



## Draft Resolution on Climate Change: U.N.

**For Prelims:** United Nations Security Council (UNSC) draft resolution, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), COP26, net zero, CDRI, Kyoto Protocol, ISA

**For Mains:** Importance of the U.N. Draft Resolution on Climate Change, India's response on it and initiatives taken so far by India to tackle the impact of climate change.

### Why in News

Recently, India and Russia opposed a [United Nations Security Council \(UNSC\) draft resolution on climate change](#).

- The **resolution** was co-sponsored by **Ireland and Niger** and it was **first proposed by Germany** in the **UNSC** in 2020.
- It was supported by **113 UN member countries (of a total of 193)**, which includes 12 of the 15 UNSC members.

### Key Points

- **About:**
  - The draft resolution **sought to create a formal space in the Security Council** for discussions on **climate change** and **its implications on international security**.
  - It also asked that the **UN Secretary-General** provide periodic reports on how risks from climate change can be addressed to prevent conflicts.
  - It also asked the **Secretary General to appoint a special envoy** for climate security.
  - Further, it asked **UN field missions to regularly report on climate change** assessments in their areas of operation and take the help of climate experts in carrying out their routine functions.
- **Need:**
  - It has been **argued that climate change had an international security dimension**.
  - **Climate change-induced food or water shortage**, loss of habitat or livelihood, or migration can exacerbate existing conflicts or even create new ones.
  - This can have **implications for the UN field missions** that are deployed across the world in peacekeeping efforts.
- **Criticism:**
  - **Shift from UNFCCC:**
    - India said that **it was an attempt to shift climate talks** from the [United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change \(UNFCCC\)](#) to the **Security Council** and a **“step backward”** for collective action on the issue.
      - At the [annual climate change conference](#) also, India had **forced a last-minute amendment in the final draft agreement** to ensure that a provision **calling for “phase-out” of coal was changed to “phase-down”**.
    - The draft resolution, as per India, **would undermine the progress made in the**

right direction.

## UN Framework Convention on Climate Change

- It discusses all matters related to climate change.
- The parties to the **UNFCCC — over 190 countries** — meet several times every year, including at a two-week year-ending conference like the one at Glasgow, to work on a global approach to combat climate change.
- It is this process that has **given rise to the [Paris Agreement](#)**, and its predecessor the **[Kyoto Protocol](#)**, the international instrument that is designed to respond to the climate change crisis.
  
- **UNSC does not have Expertise:**
  - It has been argued that the **UNFCCC must remain the appropriate forum** for addressing all climate change-related issues, and claimed the Security Council does not have the expertise to do so.
- **Hegemony over Climate Action:**
  - Unlike UNFCCC, where decisions are taken by consensus of all the 190-plus countries, the **UNSC would enable climate change decision-making by a handful of developed countries.**
    - The **UNSC members are “major contributors to climate change** due to historic emissions
  - Also, the decision of bringing the issue to the security council was made **without the involvement of most developing countries** and without recognising consensus.
- **Recent Climate Related Measures by India:**
  - An ambitious **climate action vision with five elements** has been unveiled at **[COP26](#)**.
    - Taking non-fossil energy capacity to 500 GW by 2030
    - Meeting 50% of energy requirements from renewable energy by 2030
    - Reducing total projected carbon emissions by one billion tons by 2030
    - Reducing the carbon intensity of the economy to less than 45% by 2030
    - Achieving the target of **“net zero”** by 2070.
  - India now **ranks fourth in terms of installed [renewable energy capacity](#)** and non-fossil energy has increased by more than 25% in the past seven years and reached 40% of the total energy mix.
  - India has also taken the lead in initiatives such as the **[International Solar Alliance \(ISA\)](#)** and **[Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure \(CDRI\)](#)**.

## United Nation Security Council

- The UNs Charter established **six main organs of the United Nations**, including the United Nations Security Council (UNSC). **Article 23** of the UN Charter concerns the composition of the UNSC.
- The UNSC has been given primary responsibility for maintaining **international peace and security to the Security Council**, which may meet whenever peace is threatened.
- While other organs of the United Nations make recommendations to member states, only the Security Council has the **power to make decisions that member states are then obligated to implement under the Charter.**
- **Permanent and Non-Permanent Members:** The UNSC is composed of 15 members, **5 permanent and 10 non-permanent.**
  - **Five permanent members:** China, France, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom, and the United States.
  - **Ten non-permanent members:** Elected for two-year terms by the General Assembly.
    - Each year, the General Assembly elects **five non-permanent members** (out of ten in total) for a **two-year term**. The ten non-permanent seats are distributed on a regional basis.
    - As stipulated in rule 144 of the rules of procedure, a retiring member is not eligible for immediate re-election.
    - In accordance with **rule 92 of the rules of procedure**, the election is held by secret ballot and there are no nominations. Under **rule 83 of the rules of**

**procedure**, the non-permanent members of the Security Council are elected by a two-thirds majority.

- Five for African and Asian countries.
  - One for Eastern European countries.
  - Two for Latin American and Caribbean countries.
  - Two for Western European and other countries.
- India has been advocating a permanent seat in UNSC.
  - India has the following objective criteria, such as population, territorial size, **Gross Domestic Product**, economic potential, civilisational legacy, cultural diversity, political system and past and ongoing contributions to UN activities especially to **UN peacekeeping operations**.

**Source:TH**

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