

PERMANENT MISSION OF INDIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS NEW YORK

INDIA AND UNITED NATIONS

A. **INTRODUCTION**

India's deepening engagement with the United Nations is based on its steadfast commitment to multilateralism and dialogue as the key for achieving shared goals and addressing common challenges faced by the global community.

As a **founding member** of the United Nations, India strongly supports the purposes and principles of the UN and has made significant contributions to implementing the goals of the Charter, and the evolution of the UN's specialized programmes and agencies.

India believes that the United Nations and the norms of international relations that it has fostered remain the most efficacious means for tackling today's global challenges.

India is steadfast in its efforts to work with all Member States in the spirit of multilateralism to achieve comprehensive and equitable solutions to global challenges including those related to peace building and peacekeeping, sustainable development, poverty eradication, environment, climate change, terrorism, disarmament, human rights, health and pandemics, migration, cyber security, outer space and frontier technologies, and reformed multilateralism including the reform of the Security Council, among others.

B. **HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE**

India was among the select countries that signed the Declaration by United Nations in Washington DC on 1 January 1942. India also participated in the historic UN Conference of International Organization at San Francisco from 25 April to 26 June 1945.

Independent India viewed its membership at the United Nations as an important guarantee for maintaining international peace and security. India stood at the forefront during the UN's tumultuous years of struggle against colonialism and apartheid.

India was the co-sponsor of the landmark 1960 Declaration on UN on Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples which proclaimed the need to unconditionally end colonialism in all its forms and manifestations. India was also elected the first chair of the Decolonization Committee (Committee of 24) where its ceaseless efforts to put an end to colonialism are well on record.

India was among the most outspoken critics of apartheid and racial discrimination in South Africa. In fact, India was the first country to raise this issue at the UN (in 1946) and played a leading role in the formation of a Sub-Committee against Apartheid set up by the General Assembly. When the Convention on Elimination of all forms of Racial Discrimination was adopted in 1965, India was among the earliest signatories.

India's status as a founding member of the Non-Aligned Movement and the Group of 77 cemented its position within the UN system as a leading advocate of the concerns and aspirations of developing countries and the creation of a more equitable international economic and political order.

Indians in the UN: Several illustrious Indians made sterling contributions to the UN in its early days, and continuing that tradition, several Indians hold senior positions in the UN at present. For an indicative list, see *Annexe*.

C. **INDIA ON THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL**

India has served on the Security Council as an elected member on seven occasions so far – in 1950-51, 1967-68, 1972-73, 1977-78, 1984-85, 1991-92, and 2011–2012, and is currently on its eighth term for the tenure 2021-22.

India has participated constructively in the Council's activities and has remained fully engaged in all its deliberations during its tenures.

India held the Presidency of the Security Council in August 2021. During its Presidency, India organized an Open Debate on Maritime Security which was chaired by the Prime Minister of India and an Open Debate on Technology in Peacekeeping chaired by the External Affairs Minister of India. The External Affairs Minister also chaired a briefing on terrorism based on the Secretary General's report on ISIL/Da'esh.

During its current tenure, India held the UNSC Presidency in December 2022.

Even when outside the Council, India actively participates in the open debates of the Security Council as and when they are scheduled.

D. **INDIA IN THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND ITS MAIN COMMITTEES**

77th Session of the UN General Assembly

The 77th session of the United Nations General Assembly [77th UNGA] will open on 13 September 2022, with the theme "*A watershed moment: transformative solutions to interlocking challenges*"

H. E. Mr. Csaba **Kőrösi**, Director of Environmental Sustainability at the Office of the President of Hungary, will serve as President of the 77th session of the General Assembly. He has outlined **five priorities for his Presidency**: i) Standing firm on basic principles of the United Nations Charter; ii) Making significant and measurable progress in sustainability transformation; iii) Aiming at integrated, systemic solutions; iv) Enhancing role of science in decision-making; and v) Increasing solidarity to better endure new chapters of crises facing

the world.

The 77th session of the UNGA will also see the continuation of the intergovernmental processes underway as a follow up to the Secretary General's **Our Common Agenda** Report, which was released as mandated by the UN@75 Political Declaration, in September 2021. These processes include proposed new UN Office for Youth, and the **Summit of the Future** and its various possible thematic tracks, such as New Agenda for Peace, **Global Digital Compact**, and the Declaration for Future Generations. India will continue to play an active role in these process, with an emphasis on a development-centric approach that is Member States led and owned.

India's sustained high-level engagement with the UN helps project our longstanding and growing credentials as a South-South development partner, especially in the context of the India-UN Development Partnership Fund, Financing for Development and India's commitment to the idea of global partnership under SDG 17 including on climate change.

