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Metamorphose-Rediscover Its Priority and
Functionalities**

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Research and Information System
for Developing Countries

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Post-COVID Challenges: Need of UN to Metamorphose-Rediscover Its Priority and Functionalities

Aruna Sharma*

Abstract: COVID-19 pandemic has impaired the development journey in many countries of the world especially towards achieving the SDGs as unusually higher proportion of resources were required to be allocated to health sector and meeting the medical emergency. Multilateral institutions have extended support to the affected countries across the world, which perhaps helped them addressing short-term problems; however, given the magnitude of distortions in economies, societies and businesses, UN must play a big role with necessary reforms in its pillars and functioning. Different organs of UN such as General Assembly, Security Council, ECOSOC and sister organizations need to make the UN governance more representative in the post-COVID-19 era to achieve the SDGs. SDGs should be the governing principle for meeting all the mandates of UN including protecting human rights, promoting global peace, ensuing freedom eradicating poverty and achieving sustainable development. UN needs internal reforms to effectively lead the post-COVID-19 world order.

Keywords: SDGs, UN metamorphose, Samagra, Common household data base, New role for UN

Background

COVID-19 has been equalizer in arena of survival, economy and business for the developed, developing and poor countries. It has highlighted the vulnerability of all human races hitting the poor and the middle class with hovering worry of increase in poverty levels. In this scenario with protectionist attitudes in trade and business, each of the member country of the United Nations (UN) discovering its own mechanisms to battle on health front and restarting its economy. The GDP growth across globe has been negative in 2020 and concern is the speed to recover not losing sight of global commitment of SDGs (Sustainable Development Goals) i.e. targeting transforming our world leading to prosperity by eradicating

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poverty in all forms by collaborative efforts and head to take bold steps so that ‘no one is left behind’. It is optimising the efforts, the financial and physical resources with ‘V’ curve recovery.

The United Nations was formulated as an international organization on 24th October 1945 after the Second World War by 51 countries committed to maintaining international peace and security, developing friendly relations among nations and promoting social progress, better living standards and human rights. The structure of UN councils has been more focused on peace and security and need is to have a shift to bring the social progress, better living standards and protection of human rights at center stage. Now the war will be less physical but more economical. UN should not become a bridge of Choluteca, a bridge made with best of technology in difficult terrain but of no use to handle the new emerging normal. UN is to develop mechanism ensuring protection of Human Rights across the globe especially the poor and needy. Here poor is not just economically poor but also the population that is being converted into a herd and voiceless. The assertion of rights for equity and better standards of living has rightly being flagged by Roosevelt who was especially interested in international protection of human rights.

Since its establishment in 1945 the aims and activities of UN have expanded to make it the archetypal international body in the early 21st century. The focus has been to defend life, liberty, independence and religious freedom, and to preserve human rights and justice in their own lands as well as in other lands, and that they are now engaged in a common struggle against savage and brutal forces seeking to subjugate the world. The need to realign the structure of UN to make the chosen tool of SDGs effective is the call to battle out the negative impacts of COVID-19 on life and livelihood.

In 1948, the United Nations proclaimed the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. These include the right to not be enslaved, the right to free expression, and the right to seek from other countries asylum from persecution. According to the United Nations Foundation, it is the most

translated document in the world. The rights to education, quality of life still remain aspirational with 8.6 per cent, i.e. 736 million people (World Bank, 2015) still living in extreme poverty and half of this number live in five countries India, Nigeria, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia and Bangladesh (Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa). COVID-19 with loss of jobs will escalate these numbers further. These economies need special attention by ensuring their representation in the statutory bodies of UN. The Need of Rejig in UN Principle organs and its specialized organizations to align with the challenge of making aim of SDGs a reality whose primary goal is to end poverty in all forms.

As part of rejig, the Principle Organs of UN need to have shift of focus and participation of countries that need special attention to set appropriate strategies.

