

PAKISTAN JOINS THE UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL 2025-2026

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(Views expressed in the brief are those of the author, and do not represent those of ISSI)



On 1 January 2025, Pakistan started its two-year term (2025-26) as an elected member of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC). In June 2024, Pakistan was elected as a non-permanent member with overwhelming support of the UN membership, securing 182 votes out of 193. This milestone reflects the international community's confidence in Pakistan's ability to contribute effectively to the Council's primary responsibility of maintaining international peace and security. Pakistan's election is a testament to its steadfast commitment to the principles and purposes of the UN Charter and its active engagement in the United Nations' work since becoming a UN member state in September 1947. The Security Council has 5 permanent members including China, France, Russia, United Kingdom, and the United States, and 10 non-permanent members with five replaced each year. Security Council is considered the most powerful and influential organ of the United Nations tasked primarily to maintain international peace and security.

From the outset, Pakistan has anchored its foreign policy on the core principles of the UN Charter, including the non-use and threat of use of force, self-determination of peoples, respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity of states, non-interference in internal affairs, and pacific settlement of disputes.

This is the 8th time that Pakistan is serving on the Security Council. In numerous policy statements, Pakistan has stated that it will build on this legacy to address contemporary challenges, including maintenance of international peace and security, opposing the resort to unilateral and illegal use or threat of use of force, combatting terrorism, peace enforcement and peacebuilding efforts, and contributing effectively towards the resolution of regional and global crises¹ as well as containing the negative impacts of major-power rivalries.² Further, Islamabad has stressed, Pakistan will advance the peaceful resolution of disputes and champion effective peacekeeping and peacebuilding initiatives.³ Special attention will be directed toward promoting stability in Afghanistan, where Pakistan will work to promote inclusive governance, combat terrorism, economic revival, and regional connectivity. In the Middle East, Pakistan will advocate for a just and lasting solution to the Palestinian issue based on the principle of self-determination and Palestinian statehood. Pakistan will also advocate equitable solutions to security challenges in Africa, and strengthen the UN peacekeeping operations.⁴ Notably, Pakistan will assume the Council's presidency in July 2025, under its rotating presidency system, and set the agenda for the Security Council's meetings for that month.

Pakistan's term coincides with heightened regional and global tensions including genocide in Gaza, far-reaching developments in the Middle East, Russia-Ukraine conflict as well as heightened geopolitical tensions between the U.S. and China. The non-permanent seat also grants a say in the terrorism-related Sanctions Committee which provides Pakistan with a significant opportunity to bring to light the cross-border terrorist attacks in Pakistan from Afghanistan. The Kashmir Question also remains as one of the oldest items on the Council's agenda.

Pakistan's responsible stance on regional and global conflicts reflects its commitment to peaceful settlement of disputes and multilateral diplomacy in the wake of fractures in international politics and challenges. Despite India's negative disposition and its refusal to implement the Security Council resolutions, Pakistan remains committed to highlighting the Kashmir issue and pressing for the Kashmiris' right to self-determination.

¹ "Pakistan Secures Non-Permanent Seat on UN Security Council with Overwhelming Majority," Tribune, June 6, 2024, <https://tribune.com.pk/story/2470129/pakistan-secures-non-permanent-seat-on-un-security-council-with-overwhelming-majority>

² "Pakistan Set to Begin its 2-Year Term as UN Security Council's Non-Permanent Member on Wednesday," Associated Press of Pakistan, <https://www.app.com.pk/global/pakistan-set-to-begin-its-2-year-term-as-un-security-councils-non-permanent-member-on-wednesday/>

³ "Pakistan's Election as Non-Permanent Member of the UN Security Council," Ministry of Foreign Affairs Pakistan, June 6, 2024, <https://mofa.gov.pk/press-releases/pakistan-wins-election-for-the-non-permanent-seat-of-the-un-security-council-for-the-term-2025-2026>

⁴ "Pakistan Secures Non-Permanent Seat on UN Security Council with Overwhelming Majority," Tribune, June 6, 2024, <https://tribune.com.pk/story/2470129/pakistan-secures-non-permanent-seat-on-un-security-council-with-overwhelming-majority>

The previous terms of Pakistan as a non-permanent member of the UNSC included in years 1952-1953, 1968-1969, 1976-1977, 1983-1984, 1993-1994, 2003-2004 and 2012-2013. During its previous stints as a non-permanent member, Pakistan *inter alia* proactively advocated for peaceful resolutions to conflicts and multilateral diplomacy, including supporting: a unified Korea during the Korean War; a just solution to the Arab-Israeli dispute; end to hostilities in Vietnam; an end to apartheid in South Africa; peaceful negotiations during the Falklands War; international intervention to stop ethnic cleansing in Bosnia; upholding of international law in resolving the Iraq WMD issue; peaceful resolution to the Syrian civil war; and resolute support for well-resourced, robust UN peacekeeping operations.⁵

Pakistan is one of the largest contributors and longest-serving countries to the UN peacekeeping. Since 1960, 200,000 Pakistani service women and men have served in 46 UN missions. Currently it has nearly 2500 peacekeepers, representing a notable portion of total UN deployment.

Pakistan's contributions to the UN have been both principled and impactful. As a member, Pakistan is committed to promoting transparency, accountability, and inclusivity within the Security Council's functioning, ensuring that its decisions reflect the aspirations and interests of the wider UN membership. This represents an opportunity for Pakistan to uphold its tradition of constructive engagement and leadership internationally. Guided by the principles of the UN Charter, Pakistan has stressed that it will strive to ensure that the Security Council remains a vital instrument for fostering global peace, security, and development.

⁵ Minahil Jaffar, "Pakistan's Renewed Role at the UN," *Modern Diplomacy*, June 14, 2024, <https://moderndiplomacy.eu/2024/06/14/pakistans-renewed-role-at-un/>