



United Nation Security Council

For Prelims: United Nations and its organs, UNSC and its features

For Mains: Issues Associated to the Functioning of UNSC, Need to bring reforms in the UN Security Council, India's role as a non-permanent member of the UNSC, India's case for permanent membership in the UNSC.

Why in News

The [United Nation Security Council \(UNSC\)](#) got five new non permanent members (**Albania, Brazil, Gabon, Ghana and the United Arab Emirates**).

- Estonia, Niger, St Vincent and the Grenadines, Tunisia and Vietnam finished their terms recently.
- Albania is joining for the **first time** while Brazil is taking an **11th turn**. Gabon and Ghana each have been on the council three times before and the UAE once.
- More than 50 of the UN's 193 member countries have never been elected to the council since its formation.

Key Points

- **UNSC:**
 - **About:**
 - The Security Council was established by the UN Charter in 1945. It is one of the six principal organs of the [United Nations](#).
 - The other 5 organs of the United Nations are—the General Assembly (UNGA), the Trusteeship Council, the Economic and Social Council, the International Court of Justice, and the Secretariat.
 - Its primary responsibility is **to work to maintain international peace and security**.
 - The council is **headquartered at New York**.
 - **Members:**
 - The council has 15 members: the **five permanent members and ten non-permanent members** elected for **two-year terms**.
 - The five permanent members are the United States, the Russian Federation, France, China and the United Kingdom.
 - India, for the **eighth time**, has entered the UNSC as a [non-permanent member](#) last year (2021) and will stay on the council for two years i.e 2021-22.
 - **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**.
 - The **council's presidency is a capacity that rotates every month among its 15 members**.
 - **Voting Powers:**

- Each member of the Security Council **has one vote**. Decisions of the Security Council on matters are **made by an affirmative vote of nine members including the concurring votes of the permanent members**. A "No" vote from one of the five permanent members blocks the passage of the resolution.
- Any member of the United Nations which is **not a member of the Security Council may participate**, without vote, in the discussion of any question brought before the Security Council whenever the latter considers that the interests of that member are specially affected.

▪ **India in the UNSC:**

- India took active part in the formulation of the **Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR)** in 1947-48 and raised its voice passionately against racial discrimination in South Africa.
- India has played its part in **formulating decisions on several issues** such as admitting former colonies to the UN, addressing deadly conflicts in the Middle East and maintaining peace in Africa.
- It has contributed extensively to the UN, particularly for the **maintenance of international peace and security**.
 - India has taken part in 43 **Peacekeeping missions** with a total contribution exceeding 160,000 troops and a significant number of police personnel.
- India's population, territorial size, **Gross Domestic Product (GDP)**, economic potential, civilisational legacy, cultural diversity, political system and past and ongoing contributions to UN activities make India's demand for a permanent seat in the UNSC completely rational.

▪ **Issues with UNSC:**

- **Absence of Records and Texts of Meetings:**
 - The usual UN rules don't apply to the UNSC deliberations and no records are kept of its meetings.
 - Additionally, there is no "text" of the meeting to discuss, amend or object.
- **Powerplay in UNSC:**
 - The veto powers that the UNSC's five permanent members enjoy is an anachronism in this age.
 - The UNSC in its current form has become a constraint in understanding the international changes and dynamics in the area of human security and peace.
- **Divisions Among the P5:**
 - There is a deep polarisation within the UN's membership, so decisions are either not taken, or not heeded.
 - Frequent divisions within the UNSC P-5 end up blocking key decisions.
 - **Example:** With the coronavirus pandemic emergence, the UN, the UNSC, and **World Health Organisation** failed to play an effective role in helping nations deal with the spread.
- **An Underrepresentation Organisation:**
 - The absence in the UNSC of the globally important countries - **India, Germany, Brazil and South Africa** - is a matter of concern.

Way Forward

- The imbalances in power relationships among P5 and the rest of the world needs to be corrected urgently.
- Also, it is **needed to reform the Security Council** through an **expansion in permanent and non-permanent seats** to enable the UN organ to better deal with the "ever-complex and evolving challenges" to the maintenance of international peace and security.
- **India as the current one of the non-permanent members** of the UNSC can start by **drafting a resolution containing a comprehensive set of proposals** for reforming the UNSC.
 - It can further approach other like-minded countries (like the **G4: India, Germany, Japan and Brazil**) and keep growing its circle of support till sufficient numbers of countries are together to reach out to the whole UNGA to propose the resolution with a realistic chance of winning the vote.

Source: IE

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