General Assembly

The main focus of General Assembly is to promote social progress, better living standards and human rights. But there exist gaps in effective implementation of the decisions taken on these issues. UN did formulate the MDGs and SDGs but mechanisms adopted needs a complete relook. Each fall, the United Nations General Assembly, the main decision-making body of the organization where each member has one vote, becomes the stage where presidents and prime ministers give speeches that can be clichéd. For the rest of the session, the General Assembly is the arena where largely symbolic diplomatic jousts are won and lost. Hundreds of resolutions are introduced annually.

Sustainable Development (SD) became centre of discourse of the growth model when in 1987 Brundtland Report was published. It put people, planet and prosperity as the areas where the policy makers are to rally and work out mechanisms to implement and have impact studies.

As a sequel to MDGs (Millennium Development Goals) for developing economies, in 2015 the UN agenda went for adoption of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for both developed and

developing economies. SDGs adopted in 2015 are new in history and focus on multi-disciplinary and multi-stakeholder participation. SDGs, also known as Global Goals, as are applicable to both, the developing economics as to that of developed economies are now more relevant due to impact of COVID-19. The listed 17 Goals were signed in 2015 by 193 countries with 169 listed targets to commit and achieve them by year 2030. These goals require inter-country policy with mechanisms to target vulnerable, to ensure their entitlements as also intra-country arrangements of preventing migration due to distress. Thus, SDGs are to be looked as both inter- and intra-country approach and thus the partnership to develop tools that will enable better targeting and achieving the goals.

SDGs are a step ahead on the experience of 8 Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) that had 21 measurable targets on a time frame of 15 years i.e. 2000 to 2015; MDGs were signed by 189 countries. The MDGs was basically a target set for underdeveloped and developing economies to catch up with developed world. It was outcome of a common framework that integrated the UN Millennium Declaration and the international development goals adopted at major international conferences held in the 1990s. It is important to appreciate as to what worked and where there were setbacks on MDGs after fifteen years of efforts to strategise to accelerate, achieve and ensure sustainable access to SDGs.

East Asia has made relatively steady advances towards the achievement of the MDGs, whereas sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia as a whole fell short. Disparities were also found within the same region and country. The achievement of the MDGs is affected not only by the policies of the developing countries themselves, but also largely influenced by world economic trends. Even basic minimum in areas of food supply and employment in developing countries suffered significant setbacks. (May 2015, UNDP Evaluation of Role of UNDP in Supporting National Achievement of MDGs) Thus, just intra-country efforts and focus only on developing economies were not sustainable. The felt need

was to have universal goals that are targeted with intension that no one is left behind – all inclusive and encourage partnership among countries to achieve the same.

SDGs also include action on climate change, pollution, poverty and hunger; and eliminating gender discrimination. Mr. Guterres is using part of this year’s General Assembly to sound the alarm that the deadline could be missed. “We are not on track,” he said. “We are not doing enough.” In principle, nations small and large, rich and poor, have equal voice in the Assembly. But the genuine power resides elsewhere hence recognition of we are not doing enough needs to be introspected to rejig the way UN is functioning. The Equal voice need to set the agenda of collaboration of developed, developing and underdeveloped economies to achieve the lofty goal set under the SDGs. UN to ensure that genuine power resides to formulate correct handholding to achieve the loft goals set that have become more endangered due to COVID-19.

Security Council

The United Nations Security Council has 15 members, with five (Britain, China, France, Russia and the United States) holding permanent seats. The 15-member Security Council is by far the most powerful arm of the United Nations. It can impose sanctions; the shift is to have representation of developed, developing and underdeveloped economy to ensure that focus continue to remain on ensuring ‘no one is left behind’ and enabling transfer of successful experiments and faith in democratic functioning. Thus, there is need to rejig the UN to change from label of powerful but often paralysed to vibrant, dynamic and effective body to address, share and assist to achieve the goals. The extending of membership to developing economies is the reform that is needed to ensure that the advocacy of UN and its organizations graduates to flag the reasons for slow progress and take up policies that will accelerate the SDG goals. The exchange of best practices will enable large part of poor population

to come out of the trap. UN Secretariat Global Reach need to define role.

