

онального юмора, что в целом служит цели установления корректных отношений между коммуникантами. Хочется отметить, что ирония и сарказм являются основными видами комического и представляют собой «подвид юмора». На уровне текста они не ограничиваются выражением насмешки, а передают большую гамму чувств. Разграничению ироничного, саркастичного или просто смешного способствует в том числе умение слышать специфику интонации или видеть её стилистический эквивалент.

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The Security Council overdue and disputed reform

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Since the second half of the last century, the world community has begun to discuss the special need for the UN reform. As in the 1980s, the main controversy in the 21st century is about the Security Council, which, according to the Charter, bears “the primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security” [1].

Currently, the UN Security Council consists of 15 members, five of which are permanent – Great Britain, China, Russia, the United States and France. Each of the five permanent members has a veto right that blocks the adoption of resolutions. The remaining ten non-permanent members are elected for two years. The non-permanent membership is renewed by half every year.

The only change in the number of members of the UN Security Council occurred in 1963, when the number of non-permanent members increased from 6 to 10, and the total number – from 11 to 15 countries. Legally, a “radical revision” of the UN Charter, including an audit of the Security Council’s powers, is possible, according to Article 109 of the UN Charter. Moreover, none of the permanent members of the Security Council has the right to veto in this case [1].

The UN now has 193 member states and the evolution of the international system clearly highlights the need for better representation. The five permanent members accounted for more than 50 per cent of the world's population in 1945, but today they constitute 26 per cent of the globe's population, with more than two-thirds in China alone. Without China, the other four permanent member states account for just 7.8 per cent of the world's population. This question of greater representation is, not surprisingly, at the heart of the debates that have taken place since the reform of the Security Council [2].

Thus, there are several main proposals. The most significant is that put forward by the Group of Four (Brazil, Germany, India and Japan). The members of that group wish to enlarge the membership of the Council so that they, together with two states from the African Group including South Africa, can have a permanent seat with the same privileges as the current members. The number of non-permanent seats would also be increased to 14 for a Council of 25 members [2].

In a counter-proposal, members of the Uniting for Consensus Group, favour a simple increase in the number of seats occupied by non-permanent members from 10 to 20. The members of this group – which now includes Canada, Italy, Argentina, Pakistan, Mexico, New Zealand, Spain, Sweden and others – are also juggling the idea of creating a new category of semi-permanent members and limiting the veto power of permanent members on a case-by-case basis [3].

In 2004, the Secretary-General's High-level Panel on Threats, Challenges and Change presented two options for reforming the Security Council's membership.

The first proposed the creation of six permanent seats without veto power and three new non-permanent seats with a two-year term. These would be distributed among the regions so that each area would have six seats in the Council, including two for Africa, three for Asia and the Pacific (including China), four for Europe (including France, the United Kingdom and Russia) and two for the Americas (including the United States).

The second proposal would see the creation of a new category of non-permanent members, this time for a renewable term of four years. Two seats would thus be allocated to each of the four regions and a new non-permanent seat with a two-year term would also be created. Each of the four regions would have six votes in a Council composed of 24 members [4].

In addition to this, anticipating an enlargement of the Council and calling for "full representation," there was the joint African proposal based on "The Ezulwini Consensus" adopted by the African Union in 2005. It calls for "at least two permanent seats with veto power and five non-permanent seats" [2].

All these proposals suggest that there is a consensus among the member states on the need for the Security Council reform. However, due to the controversy and

resistance they generate, there is no consensus on the nature of such reform and, above all, on the form it could take in more concrete terms. None of the proposals has the unanimous support of the permanent members and would not be able to garner the support of the two-thirds of member states. Meanwhile, the impasse is contributing to the weakening of the authority, legitimacy and effectiveness of the Security Council.

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