



New Non-Permanent Members of UNSC

[Source: TOI](#)

Why in News?

Recently, Pakistan, Somalia, Denmark, Greece, and Panama have been chosen as **non-permanent members** of the **UN Security Council (UNSC)**, serving a 2-year term from 1st January 2025 to 31st December 2026.

How are the New Members Elected to the UNSC?

▪ Election Process and Regional Groupings:

- The election process for non-permanent seats on the UNSC involves **regional groups** nominating candidates. There are four regional groups.
- The newly elected members are **Somalia for the African Group, Pakistan for the Asia-Pacific Group, Panama for the Latin America and Caribbean Group, and Denmark and Greece for the Western European and Others Group.**
- Each **regional group typically agrees** on candidates to present to the [General Assembly for a two-year term.](#)
- This process aims to ensure **regional representation** within the Security Council, reflecting global geopolitical diversity and interests.

▪ **Current and Incoming Members: The new members will replace outgoing countries such as Mozambique, Japan, Ecuador, Malta, and Switzerland.**

▪ **Role and Challenges of the Security Council:** The UN Security Council plays a critical role in maintaining international peace and security.

- However, its effectiveness can be hindered by the **veto power of its permanent members.**

What is the United Nations Security Council?

- The United Nations Security Council, established under the **UN Charter in 1945**, constitutes one of the **UN's six principal organs.**
- It comprises **15 members (5 permanent (P5) and 10 non-permanent members).**
 - Out of the 10 **non-permanent members, five are elected each year** by the General Assembly **for a two-year term.**
 - The **permanent members** are the United States, the Russian Federation, France, China, and the United Kingdom.
 - According to **Oppenheim's International Law: United Nations**, "Permanent membership in the Security Council was granted to five states **based on their importance in the aftermath of World War II.**"
- **India's participation in the Security Council** has been as a non-permanent member during the periods of 1950-51, 1967-68, 1972-73, 1977-78, 1984-85, 1991-92, 2011-12, and **2021-22.**

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)

Mains

Q. Discuss the impediments India is facing in its pursuit of a permanent seat in the UN Security Council (2015)

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