The Charter of Office of the Secretary General is vague in defining the duties of the United Nations' top official. Nine people have held the position, all men. The secretary general is expected to show no favoritism to any particular country, but the office is largely dependent on the funding and goodwill of the most powerful nations.

The Security Council notably its five permanent members choose the secretary general, by secret ballot, to serve a maximum of two five-year terms. It is difficult for the secretary general to remain independent of the P5's influence. Thus, there is need to change to choosing Secretary General by secret ballot of not just permanent members but also ten non-permanent members, who are elected for two year terms, who represent the emerging economies in the Security Council. This will enable better representation.

Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)

ECOSOC is responsible for promoting higher standards of living, full employment and economic and social progress. The SDG mandate is the guiding factor here at this moment of time. The impact of COVID-19 has aggravated the situation and needs urgent attention to identify solutions to the emerging social and health problems. The change to enable cooperation to expedite reaching the last person in queue so that no one is left behind needs to completely change from just a support to NGOs to enable policy changes to combat the new challenge.

International Court of Justice

Can the Court, besides cases related to keeping peace, also take up 'poverty' as major violate of human rights and accelerate the efforts in five countries that contribute 50 per cent of world poor. Can 17 Goals set and agreed for SDGs be the focus point to rejig the UN in its structure and approach?

"Leave nobody behind" is a cross-cutting theme of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), based on the concept of

progressive universalism that prioritises actions for the poorest and most marginalised, seeking to achieve social justice through equality of access to opportunities and high-quality services (Bhatkal, Samman, & Stuart, 2015; Stuart & Samman, 2017; United Nations, 2015). It also resonates with the global expansion in the scale and diversity of direct benefit transfers (DBTs) as a policy instrument to advance social protection in many developing economies (Lazzolino, 2018), building on evidence of a positive correlation between DBTs and various indicators of well-being (Hagen-Zanker, Bastagli, Harman, Barca, Sturge, & Schmidt, 2016)¹. The proliferation of DBT programmes with overlapping, fragmented and ‘silo-based’ delivery is, however, also a potential source of unfairness and inefficiency, resulting in some households receiving multiple benefits while others receive none (Agranoff, 2005; Morse, 2013; Stewart, 2014; Uusikylä, 2013; Wegrich, 2019). To avoid such problems, it seems almost self-evident that public-sector bodies need collaborative and integrated systems for sharing the poverty status and eligibility of individuals and households across different programmes (Clegg, 1990, in Agranoff, 2005, p. 20; Hazy, Tivnan, & Schwandt, 2011).

The state’s ability to establish the identity of every citizen is itself an indicator of its capacity to leave nobody behind (Anderson, 2015; Carr-Hill, 2017; DI, 2016). But the establishment of a universal system for identifying individual citizens (such as *Aadhaar* in India) is only one step towards building a comprehensive system for monitoring poverty, since it does not address how transfers and their effects are affected by household composition. If anti-poverty transfers are allocated using universal categories, income or proxy indicators of poverty, there is a need to understand how multiple interventions interact with each other and with the allocation of resources at the family and household level. The system for identifying those eligible for support must also be combined with a mechanism for transferring financial benefits to them, hence the need for financial inclusion (Alexandre, 2011; Barua, Kathuria, & Malik, 2016; Radcliffe & Voorhies, 2012).

Addressing these issues entails contending with the state's capability to provide consistent and joined-up services across vast populations, and how to go about enhancing such capability (Andrews, Woolcock, & Pritchett, 2017). Given the widely observed limitations of attempts to replicate successful models from one context to another, it is particularly interesting and important to document endogenous or home-grown examples of the successful enhancement of state capability. To this end, this paper aims to document and to stimulate wider discussion of the case of *Samagra* in the Indian state of Madhya Pradesh (MP), since its establishment in 2012

Brundtland Report (Oslo 1987);(Commission on Environment, 1987) Agenda 21 (Rio 1992); (United Nations, 1992); Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) (2000-2015);(United Nations, 2015b) Addis Ababa Action Agenda (Addis Ababa - July 2015);(United Nations, 2015a); UN 2030 Agenda – SDGs (NYC – September 2015);(United Nations, 2015c) Paris Agreement (Paris – December 2015) and (United Nation, 2015) led to emergence of the SDGs with a clear objective and defined goal post of SDGs (Sustainable Development Goals) a new development agenda in 2015 with bold intension of ‘no one is left behind’ in the sustainable development achievement by 2030.

