

Indian Diplomacy At Work

Our View



UN SECURITY COUNCIL REFORMS



San Francisco Conference: India Signs United Nations Charter, 26 June 1945

Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar, Supply Member of the Governor-General's Executive Council and leader of the delegation of India, signs the United Nations Charter.

India believes that the United Nations (UN), especially the UN Security Council (UNSC), must reflect contemporary global realities. For this purpose the reform of the UN including the expansion of the UNSC in both permanent and non-permanent categories is essential. To this end, the Government of India has been actively working along with other like-minded countries for building support among the UN membership for a meaningful restructuring and expansion of the UNSC.

Why UNSC reform is necessary

- UNSC still reflects the geopolitical architecture of the Second World War.
- Expanded only once in 1963 to add 4 non permanent members.



- Since then the membership of the United Nations has increased from 113 to 193 without any change in the composition of the UNSC.
- No permanent member from Africa, despite 75% of work of the UNSC focused on Africa.
- Unable to respond effectively to situations of international conflict.

India's credentials

The Government of India has strongly put across to the international community India's case for permanent membership of the Security Council which is based on India's extensive contribution to the activities of the UN particularly the maintenance of international peace and security. By any objective criteria such as population, territorial size, GDP, economic potential, civilizational legacy, cultural diversity, political system and past and on-going contributions to the activities of the UN - especially to UN peacekeeping operations - India is eminently suited for permanent membership of an expanded UNSC. India's performance as a

non-permanent member of the Security Council during 2011-2012 has also significantly strengthened India's claim to permanent membership.

India and the UNSC: India has served as a non-permanent member of the UNSC for 7 terms, viz. in 1950 – 1951, 1967 – 1968, 1972 – 1973, 1977 – 1978, 1984 – 1985, 1991 – 1992, and 2011 – 2012. India has again put forth its candidature for the 2021-22 term.

Efforts by India

India along with Brazil, Japan and Germany (*together known as the G-4*) has proposed expansion of the membership of the UNSC in both the permanent and non-permanent categories. Separately, India is spearheading a group of around 42 developing countries from Asia, Africa and Latin America – called the L.69 Group – which has demanded urgent action on the UNSC reform front. With a view to harness the support of the 54-member strong African Group, the L.69 has engaged in discussions with the Committee of C-10 of the African Union to evolve a joint position on UNSC reform.

India is also pursuing the matter through bilateral channels with our interlocutors. A large number of countries have supported India's initiatives for reform of the UNSC as well as endorsed its candidature for permanent membership.

Year 2015

There is also broad support for the idea that there should be a concrete outcome on the issue of UNSC reform in 2015, which will mark the 70th anniversary of the UN and the 10th anniversary of the 2005 World Summit which had called for 'early' reform of the UNSC.

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