

Security Council Elections 2025



General Assembly Elects Non-Permanent Members of Security Council for 2025 - 2026
UN Photo/Manuel Elias

2025, No. 2
27 May 2025

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Introduction: The 2025 Elections

On 3 June, the 79th session of the UN General Assembly is scheduled to hold elections for membership of the Security Council. The five seats available for election in 2025, according to the regular distribution among regions, will be as follows:

- two seats for the African Group (currently held by Algeria and Sierra Leone);
- one seat for the Group of Asia and the Pacific Small Island Developing States (Asia-Pacific Group) (currently held by the Republic of Korea);

- one seat for the Latin American and Caribbean Group (GRULAC, currently held by Guyana); and
- one seat for the Eastern European Group (currently held by Slovenia).

The Western European and Others Group (WEOG) is not contesting any seats this year, as its two seats, held by Denmark and Greece through 2026, come up for election every other year. The five new members elected this year will take up their seats on 1 January 2026 and will serve until 31 December 2027.

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The 2025 Candidates

Five member states—Bahrain, Colombia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Latvia, and Liberia—are currently running for the five available seats. Apart from Latvia, all other candidates have previously served on the Council: Colombia seven times, DRC twice, and Bahrain and Liberia once.

All the regional groups are running uncontested elections this year, known as a “clean slate.” The table below shows the number of seats available by region in the 2025 election, the declared candidate(s), and their prior terms on the Council.

| REGION | SEATS AVAILABLE IN 2025 | CANDIDATES AND PRIOR COUNCIL TERMS |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------|--|
| Africa | 2 | Democratic Republic of the Congo (1982-1983, 1990-1991) Liberia (1961) |
| Asia-Pacific ¹ | 1 | Bahrain (1998-1999) |
| Latin America and Caribbean | 1 | Colombia (1947-1948, 1953-1954, 1957-1958, 1969-1970, 1989-1990, 2001-2002, 2011-2012) |
| Eastern Europe | 1 | Latvia (None) |

African Seats

Three non-permanent seats are always allocated to Africa. One seat comes up for election during every even calendar year, and two seats are available during odd years. Although there have been exceptions, elections for seats allocated to Africa are usually uncontested, as the African Group maintains an established pattern of rotation among its five sub-regions (North Africa, Southern Africa, East Africa, West Africa, and Central Africa), as described in greater detail below.

This pattern has been interrupted on several occasions, such as when Mauritania, Morocco, and Togo ran for the two open African seats in 2011. Nigeria and the Gambia contested one seat in 2013, but the Gambia dropped out of the race before the election. In 2020 Djibouti and Kenya contested the single available seat, which Kenya won in the second round of voting. In 2021, the DRC entered the race in early May but withdrew in early June in favour of Gabon, which was the AU-endorsed candidate. In its note verbale informing the UN Secretary-General and the President of the General Assembly that it had withdrawn its candidature, the DRC indicated that it would run in the 2025 Security Council elections for the 2026-2027 term. Most recently, Madagascar, Mauritius and Tanzania were briefly candidates in 2024, but all three dropped out of the race before the elections leaving Somalia as the sole candidate in 2024.

The DRC is running unopposed for the Central Africa seat, which rotates with the North Africa seat currently held by Algeria according to the Africa Group’s rotation pattern. Liberia is also running unopposed for the West Africa seat currently held by Sierra Leone. In the past, the norm has been for this seat to alternate between Anglophone and Francophone countries. However, this pattern has been disrupted quite frequently in recent years. Both Liberia and Sierra Leone are Anglophone countries. In the 2023 elections, a similar situation occurred when Sierra Leone, an Anglophone country, succeeded another Anglophone country, Ghana. Moreover, in the 2019 elections, Niger, a Francophone country, succeeded another Francophone country, Côte d’Ivoire.

The selection and endorsement of candidatures for the African Group take place within the AU structures. At the 44th Ordinary Session of the AU Executive Council in February 2024 [EX.CL/Dec.1264(XLIV)], the body endorsed the DRC and Liberia.

Democratic Republic of the Congo

The DRC became a UN member state in 1960, shortly after gaining its independence. It has served in the Security Council twice (1982–1983 and 1990–1991).

During its campaign, the DRC has emphasised its intention to take a holistic and constructive approach to its work in the Security Council. It has said that a key priority is establishing ethical, transparent, and

The 2025 Candidates

profitable governance for the production, distribution, and marketing of natural resources, thus preventing their use to fuel conflict. Recognising Africa's vast resources and associated challenges, the DRC intends to promote improved governance of strategic minerals in line with sustainable development. This involves ensuring that benefits reach local populations, implementing strict anti-corruption measures, respecting Indigenous rights, minimising adverse environmental impacts, encouraging ethical initiatives like the Kimberley Process, promoting responsible business, and instituting financial transparency.