India's priorities during 77th UNGA will be guided by its core foreign policy objectives, including supporting and enhancing overall domestic socio-economic growth and strengthening security in the immediate neighborhood, in line with the vision of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi.

India will continue lead efforts towards comprehensive reforms of the United Nations, including through expansion of both categories of membership of the UN Security Council, in order to make it more representative, effective and credible. This is a key component of Prime Minister Modi's call for a "**reformed multilateralism**", that reflects today's realities, gives voice to all stakeholders, addresses contemporary challenges and focuses on human welfare.

First Committee: Disarmament & International Security

The First Committee deals with disarmament, global challenges and threats to peace that affect the international community and seeks out solutions to the challenges in the international security regime. The Committee works in close cooperation with the United Nations Disarmament Commission and the Geneva-based Conference on Disarmament.

India is committed to **nonproliferation** in all its aspects. Accordingly, India has joined various multilateral export control regimes.

With a view to address global concerns on the proliferation of WMD to terrorists, India has been tabling the consensus resolution on 'Measures to Prevent Terrorists from Acquiring WMD' in the First Committee every year. India has been co-operating with UN Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540, and various international partners to share experiences on export control systems and to identify legal and technical assistance, action plans and challenges in national implementation of UNSCR 1540.

India remains committed to the goal of a nuclear weapons free world and complete elimination of nuclear weapons. It believes that this goal can be achieved through a step-by-step process underwritten by a universal commitment and an agreed global and nondiscriminatory

multilateral framework, as outlined in India's Working Paper on Nuclear Disarmament submitted to the UNGA in 2006.

India attaches great importance to the **Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC)** which embodies the global norm against the use of chemical weapons. It has been India's consistent position that the use of chemical weapons anywhere, at any time, by anybody, under any circumstances, cannot be justified and the perpetrators of such acts must be held accountable. At a time when the Convention is facing serious challenges, India is committed to maintaining its credibility and integrity.

India also attaches high importance to the **Biological Weapons Convention (BWC)**, which is the first non-discriminatory disarmament treaty banning a complete category of weapons of mass destruction and remains committed to enhancing the effectiveness of the BWC and strengthening its implementation

India remains opposed to the weaponization of **outer space**. India has not, and will not, resort to any arms race in outer space. India supports substantive consideration of the prevention of an arms race in outer space within the multilateral framework of the UN.

India remains committed to playing a leading and constructive role together with other partners, in deliberations and negotiations on prevention of an arms race in outer space, including legally binding measures, TCBMs and long-term sustainability guidelines.

Since 2017, India has been presenting a resolution on the 'Role of science and technology in the context of international security and disarmament' which has been adopted by consensus and attracted co-sponsors across regions.

India is committed to an open, secure, free, accessible and stable **cyberspace** environment. India firmly believes in the peaceful nature and use of cyberspace, which should become an engine for innovation, economic growth and sustainable development. As a member of five UN Group of Government Experts on Advancing Responsible State behaviour in Cyberspace in the context of international security, India has contributed to development of voluntary, non-binding norms on complex and sensitive aspects related to use of and security of ICTs. India also took part in the first Open Ended Working Group on Developments in use of Information and Telecommunications in the context of international security.

Second Committee: Economic and Financial

The Second Committee deals with issues relating to economic growth and development such as macroeconomic policy questions; financing for development; sustainable development; climate, human settlements; globalization and interdependence; eradication of poverty; operational activities for development; agriculture development, food security and nutrition; information and communications technologies for development; and global partnerships.

In 2020, India presented its '**Voluntary National Review Report on Implementation of Sustainable Development Goals**' at the United Nations high-level political forum on sustainable development, for the second time (first time presented in 2017). It highlighted that

apart from integrating the SDGs into its on-going national and sub-national policies and programmes, India will continue to focus on nurturing partnerships at the regional and global levels. India was one of the Champions in the Energy Transition track in 2021 and also submitted the National Energy Compact, along with 20 other Indian entities submitting their voluntary commitments for renewable energy.

India has consistently reiterated its support to multilateral trading system and the centrality of the WTO as the cornerstone of a rule based, open, transparent, nondiscriminatory and inclusive **multilateral trading system** with development at the core of its agenda. India along with South Africa has taken the lead in the WTO on a COVID-19 vaccine Intellectual Property Rights waiver and the use of flexibilities of the TRIPS Agreement and the Doha Declaration on TRIPS Agreement and Public Health.

