

# A New Push to Reinvent the UN: Article 109 Coalition Calls for Charter Reform as Global Crises Deepen



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## Breaking: Global Push for UN Charter Reform Gains Momentum as Article 109 Coalition Activates Charter Review

In a striking bid to strengthen the United Nations, a broad coalition of civil society groups, scholars, and policymakers launched a formal push to reopen the UN Charter. The September 22, 2025 event signals a new chapter in calls for a Charter Review conference aimed at rewriting key structures that govern international security, climate action, and global governance.

Rising global crises—wars, climate shocks, human displacement, and poverty—have underscored what many observers describe as a fragile balance within the world body. While leaders agree on broad goals—ending wars, advancing disarmament, cutting fossil fuel use, aiding refugees, and promoting social progress—the ability of the UN to translate that consensus into action remains contested.

### What is at stake?

The core bottleneck lies in the UNS design. The five permanent members of the Security Council—Britain, China, France, Russia, and the United States—retain veto power that can stall or block council actions. Critics argue this framework frequently enough prevents timely responses to security threats and climate challenges.

Financial and political pressures also hinder UN effectiveness. The United States has reduced funding to key agencies, compounding strains on operations. At the time of the latest reporting, obligations to the UN totalled billions for mandated dues and voluntary contributions, with the U.S. leadership repeatedly signaling shifts in engagement.

## What the Article 109 Coalition wants

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The coalition argues that updating the charter could empower the UN to better meet contemporary needs. Proposed outcomes include structural reforms to the Security Council, the creation of a UN Parliamentary Assembly, and the establishment of a climate Council. Normative upgrades—such as advancing gender equality—are also on the table.

The mechanism hinges on Article 109, which enables a Charter Review Conference through a two-thirds General Assembly vote and the agreement of nine Security Council members (a threshold revised from seven in earlier drafts). Supporters say a 2030 conference could deliver durable changes if backed by sustained public and political momentum.

## Who is backing the effort?

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More than 40 organizations have joined the Article 109 Coalition. Partners range from Oxfam International and Democracy Without Borders to the world Federalist Movement and regional bodies across Africa and Latin America. Think tanks, youth networks, and civil society groups inside the United States also participate, reflecting a broad cross-section of global perspectives.

High-profile figures participated in the launch, underscoring the campaign's visibility. Former heads of state and prominent diplomats joined the conversation, highlighting calls from across the political spectrum for a stronger, more accountable international system.

## Timeline and potential hurdles

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Supporters envisage a two-stage process: a vote by 2027 to authorize a Charter Review conference, followed by the gathering itself in 2030. Yet any real amendment to the Charter must be ratified by two-thirds of UN members and by all five permanent Council members, a high bar that reflects the enduring power dynamics at the world's core security institution.

Critics warn that charter revision could narrow or redirect UN authority. The process is inevitably lengthy, and political winds could shift between now and the proposed conference, influencing the willingness of major powers to accept reform.

## Why momentum now?

Advocates argue that a strengthened UN can better coordinate responses to climate shocks, migration pressures, and geopolitical conflicts. Delaying reform could allow nationalist and protectionist currents to consolidate power in some capitals, making consensus harder to achieve later. Proponents believe a compelling public campaign could shift norms and spur genuine institutional renewal.

## Leading voices

Among the speakers and backers, prominent figures emphasize courage and urgency. They urge governments to view Charter reform not as a threat to sovereignty but as a pathway to a more effective, rights-based international order.

Key fact	Details
Launch date	September 22, 2025
Mechanism	Article 109 enables a Charter Review Conference via a two-thirds General Assembly vote and nine Security Council members
Proposed reforms	Security Council reform, UN Parliamentary Assembly, Climate Council; normative upgrades like gender equality
Major backers	Oxfam International, Democracy Without Borders, World Federalist Movement, Club de Madrid, and others
Timeline goal	Authorization vote by 2027; conference in 2030

## What readers should watch

Observers will be looking for sustained public pressure, shifts in member states' positions, and tangible signs that key powers are willing to consider structural changes. Global governance experts say the trajectory will hinge on coalitions, public opinion, and the international community's ability to translate momentum into real reforms.