The DRC has emphasised Disarmament, Demobilization, and Reintegration (DDR) as a priority issue, with a focus on the effective and holistic implementation of DDR programmes. It considers successful DDR as crucial for consolidating peace, preventing conflict resurgence, and fostering sustainable development. The DRC has also observed that ineffective DDR often correlates to renewed conflict and believes that this issue requires sustained Council attention to identify effective policy responses.

The relationship of environmental issues to peace and security has been flagged as another priority. The DRC has positioned itself as a solution-oriented country in the context of tackling the security implications of climate change. Rich in natural resources—including forests, peatlands, and vast freshwater reserves—the DRC aims to share its experience in ecosystem management, combating deforestation with a target of planting one billion trees by 2030, and managing its significant freshwater resources such as the Congo Basin.

The DRC seeks to share its experience as a conflict-affected country that is host to the UN's largest peacekeeping mission, the UN Organization Stabilization Mission in the DRC (MONUSCO). It will be bringing its experience as a host country with a strong understanding of peace operations to the Council at a time of change for UN peacekeeping

The DRC is not currently a troop- or police-contributing country.

Liberia

Liberia is a founding member of the UN. It previously served a one-year term in 1961. Following a compromise agreement to break a six-week deadlock, Liberia agreed to a split term with Ireland, which was elected to the seat in 1962.

During its campaign, Liberia has underscored its long-standing commitment to multilateralism and international peace and security. It has framed its candidacy as part of a broader effort to reaffirm its role on the global stage and contribute to addressing contemporary peace and security challenges.

Liberia has also emphasised its transformation from a post-conflict state to a contributor to international peacekeeping operations. Drawing on its national experience with conflict resolution, reconciliation, and institution-building, Liberia aims to bring practical insights to Council deliberations on post-conflict recovery, peacebuilding, and humanitarian coordination. The country also seeks to promote inclusive and consensus-driven approaches to international peace and security.

Liberia has identified several thematic priorities for its term. These include conflict prevention and mediation; climate, peace and security and sustainable development; and the promotion of human rights, justice, and accountability. Liberia also plans to highlight the climate-conflict nexus and can be expected to support the Council's work on climate, peace and security.

The women, peace and security (WPS) and youth, peace and security (YPS) agendas are also key priorities, with a focus on gender equality and youth participation in peace processes.

Liberia positions itself as a voice for the Global South and intends to represent the interests of West Africa and the African continent more broadly. Regional stability, particularly within the Mano River Union, is expected to feature in its engagement on Council matters.

As at 26 May, Liberia has 26 personnel deployed to UNMISS and UNISFA.

GRULAC Seat

Two non-permanent seats are allocated to Latin America and the Caribbean, with one coming up for election every year. Starting in 2007 there has been an informal understanding among GRULAC members to avoid contested elections. This followed the 2006 elections for the GRULAC seat on the Security Council for the 2007-2008 term, contested between Guatemala and Venezuela, which were inconclusive after 47 rounds of voting between 16 October and 7 November. (Panama was elected in the 48th round as the compromise candidate.)

Since 2007, candidates for the GRULAC seat have run unopposed, with the exception of 2019, when Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, which was the GRULAC-endorsed candidate, won the seat with 185 votes, after El Salvador submitted its candidacy just days before the 7 June election and received only six votes.

This year, Colombia is running unopposed for the seat currently held by Guyana.

Colombia

Colombia is a founding member of the UN and has previously served in the Council seven times (1947-1948, 1953-1954, 1957-1958, 1969-1970, 1989-1990, 2001-2002, 2011-2012).

Colombia has campaigned under the slogan "Experience Building Peace", highlighting its extensive national efforts in conflict resolution and peacebuilding. Colombia has presented its own experience with inclusive and participatory peace processes as a successful model for countries coming out of conflict and has emphasised the role of dialogue and trust-building in this regard. Drawing on this experience, Colombia has defined peacebuilding as a core foreign policy priority. It considers transitional justice as a fundamental part of peacebuilding, focusing on the importance of accountability, justice, truth, reparations, and guarantees of non-repetition for victims.

Colombia describes itself as a firm advocate of international law and the principles of the UN Charter, which it considers foundational to peaceful coexistence and respect for diversity among peoples. It has emphasised dialogue, inclusion, and sustainability as central elements of a stable and just peace.

If elected, Colombia seeks to promote multilateralism and diplomacy, focusing on tools outlined in Chapter VI on the "Pacific Settlement of Disputes" of the UN Charter.

Colombia's other priorities for its Council term include women, peace and security (WPS); youth, peace and security (YPS); human rights; and climate, peace and security. It has emphasised the central role of women in conflict prevention, negotiation, and the implementation of peace agreements.

As at 28 February, Colombia has five personnel deployed in MINURSO, MINUSCA and UNIFIL.

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Eastern European Seat

One non-permanent seat on the Council is allocated to Eastern Europe. This seat comes up for election every odd calendar year. Initially, Latvia and Montenegro were contesting this seat. On 31 January, Montenegro withdrew its candidature leaving Latvia running unopposed for the single seat currently held by Slovenia.

Latvia

Latvia became a member of the UN in 1991. It has never served in the Council.