India has underlined that the **reform of institutions** such as the IMF remains an important goal to better address the interests of the developing nations. India actively contributed to the debates and deliberations leading to the adoption of the Global Compact on Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration. India believes that safe, orderly and regular Migration will help in achievement of SDGs and achievement of SDGs will ensure that Migration will be out of choice and not out of compulsion.

Climate change has remained one of the main focus of the Second Committee. India participated in many related events and contributed to shaping the conversations on this crucial theme. India has continued to voice the developing countries' position during climate-related negotiations in the UN, focusing on the importance for developed countries to fulfill their pre-2020 commitments.

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's recently launched concept of 'Lifestyle for the Environment' or **LIFE** harnesses the power of individual and collective action across the world to address the climate crisis.

Apart from domestic actions, India has also taken a lead in bringing together international coalitions and also helping other countries address this challenge.

The **International Solar Alliance (ISA)**, pioneered by India, has become an example of how positive global climate action can be taken forward through partnerships.

The **Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI)** and the new Infrastructure for Resilient Island States (IRIS) are important international initiatives led by India, to for putting in place infrastructure that can withstand disasters and lessen economic losses, including in island nations.

The **India-UN Development Partnership Fund** is another practical manifestation of climate action and sustainable development in the spirit of South-South cooperation. The Fund established in 2017, aims to contribute to the efforts of developing countries towards the realization of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals including on Climate Action.

India along with Sweden has also launched the Leadership Group on Industry Transition (LeadIT) to boost climate ambitions and actions to implement the Paris agreement.

India has focused on strengthening engagement with fellow developing countries, especially **LLDCs, LDCs and SIDS** through the India-UN Development Partnership Fund and IBSA Fund in the spirit of South-South cooperation.

India has continued to highlight its success in adopting, implementing, and monitoring SDGs and shared details of these success stories for the benefit of other member states.

At the Security Council, India contributes to and enriches debates on issues such as Climate and Security, Food Security and Vaccine Equity.

Third Committee: Social, Humanitarian & Cultural

The Third Committee deals with a range of social, humanitarian affairs and human rights issues that affect people all over the world. The Committee discusses questions relating to the advancement of women, the protection of children, indigenous issues, the treatment of refugees, the promotion of fundamental freedoms through the elimination of racism and racial discrimination, and the right to self-determination. It also addresses important social development questions such as issues related to youth, family, ageing, persons with disabilities, crime prevention, criminal justice, and international drug control.

Representing India at the first session of the Commission of Human Rights in 1947, drafting the Universal Declaration of the Human Rights, **Dr. Hansa Mehta**, a bold and visionary woman social activist, played an important role in ensuring that the first Article of the UDHR spoke of 'all human beings' rather than 'all men' being 'free and equal'. This was well before equal rights for women and men were recognized in most legal systems.

India has consistently underlined that genuine improvement in human rights cannot be achieved by undertaking aggressive and overly intrusive methods without consultation and consent of the country concerned. Such confrontational approach is counter-productive, leading to politicization of human rights issues. India believes that only an approach based on **dialogue, consultation and cooperation** with **non-selectivity and transparency** as guiding principles will be effective.

India has partnered **UN Women** since its inception to address critical issues concerning gender equality and empowerment of women in national and global context. India has so far made voluntary contribution of over US\$ 8 million to UN Women for its global operations. As a member of UN-Women Executive Board Bureau, India works actively and closely with the UN Women on issues related to advancement of women, gender equality and women empowerment.

Fourth Committee: Special Political and Decolonization

The Fourth Committee considers a broad range of issues related to decolonization, the effects of atomic radiation, questions relating to information, a comprehensive review of the question of peacekeeping operations as well as a review of special political missions, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), the Report of

the Special Committee on Israeli Practices and International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space. In addition to these annual items, it also considers the items on assistance in mine action, and University for peace biennially and triennially respectively.

As a country that itself was colonized, India has always been in the forefront of the struggle against **colonialism and apartheid** since its own independence seven decades ago. India is a founding member of C-24, the **Special Committee on Decolonisation**. India was actively engaged with the organization of the historic Afro-Asian Conference at Bandung, Indonesia in 1955. Five years later, was the co-sponsor of the landmark 1960 Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, which was adopted by the General Assembly. The Declaration proclaimed the need to unconditionally end colonialism in all its forms and manifestations.

India believes that pursuing a pragmatic approach towards Decolonization would lead to fulfillment of legitimate wishes of the people of 17 Non-Self-Governing Territories. India has consistently called for increased efforts to reach the conclusion of this long-drawn process.