“Transforming our world: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, is the plan of action for people, planet and prosperity. It also seeks to strengthen universal peace in larger freedom. We recognise that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development. All countries and stakeholders, acting in a collaborative partnership, will implement this plan. We are resolved to free the human race from the tyranny of poverty and want to heal and secure our planet. We are determined to take bold and transformative steps which are urgently needed to a sustainable and resilient path. As we embark on this collective journey, we pledge that no one is left behind. The 17 Sustainable Development Goals and 169 targets which

we are announcing today demonstrate the scale and ambition of this new universal Agenda.”

The key words of the resolution are:

- Sustainable Development- indispensable requirement
- Eradication poverty in all its forms and dimensions
- Collaborative partnership
- Determination to take bold and transformative steps
- Most important is no one is left behind.

Focus on Governance Models

The governance models developed over past three decades, with more and more focus on the rights agenda, have developed over a period of time in silo approach towards health, poverty, sanitation and water, livelihood opportunities, etc. and all along has been targeting only on basic needs approach (Sabina Alkire, Oxford 2002: Valuing Freedom Sens Capability Approach and Poverty Reduction), that is just survival and more so survival at subsistence level. The endeavour has been to ensure the availability of basic needs like food and shelter, i.e. to survive and this, therefore, was not sustainable. Even though it had impact on poverty reduction but then it did not pave wave for eradication of poverty with most vulnerable being left behind and any incident pushing back to poverty trap. The global impact and any incident of disaster resulted in more and more deprivation.

The new development agenda flags indispensable requirement for sustainable development. Key word is sustainable, i.e ecosystem and capacity to optimise opportunities for enhanced income levels heading for wellbeing. Hence, if eradication of poverty in all its forms and dimensions is intended, then there is need to have a major paradigm shift from silo approach to that of Common Household Data Base. It will cover entire universe. It will enable for policy makers, implementers, assistance givers and household members themselves to have a comprehensive need analysis and target accordingly so that no body is left behind. That can be achieved only through systematic approach by taking this bold and transformative step to prevent the efforts becoming a rhetoric.

Can the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) be achieved by 2030? Nicolai, Berliner and Thomas Aedy (2015) have projected how the world is likely to do on all 17 SDGs, based on current trends. While performance across the goals and in each region is likely to vary widely, current global performance is leading towards failure on all the SDGs come by 2030. Thus the challenge is to have a relook at the approach that is adopted so far and possibility of having a system based approach to not just achieve the outcomes but also ensure that the efforts and results are sustainable. Another challenge is not just to achieve but also how to accelerate the pace as the accepted deadline is 2030. The commitment is a recognition that the countries have to develop policies and methodologies targeting towards zero tolerance towards continued poverty and its related issues. It is a commitment to not only initiate but modify efforts to ensure that the outcomes are not one off but are sustainable. The time left is now only nine years. Thus, it is opportunity for UN to restructure itself to meet this challenge that has become more pronounced post-COVID-19.

One of the major challenges to be overcome to achieve ‘no one is left behind’ is appropriate data deprivation. World Bank’s Innovation Labs, AleemWalji, wrote in 2015 that out of the 155 countries that the World Bank observed and monitored, half of the countries lacked recent poverty estimates. If we have a SAMAGRA (All comprehensive common household data base) then there will be no need for repeated surveys but simplify action by just deciding on the parameters and data base will give list of household along with their members who all are entitled.

There is also need to shift from pilots through NGO approach to discussions with policy makers on collaboration and learning from each other to successfully raising poverty in all forms. According to the IMF General Data Dissemination System, at least two data points are required within a decade-long interval to give poverty estimates every 3 to 5 years. A World Bank study conducted in 2015 noted that 57 countries out of 155 had less than two data points from 2002 to 2011, another 20 had two data points within one decade that are separated by more than five years, rendering the data inadequate for poverty estimates.

