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The Coalition will need to increase Australia's spending and diplomatic energy on the UN if it wants to help reform the body, foreign policy experts say.

After new Coalition foreign affairs spokesman David Coleman said there was "immense room for improvement" at the UN, experts warned that this would not come easily.

Strategic Analysis Australia director Peter Jennings said it was a worthwhile goal to "rescue the UN from turning into a kind of an agent for woke, political agendas around the world, but I wouldn't underestimate just how hard that is to do – and Australia is just one voice among many that are in that building in New York".

Mr Jennings played down the probability of reforming the function of the UN Security Council, given the veto powers of the five permanent members.

He said, however, that there were opportunities for Australia to have a bigger impact on the direction of the forum and its committees by spending more time and money on supporting Western candidates.

"I think China has been very clever in the way it has used the institutions of the UN to parachute people into positions of authority, committee chairs, those sort of things," Mr Jennings said.

"What they have shown is that, with enough effort, you can actually mould the UN to suit your national agenda.

"So I think a bit of push back needs to happen there, where Australia can perhaps work to

organise like-minded democracies to get better quality people on to committee systems.

"Of course that is going to cost money too. We need to probably put more effort into the UN than we have done in recent years, and that has never been a Coalition priority."

In the Australian on Tuesday, Mr Coleman signalled a Coalition government would look to work with allies to reform the UN.

"The UN has immense room for improvement," Mr Coleman said. "It is an organisation with important goals and an organisation that when it works effectively, can play a constructive role.

"But plainly, when you look at UN resolutions on issues such as the Middle East, it is not always effective and is often far from effective."

Australian National University professor of international law Donald Rothwell said there were ways to reform the multilateral body without changing the UN Charter, which requires the support of two-thirds of the 193 members.

"So that goes to internal reforms of some of the agencies of the UN, on the body of the UN, even some of the practices that are adopted by the UN General Assembly," Professor Rothwell said.

"They are of a lower order and are somewhat easier to achieve, providing of course you can secure appropriate political endorsement within the relevant bodies.

"It would certainly require more diplomatic efforts and ... more Australian officials appointed to key posts in New York."