



UNSC MEMBERSHIP - INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

News: *Pakistan, Panama, Somalia, Denmark And Greece Elected UNSC Non-Permanent Members*

What's in the news?

- **Pakistan, Somalia, Denmark, Greece and Panama** were elected as non-permanent members of the UN Security Council for a two-year term beginning 2025.

Key takeaways:

- The five members were elected by a secret ballot in the UN General Assembly for a **2-year term** starting on January 1, 2025, until December 31, 2026.
- **Elected for the 8th time as a non-permanent member, Pakistan** said it "looks forward to working closely with the other members of the UN Security Council and with the broader UN Membership for upholding UN Charter and pursuing the vision of preventing war and promoting peace; fostering International cooperation for global prosperity and promoting universal respect for human rights."

UNSC:

- The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) is one of the **UN's 6 main organs**.
- It is aimed at maintaining international peace and security.

Headquarters - New York, United States

Members Countries:

- The UNSC has **15 members** consisting of permanent and non-permanent members.

1. 5 Permanent Members:

- **US, UK, Russia, China, and France** — are permanent members.
- These permanent members have **veto rights**.

2. 10 Non-permanent Members:

- The other 10 elected or non-permanent members have a tenure of **two years**.
- Initially, the strength of non-permanent members was six which was **extended to ten in 1965**.

Election Process:

General Assembly Vote:

- The 193-member United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) conducts a **secret ballot** to elect the non-permanent members of the UNSC.
- Five of the ten non-permanent seats are up for election each year, ensuring continuity on the Council.



UN Security Council members

5 permanent members



US



China



UK



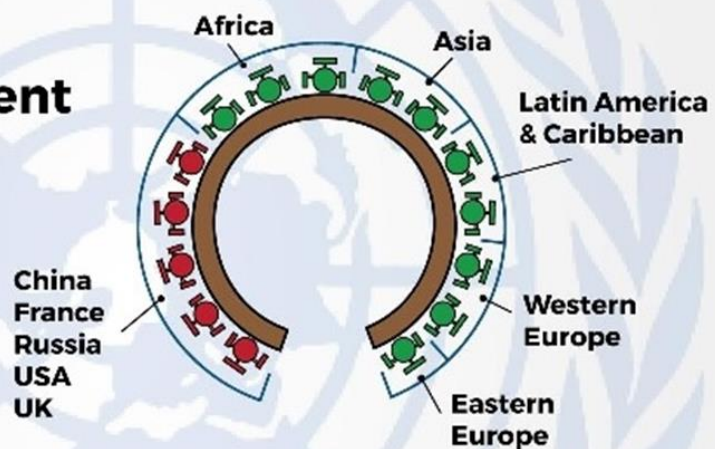
Russia



France

10 non-permanent members

- Permanent members - 5 seats
- Elected members - 10 seats



Each year, the General Assembly elects five non-permanent members for a two-year term. The 10 non-permanent seats are distributed on a regional basis.

Regional Allocation:

The seats are allocated based on regional groups to ensure fair representation as follows.

- Africa - 3 seats
- Asia-Pacific - 2 seats
- Eastern Europe - 1 seat
- Latin America and the Caribbean - 2 seats
- Western Europe and Others - 2 seats

Two-Year Term:

- The elected members serve for two years starting from January 1 of the year following their election.

Responsibilities of Non-Permanent Members:

1. Decision-Making:

- Participate in decision-making on international security issues.



- Vote on resolutions and other measures, though without veto power.

2. Committees and Working Groups:

- Engage in various committees and working groups addressing specific issues such as sanctions, peacekeeping, and conflict resolution.

3. Diplomatic Engagement:

- Represent their countries and regional interests while working collaboratively with other members to maintain global peace and security.

Governance in UNSC:

- All permanent members have veto power whereas all the members have one vote.
- **To decide on any matter in the UNSC, 9 votes out of 15 are required.**
- However, if any of the 5 permanent members votes against or vetoes the matter or resolution, it cannot be passed.

Presidency:

- The Presidency of the UNSC **rotates alphabetically** among 15 members **every month**.

Important Takeaways:

- The elected countries represent their regions and contribute to the Security Council's work without having veto power.
- **A UN member, which is not a member of UNSC can participate in the UNSC discussion without any voting power. However, it is only possible if the matter in discussion will affect the interest of the country.**
- Among all the United Nations Organisations, only the UNSC has the power to make binding decisions on member states.