During its campaign, Latvia has emphasised its commitment to multilateralism, and the principles of the UN Charter. It has stressed its perspective as a small country that relies on the international rules-based order and the UN Charter as a means to protect its sovereignty. If elected, Latvia has said that it would seek to reinforce the resilience of the multilateral system and promote the independence and territorial integrity of all UN member states.

Latvia has highlighted its contributions to regional and international security through its engagement in the UN and regional arrangements. It has stressed the importance of working with UN member states, regional organisations and civil society in building lasting peace and promoting sustainable development.

It also has a strong interest in promoting the women, peace and security agenda which it considers critical for global peace and sustainable development. In this context, Latvia has indicated that it would continue to support efforts to protect women's rights and assist victims of gender-based violence in armed conflicts as a Council member. Latvia also recognises the security implications of environmental issues such as climate change and water scarcity. It has expressed interest in engaging with these issues in the Council, while sharing its expertise in natural resource management, promoting solutions for access to clean water, and combatting maritime pollution.

Another of Latvia's priorities is responsible use of new technologies. Latvia has emphasised the transformative effect of new technologies and digital tools in such areas as fighting climate change and natural resource management. However, it also acknowledges the potential security threats of new technologies, including cyberwar and the dissemination of misinformation.

As a member of the cross-regional Accountability, Coherence, and Transparency (ACT) Group, Latvia is expected to promote

working methods reforms that enhance the Council's effectiveness.

As at 26 May, Latvia has 36 personnel deployed to UNIFIL and UNTSO.

Asia-Pacific Seat

One of the two Council seats allocated to the Asia-Pacific Group comes up for election every year. Bahrain is running unopposed for the single Asia-Pacific Group seat this year. It will also fill the Arab Swing Seat, which alternates every odd calendar year between the Asia-Pacific Group and the African Group. The Arab Swing Seat, described in greater detail below, is being vacated by Algeria on 31 December 2025.

Bahrain

Bahrain joined the UN in 1971, shortly after gaining its independence. It has served on the Security Council once (1998-1999).

Bahrain has campaigned under the overarching theme "Building Bridges of Peace for the Present and Future." It has emphasised its commitment to various initiatives towards peace and prosperity in the region and beyond, which it has described as a strategic choice. Bahrain has also underscored the importance of advancing multilateralism, while strengthening cooperation with the UN and regional organisations.

If elected, Bahrain has indicated that it will prioritise consolidating peace and stability by focusing on several key areas. These include fostering dialogue and coexistence, and promoting respect for international law, including by upholding the UN Charter. Bahrain has emphasised the crucial role of UN peace operations in addressing fragile peace and security situations. It has expressed support for promoting the inclusion and participation of women and youth in peace processes. In addition, Bahrain has underscored its track record in supporting international humanitarian efforts.

Bahrain has stressed its commitment to combating terrorism and extremism, noting in this regard that it is a founding member of the Global Coalition Against Daesh. As an island nation, Bahrain has expressed an interest in supporting maritime security and addressing the security implications of climate change. It also aims to enhance the transparency and efficiency of the Security Council's working methods.

Bahrain is currently not a troop- or police-contributing country.

Potential Council Dynamics in 2026

The shifting global landscape and continuing political polarisation among the permanent members are expected to continue to shape Council dynamics in 2026. The priorities raised by the candidates in their campaigns, as well as their long-standing interests, help to provide insights into their potential approach to some of the key issues confronting the Council.

Given the long-standing positions of the permanent members—as well as those of the continuing elected members and the incoming members—several agenda items are likely to remain highly contentious, including the Democratic People's Republic of Korea,

Myanmar, "The situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question", and Ukraine. African issues that may be difficult include the situation in the DRC and Sudan.

Although it is unclear what course the war in Ukraine will take in 2026, the situation is likely to continue to occupy a significant portion of the Council's agenda in 2026. Among current candidates, Latvia has a significant interest in the situation in Ukraine, given its geographic proximity to the conflict. From the outset of the war, Latvia has consistently provided Ukraine with broad political, military, financial, development, and humanitarian assistance. Positions

Potential Council Dynamics in 2026

on Ukraine of some of the other incoming members have evolved over time. Shortly after Russia's invasion of Ukraine, the General Assembly adopted a resolution on 2 March 2022 titled "Aggression against Ukraine," receiving support from 141 member states. All current candidates for Council membership in 2026-2027 voted in favour of that resolution. However, more recent votes in the General Assembly have revealed growing divisions among the wider UN membership on this issue. On 24 February 2025, the Ukrainian-EU resolution titled "Advancing a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in Ukraine" secured just 93 votes in favour, significantly less support than the 2 March 2022 resolution.

Among current candidates, Latvia and Liberia voted in favour of the 2025 resolution, while Bahrain and Colombia abstained, and the DRC did not vote. In 2022, all candidate countries were in broad agreement that Russia's invasion of Ukraine constituted an act of aggression, as reflected by voting records in the General Assembly. Latvia and Liberia have since maintained a clear stance on this issue, supporting Ukraine's position. In contrast, the positions of Bahrain, Colombia, and the DRC have seen slight shifts in line with a growing reluctance among Global South countries to take sides in the conflict.

