

India and UNSC Reforms

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Abstract - India's growing involvement in the UN is based on its unwavering belief that communication and multilateralism are essential to accomplishing common objectives and resolving issues that the international community faces together. India was one of the few United Nations members to sign the Washington, D.C., Declaration on January 1, 1942. 1945 saw the establishment of the Security Council and other major UN bodies. The UN Charter's ideals, which uphold international peace and security, serve as the foundation for the UN's operations. This research paper begins by Introduction of the Function and Powers of the security council then by mapping historical association and interest of India with UN as a whole especially with the security Council and its perspective on the various categories of membership, desire to gain permanent seat, rising stature of India at world level especially in Post COVID era and need for reformed Multilateralism in the current geopolitically Multipolar world.

Keywords: India, Security Council, G4 United Nations, Multilateralism, Veto power.

Origin Of UN : In order to establish international harmony and shield future generations from the scourge of war, the League of Nations gave rise to the United Nations in 1945. On October 24, 1945, in San Francisco, the 51 founding members of the United Nations formed it with the goal of achieving global peace, democracy, and independence since the start of World War II. There are now 193 members of the United Nations.

India is a rising force in the world community, and one of its main assets is its Soft power and unwavering cooperation with multilateral international organizations, especially the United Nations.

Prior to gaining independence from the British Empire, India signed the "Declaration by United Nations" in Washington, D.C. on January 1, 1942, making it a founder member of the UN. In addition to spending its eighth term as a non-permanent member of the UNSC (2021–2022), India is involved in all UN specialized bodies and organisations. Much emphasis has been paid to the evolution of India's active participation in global discussions on trade, climate change, and development policy.

United Nation Security Council(UNSC)

It is one of the six organizations named in the UN charter, the other five being the UN Secretariat, the Trusteeship Council, the General Assembly (GA), and the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).

1. The UNSC was designed to enable swift, efficient decision-making.
2. The UNSC is the only body that can provide member states legally binding resolutions.

3. Both the admission of new members and amendments to the UN charter are approved by the UNSC. January 17, 1946, was the day of its inaugural meeting.

4. It may also suggest to the General Assembly that a state be expelled from the Organisation (Article-7).

Composition and Organisation of the UNSC: Chapter V, Article 23(1) of the UN Charter states that the Security Council is to be composed of fifteen United Nations members. Five countries—China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United States of America—among the fifteen members will be permanent members.

A two-thirds majority in the UNGA General Assembly is required to elect the ten additional non-permanent members of the UNSC. The Security Council's non-permanent members are chosen to serve two-year terms. Each Security Council member is allowed one representative. In 1963, the United Nations General Assembly determined that the ten non-permanent members would be distributed geographically as follows: two members would come from Asia, two from Africa, two from Latin America and the Caribbean, two from Western Europe and Other regions, and one from Eastern Europe.

The UNSC has formed the following auxiliary organs as it sees fit in order to carry out its duties under Article-29 of the UN charter.

Making Decisions: In accordance with Article 27, each Security Council member is entitled to one vote.

Nine of the Council's fifteen members, including the five permanent members who cast concurring votes, must vote affirmatively to make decisions on procedural

matters. This is known as "Veto Power," the big power unanimity rule. It is a reflection of the UNSC's uneven organization.

India's association with UNSC

The 193 member United Nations adopted a consensus resolution in its 69th General Assembly on September 14, 2015, to switch from Inter-Governmental Negotiations (IGN) to a Text-Based Negotiations (TBN) process for reforming the UN Security Council. This was a truly "historic" step towards reforming global governance in the area of international peace and security.

As far as India is concerned, no reform of the United Nations (UN) is complete unless the Security Council's makeup is adjusted to better reflect 21st-century reality. This necessitates increasing the number of permanent and non-permanent members of the Security Council.

The core of India's persistent appeals for reforming the UN, the only universal organization of global governance currently in existence, is the country's pursuit of permanent membership in the Security Council, which Prime Minister Man Mohan once accurately referred to as "an essay in persuasion."

Jawaharlal Nehru, the country's first prime minister, described India's approach to the UN as one of "whole-hearted cooperation" and "full participation in its councils to which her geographical position, and contribution towards peaceful progress to her" are relevant. India vehemently argued that while choosing states for the Security Council, consideration should be given to considerations like population, industrial potential, willingness and ability to contribute to international peace and security, historical performance, and the requirement for representation from a variety of regions.

India's involvement in the Security Council dates back to the UN's establishment, when Mahatma Gandhi believed that India, including Pakistan and Bangladesh at the time, should become a veto wielding member of the Security Council.

