



Read this short critical speech about the United Nations which will be made to a group of university students. Follow the instructions below and then check your answers with your student's book.

May I start by thanking the president of your society for inviting me to talk on the topic: "How effective is the United Nations in international affairs?"

I'm afraid I'm going to disappoint many of you when I address these questions since I believe the United Nations has been \_\_\_ ineffective, unimaginative and powerless since it was set up in 1945.

What were the main aims of the United Nations charter? \_\_\_, they were to create an organisation which would stop wars and create harmony among nations through cooperation, tolerance, and fairness. Have they succeeded in those aims? The answer, in my view, is \_\_\_ "no".

Since the United Nations was founded, there have been more, not fewer, wars than previously and its debates, resolutions and peacekeeping operations have not done \_\_\_ enough to prevent wars and conflicts. Let me give you some striking examples.

The United Nations failed to prevent the genocide of 1,000,000 people in Rwanda in 1994. It failed also to prevent genocide in Darfur. It failed again to intervene in the second Congo war. Are further examples necessary to illustrate the inability of the UN to deploy its forces where and when they are needed?

The Security Council, the organisation's main decision-making body, is an undemocratic body and can be likened to a Tiger with neither teeth nor claws. It is composed of the five permanent members (Russia, China, the UK, the USA and France), all of whom have vested interests, and it excludes powerful nations such as India, which has over a billion people. Because of the power of veto granted to its members, it is often powerless to take action in times of international crisis.

\_\_\_, in the era of disarmament, The UN has been far from present. It has failed to stop the proliferation of arms trading around the world and it has been unable to stop powerful nations developing weapons of mass distraction.

The UN is an \_\_\_ expensive institution to maintain and is \_\_\_ bureaucratic. Its staff live well, pay no taxes, and have no incentive, therefore, to reform the inefficient organisation.

There is an urgent need to reform the United Nations if it is to be an effective organisation. The answer is \_\_\_ to place less emphasis on its peacekeeping mission and to focus more on its humanitarian work. The UN can provide invaluable support when responding in natural and man-made disasters, such as droughts earthquakes and food shortages.

I've presented the United Nations in a poor light to you, but I can assure you I'm \_\_\_ reflecting many people's opinions. The United Nations, in its present form, is \_\_\_ unable to achieve its objectives.

Fill in the gaps in the text with the right adverbs: emphatically - extremely - incredibly - largely - likewise - nearly - probably - surely - simply - totally