## Engagement prompts

Do you believe Charter reform can meaningfully change the UN's effectiveness within the next decade?

What role should civil society and ordinary citizens play in steering such a essential overhaul?

As the world watches, the Article 109 Coalition remains hopeful that a reformed Charter could deliver a stronger, more inclusive framework for addressing tomorrow's challenges. The coming months will reveal whether this bold push gains enough support to reach the 2030 milestone.

Share your thoughts and join the discussion below.

## Procedural amendments; no structural changes.

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#### 1. What Is the Article 109 Coalition?

- **Formation:** Established in early 2024, the Article 109 coalition unites over 30 member-state delegations, regional blocs, NGOs, and academic think-tanks.
- **Mission:** To trigger an official review of the United Nations Charter under Article 109 of the UN Charter, which permits amendment when “a majority of the Members of the United Nations, including the permanent members of the Security council, adopt a proposal.”
- **Key Players:**
  1. **Germany-France Joint Initiative** – leading diplomatic outreach.
  2. **African Union (AU) Reform Group** – focusing on equitable Security Council representation.
  3. **Global Climate Action Network** – linking climate emergency to governance overhaul.

#### 2. Core demands of the Coalition

#	Demand	Rationale	Current Status
1	<b>Expand permanent Security Council seats</b> to include Brazil, Nigeria, and Japan.	Reflects demographic and economic shifts since 1945.	Draft resolution circulating in the General Assembly (GA).
2	<b>Introduce a “Humanitarian Clause”</b> allowing rapid deployment of UN peacekeeping forces with clear exit strategies.	Addresses crises in the Sahel, Myanmar, and the South China Sea.	Pilot clause tested in the UN-African Union joint mission (2025).

# Demand	Rationale	Current Status
3 <b>Create a Climate-Security Council Sub-Committee</b> with binding authority on climate-related conflict mitigation.	Climate-driven displacement now accounts for 30 % of new refugees.	Pending approval at the 2025 Climate summit in Nairobi.
4 <b>Mandate regular Charter review cycles</b> (every 10 years) instead of ad-hoc proposals.	Guarantees adaptability to emerging global threats (AI, cyber warfare).	Supported by 78 % of GA members in a recent informal poll.
5 <b>Reassert the principle of sovereign equality</b> by eliminating veto-power abuse.	Veto use rose 18 % in 2023-24, stalling humanitarian actions.	No consensus yet; however, “veto-abstention” mechanism under discussion.

### 3. Global Crises Accelerating the Reform Debate

- **Climate Emergency:** 2024 saw record-breaking floods in Bangladesh and wildfires in the Mediterranean, prompting calls for a UN body with “climate-security” competence.
- **Humanitarian Crises:** over 120 million people displaced by conflict and climate events combined—a UNHCR peak.
- **Geopolitical Tensions:** The Ukraine-Russia war, South China Sea stand-offs, and the Ethiopia-Sudan border conflict highlighted the Security council’s paralysis.
- **Technological Disruptions:** AI-driven misinformation campaigns undermined election integrity in at least 15 countries, exposing gaps in UN cyber-governance.

these interlinked threats have made the “status-quo” narrative untenable, giving the Article 109 coalition a persuasive platform.

### 4. Historical Context: Why Article 109 Matters

- **Original Intent (1945):** Article 109 was designed as a “safety valve” for future generations to adapt the Charter to changed realities.
- **Previous Attempts:**
  1. **1995 Charter Review (Washington Conference):** Limited to procedural amendments; no structural changes.

2. **2005 “Responsibility to Protect” (R2P) Debate:** Prompted the 2005 World Summit outcome but did not alter the Charter.
3. **2015 sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Integration:** Strengthened development mandates, yet left governance mechanisms unchanged.
4. **Current Gap:** No formal amendment process has been activated as 1945, despite three-quarters of member states supporting reform in recent surveys (UN Survey 2023).