India supports the efforts of the **United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation** (UNSCEAR) to understand effects and risk of exposure to ionising radiation and instilling confidence in the public with respect to uses of radiation in various aspects of life. India participates regularly in the activities and meetings of UNSCEAR, and shares with other member states, the knowledge gained on effects and risks of ionising radiation from its own experience.

As a major space faring nation of the world, India has been pursuing its space activities over five decades with the vision of utilizing the applications of space technology for the benefit of humankind. India supports efforts to build mutual trust and confidence, including through the discussions on Long Term Sustainability of Outer Space activities at **UNCOPUOS**. India has also supported substantive consideration of the issue of Prevention of Arms Race (PAROS) at the Conference on Disarmament. India is also actively engaged in capacity building in space law, through hosting several national and international workshops and seminars on these issues.

India remains supportive of **UNRWA's** role in human development and delivery of humanitarian services to the Palestinian refugee community. In recent years, India has increased its annual voluntary contribution to the Agency to help meet the deficit in its program budget. India's current annual assistance to UNRWA stands at US dollar 5 million.

With its active involvement in the **Committee on Information**, India has contributed to the strengthening of the mandate and the work of the Department of Global Communications. Promotion of multilingualism in the content and communication of the Department has been a priority area for India. Through its partnership with the Department, since 2018, India has evolved a unique model to mainstream and consolidate **news and multimedia content in Hindi** in the UN News portal and social media platforms.

Fifth Committee: Administrative & Budgetary

The Fifth Committee considers and approves the budget of the United Nations. It also considers and approves financial and budgetary arrangements with specialized agencies and makes recommendations to the agencies concerned. It may also consider urgent matters relating to the financing of a peacekeeping mission authorized by the Security Council at any of its sessions.

India has stressed that resource allocation should be commensurate with our collective commitment towards realization of the **Agenda 2030**. The UN system **must be adequately resourced** to service the Member States in achieving this goal. The imperative of 'doing more with less', rationalization of resources should not undermine the ability of the UN system to deliver its mandate.

India's **share of the UN's budget** has been increasing in recent years, including a 25% increase from the 2019-21 scale of assessment. India is one of the few countries which has been **paying all assessments in full and on time**. India is among those member states who continue to be owed significant sums towards troop and COE reimbursements from the active peacekeeping missions. India has highlighted that these arrears and recurrent delay in reimbursement have turned the Troop Contributing Countries (TCCs) as de facto financiers of UN peacekeeping, which is involuntary and beyond many TCCs' capacity to pay.

During the 76th Session of the General Assembly, the Fifth Committee has approved the **Scale of Assessment for 2022-24** wherein the new scale of assessments shall be based on the agreed methodology which favours developing economies such as India. The scales of assessment (for assesses contribution and peacekeeping contribution) are reviewed and approved every three years by the General Assembly on the advice of the Committee on Contributions (COC) and in turn the Fifth Committee.

On issues related to Human Resource Management, India's endeavour is to focus on ensuring that the staffing mandates of the UN are carried out in a rule-based environment with emphasis on principles of **equitable geographical representation and gender parity**. India being a TCC is also committed to the simplification and streamlining of rules and policies and changes in the conditions of service for the betterment of the professionals engaged at the UN.

On financing of Peacekeeping Missions, India is committed to **provision of adequate resources for effective mandate delivery**. Safety and security of the peacekeepers is of paramount importance and India has been instrumental in utilizing technology as a medium to achieve this objective. We continue to provide extra budgetary support to tech solutions to increase the safety and security of the peacekeepers and underscore the importance of adequate funding of these Missions through peacekeeping budget approved by the Fifth Committee in each session.

Sixth Committee: Legal

The Sixth Committee is the primary forum for the consideration of legal questions in the General Assembly.

India continues to take steps to bring its national laws in consonance with its international obligations.

India is an active participant in the **multilateral efforts at developing collective management of ocean affairs** and one of the early parties to the 1982 UN Convention on the Law of the Sea. In addition to UNCLOS, India is a party to the Agreement relating to the implementation of Part XI of the Convention of 10 December 1982, Fish Stocks Convention 1995, MARPOL 73/78, the International Ballast Water Convention 2004 that protects invasive aquatic Alien species, the London Convention 1972 and other agreements that regulate various activities of the oceans, especially the conservation and sustainable use of ocean resources.

India is actively engaged in discussions and negotiations towards developing norms relating to the emerging complex areas of **Marine Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ)** and **Global Geospatial Information Management (GGIM)**.

Member states are currently negotiating a international legally-binding instrument for the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction (BBNJ Agreement) under UNCLOS. States are now in the final stage of negotiations for an implementing agreement to fill governance gaps for the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity beyond national jurisdiction.

