

Pakistan's Role as the Non-Permanent Member of the United Nations Security Council

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Pakistan was elected for the eighth time as a non-permanent member of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) by the General Assembly for 2025-2026, on June 4th, 2024. The last time Pakistan served as a non-permanent member of the UNSC was in 2012-2013. Along with the other 5 permanent members of the Security Council, and 10 non-permanent members, the UNSC plays a key role in taking the lead to identify any existing threat to the peace or act of aggression.¹ Since 1947, as a member of the UN as well as serving 14 years as a non-permanent member of the UNSC, Pakistan has always been determined to abide by the principles of the UN Charter in resolving ongoing disputes along with its commitment to contribute to international peace and security.²

Pakistan's role as a non-permanent member of the UNSC is closely related to its involvement in the UN.³ With its persistent dedication to UN peacekeeping missions, Pakistan has served in a total of 46 UN missions around the globe,⁴ including West New Guinea (West Irian, Indonesia), Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Sudan (Darfur region), Central African Republic, Liberia, Côte d'Ivoire.⁵ As an active member of the Group of 77 & China, Pakistan has chaired the group four times, leading

¹ "United Nations Security Council," *United Nations*, <https://main.un.org/securitycouncil/en>

² "Pakistan's Election as Non-Permanent Member of the UN Security Council," *Ministry of Foreign Affairs*, June 6, 2024, <https://mofa.gov.pk/united-nations>

³ "Pakistan at the United Nations," *Ministry of Foreign Affairs*, <https://mofa.gov.pk/united-nations>

⁴ "Pakistan at the United Nations," *Ministry of Foreign Affairs*, <https://mofa.gov.pk/united-nations>

⁵ "Pakistan's Long History with UN Peacekeeping," *United Nations*, <https://news.un.org/en/gallery/525401>

efforts for climate change, Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) funding, and economic and social development, including establishing the "Loss and Damage" fund. In addition, Pakistan has also hosted the United Nations Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan (UNMOGIP).

Under its leadership in the UNSC, Pakistan has also secured a seat on the Islamic State group (IS) and Al Qaeda sanctions committee.⁶ Even though only permanent members can veto decisions, non-permanent members continue to impact sanctions committees that deal with terrorism.

Pakistan's Engagement with Key United Nations Organisations and Initiatives:

Pakistan actively engages with key United Nations to strengthen global cooperation in maritime security, food security, trade, and humanitarian efforts. Its participation spans multiple sectors, reflecting its commitment to international regulations, development, and policy reforms. Pakistan's Engagement with Key United Nations Organisations and Initiatives include:⁷

- As a member of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) since 1958, Pakistan has contributed to global maritime security and environmental regulations by adhering to 24 IMO conventions.
- Actively engaged with the World Food Program (WFP) since 1968, Pakistan plays a key role in humanitarian response, nutrition, disaster preparedness, and climate resilience through the WFP Country Strategic Plan (2023-2027).
- As a founding member of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), Pakistan has influenced global food security policies, focusing on agriculture, poverty reduction, and rural development.
- Engaging with the United Nations Convention on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL), particularly in Investor-State Dispute Settlement (ISDS) reform, Pakistan has strengthened international trade legislation and effectively resolved investment disputes.
- In efforts to combat Trafficking in Persons (TIP), Pakistan has implemented policies and leveraged Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) in alignment with the United Nations Ad-hoc Committee's initiatives.

Pakistan's Priorities as A Non-Permanent Member in International Conflicts:

⁶ Anwar Iqbal "Pakistan Enters UN Security Council at Key Juncture in Global Politics," *Dawn*, January 1, 2025, <https://www.dawn.com/news/1882311/pakistan-enters-un-security-council-at-key-juncture-in-global-politics>

⁷ "Pakistan at the United Nations," *Ministry of Foreign Affairs*, <https://mofa.gov.pk/united-nations>

As a non-permanent member of the UNSC, Pakistan remains committed to addressing key international conflicts and advocating for global peace and security. Its approach emphasizes countering terrorism, supporting humanitarian efforts, and ensuring that longstanding disputes remain on the international agenda. Pakistan's priorities include:⁸

- Address cross-border terrorism, particularly threats from Afghanistan.
- Advocate for a ceasefire, humanitarian access, and accountability in Gaza, reaffirming support for Palestine.
- Support a Syrian-led, UN-facilitated peace process, though its influence remains limited.
- Seeks to keep Kashmir on the UNSC agenda but faces challenges due to India's global influence and weak international response.

Pakistan has repeatedly advocated for comprehensive reforms in the United Nations Security Council as part of the Uniting for Consensus (UFC) group. It opposes adding new permanent members for a fair and equal representation to enhance effectiveness, democracy and accountability. Pakistan also advocates for long-term rotational seats to guarantee more equitable involvement and wider contributions from UN member states.⁹ Pakistan's presence in the UNSC highlights its commitment to multilateralism and peacekeeping. As a member of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), the state seeks to represent Muslim countries on international issues.¹⁰

Conclusion

Pakistan's role in the United Nations as a non-permanent member reflects its dedication to global peace, security and multilateral cooperation, through participation in international organisations. Moreover, Pakistan's goal is to maintain international peace, oppose unilateral force, combat terrorism, support UN peacekeeping, resolve global crises, and promote human rights and prosperity.

Since non-permanent members uphold significance in the decision-making process of the UNSC, Pakistan's seat at the table allows it to be a part of these decisions on core topics. Moreover, Pakistan can utilise economic and strategic gains by balancing regional dynamics by using this platform as a non-permanent member to enhance its global standing and diplomatic relations.

⁸ Anwar Iqbal "Pakistan Enters UN Security Council at Key Juncture in Global Politics," *Dawn*, January 1, 2025, <https://www.dawn.com/news/1882311/pakistan-enters-un-security-council-at-key-juncture-in-global-politics>

⁹ "Pakistan at the United Nations," *Ministry of Foreign Affairs*, <https://mofa.gov.pk/united-nations>.

¹⁰ "Anwar Iqbal "Pakistan Enters UN Security Council at Key Juncture in Global Politics," *Dawn*, January 1, 2025, <https://www.dawn.com/news/1882311/pakistan-enters-un-security-council-at-key-juncture-in-global-politics>.