Thus, number of years will be wasted in just creating such data base. Can SAMAGRA (Common Household Data Base) approach effectively used enable to provide these data points by developing on existing data base of population registers and have transformative step to have common household data base for effective interventions to reform? It will be not just a real time data base time series data. Common Household Data Base as a strategy to accelerate the SDGs achievements is one intervention that is to be center stage of policy formulation and cooperation among member countries.

Realigning Specialised Agencies of UN to the SDG 17 Goals to make rhetoric and reality in background of aggravated challenge of the COVID-19

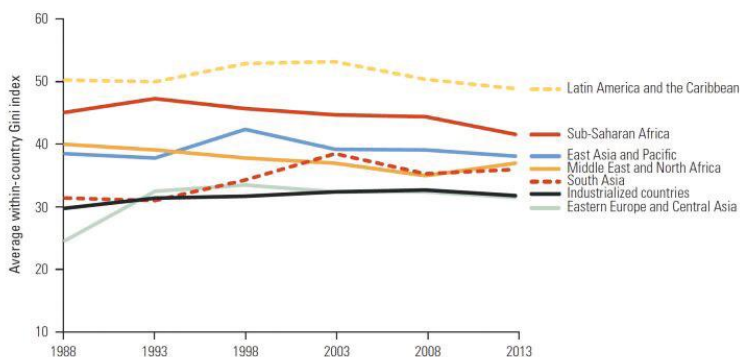
UN specialised agencies are international organizations that coordinate their work with the United Nations through negotiated agreements. UN funds and programmes are distinctly different from specialised agencies. In general, the funds and programmes are established by a resolution of the UN General Assembly and have a focused mandate. They are funded either mainly or entirely through voluntary contributions and have a governing body that reviews their activities. Coordination is facilitated through ECOSOC and the Chief Executives Board (CEB). On the other hand, specialised agencies are legally independent of the United Nations and have separate budgets, members, rules, and personnel. The bulk of their funding comes from voluntary contributions from governments, institutions, and individuals. Some specialised agencies, such as the International Labour Organization (ILO), have been in existence longer than the United Nations.

The present methodologies used for SDGs are not activating process to achieve the goal by 2030 and the tools adopted as is projected from studies, are more towards missing the bus instead of changing the tools that will have impact in the SDG goal. The analysis and arguments are on the efforts towards convergence. Can common data base enable to achieve international Commitment of all Countries towards Equity & Growth?

Human rights (SDG 16) has to be precursor to SDGs- 1 to 7, 10 and 11 targeting to life of low human dignity to be completely eradicated. Human rights are internationally recognised norms equally applicable to all human across the globe. International human rights law is a set of legal standards to which all the countries through their Governments have agreed for with clear purpose of promoting and protecting these rights. International treaties not only prohibit direct violations of human rights but also hold governments responsible for progressively ensuring conditions and an eco-system enabling individuals to realize their rights as fully as possible. Equity is, therefore, an ethically accepted concept grounded in the principle of distributive justice. Some may argue that poverty is not, in itself, a violation of human rights. However, government action or inaction leading to poverty, or government failure to respond adequately to the conditions that create, exacerbate, and perpetuate poverty and marginalisation, are closely connected with violations or denials of human rights.

Thus, as a commitment to international human rights law and being signatories of SDGs the platform is well laid for legal base for zero tolerance towards hunger. It is self committed mandate to develop methodologies to ensure that each household and intra-household is able to come out of deprivation in sustainable manner. The Sustainable Goals 1 to 7, 10 and 11 target that no one be left and that is linked to sustainable livelihood opportunities. SDGs 8 and 9, 12 to 14 for industrialisation and livelihood opportunities developed through climate and environment lens, SDG 16 underlines the rights agenda and 17 is for partnership. What distinguishes them from MDG is the emphasis on sustainable and the signatories have accepted that poverty in variance exists in developed and developing world with issues of equity and mechanisms and list out entitlements for different vulnerable groups. The intention is that no one should be left out. Thus, there is strong need to have household wise targeted interventions that address the multidimensional impact of poverty; the attempt is to break the vicious cycle of poverty. Entry point could be any sector of intervention but to have sustainability of outcomes there is need is to address other multi-dimensional aspects as well.

