



UNSC Resolution on Gaza Strip

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Why in News?

The [United Nations Security Council \(UNSC\)](#) has adopted a resolution for "**extended humanitarian pauses**" in the [Gaza Strip](#), marking the first formal response by the UNSC since the recent [Israel-Hamas conflict](#) began.

What is the Resolution About?

- The resolution, prepared by Malta (Country in Europe), is adopted with 12 votes in favour. While the United States(US), the United Kingdom(UK), and Russia abstained from the vote on the resolution.
 - The US and UK abstained because of the resolution's **failure to condemn Hamas' surprise cross-border attacks into Israel**, and Russia because of the resolution's **failure to demand a humanitarian cease-fire**, which Israel and the US oppose.
 - This decision raises questions about the stance of these major powers regarding the Gaza situation.
- The resolution calls on all parties to adhere to international humanitarian obligations, particularly in **protecting civilians, including children**.
- It emphasises the need for **urgent and extended humanitarian pauses** and corridors throughout Gaza to facilitate aid delivery to civilians affected by the conflict.
- It urges the "**immediate and unconditional release of all hostages**," with over 230 individuals believed to be held by Hamas.
- The resolution raises the question of how many days would be deemed sufficient for the humanitarian pauses.
 - A previous draft suggested an initial pause of five consecutive days within 24 hours of resolution adoption.

UN Security Council (UNSC)

The UN Charter vests the primary responsibility for maintaining international peace and security to the UNSC

About

One of the **6 principal organs** of UN; established in **1945** by UN Charter

Headquarters

New York City

First Session

17 January 1946 at Church House, Westminster, London

Membership

- 15 members - 5 Permanent Members (P5), 10 Non-Permanent Members elected for two-year terms (5 elected each year)
- P5 - the US, the UK, Russia, France and China

Presidency

- Rotates every month among the 15 members
- India's Presidency for year 2022 - December

Voting Powers

- 1 member = 1 vote
- P5 have **veto power**
- Members of UN sans membership of UNSC participate without vote

UNSC Committees/Resolutions

Terrorism

- Resolution 1373 (Counter Terrorism Committee)
- Resolution 1267 (Da'esh and Al Qaeda Committee)

Non-Proliferation Committee

- Resolution 1540 (against nuclear, chemical and biological weapons)

India and UNSC

- Served **7 times** as non-permanent member; elected for the **8th time** for 2021-22; **advocates for a permanent seat**
- Arguments for a permanent seat:
 - 43 peacekeeping missions**
 - Active participation in **formulating Human Rights Declaration (UDHR)**
 - India's **population, territorial size, GDP, economic potential, cultural diversity, political system** etc.



G4

Group of 4 countries (Brazil, Germany, India and Japan) which advocate each other's bids for permanent seats in the UNSC

Uniting for Consensus (UfC) Movement

- Informally known as the **Coffee Club**
- Countries **oppose the expansion Permanent Seats** of UNSC
- Prime movers of the club** - Italy, Spain, Australia, Canada, South Korea, Argentina and Pakistan
- Italy and Spain are opposed to Germany's bid; Pakistan - India's bid; Argentina - Brazil's bid and Australia - Japan's bid

Major Challenges in UNSC

- Usual UN rules don't apply to UNSC deliberations; **no records of meetings kept**
- Powerplay in UNSC; **anachronistic veto powers** of P5
- Deep polarisation** among P5; frequent divisions end up blocking key decisions
- Inadequate representation** of many regions among of the world

UPSC Civil Services Examination Previous Year Question (PYQ)

Prelims

Q. The Security Council of UN consists of 5 permanent members, and the remaining 10 members are elected by the General Assembly for a term of (2009)

- (a) 1 year
- (b) 2 years
- (c) 3 years
- (d) 5 years

Ans: (b)

