



# G4 Foreign Ministers Meeting

## Why in News

Recently, Foreign Ministers from the [Group of 4](#) (G4), consisting of **India, Brazil, Japan and Germany**, participated in a virtual meeting.

- G4 is a group of countries that are seeking permanent membership of the [United Nations Security Council](#) (UNSC).

## Key Points

- G4 will seek concrete and time-bound outcomes during the 75<sup>th</sup> session of the UN General Assembly.
  - The UN will celebrate its [75<sup>th</sup> anniversary](#) on 24<sup>th</sup> October 2020.
- The Ministers reaffirmed their common resolve to finally take decisive steps towards the **early and comprehensive reform of the Security Council** that was envisaged by Heads of State and Government in the **2005 World Summit**.
  - The 2005 World Summit was held at United Nations Headquarters in New York.
  - All governments expressed strong and unambiguous commitment to achieve the **Millennium Development Goals** by 2015.
  - It set up **two new bodies**, a **Peacebuilding Commission** to help countries in transition from war to peace, and a strengthened [Human Rights Council](#).
- **G4 on UNSC Reforms**
  - **Ensuring greater representation for Africa:** Africa needs to be represented in **both the permanent and non-permanent categories** of UNSC **to correct the historical injustice** against this continent with regard to its under-representation in the Security Council.
  - **Enhanced role of developing countries and of major contributors to the UN:** To make UNSC more **legitimate, effective and representative**, it is needed to increase the number of permanent (from 5 to 11) and non-permanent (from 10 to 14) seats.
    - The permanent seats shall be elected in the following manner: Two from African States; Two from Asian States; One from Latin American and Caribbean States ; One from Western European and Other States.
    - Non-permanent members shall be elected according to the following pattern : One from African States ; One from Asian States ; One from Eastern European States ; One from Latin American and Caribbean State
  - The UNSC reforms proposed earlier had been opposed by the five permanent members (P5) of UNSC as they demanded veto power for new members as well (**Rizali Plan**). However, later the new countries decided to forego the veto power for new countries which was accepted by P5 countries (**Rizali Reform Plan**).
- **Text-Based Negotiations:** The G4 will work with other reform-minded countries and groups to start **text-based negotiations (TBN)**

- India is a proponent of TBN at the UN. Countries opposed to UNSC reform, including China, are hesitant to have TBN for intergovernmental negotiations on the grounds that the matter is **too sensitive** for text.
- **Concerns over IGN:** Two sessions in February and March 2020 of Inter-Governmental Negotiations (IGN) on UNSC reform were adjourned due to [Covid-19](#), which could have taken place virtually.
  - The countries expressed concern that IGN **lacks the necessary openness and transparency** and is constrained by **flawed working methods**.
  - IGN should also have included a reflection of the **Common African Position** as enshrined in the **Ezulwini Consensus** and the **Sirte Declaration**.
    - The **Ezulwini Consensus (2005)** is a position on international relations and reform of the United Nations, agreed by the African Union. It calls for a more representative and democratic Security council, in which Africa, like all other world regions, is represented.
    - The **Sirte Declaration (1999)** was the resolution adopted to establish the African Union.
- **Groups Opposed to UNSC Reforms:** An informal "coffee club" or [Uniting for Consensus Group](#) has opposed UNSC reforms.
  - Most members of the club are middle-sized states who oppose bigger regional powers grabbing permanent seats in the UN Security Council.
  - While **Italy and Spain are opposed to Germany's** bid for UNSC's permanent membership, **Pakistan is opposed to India's bid**. Similarly, **Argentina is against Brazil's bid** and **Australia opposes Japan's**.
- **India's Position:** India, will commence a two-year non-permanent term on the UNSC in January, 2021
  - It has long sought a [permanent seat](#) at the Council.
  - Four of the five permanent members of the Security Council – USA, UK, France and Russia support giving India a permanent seat at the Council. Only China is opposed to this.
  - India is also seeking reforms to democratize the UN, such as UNSC reforms and [UN peacekeeping reforms](#).

## Intergovernmental Negotiations

- IGN is a group of nation-states working within the United Nations to further reform of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC)
- The IGN is composed of several different international organizations, namely:
  - [African Union](#)
  - G4 nations
  - [Uniting for Consensus Group \(UfC\)](#)
  - [L.69 Group of Developing Countries](#)
  - Arab League
  - [Caribbean Community](#) (CARICOM).

[Source: TH](#)

