



New Non-Permanent Countries to UNSC

Source: [UN](#)

Why in News?

The [United Nations General Assembly \(UNGA\)](#) has elected **Bahrain, Colombia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Latvia, and Liberia** as **non-permanent members** of the [UN Security Council \(UNSC\)](#) for a 2-year term starting **1st January 2026**.

- They will join **Denmark, Greece, Pakistan, Panama, Somalia** (elected in 2024, serving through 2026).
- Also, **Pakistan** has been appointed as the **Chair of the [UNSC 1988 Taliban Sanctions Committee](#)** for 2025 and will also serve as **vice-chair of the [UNSC Counter-Terrorism Committee](#)** during its 2025-26 tenure as a **non-permanent member** of the Council.

What is the United Nations Security Council (UNSC)?

- The **United Nations Security Council (UNSC)**, established in **1945** under the [UN Charter](#), constitutes one of the **UN's six principal organs**, entrusted with the **primary responsibility of maintaining international peace and security**.
- The Council comprises **15 members**, including **5 permanent members (P5)- China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United States**—who possess **veto power**, and **10 non-permanent members** elected for **2-year terms** by the **UN General Assembly (UNGA)**.
- These non-permanent seats are allocated on a **regional basis**: **5** for African and Asian States, **1** for Eastern European States, **2** for Latin American and Caribbean States, and **2** for Western European and Other States.
- Elections are held **annually** through a **secret ballot**, requiring a **two-thirds majority** vote, even when candidates are unopposed.
- The UNSC remains the only UN body whose **decisions member states are obligated to implement under the UN Charter**.
- [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



Drishti IAS

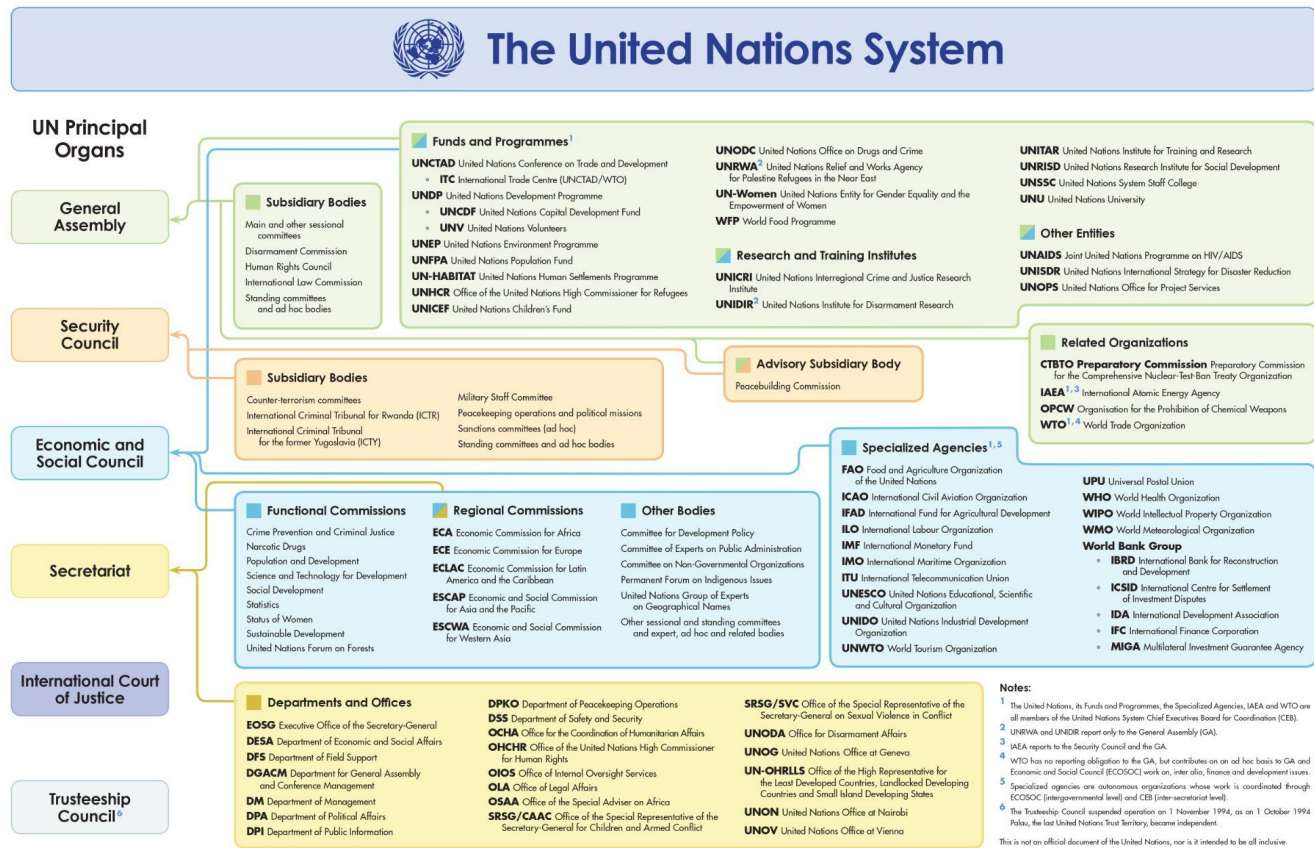
What is the 1988 Taliban Sanctions Committee?

- About:** Also known as the **UNSC 1988 Sanctions Committee**, it was established under **UNSC Resolution 1988 (2011)**.
 - It includes **all 15 UNSC members**, makes **decisions by consensus**, and is supported by the **Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team**.
- Mandate:** It focuses on monitoring and enforcing **targeted sanctions**- including **asset freezes, travel bans, and arms embargoes** against individuals and entities **associated with the Taliban** that threaten the **peace, stability, and security of Afghanistan**.
- Chairs:** **India** chaired the Committee until **December 2021**.

What is the UNSC Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC)?

- About:** The **UNSC Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC)** was established through **Resolution 1373**, unanimously adopted in **2001** in the aftermath of the **9/11 terrorist attacks** in the US.
- Members:** It comprises **all 15 UNSC members-5 permanent and 10 non-permanent** members.
- Mandate:** **Monitor and promote the implementation of Resolution 1373**, which obligates member states to:

- **Criminalize terrorism financing and freeze related assets,**
- **Deny financial and material support** to terrorists,
- **Suppress safe havens,** training, and sustenance for terrorist groups,
- **Enhance international cooperation** by sharing intelligence on terror activities.
- **2025 Chairman:** In 2025, **Algeria will chair the CTC**, with **France, Russia, and Pakistan** as vice-chairs.
- **India chaired the CTC in 2022**, during its **2021-22 UNSC tenure**, and actively highlighted concerns regarding **Pakistan's sheltering of UN-designated terrorists.**



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)

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