India is a member of the **United Nations Commission on International Trade Laws (UNCITRAL)** since its establishment and also playing an active role in its all six working groups. India is a party to UNCITRAL Model Law on International Commercial Arbitration and the New York Convention on the Recognition and Enforcement of Foreign Arbitral Awards (New York Convention) — provide the bases upon which contracting states may adopt domestic laws to implement a cross-border arbitration system and has adopted, in large measure, the UNCITRAL Model Law through the Indian Arbitration and Conciliation Act of 1996 (the Arbitration Act).

In December 2022, India shall participate in the commemoration of the fortieth anniversary of the adoption and opening for signature of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea ,which was opened for signature on 10 December 1982.

India will remain at the forefront of efforts to resolve all outstanding legal issues in the 77th UN General Assembly, including as part of the Working Group to finalize the process on the draft **Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism**.

The Sixth Committee has agreed to establish a Working Group on “State Responsibility” and as well as a Working Group on “the scope and application of the principle of universal jurisdiction” in the 77th UNGA session. India will participate in the process by submitting information and observations with regard to national legal rules and judicial practice related to aforesaid topics to the General Assembly.

E. INDIAN CONTRIBUTION TO UN PEACEKEEPING

India has a long and distinguished history of service in UN peacekeeping, having contributed more

personnel than any other country. To date, **more than 260000 Indians** have served in **49 of the 71 UN peacekeeping missions** established around the world since 1948. Currently, there are around **5,750 troops & police** from India who have been deployed to UN peacekeeping missions, the third highest amongst troop-contributing countries.

Commencing with its participation in the UN operation in Korea in 1950s, India's mediatory role in resolving the stalemate over prisoners of war in Korea led to the signing of the armistice ending the Korean War. India chaired the five-member Neutral Nations Repatriation Commission while the Indian Custodian Force supervised the process of interviews and repatriation that followed.

The UN entrusted Indian armed forces with subsequent peace missions in the Middle East, Cyprus, and the Congo). India also served as chair of the three international commissions for supervision and control for Vietnam, Cambodia, and Laos established by the 1954 Geneva Accords on Indo-China.

India has a long tradition of sending **women on UN peacekeeping missions**. In 2007, India became the first country to deploy an all-women contingent to a UN peacekeeping mission. The Formed Police Unit in Liberia provided 24-hour guard duty and conducted night patrols in the capital Monrovia and helped to build the capacity of the Liberian police.

Medical care is one of the many services Indian peacekeepers provide to the communities in which they serve . Indian doctors routinely treat needy citizens where ever they are deployed. They also rise admirably to emergencies.

In response to an urgent plea from the UN Secretariat during the COVID 19 pandemic, India deployed **additional medical teams** on war footing to augment the capacities of hospitals in Goma and Juba. The enhanced capacities helped treat hundreds of patients, and earned international appreciation.

India was also one of the first countries to respond to **UN's request for vaccines**, donating 200,000 vaccines to inoculate the Blue Helmets. Indian Peacekeepers also perform specialized tasks such as veterinary support and engineering services.

Indian veterinarians serving with the UN Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS), stepped up to help cattle herders who were losing many of their stock to malnutrition and disease in the war torn nation. The Indian contingent in South Sudan has gone the extra mile by providing vocational training and life-saving medical assistance, as well as carrying out significant road repair work.

Indian peacekeepers have brought the ancient Indian practice of **yoga to UN missions**. Members of the UN missions in Lebanon, UNIFIL and UNMISS, South Sudan celebrate the International Yoga Day; a practice soon to be emulated in other missions where Indian peacekeepers are deployed.

India has provided **17 Force Commanders** to various missions. Besides the Force Commanders, India has also provided two Military Advisors, one Female Police Advisor and one Deputy Military Advisor to the Secretary General of the United Nations.

India was the first country to contribute to the **Trust Fund on sexual exploitation and abuse**, which was set up in 2016. India's longstanding service has not come without cost. 177 Indian peacekeepers have made the ultimate sacrifice in the service of the Blue Flag, more than any other member state.

F. **TERRORISM**

India strongly supports all efforts, especially within the purview of the United Nations that strengthen international and regional cooperation in the fight against terrorism. The success in the fight against terrorism goes hand-in-hand with progress in strengthening counter-terrorism cooperation and exchange of information at the international, regional and sub-regional level.

The **Global Counter Terrorism Strategy** agreed by the UN member states in 2006 and reviewed every two years, is a unique and universally agreed strategic framework to counter terrorism. India constructively contributed to the 7th review of the strategy, which was adopted by the General Assembly on 30 June 2021.