Later, with the emerging Cold War calculus in mind, Jawaharlal Nehru, the first prime minister of India, defended against the highly contentious offer to join the Security Council made by the US and the then-Soviet Union in 1950 and 1955, respectively, and steadfastly refused to join at the expense of China.

Why The Security Council Need To Be Overhauled: The world population has increased threefold, power is dispersing away from states, relative material power and influence is shifting from the West to the East, and the ongoing shift from uniformity to multipolarity characterizes the rapidly changing 21st-century world.

1. The geopolitical environment of 1945 is reflected in the makeup of the Security Council today.
2. It encroaches on the sovereignty of the state because rulings are final.
3. It's Underrepresentation undermines the legitimacy of

this incursion.

4. Limited attempts to reform the UNSC.
5. If the Security Council isn't reformed, there's a chance that decision-making may go to other venues, which would eventually discourage multilateralism.

Three factors are crucial to India's quest for a council seat: First, India's long-standing membership in the UN system following its independence. India also took part in the San Francisco Conference and signed the Treaty of Versailles, which served as the model for the UN.

India has actively participated in all UN projects and various UN bodies, such as the debates on the Agenda for Peace and Development, the Millennium Development Goals, and the formation of the G77 developing nations and the UNEP, UNDP, and UNICEF supporting organisations. Additionally, India has hosted the UNSC Counterterrorism Committee, which was set up by Security Council resolution 1373, which was passed in 2001 in response to the US 9/11 attacks. India has been involved in UN peacekeeping for a very long time, having sent more personnel than any other nation. Over 253,000 Indians have served in 49 of the 71 UN Peacekeeping Missions established since 1948. Today, India has nearly twice as many peacekeepers deployed in the ground as do China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United States combined—also known as P5. India has made significant financial contributions, emphasizing both absolute and relative financial contributions; the country's track record of timely payment should also be taken into consideration. India has positioned itself as a "responsible stakeholder" in the international system or as a revisionist power that seeks to redefine the norms of international engagement. India has long been viewed as a leader and a "moralistic force" among the developing nations that make up the so-called Third World. India, according to former secretary general Kofi Anan, has been influencing UN agendas on behalf of poor nations. Indians have been steadfastly seeking more freedom via pluralistic democracy.

Second is India's intrinsic value: India's Ministry of External Affairs has eloquently stated that the country is a "legitimate" candidate for permanent membership in the UN Security Council based on any objective standards, including population, territory size, GDP, economic potential, legacy of civilization, cultural diversity, political system, and previous and current contributions to UN operations, particularly peacekeeping missions. India's growing economic influence on the world stage has strengthened its claims. India's economy ranks fifth globally. India is currently regarded as one of the most significant participants in economic organisations such as the G20, BRICS, and WTO.

Similar to the current permanent members, who are all Nuclear Weapon States (NWS), India is a natural claimant as a permanent member due to its recent acquisition of this status in May 1998.

Third is India's great power Ambition A seat at the Premier Powerful table of the UN would provide it the much-needed influence to increase its worldwide geopolitical and geoeconomic clout. In addition to being China's opponent and potential hegemony in Asia, it would act as a leveler and become a growing strategic and security issue in its region and beyond.

India has always viewed itself as the democratic counterweight to China's authoritarian regime. India wants to become a rule creator in the world rather than just a rule taker, which is a limited role (a system shaping role))

According to Kofi Annan, the Security must change or run the risk of losing its relevance.

After the UNGA adopted Resolution 47/62 in 1992, titled "The Question of Equitable Representation on and increase in the membership of the security council," the UNSG Reforms gained international attention.

Restructuring Standards: It is important to remember that the Security Council underwent reform in 1965 when it expanded the number of non-permanent members from 11 to 15 and raised the number of votes required to pass a resolution from seven to nine.

"Truly Historic and Path Breaking on several counts as it move beyond mere statements, compiled texts, or summaries," was how the 69th UNGA decision from September 2014 was described. The IGN process is now formally a text-based negotiation thanks to a UNGA decision.

The questions of equitable representation on and increase in the membership of the Security Council and related matters: membership categories, question of veto, regional representation, size of an enlarged council and working methods of the Council, and the relationship between the council and the General Assembly were among the issues identified by the General Assembly in its decision 62/557.

Categories of Membership: Regarding membership categories, India has contended that a vast majority of member states have already supported expansion in both categories. India firmly supports the G4, L69, and Africa in their calls for Expansion and balanced enlargement in both Categories.

Question of Veto: India's position is aligned with G4 and Africa who have called for abolition of Veto. The Indian stance is on quality, i.e., imposing constraints, rather than quantity, i.e., expanding it instantly to new permanent members. It is possible for newly appointed permanent members to hold off on using their veto power until after a review process has concluded. Veto power is arbitrarily applied in wars like Gaza and the Ukraine.