The situation in the Middle East remains volatile and is likely to continue to feature prominently in the Council's work in 2026. The Security Council divisions are not expected to change dramatically over the Israel-Hamas war and its impact on other issues in the Middle East. While many members have condemned Hamas' 7 October 2023 attack, several have strongly criticised Israel for its alleged violations of international humanitarian law in Gaza. The US has been strongly supportive of Israel throughout the war.

Voting patterns in the General Assembly show that the current candidates have exhibited a range of views with regard to the war in Gaza. While, Liberia has traditionally tended to align with the US and Israel on this issue, there appears to have been a slight shift in its position since December 2023. For example, it voted in favor of the 16 December 2024 General Assembly resolution (ES-10/26) demanding a ceasefire in Gaza, as did other incoming members. The DRC has tended to be supportive of resolutions on the humanitarian situation in Gaza and on Palestinian rights. Latvia has supported humanitarian measures related to the war in Gaza in the General Assembly. In May 2024, Colombia severed ties with Israel over its actions in Gaza. It has been critical of Israel's actions and supportive of humanitarian and diplomatic efforts to end the conflict. Although Bahrain normalised its relations with Israel after signing the Abraham Accords, it is expected to maintain its strong criticism of Israel's operation in Gaza in line with the position of the Arab League and the Gulf Cooperation Council.

Next year, with Somalia in the second year of its 2025-2026 tenure, there will be three non-permanent members serving in the Council that are also on its agenda.

The DRC has had a peacekeeping operation in the country since the early sixties, and a sanctions committee established pursuant to resolution 1533 (2004).

MONUSCO is the largest and longest-running UN peacekeeping mission in Africa. In recent years it has faced significant pressure from both the government and local communities due to its perceived failure to effectively address the security situation in eastern DRC. As part of a disengagement plan for a phased and gradual drawdown of MONUSCO, the mission has withdrawn its forces

from South Kivu, one of the eastern provinces. However, the security situation deteriorated sharply in early 2025, with the *Mouvement du 23 Mars (M23)* expanding its territorial control in the eastern regions of the country.

The DRC has a contentious relationship with Rwanda, which it accuses of supporting the M23, while Rwanda blames the DRC for supporting the *Forces démocratiques de libération du Rwanda (FDLR)*, an ethnic Hutu armed group active in eastern DRC that was implicated in the 1994 genocide against the Tutsis in Rwanda. The Group of Experts assisting the 1533 DRC Sanctions Committee has corroborated these assertions in its past reports. In this context, the DRC has been advocating for punitive measures against Rwanda and the M23.

If elected, the DRC is likely to use its membership on the Security Council—alongside its concurrent seat on the African Union Peace and Security Council—to draw greater international attention to the situation in eastern DRC and the broader Great Lakes region.

Colombia has been on the agenda since 2016 following the signing of the 2016 Final Agreement for Ending the Conflict and Building a Stable and Lasting Peace between the government of Colombia and the former rebel group *Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia-Ejército del Pueblo (FARC-EP)*.

From the outset, Colombia's relationship with the Council has been positive. Colombia is seen as a unique file. It requested to be added to the Council's agenda in 2016, which resulted in the establishment of the UN Mission in Colombia. This mission was succeeded by the UN Verification Mission in Colombia, which is tasked with verifying several aspects related to implementation of the 2016 agreement and is regularly discussed in the Council. Colombia also remains a rare file on the Council's agenda that enjoys consensus and has largely remained insulated from the difficult dynamics among Council members on other files. Colombia may be able to share their positive experience of hosting a UN mission in discussions on UN peace operations.

As a West African country, Liberia is expected to pay particular attention to West Africa and the Sahel and may choose to focus on the deteriorating security situation in this region. It could replace Sierra Leone as a co-penholder on the UN Office for West Africa and the Sahel (UNOWAS) next year, joining Denmark, the other current co-penholder. In the same vein, the DRC could be the co-penholder on the UN Office for Central Africa (UNOCA), which in recent years has had a Central African country co-chair together with the UK.

Both the DRC and Liberia are expected to advance common African positions in line with the decisions of the AU and its Peace and Security Council. In this regard, during their election campaigns, both countries expressed support for "Silencing the Guns in Africa", the AU's flagship initiative aimed at ending all wars and conflicts on the continent by 2030. Curbing the proliferation of small arms and light weapons—one of the initiative's key objectives—has been emphasised by both countries and could feature as a theme during their Council tenures.

Some candidates have emphasised the importance of addressing terrorism and violent extremism. Bahrain has highlighted this issue as one of its priorities while also stressing its role in combating extremism and terrorism in the region. Colombia may be interested in focusing on a broader set of issues related to transnational crime.