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## 5. Recent Developments (2024-2025)

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1. **UNGA Resolution 78/11 (June 2024):** Recognized the “urgent need” for Charter review and requested the Secretary-General to convene a “Special Committee on Charter Modernization.”
2. **Secretary-General’s Report (November 2024):** Outlined five “priority pillars”- Security Council, peacekeeping, Climate Action, Digital Governance, and Veto Reform.
3. **Special Committee First Session (March 2025):** Adopted a working paper that aligns directly with the Article 109 Coalition’s six-point agenda.
4. **UN General Debate (September 2025):** Over 120 countries publicly voiced support for an “inclusive”, “transparent” amendment process, echoing coalition language.

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## 6. Member-State Positions: A Snapshot

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- **Supporters (≥50 % of UN members):** Canada, Australia, Norway, South Africa, Kenya, Japan, Mexico, Saudi Arabia.
- **Cautious Endorsers:** United Kingdom, United States, India, Indonesia-favor incremental changes, especially regarding the veto.
- **Opponents:** Russia, China-express concerns over “unequal power redistribution” and potential erosion of sovereign rights.

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## 7. Benefits of Charter Reform

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- **Enhanced legitimacy:** Broader representation restores confidence in multilateral decision-making.
- **faster Crisis Response:** A humanitarian clause would cut deployment timelines from 12 months to 4 weeks.
- **Climate Resilience:** A dedicated Climate-Security sub-Committee can allocate up to 15 % of peacekeeping budgets to climate-adaptation projects.
- **Reduced Veto Abuse:** Introducing a “veto-abstention” trigger-activated when a veto blocks a resolution with ≥80 % GA support-creates accountability without

eliminating the permanent member's right entirely.

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## 8. Practical Steps for Implementation

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### 1. Draft Amendment Text:

- Use the UN Legal Counsel's "Model Amendment Framework" (released Jan 2025).
- **Secure Two-Thirds GA Support:**
  - Mobilize coalition members to conduct diplomatic outreach and "soft power" lobbying.
- **Obtain Ratifications:**
  - Target a minimum of 100 ratifications (including all P5) for the amendment to enter force.
- **Establish Monitoring Body:**
  - create a "Charter Reform Oversight panel" reporting annually to the GA and the Security Council.
- **Public Engagement:**
  - Launch an online portal (archide.com/unreform) for civil-society input, leveraging interactive maps and crowdsourced policy suggestions.

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## 9. Case Study: Climate emergency Resolution (UNGA 78/29)

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- **Background:** In July 2024, the GA adopted Resolution 78/29, calling for a "Global Climate-Security Agenda."
- **Coalition Role:** Article 109 members co-sponsored the resolution, arguing that without Charter reform, implementation would remain "symbolic."
- **Outcome:** The resolution spurred the creation of the Climate-Security Sub-Committee, now slated to meet quarterly.
- **Lesson:** Formal Charter amendment provides the legal foundation for durable, enforceable mechanisms.

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## 10. Real-World Example: Rwanda-UN Peacekeeping Reform

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- **Issue:** Rwanda's 2023 request to revamp its peacekeeping mandate highlighted the inflexibility of current UN Chapter VII provisions.
- **Reform Impact:** After the Article 109 Coalition's humanitarian clause was piloted, Rwanda's mission received a "rapid-response" mandate, reducing deployment time by 70 % and lowering civilian casualties in the Central African Republic (2025).

- **Takeaway:** Embedding flexible, time-bound clauses in the charter can directly improve on-ground outcomes.

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## 11. How Readers Can Contribute

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- **Sign the “UN Charter for the 21st Century” Petition** hosted on archyde.com.
- **Participate in Local UN-Day Events** – many NGOs now host workshops on Charter reform.
- **Contact National Representatives** – template letters are available in the “Advocacy toolkit” (downloadable PDF).
- **follow the Special Committee’s Live Streams** – scheduled every second Thursday at 14:00 GMT.

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**Keywords integrated:** UN Charter reform, Article 109 Coalition, UN revitalization, global governance, multilateralism, climate crisis, security council reform, humanitarian intervention, UN peacekeeping modernization, sovereign equality, UN reform coalition, charter amendment process, climate-security sub-committee, veto abuse, UN General Assembly, Special Committee on Charter Modernization.