



# UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)

## Why in News?

India has **abstained in the U.N. [Economic and Social Council](#) on a draft resolution to oust Iran from its principal global intergovernmental body (Commission on the Status of Women)** dedicated to the promotion of gender equality and women empowerment.

## What is Commission on the Status of Women (CSW)?

- It is the **principal global intergovernmental body** exclusively dedicated to the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women.
- By the ECOSOC resolution of June 1946, it was **established as a functional commission of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)**. The Commission comprises 45 Member States of the United Nations.

## What was the Resolution?

- The draft resolution, introduced by the U.S., on the removal of Iran from the **membership of the CSW** for the remainder of its 2022-2026 term, **citing its oppression of women and girls in the country**.
  - Iran has been rocked by protests since the September 2022 death of 22-year-old Mahsa Amini, who died after being detained by the country's morality police.
- The resolution was **adopted by a recorded vote of 29 in favour to 8 against** - Bolivia, China, Kazakhstan, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Oman, Russia, Zimbabwe **and 16 abstentions**, including by Bangladesh, **India**, Indonesia, Mauritius, Mexico, and Thailand.

## What is the UN Economic and Social Council?

- **About:**
  - Established by the UN Charter in 1945, it is the **principal body for coordination, policy review, policy dialogue and recommendations** on economic, social and environmental issues, as well as implementation of internationally agreed development goals.
  - It has **54 members, elected by the [UN General Assembly](#)** for overlapping three-year terms.
  - It is the UN's central platform for reflection, debate and innovative thinking on **[sustainable development](#)**.
    - Each year, ECOSOC structures its work around an annual theme of global importance to sustainable development.
  - It **coordinates the work of the 14 UN specialized agencies**, ten functional commissions and five regional commissions, receives reports from nine UN funds and programmes and issues policy recommendations to the UN system and to member states.
- **Few Important Bodies under the Purview of ECOSOC:**
  - [International Labour Organization \(ILO\)](#)
  - [Food and Agriculture Organization \(FAO\)](#)

- [United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization \(UNESCO\)](#)
- [World Health Organization \(WHO\)](#)
- Bretton Woods Twins ([World Bank Group](#) and [International Monetary Fund](#))
- [United Nations Children's Fund \(UNICEF\)](#)
- Apart from these there are various Functional and Regional Commissions, Standing Committees, Ad Hoc and Expert Bodies as well.

### **UPSC Civil Services Examination Previous Year Question (PYQ)**

**Q. With reference to the United Nations, consider the following statements: (2009)**

1. The Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) of UN consists of 24 member States.
2. It is elected by a 2/3<sup>rd</sup> majority of the General Assembly for a 3-year term.

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

**Ans: (b)**

**[Source: TH](#)**

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