India is party to the 13 sectoral conventions on terrorism adopted by the UN. With the objective of providing a comprehensive legal framework to combat terrorism, India took the initiative to pilot a draft **Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism (CCIT)** in 1996.

Largely as a result of India's active pursuance, a draft text of the CCIT emerged in 2007, which is agreeable to most States. But few States still have problem over a few issues, negotiations for the resolution of which are undergoing.

India attaches importance to the work undertaken by the **Ad-hoc Committee on Terrorism** established by the General Assembly towards negotiations of the Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism (CCIT). India looks forward to early conclusion of the CCIT.

As a member of the Security Council, India's Permanent Representative to the UN chairs the **Security Council Committee on Counter-Terrorism Committee** [CTC] for year 2022, the Libya sanctions committee and Taliban committee for 2021-2022.

India supports the counter - terrorism mechanisms established by UN Security Council Resolutions, including Resolutions 1267 and 1988 and its successors related to sanctions against Taliban, Al-Qaeda, ISIL, and associated entities such as LeT, JeM. India also supports the resolution 1373 (which, inter - alia, established the Counter Terrorism Committee), 1540 (which addressed non - proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction in this context), and subsequent resolutions that renewed, strengthened or amended these three original resolutions

India strongly supported the setting up of the **UN Office of Counter Terrorism** in 2017. India believes that the setting up has provided a strong impetus to UN's work on Countering Terrorism and strengthened UN's ability towards harmonization of its work on this crucial issue. It will surely lead to a better integrated counter-terrorism approach within the UN system.

An effective and balanced implementation of the United Nations Global Counter Terrorism Strategy requires greater international and regional cooperation. In this context, India also donates to the Counter Terrorism Trust fund to support these efforts.

G. REPRESENTATION IN UN BODIES

Currently India is represented in the following 23 UN Bodies whose elections are held at United Nations headquarters in New York:

1.	United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL)	2016-2022
2.	International Seabed Authority (ISA) Council	2017-2020
3.	Legal and Technical Commission of the ISA	2017-2021
4.	Finance Committee of ISA	2017-2021
5.	International Law Commission (ILC)	2017-2021
6.	Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)	2018-2020
7.	International Court of Justice (ICJ)	2018-2026
8.	Joint Inspection Unit (JIU)	2018-2022
9.	Commission on Population and Development (CPD)	2018-2021
10.	Commission for Social Development (CSocD)	2018-2021
11.	Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND)	2018-2021
12.	Human Rights Council (HRC)	2019-2021
13.	Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR)	2019-2022
14.	Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations (CNGO)	2019-2022
15.	Executive Board of UNDP/UNFPA/UNOPS	2019-2021
16.	Executive Board of UN-Women	2019-2021
17.	Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ)	2019-2021
18.	Programme Coordination Committee of UN AIDS Executive Board	2020-2022
19.	International Narcotics Control Board (INCB)	2020-2025
20.	Committee for Programme and Coordination (CPC)	2021-2023
21.	Commission on the Status of Women	2021-25
22.	Commission on Population and Development	2021-25
23.	Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions	2021-23

H. **SIGNIFICANT ACHIEVEMENTS 2014-22**

Major Initiatives:

- The UNGA Resolution declaring 21 June every year as the **International Day of Yoga** was adopted in Dec 2014 with a record number of 177 co-sponsors. This set-in motion global annual observance of the International Day of Yoga.
- Usage of **Hindi** in UN public communications (UN news, weekly audio bulletins on UN radio and UN social media) began in March 2018 following the first MoU signed by the UN with any country.
- The first evert single-country South-South cooperation initiative at the UN was launched in June 2017 through the “**India-UN Development Partnership Fund**”, a \$100 million fund facility to undertake projects across the developing world. In April 2018, a US\$50 Million Commonwealth window was created under the Fund to support SDG related projects in developing countries of the Commonwealth.
- Following the efforts made in three previous attempts (2009, 2016 and 2017), the Security Council finally on 1 May 2019 approved the addition of Masood Azhar to the 1267 Sanctions of individuals and entities subject to the assets freeze, travel ban and arms embargo.
- A proposal for an **International Year of Millets** (2023) was brought forward by the Government of India and endorsed by Members of FAO Governing Bodies, as well as by the 75th Session of the UN General Assembly. The International Year will (i) elevate awareness of the contribution of millets for food security and nutrition (ii)inspire stakeholders on improving sustainable production and quality of millets; and (iii) draw focus for enhanced investment in research and development and extension services to achieve the other two aims.
- During India’s Presidency of the Security Council in August 2021, **Resolution 2589** was unanimously adopted by the Council which called upon host Member States to promote accountability for the killing of — and all acts of violence against — United Nations peacekeeping personnel, while also recognizing the need to enhance support to help these countries address impunity. The Resolutions asks the Secretary-General to include updates on measures taken by the United Nations to follow up on cases and support the efforts of Member States towards facilitating accountability.
- During its Presidency of the Security Council, India also organized an **Open Debate on Maritime Security** which culminated in adopting of the Presidential Statement which, inter alia, noted with concern the ongoing threats to maritime safety and security posed by piracy, armed robbery at sea, terrorists’ travel and use of sea to conduct crimes and acts against shipping, offshore installations, critical infrastructure, and other maritime interests.