Trends in the average economic inequality within countries, by world region – 1988-2013



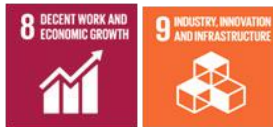
Source: The World Bank (2016) – Poverty and Shared Prosperity 2016. Taking on Inequality. Reformatted for OurWorldInData.org
Original data source: World Bank calculations based on data in Milanovic (2014). PovcalNet online analysis tool.

The time is right to accelerate progress towards achieving the listed goals by fine tuning the interventions that are specific to each of household than just generic efforts. With spread of Information Technology and appropriate tools this can be easily executed, the approach is to be of entitlement and targeting directly the household. The multidimensional approach is beyond income and thus adds living conditions, access to health, education, opportunities, hygiene, i.e. heading towards well-being. Thus, issue is of gaining access and capability to use the same for heading to sustainable well-being. The indicators will emerge from entitlement and monitoring the progress made towards sustainability by individuals within household and household. The approach is to ensure that ‘no one is left behind’ and for that using technology to identify most vulnerable is the challenge that will ensure that welfare is not a measure of philanthropy but a mandate to ensure that entitlements are met with dignity.

SDGs 1 to 17 classified and grouped based on objectives and need of convergence for multi dimensional approach. SDGs 1 to 7 talk of No Poverty, thus zero tolerance to hunger, good health, quality education, gender equity and clean and drinking water. All the initiatives are to be taken by Government with good governance of having household data and direct targeting. SDG 10 again talk about reduced inequalities and SDG 11 of sustainable cities and communities cut across households.



Here is joint effort of Government and household for holistic quality livelihood approach, community responsibility by waste recycling, lens of climate change for water security.



SDGs 12, 13 and 14 & 15 are for climate lens sustainability and industry.



SDG 16 is the Human Rights perspective.



SDG 17 is realisation that no one can do it alone and there has to be recognition across all the signatories to take it across globe.

There are currently 17 specialized agencies and we have 17 SDGs as a tool to successfully steer and achieve the new challenges thrown by COVID-19:

Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)	SDG No 1 and 2
International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)	
World Meteorological Organization (WMO)	
World Tourism Organization (UNWTO)	
International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)	SDGs 12, 13, 14 and 15
International Labour Organization (ILO)	SDGs 1 to 17
International Maritime Organization (IMO)	SDGs 13 and 14
International Monetary Fund (IMF)	SDGs 1 to 17
International Telecommunications Union (ITU)	
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)	SDGs 4 and 5
United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)	SDGs 7, 10 and 11
Universal Postal Union (UPU)	
World Bank Group:	
IBRD: International Bank for Reconstruction and Development	SDGs 1 to 17
IDA: International Development Association	SDGs 1 to 17
IFC: International Finance Corporation	SDGs 1 to 17
World Health Organization (WHO)	SDGs 3, 6, 7 and 11
World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)	SDGs 1 to 17

UN-the Most Appropriate Multilateral Body to Lead the New Global Agenda post-COVID-19

There is no doubt that United Nations has made enormous positive contributions in maintaining international peace and security, promoting cooperation among states and international development.

The challenge today still holds of equity, fear of enhancement of all kinds of poverty because of COVID-19 and indispensable requirement of sustainable development for ensuring that no one is left behind. The resilience exhibited since 1945 needs to ensure that UN transforms and metamorphoses itself to meet this challenge effectively with zero tolerance.

Tracing history of impact of UN and its statutory and specialised organization, show that even in the developing world there has been spectacular economic growth, child mortality has been reduced, literacy has spread, the peoples of the so-called third world threw off the yoke of colonialism and those of the Soviet Bloc want political freedom. We know that democracy and human right are not yet universal but they are much more the norm than the exception. It was very much explicitly in the vision of the UN's founders, particularly the American president Franklin Delano Roosevelt and to have an explicit alternative to the disastrous experiences of the first half of the century. In the view people like Roosevelt, the UN stood for a world in which people of different nations and cultures looked on each other not as objects of fear and suspicion but as potential partners, able to exchange goods and ideas to their mutual benefit.