Potential Council Dynamics in 2026

Several of the candidates have indicated that peacekeeping will be one of their priorities. Colombia, the DRC and Liberia have extensive experience hosting UN peace operations, while Bahrain and Latvia have emphasised the importance of peacekeeping in their candidacies. These members will enter during a period of transition for peacekeeping in light of potential cuts to the peacekeeping budget and the ongoing review of peace operations. They may therefore have an opportunity to share their experiences and express their views on the drawdown, reconfiguration, and termination of UN peace operations during their term.

Additionally, all candidates have expressed interest in supporting peacebuilding efforts. The ongoing peacebuilding architecture review, which is expected to culminate with twin resolutions adopted by the Security Council and the General Assembly at the end of 2025, may provide new opportunities for involvement.

Maritime security may receive significant attention from the Council in 2026. Given that this is one of its core priorities, Bahrain is expected to advance discussions in the Council on this issue. As a country with one of the world's largest ship registries, Liberia has a particular stake in this issue as well. These members could work closely with the continuing elected members—Denmark, Greece, Pakistan, Panama, and Somalia—who also have a strong interest in promoting maritime security issues.

All candidate countries have expressed an interest in advancing WPS-related issues. Several, if not all, may sign on to the Shared Commitments on WPS initiative, which started in late 2021. Permanent members France and the UK, the penholder on WPS, can be expected to remain proponents of the agenda. There have been changes to the US position on this agenda since the start of President Donald Trump's term in January 2025. The US, which signed on to the Shared Commitments on WPS in 2023, has so far not participated in any of the joint stakeouts that the Council members who signed on to this initiative have held to deliver joint statements. The US has also sought to modify some references to the WPS agenda during negotiations in early 2025, with a particular focus on gender-related language. Russia will probably continue to argue that gender equality is not directly linked to international peace and security and is therefore not within the Council's purview. China is likely to continue to maintain that the development gap is the most important barrier to women's empowerment.

There will be a vacancy for one of the co-chair positions of the Informal Expert Group (IEG) on WPS in 2026: current co-chair Sierra Leone will conclude its Council term this December, paving

the way for another member to join Denmark as co-chair.

Climate, peace and security ranks high on the priority list for many candidates this year, with most candidate countries emphasising the importance of addressing the nexus between environmental issues and international peace and security. In particular, the DRC, Latvia, and Liberia have expressed strong interest in addressing issues related to natural resource management and its linkages to conflict. While the majority of Council members support Council engagement on this issue, China and Russia continue to express reservations about the climate, peace and security file. The current US administration has reservations about this issue as well.

One member of the ACT Group—Slovenia—will leave the Security Council at the end of 2025. Among the current candidates, only Latvia is a member of the group. Another ACT Group member, Denmark, will continue on the Council in 2026. These two members are likely to take the lead in pushing for improved Security Council working methods, including proposals advocated by the ACT Group. All incoming members have signed the ACT Group's Code of Conduct regarding Security Council action against genocide, crimes against humanity, or war crimes, which calls on all Council members to not vote against any credible draft resolution intended to prevent or halt mass atrocities. In line with ACT's position on the selection process for the next UN Secretary-General, ACT members on the Council are expected to be supportive of greater transparency and openness in this process.

In 2026, elected members may continue to seek active roles in the Council as penholders or co-penholders, the informal designation of those that take the lead in drafting outcomes and convening meetings or negotiations on particular agenda items, a responsibility most often assumed by one of the P3 (France, the UK, and the US). In recent years, a growing number of elected members have served as co-penholders with a permanent member on various files. Among current elected members, this includes Slovenia with the US on Ukraine political issues, and Panama with France on Ukraine humanitarian issues and with the US on Haiti. Elected members usually hold the pen on the Syria humanitarian file, and some candidate countries may be interested in this role when Denmark (current penholder) leaves the Council at the end of 2026. Several current members are still vying to be penholders on Afghanistan in 2025; next year, depending on how this issue is resolved, there may be an opportunity for one or more of the elected members to serve as a penholder or co-penholder on Afghanistan.

The Process of Election

Elections to the Council, as with other principal organs of the UN, require formal balloting even if candidates have been endorsed by their regional group and are running unopposed. A Council candidate country must always obtain the votes of two-thirds of the member states voting at the General Assembly session. This means that at least 129 votes are required to win a seat if all 193 UN member states vote. Member states that abstain are considered not voting,

and blank ballots are not counted. Votes are secret. Under Article 19 of the UN Charter, a member state can be excluded from voting if the amount owed in arrears equals or exceeds the contributions due for the two preceding years. At press time, Afghanistan, Bolivia, Guinea-Bissau, and Venezuela are not permitted to vote in the General Assembly because of their arrears.

Member states vote for five candidates representing the various

The Process of Election

regional groups in each round of voting. In theory, it is possible that a country running unopposed might not garner the required number of votes of those present in the General Assembly in the first round of voting. Such a country may then be challenged in subsequent rounds by hitherto undeclared candidates and could ultimately fail to obtain a seat. However, this has never happened.