Elections:

India is one of the few countries whose candidates have won every election at the UN in New York.

- The election of Judge Dalveer Bhandari to the International Court of Justice (ICJ) in Nov 2017 was a landmark event for India in terms of its unprecedented success in unseating a sitting judge from UK, a P5 member.
- Dr. Neeru Chadha became the first Indian woman to be elected in June 2017 as Judge of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS) for the period 2017-2026.
- Dr. Aniruddha Rajput was elected to the International Law Commission (ILC) in Nov 2016 for the term 2017-2021 with highest number of votes in the Asia-Pacific Group.
- India was elected to the Human Rights Council in Oct 2018 for the period 2019- 2022 with highest number of votes.
- Ms. Jagjit Pavadia was re-elected as Member to the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) on 7th May 2019 for the term 2020-25.
- On 15 Sept 2020, India was elected to the Commission of the Status of Women by the ECOSOC. India's tenure on the CSW will last from 2021 to 2025. India was also elected to the Committee for Programme and Coordination (CPC) and Commission on Population and Development.
- Ms. Vidisha Maitra was elected to the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions for the period 2021-23.
- Dr. S.Rajan, elected as Member of the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf (CLCS)

Other achievements / participation in important events:

- In Nov 2017, a voluntary compact was reached between UN Secretary-General and the Government of India on commitment to eliminate sexual exploitation and abuse in peacekeeping, humanitarian and development work. Prime Minister also joined the **Circle of Leadership** on the prevention of and response to sexual exploitation and abuse in United Nations operations
- In Sept 2018, UNEP recognized Prime Minister Modi in the "Policy Leadership" category for pioneering work in championing the International Solar Alliance and for the pledge to eliminate single-use plastic in India by 2022. UNEP also selected Cochin International Airport, which is fully-powered by solar energy, for the Champion for entrepreneurial vision award.
- **International Solar Alliance** (ISA) was registered with the UN as a treaty-based inter-governmental organization with effect from 9th Feb 2018.

- India ratified the Paris Agreement and 'Second commitment period of Kyoto Protocol' in Climate Change in Aug 2017.
- UNGA adopted a Resolution in Dec 2014 on recognizing the Indian festivals of **Diwali, Buddha Purnima and Gurpurab** by the UN. The first official celebration of Diwali at UN Headquarters took place in 2016.
- First reference to '**Yoga**' was made in Sept 2018 in the Political Declaration on Non-Communicable Diseases, a health-related resolution in UNGA.
- India was among the 40 plus countries in 2017 that presented their **Voluntary National Review** at the UN on the progress made in achievement of SDGs. India presented its second VNR virtually at the 2020 HLPF on 13 July 2020. Vice Chairman of NITI Aayog Mr Rajiv Kumar presented India's VNR. India's commitment to the SDGs was presented by highlighting our national development agenda as reflected in the motto of Sabka Saath Sabka Vikaas (Collective Efforts for Inclusive Growth).
- In November 2018, India successfully operationalized the **co-deployment** of 120 troops from Kazakhstan as part of its contingent in UN Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL). India also initiated the process of deployment of a mixed Formed Police Unit to UN Mission in South Sudan.
- India's contribution to the **Voluntary Trust Fund of the UN Tax Committee** (to promote the participation of developing countries in the work of UN committee on tax matters that looks at key issues that could mobilize resources for sustainable development) was recognized in UNGA Resolution of Sept 2017.
- **UN Day Concert** (featuring Sarod Maestro Ustad Amjad Ali Khan) organized on 24 Oct 2018 after a gap of 52 years under the theme, "Traditions of Peace and NonViolence".
- On 24th September 2019, India commemorated the **150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi** by holding a high-level event at the UN. The event was hosted by Prime Minister Modi in which the UNSG Antonio Guterres, President of South Korea Moon Jae In, Prime Minister of Bangladesh Sheikh Hasina, Prime Minister of New Zealand Jessica Arden, and Prime Minister of Jamaica Andrew Holness.
- United Nations Postal Administration (UNPA) brought out the following three **postal stamps** in collaboration with the Mission: (i) Personalized stamp sheet on Birth Centenary and 50th Anniversary of Performance at the UN by M.S. Subbulakshmi; (ii) Special commemorative stamp sheet on International Day of Yoga; (iii) Special commemorative stamp sheet on Diwali; and (iv) Special commemorative stamp on the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.
- Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi delivered a virtual keynote address at the **High Level Segment of the ECOSOC** on 17 July 2020. The theme of the session was "Multilateralism after COVID 19: What kind of UN do we need at the 75th anniversary?" PM in his remarks touched upon several subjects such as India's commitment to achieve the SDGs and actions taken to combat COVID-19 pandemic.