Regional representation: India needs the Security Council to represent all parts of the world fairly and to take into account modern circumstances. India claims that the UN's situation is "anachronistic," with three of its five permanent members coming from just one region, and that

the entire continent of Central and Eastern Europe, the Caribbean states, Africa, Latin America, and three-fourths of Asia, including the Arab states, are not allowed to participate in the Security Council's operations.

The Council's size and operations: The Security Council and General Assembly should have a relationship that is complementary and works in tandem to advance the UN's goals of promoting global peace and security. A transparent, mutually trusting relationship with the General Assembly, along with regular interaction with all member states, will boost the Council's reputation and facilitate more conversation between the Assembly and the Council.

India has taken a multifaceted approach to gaining the much sought-after permanent seat in the Security Council. India anticipates that by maintaining its leadership in the G-77 and NAM, among other Global South Forums, it will attract the much-needed delegates to the UNGA. This is evident in India's steadfast adherence to the sovereignty principle and its persistent, vociferous opposition of the "Responsibility to Protect."

Along with Brazil, Germany, and Japan, India has created the G-4 to negotiate Council reforms. India restated that in order for the UNSC to have more "credibility and legitimacy," it "must include the world's largest democracies, major global economic engines, and voices from all major continents."

India also became a member of the recently established Friends on UNSC Reform group in late 2016, which aimed to expedite the negotiations for Council reforms.

India introduced the Norms: New Orientation For A Reformed Multilateral System Concept at UNSC 2021–2022.

Among the new prospects for advancement are: - Introducing creative and comprehensive solutions to promote development, increased youth and female participation in creating a new paradigm.

The emergence of both conventional and unconventional security Threats require a logical, practical, quick-thinking, and efficient foundation for cooperation in order to guarantee long-lasting peace. An efficient reaction to combat global terrorism.

The council should take decisive, goal-oriented steps to stop the misuse of ICT. Terrorists severing their connections to sponsors and multinational corporations, For the post-COVID era, multilateralism must be reformed.

In addition, India presented the "G4 Model" for discussion, engagement, and ultimately negotiations on behalf of Brazil, Germany, Japan, and India.

The challenge of streamlining UN peace keeping is long overdue.

Make sure UN peacekeeping operations are more professional, directed, and clear. India is dedicated to advancing an International Peace and Security Framework that is Responsible and Inclusive.

India's five-strategy, which is founded on cooperation, respect, discussion, peace, and prosperity

India is dedicated to upholding the rule of law, multilateralism, An impartial and just global framework A worldview rooted in our belief that "THE WORLD IS ONE FAMILY" poses obstacles to Indian ambitions in the UNSC.

Challenges to India's aspirations at UNSC: Insufficient engagement with the normative aspects of many UNSC issues, an overreliance on entitlement as the cornerstone of India's claims to permanent membership at the expense of more ruthless Realpolitik bargaining in the UN, and a lack of resources for multilateral diplomacy on the part of the Indian government More importantly, the primary barrier to the addition of permanent seats is still the status quo bias within the current P5, notwithstanding the general assembly's consensus.

Realigning priorities and allocating resources are two more important factors that should be taken into account at the same time. Today's global governance organizations are glaringly underfunded. The states fail to meet their regular funding obligations.

Globally, a number of common concerns are arising, including the Covid-19 epidemic, global migration and displacement, conflicts, and the climate crisis.

Secondly, expanding the council's membership won't fix every issue until the council realizes the concept of "conflict," which has been geographically and thematically enlarged. Challenges to international peace and security have arisen as the Indo-Pacific region has become the center of economic gravity. For instance, there is equal risk in the cyberspace as there is in traditional warfare.

Nonetheless, the necessity of representation is as significant. India and other growing powers must be involved. "Plurilateral and Minilateral forums," which are seen as effective in dealing with both traditional and non-traditional dangers, are becoming more prevalent as a result of the ineffectiveness of multilateral organisations. bias towards

the status quo among the current P5. India appears to have curtailed its ability to negotiate a seat alone for itself as a member of the G4. competitors in the region, such as the "Coffee Club" (which includes Egypt, Pakistan, Mexico, Italy, and other like-minded nations). inherent flaw in India's application to be granted a permanent seat. India is just the 21st largest donor to the UN regular budget, behind Germany, Japan, Brazil, and Italy.

Conclusion: India has become a Rising Power, and most states—big and small—see it as having a right to a position in the evolving structure of international governance, which includes the UNSC. India's long history of civilization, extraordinary influence on global geography and demography, rapidly growing aspirations to become a traditional great power, and assumption of its proper place in the international community are the reasons behind its interest in joining the reformed UNSC. India is in favor of democratizing the international system in order to increase its democracy and participatory nature.

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