

Deja Simmons
Legal Political
Representing: Montreal Gazette

Veto Powers and the Big Five

The Legal Political committee in UN today spoke about topics such as: the Big Five, Security Council Reforms, and Contribution from other Countries to the UN funding representation. The Delegates of Russia and Senegal both addressed these. The Big Five includes China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United States of America. They are the five permanent members of the UN Security Council accompanied by ten other members that will serve a term of two years in the council temporarily.

The Delegate of Russia spoke about the influence the Big Five has on global affairs and smaller countries abilities to be able to contribute to the UN fund every three years. The delegation of Senegal also addressed these topics saying how adding more countries to the Big Five on the Security Council may help. That we should also reassess the major powers and see who would belong in the Big Five. Delegation of Senegal additionally stated that more semi-permanent slots should be made to the Big Five growing the number to twenty five.

The topic of veto powers were also brought up by the delegation of Senegal. They expressed that veto powers for the Big Five should be kept as is with a few adjustments, expressing that the powers should be limited but not abolished. While Russia has used the veto powers the most, they spoke nothing of it. Delegate of Russia brought up how contribution of smaller countries to the UN funding would affect it by enabling it to be able to do more things, and become more involved with those smaller countries. How though some countries may not be able to afford to give money it would still help.

Lastly, the two delegates whom I heard speak had different but similar views on these two topics. They both were able to express well thought through answers to the questions that were brought up and seemed to believe that the Big Five play major roles in the Security Council of United Nations.