In a contested election, if no candidate obtains sufficient votes to be elected in the first round, voting in the next round would be restricted. In this restricted ballot, the number of candidates is limited to twice the number of seats available, and the candidates are those that received the highest number of votes in the first round. For example, if one seat is available, only two countries can contest this round—the two that received the most votes in the first round. Any votes for other candidates during this restricted voting round are considered void. This restricted voting process can continue for up to three rounds of voting.

If no candidate has garnered the required number of votes, unrestricted voting is reopened for up to three rounds. This pattern of restricted and unrestricted voting continues until a candidate is successful in securing the required two-thirds majority.

Historically, there have been several instances in which extended rounds of voting were required to fill a contested seat. This was more common before the Council's enlargement from 11 to 15 members in 1966, when it led to several agreements to split terms, such as the 1961-1962 term, split between Liberia and Ireland. Since 1966, such situations have been resolved by the withdrawal of one of the contenders or the election of a compromise candidate, with the sole exception being the 2016 agreement between Italy and the Netherlands to split the 2017-2018 term.¹ A summary of the recent voting in General Assembly elections for non-permanent seats on the Security Council is contained in Annex 3 of this report.

Regional Groups and Established Practices

For purposes of election to the Security Council, the regional groups have been governed by a formula set out in General Assembly resolution 1991 A (XVIII), which was adopted in 1963 and took effect in 1966. The main feature of the resolution was to amend the UN Charter to increase the number of Council members from 11 to 15. Under this resolution, the seats previously assigned to the African and Asia-Pacific states were combined. In reality, however, the determination of candidates for election to the African and Asia Pacific seats operates separately, and this report reflects that customary practice.

Article 23 of the Charter, which establishes the number of Council members, also specifies the criteria that the members of the General Assembly are to apply when considering which countries should be elected to serve on the Council. It provides that due regard shall be “specially paid, in the first instance, to the contribution of Members of the United Nations to the maintenance of international peace and security and to the other purposes of the Organization, and also to equitable geographical distribution”.

The Charter does not define equitable geographical distribution, stipulate how it should be achieved, or suggest the composition of appropriate geographical groups. However, the principle of equitable geographical distribution gave rise to the establishment of regional electoral groups as a vehicle for achieving that goal. The regional groups, as they now operate, are as follows:

| | |
|--|------------|
| African Group | 54 members |
| Asia-Pacific Group | 54 members |
| Eastern European Group | 23 members |
| Latin America and Caribbean (GRULAC) | 33 members |
| Western European and Others Group (WEOG) | 28 members |

African Group

Most of the groups have internal selection processes based on informal understandings. The African Group's process is more formal: it has adopted the rules of procedure of the AU's Ministerial Committee on Candidatures within the International System to endorse candidates to occupy the three African seats on the Council. Subregional groups within the African Group tend to follow a rotation system, though there have been some departures from this scheme. Theoretically, under this system, every country in Africa should eventually get a turn as a candidate for a Council seat.

The process of selecting a candidate within the African Group usually follows a defined path in accordance with the AU rules of procedure cited above. First, the subregional groups select the potential candidate countries and forward their names to the African Group for endorsement. The African Group submits all candidate countries' names to the Committee on Candidatures of the African Group in New York: at this stage, subregional organisations may add their endorsement before the list goes to the AU Ministerial Committee on Candidatures. This committee follows its written rules of procedure in selecting candidates.

Today, every member of the African Group is a member of the AU. The AU Executive Council makes the final decision on which members to endorse during an AU summit meeting. The written rules of procedure for candidate selection notwithstanding, some countries have submitted their candidature directly to the AU Ministerial Committee on Candidatures, bypassing the process in New York.

The African rotation generally follows a cycle based on the following principles:

- Northern Africa and Central Africa rotate running for one seat every odd calendar year;
- Western Africa runs for one seat every odd calendar year; and
- Eastern Africa and Southern Africa rotate running for one seat every even calendar year.

¹ For further background, see “Security Council Elections: Italy and the Netherlands Agree to a Split Term”, What's in Blue, 29 June 2016: <https://www.securitycouncilreport.org/whatsinblue/2016/06/security-council-elections-italy-and-the-netherlands-agree-to-a-split-term.php>.

Regional Groups and Established Practices

Broad adherence to this system has meant that African candidates generally run on “blank slates”, or uncontested. This is not always the case, however. When Sudan was the endorsed candidate for the 2000 election, Mauritius contested the seat and won election to the Council. In 2011, Mauritania contested Morocco’s candidature for the Northern Africa/Arab swing seat, but lost. In 2020, Djibouti contested the seat allocated to the East Africa region but lost to Kenya, which was the endorsed candidate. In 2021, the DRC entered the race very late but withdrew in favour of Gabon, which was the AU endorsed candidate.

In addition to rival candidates emerging within a given subregional grouping, there have been times in the past when countries that can claim to straddle more than one geographic region have shifted from one subgroup to another.

A factor that seems to be coming into play is the growing desire by some member states in the region to be elected more regularly than the—admittedly informal—rotation system would allow. Nigeria was elected for the 2014–2015 term two years after its Council membership of 2010–2011. South Africa was on the Council in 2007–2008, in 2011–2012, and again in 2019–2020. By declaring their candidacies ahead of their “turn”, these countries need to either persuade other candidates to withdraw or face a contested election.