When the successor, President Harry Truman, signed the United Nations charter in San Francisco he said very clearly: "If you seek to use this instrument selfishly for the advantage of any one nation or any one small group of nations, we shall be betraying the ideals for which the United Nations has been founded."

There need is to metamorphose now to be more direct and relevant and in sync with the today's challenge today of equity, fear of enhancement of all kinds of poverty because of COVID-19 and indispensable requirement of sustainable development ensuring that no one is left behind.

By contrast, every country on earth belongs to the United Nations including the world's only superpower. Every newly independent state seeks entry into the UN almost as its first order of government business.

Its seats in the UN is its most fundamental confirmation of its membership in the committee of nations. This proves UN can be and is the body to set and achieve the new formation and enable platforms to learn, cooperative and succeed.

The United Nations is now even so essential to the future of the world that even Switzerland, a long holdout because of its fierce neutrality, decided by referendum in 2002 to end its isolation and join the UN. No club that attracts every possible eligible member can easily be described as irrelevant. Now emergence of economic isolation, protection, health disasters when world is shrinking and related impact much more.

The UN with all its specialised agencies and development funds has extended its scope of action and remains the only international organization with universal membership. The virtue of the UN is that it provides a forum for different viewpoints to come together and ways to come to an agreement that produces results. (Arora, 2016).

The United Nations exists to find these solutions through the common endeavor of all states. But of course the UN is at its best a mirror of the world. It reflects our divisions and disagreements as well as our hopes and convictions. It is folly to discourage an entire institution on the basis of a few occasions where it does not succeed. In fact, the UN is both a stage and an actor and thus best suited to meet the new challenge and steer to achieve the desired goals. It is a stage on which the member states play their parts, claiming their differences and their convergences, but it is also an actor in the shape of a Secretary General with his operations in the field, humanitarian agencies, staff who are going out there and executing the policies that have been made on that stage. So when you do not like the policies, it is sometimes convenient to blame the actor for getting what was discussed on the stage or it was not agreed sometimes on the stage.

UN is very important for bringing in the sync between the SDG goals and the aggravating challenges of COVID on growth, economy and health i.e. lurking danger of slipping into poverty of all forms.

The United Nations (UN) is an inter-governmental organization to promote international cooperation. The role of United Nations in world affairs is irreplaceable by any other international or regional organisations. The United Nations has made enormous positive contributions in maintaining international peace and security, promoting cooperation among states and international development. Critique of UN in this article is not political failure but focused to take the zero tolerance challenge of post-COVID scenario to achieve the well thought out proclaimed goal of ‘no one is left behind’ for a new economic order.

We need a world forum, of course, where all nations can sit together to discuss world issues. But UN model is obsolete as no such significant improvement has happened with a lot of problems faced by humankind, e.g. climate change, financial injustice, war, genocide, etc. It creates a forum where all member states can discuss a range of diverse subject and plant the seeds for cooperation. (Hutabarat, 2017).

The time cannot be wasted in metamorphosing UN to sync the task of already set SDGs with the new challenges of COVID 19 impact on life and livelihood and lifestyle across globe and to enable cooperation among member nations for ensuring that no one is left behind and recovery leads towards prosperity.

Endnote

- ¹ The Overseas Development Institute (ODI) (2016) reviewed 130 low- and middle-income countries implementing at least one non-contributory unconditional cash transfer (UCT) programme and 63 countries globally with at least one conditional cash transfer (CCT) programme. This revealed a positive correlation between DBTs and a reduction in monetary poverty, school attendance, uptake of health services, dietary diversity, economic autonomy, reduced child labour and women’s decision-making power. However, DBTs were not correlated with learning outcomes, the height and weight of children, working adults or gender-based emotional abuse.

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