



Resolution 2593 on Taliban: UNSC

Why in News

Recently, the India-led [United Nations Security Council \(UNSC\)](#) adopted a **Resolution 2593** on [Taliban](#).

- The resolution, **sponsored by France, UK and the US**, was adopted with 13 members, including India, voting in favour, **none against it**.
 - Two permanent and veto-wielding members **Russia and China abstained**.
- The adoption of the resolution is a **strong signal from the Security Council and the international community on its expectations** in respect of Afghanistan.

Key Points

▪ About:

- Reiterates the **importance of combating terrorism in Afghanistan**, including those individuals and entities designated pursuant to [resolution 1267 \(1999\)](#)
- Called for the **Taliban to facilitate safe passage** for people wanting to leave Afghanistan, allow humanitarians to access the country, **uphold human rights**, including for women and children and inclusive and **negotiated political settlement**.

▪ Russia and China's Abstention:

- **Russia** abstained as the **resolution wasn't specific enough about terror threats**, did not speak of the "brain drain" effect of evacuating Afghans and **did not address the economic and humanitarian consequences** of US freezing the Afghan government's US accounts following the Taliban takeover.
- **China** shared some of Russia's concerns. It believes that the **current chaos was a direct consequence of Western countries' "disorderly withdrawal"**.
 - China is of the view that **it is necessary for the international community to engage with the Taliban**, and actively provide them with guidance.
- Russia and China wanted all the terrorist groups, especially [Islamic State \(ISIS\)](#) and the [Uighur East Turkestan Islamic Movement \(ETIM\)](#) to be named specifically in the document.

▪ India's Recent Steps:

- India has directed **a high-level group** composed of EAM (External Affairs Minister), [NSA \(National Security Adviser\)](#) and senior officials to **focus on the immediate priorities of India**.
 - The group is **seized of issues pertaining to the safe return of stranded Indians** to India and is **assuring that the territory of Afghanistan is not used in any manner for terrorism** directed against India.
- Recently, **India's ambassador to Qatar met with the head of the Taliban's political office**.

- It is the first time the government has publicly acknowledged such a meeting which came **at the request of the Taliban.**
- The Taliban leader assured that **all the issues would be positively addressed.**
- **Afghanistan's Representation in Multilateral Organizations:**
 - With uncertainty hanging over the international representation of Afghanistan under the Taliban, **a question has risen over the membership** of the country in the [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation \(SAARC\)](#).
 - The question on representation of Afghanistan at the SAARC has come up especially since a similar issue is yet to be addressed by the [United Nations](#).
 - SAARC is already [facing many issues](#) and the current situation of Afghanistan has further increased the problems for it.
 - Afghanistan was admitted into the SAARC as the **eighth member in 2007.**
 - Conventionally, **countries do not lose membership of regional or global platforms because of a domestic political change.**
 - However, a similar question is also likely to come up in the Kathmandu-based intergovernmental organisation the [International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development \(ICIMOD\)](#).

Way Forward

- India is expected to chair the [1988 Sanctions committee](#) that looks at Taliban sanctions next and participate in the decision to extend the mandate of the [UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan \(UNAMA\)](#), where **it will also have to balance competing demands from the US, the UK and France bloc against Russia and China.**
- **India's Afghan policy** is at a major crossroads; to safeguard its assets there as well as to stay relevant in the unfolding 'great game' in and around Afghanistan, **India must reset its Afghanistan policy accordingly.**

[Source: IE](#)

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