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi spoke virtually at the **Climate Ambition Summit** on 12 Dec 2020. He pledged that by 2047, centennial India will exceed the world's expectations in implementing actions to counter climate change. He said, "on the occasion of the fifth anniversary of the Paris Agreement the world shouldn't lose sight of historical emissions". He called for a review of actions taken by all countries based on the commitments they had made under the agreement.
- Prime Minister Modi delivered India's national statement at the **76th UNGA General Debate** in New York on 25 September 2021. In his speech, Prime Minister touched upon several important issues confronting the international community today. Representing the Mother of Democracy and based on his own experiences, Prime Minister affirmed that "*democracy can deliver, democracy has delivered*". He emphasized that the impact of India's development on global progress is evident - when India grows, the world grows; when India reforms, the world transforms. He also cautioned against regressive thinking and extremism, and proposed science-based, rational and progressive thinking. He also called on the United Nations to enhance its effectiveness and reliability.
- At India's initiative, the General Assembly unanimously adopted a resolution on 9 December 2021 and granted the **status of 'observer' to the International Solar Alliance** to participate in the sessions and the work of the General Assembly.
- During its Presidency of the Security Council in August 2021, India, in collaboration with the UN, launched **UNITE AWARE**, a technology platform to ensure the safety and security of peacekeepers who are operating in an increasingly complex and risky environments across the world. UNITE Aware is a situational awareness software programme that will utilise modern surveillance technology for real time threat assessments to peacekeepers. India contributed USD 1.64 million for this initiative.

ANNEXE

Indians at United Nations: Past and Present

PAST

Mr. Arcot Ramasamy Mudaliar was India's delegate to the San Francisco Conference leading to the creation of the United Nations. He also had distinction of serving as the first President of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) in 1946.

Mrs. Hansa Mehta represented India on the Nuclear Sub-Committee on the status of women in 1946. As the Indian delegate on the UN Human Rights Commission in 1947–48, she was responsible for changing the language of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights from "all men are created equal" to "all human beings", highlighting the need for gender equality.

Mrs. Lakshmi Menon, India's delegate to the Third Committee in 1948, argued forcefully in favour of nondiscrimination based on sex and "the equal rights of men and women" in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. A strong advocate of the "universality" of human rights, she argued that "if women and people under colonial rule were not explicitly mentioned in the Universal Declaration, they would not be considered included in "everyone".

Mr. B.N. Rau served as India's Permanent Representative to the United Nations from 1949 to 1952. He also served as the President of the United Nations Security Council in June 1950.

Mrs. Vijaya Lakshmi Pandit had the distinction of being the first woman to be elected President of the United Nations General Assembly in 1953.

Mr. Chinmaya Rajaninath Gharekhan served as ECOSOC President in 1990. In January 1993 was appointed by the UN Secretary General as a special envoy to the Middle East peace process in the capacity of Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations, a position he held until 1999.

PRESENT

Currently there are nine Indians in senior leadership positions at the United Nations at the levels of Under Secretary General and Assistant Secretary General.

Ms. Usha Rao Monari, Under Secretary General, UNDP

Mr. Atul Khare, Under Secretary General, Department of Operational Support

Ms. Anita Bhatia, Assistant Secretary General and Deputy Executive Director of the UN Women

Mr. Chandramouli Ramanathan, Assistant Secretary General, Department of Management Strategy, Policy and Compliance

Mr. Nikhil Seth, Assistant Secretary General and Executive Director, UNITAR

Lt. General Mohan Subramanian, Force Commander, UNMISS

Judge Dalveer Bhandari, Judge, International Court of Justice

Mr. Ovais Sarmad, Assistant Secretary General and Deputy Executive Secretary, UNFCC

Mr. Amandeep Singh Gill, Secretary General's Envoy on Technology