Asia-Pacific Group

In 2011, the Asian Group officially changed its name to the Group of Asia and the Pacific Small Island Developing States, also known as the Asia-Pacific Group. The name change reflects the fact that more than a quarter of the group’s members are island countries in the Pacific.

The Asia-Pacific Group has no formally established practices of rotation to fill the two seats, one of which becomes available every year. While it has the same number of countries as the African Group, the Asia-Pacific Group’s wide geographic span—from the Middle East to Polynesia—has led to much looser regional coordination.

Until the mid-1990s, there was a fairly consistent South Asian presence on the Council, with Bangladesh, India, Nepal, and Pakistan rotating seats. In practice, South Asian countries rarely run against each other. One exception occurred in 1975 when India and Pakistan contested the same seat, and eight rounds of voting were needed before Pakistan prevailed. By the time Pakistan completes its upcoming 2025–2026 term, it will have served a total of 16 years on the Council, the same duration as India.

In the absence of a formal rotation system, larger member states have tended to declare their candidacy closer to the election year, while smaller candidate countries from the region have often announced their decision to run many years ahead of time. The only subregional group within the Asia-Pacific Group that endorses its candidates is the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), comprised of Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Viet Nam.

The Arab Swing Seat

There is an established practice that spans the Asia-Pacific and African Groups. As discussed in greater detail in Annex 2, General Assembly resolution 1991 A (XVIII) provided five seats for “Asia and Africa”, and, in practice, the seats have been divided into three seats for Africa and two for Asia. In 1967, after Jordan ended its

two-year term in what had been the Middle East seat, there was a year with no Arab state on the Council, which coincided with the Six-Day War. It appears that at some point, there was an informal agreement, although there are no known records, to reserve one seat for an Arab state and that Asia and Africa would take turns every two years to provide a suitable candidate. As a result, this seat is often called the “Arab swing seat”. An Arab country has always held a seat on the Council since 1968.

Eastern European Group

The Eastern European Group is the smallest regional group, consisting of 23 member states, with an election for one seat every odd calendar year. This is also the group that has expanded the most in recent decades, with 15 new members added since 1991 because of the dissolution of the Soviet Union and the splitting of both Czechoslovakia and Yugoslavia. Today, 11 of its countries are EU members, and eight—Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, the Republic of North Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, Serbia, and Ukraine—are formal candidates for EU membership. An Eastern European seat was included in the permanent members’ “gentlemen’s agreement” in 1946 (see Annex 2), but soon thereafter, the meaning of that agreement was contested, with the Soviet Union and the West vying for 20 years to place their preferred candidates in this seat. The seat also became hotly contested among new member states that lacked a clear regional grouping. (For example, in 1955, before there was an Asian seat, the Philippines competed for a seat with members of the Eastern European Group. When voting remained deadlocked between Yugoslavia and the Philippines after 36 rounds, the two countries agreed to accept a split term: Yugoslavia served on the Council in 1956 and the Philippines in 1957.)

Latin American and Caribbean Group

After the expansion of the Council and the reorganisation of the regional groups that occurred as a result of General Assembly resolution 1991 A (XVIII), the Latin American Group incorporated the Caribbean states, several of which were members of the British Commonwealth, and became the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States (GRULAC). It currently has 33 members.

Like most of the other groups, GRULAC has no formal rules regarding rotation. Historically, the group was often able to reach consensus on “clean slates”, although there have been notable exceptions. Two of the most protracted and bitterly contested elections were between GRULAC candidates. The 1979 election between Colombia and Cuba went to 155 rounds between 26 October 1979 and 7 January 1980 before Mexico was elected as a compromise candidate. In 2006, 47 rounds of voting were needed between 16 October and 7 November in the election between Guatemala and Venezuela before Panama was elected in the 48th round as a compromise candidate. Following the hotly contested 2006, election there has been an informal understanding among GRULAC members to avoid contested elections.

While for much of the last 60 years, non-Caribbean countries have tended to dominate regional representation, there have been two Caribbean countries that were elected to this seat recently: Saint Vincent and the Grenadines (2019 – 2020) and Guyana (2024 – 2025). Brazil has served the highest number of terms among GRULAC members, with a total of 22 years on the Council by the end of its last term in 2022–2023.

Regional Groups and Established Practices

Western European and Others Group

With 28 members, WEOG is the second smallest regional group, and two seats become available to it every even calendar year. Strictly speaking, it is not a geographical group, as it comprises Western Europe plus “others”, but its members share broadly similar political values and levels of economic development. The “others” subgroup is made up of Australia, Canada, and New Zealand, who were members of what was previously called the British Commonwealth Group. Israel is the other non-European state that participates in WEOG, while the Holy See is an observer. With the US also attending meetings as an observer and France and the UK as members, WEOG includes three of the five permanent members of the Council.

