2024 on certain common themes, mostly digital inclusion, food security, climate finance, debt sustainability and multilateral bloc reforms. By establishing new sites to coordinate mass coverage, this initiative demonstrates how modern global south-international relations increasingly assist NAM's traditional goals.

However, there are many obstacles to multilateralism reform, such as opposition from strong nations, geopolitical rivalry, institutional inflexibility, and internal conflicts within the Global South. NAM maintains that inclusive governance, equitable participation, respect for sovereignty, and increased multilateral cooperation are necessary for a stable global order despite these challenges. In summary, NAM continues to be an essential forum for expressing the opinions of the Global South and promoting the change of global governance in the direction of a more equitable, democratic, and balanced international order.

Conclusion

In the twenty-first century, the Global South has made reforming multilateralism a top priority due to growing criticism of current international institutions for their structural imbalance, unequal representation, and lack of

responsiveness to current global issues. The Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) has been instrumental in articulating the need for an international order that is more democratic, equitable, and inclusive. With its focus on institutional reform, South-South solidarity, multilateral cooperation, and sovereign equality, NAM continues to speak for the aspirations of developing nations who want to be more involved in international decision-making.

Despite being a reaction to bipolar rivalry during the Cold War, NAM's significance has grown over time. From a non-alignment policy, it has developed into a more comprehensive framework supporting economic justice, decolonization, and reform of global governance organizations like the World Bank, WTO, IMF, and UN. Long-standing concerns about inequality and underrepresentation in the Global South have been reflected in the movement's consistent support for programs like the New International Economic Order, UN Security Council reform, and enhanced South-South cooperation.

As developing nations strive for strategic autonomy in the face of growing geopolitical rivalry, economic interdependence, and global crises like the COVID-19 pandemic and climate change, NAM has become more significant in the developing multipolar world. These difficulties have highlighted flaws in the current multilateral systems and strengthened calls for more equitable and inclusive international governance. Collective action is frequently hampered by NAM's internal conflicts, weak institutional strength, and divergent national interests.

Overall, there is evidence that the relevance of the Non-Cooperation Movement today has gone beyond its Cold War roots. The NAM serves as an institutional platform for the Global South, articulating demands for better equality, representation, and democratic reforms in global governance rather than acting as a merely symbolic alliance. Many of NAM's central ideas remain relevant for smart global politics, evidenced through current events such as India's Global South Summit voice, BRICS enlargement, G20 initiatives, renewed debates on UN reform. And can be considered a dynamic framework, thereby reinforcing multifaceted future relevance...

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