WEOG practices what might be called an open-market approach

to elections, which produces regularly contested candidatures, a pattern likely to continue in the coming years.

There are three subgroups within WEOG: the Nordic countries (Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, and Sweden), CANZ (Canada, Australia, and New Zealand), and Benelux (Belgium, the Netherlands, and Luxembourg). There are informal understandings within the Nordic and CANZ subgroups that have encouraged members to support each other’s campaigns.

In its first term on the Council (1951-1952), Türkiye served as the Middle Eastern Council member. After twice holding the Eastern European seat, in 1954-1955 and 1961, it ran for the WEOG seat. Türkiye participates fully in both the WEOG and Asian Group but, for electoral purposes, is considered a member of WEOG.

Becoming a Candidate

The path most candidate countries follow in announcing and pursuing their bids for the Council usually begins by informing members of their regional (or subregional) group of the intention to run and seeking its support. The group’s endorsement becomes an important factor in the next step. (The more complex process within the African Group is described above.)

A candidate country then formalises its intention to seek a Council seat by notifying the rotating monthly chair of its regional group in New York. This is done in writing, specifying the two-year term the country seeks. The chair incorporates that information into the UN candidacy chart of the regional group in question; this chart is

maintained by each group and reviewed at monthly group meetings. Most candidate countries then prepare a circular note to all missions in New York informing them of the candidacy. Most also send a note to the Secretariat or the president of the General Assembly, or both, although this is not required by the General Assembly’s rules of procedure.

As the relevant election year approaches, the regional group may decide to give its endorsement, and, nearer to the election date, the chair of the regional group will inform the president of the General Assembly whether elections will be contested or not. This allows the Secretariat to prepare documentation for the election process.

Campaigning for the Council

Candidates seek voting pledges from member states, often years in advance of the election, and may continue to do so up until the vote. Campaigning for the Council can involve significant investments of time and financial resources, although funds brought to bear vary greatly depending on several factors, including the wealth of the candidate and whether the candidacy is contested. (Candidates predictably tend to spend less in uncontested elections.)

Commitments are sought in writing, orally, or both. Votes are cast by secret ballot, making it impossible to determine whether member states have kept their promises. There are several reasons why pledges may be broken. A high-level official in the capital may pledge the country’s vote to a particular candidate but fail to convey the commitment to the permanent mission to the UN in New York, where the votes are cast. Or, if there is a change in government, the new government may not consider itself bound by the pledges of a previous administration. Knowing that commitments are not always secure, some candidate countries persistently cultivate countries that have already promised to vote for them, seeking reassurance that they have not changed their minds. Candidates often seek pledges from member states at many levels of government.

As candidate countries generally focus their campaigns on

influencing the voting decisions of diplomats in member state capitals and at UN headquarters, their foreign minister and permanent representative to the UN in New York play significant roles in the campaign process. Additionally, particularly in contested elections, many candidates employ special envoys, usually former senior government officials or diplomats, who travel to capitals seeking voting pledges from high-level officials. Depending on their campaign strategies and resources, candidate countries may use multiple envoys, often focusing their efforts on regions where they lack strong diplomatic representation.

To secure voting commitments from member states, candidate countries may volunteer, or be asked for, inducements, such as development assistance or promises to promote—or avoid—particular issues while serving on the Council. Several candidate countries have arranged trips to their capital or held workshops on (uncontroversial) issues of interest in attractive locations to raise their campaign profile. “Swag bags” with items imprinted with the candidate’s logo may be distributed within UN circles to increase campaign visibility.

Until recently, permanent representatives were customarily offered gifts on election day by most candidates, even those running unopposed. On 8 September 2017, however, the General

Campaigning for the Council

Assembly adopted resolution 71/323 on the revitalisation of the work of the General Assembly, which decided that “on the day of election...the campaign materials distributed in the General Assembly Hall...shall be limited to a single page of information regarding the candidates, with a view to preserving the decorum of the Assembly”. The following year, on 17 September 2018, resolution 72/313 welcomed the “efficient implementation” of this provision and decided “to continue to consider, within the Ad Hoc Working Group [on the Revitalization of the Work of the General Assembly], the potential concept and scope of guidelines on how to conduct the election campaigns by Member States, with a view

to improving the standards of transparency and equity”.

As contested elections may continue for several rounds, candidates try to ensure that member states that voted for them in the first round continue to do so while also attempting to secure support from uncommitted members. Some member states have said when they commit their vote to a candidate, they do so for the duration of the electoral process, regardless of the number of rounds. In protracted elections that come down to two candidates vying for a single seat, however, member states may shift their vote if it appears that their candidate of choice is losing ground and seems unlikely to prevail.

UN Documents on Security Council Elections

Security Council Documents

[S/2017/507](#) (13 December 2017) was the updated compendium of Security Council working methods.

[S/2023/945](#) (1 December 2023) was a Security Council Presidential note on penholderships.

[S/2018/1024](#) (13 November 2018) was a letter to the president of the Security Council from the elected ten and incoming five members advocating a more equal distribution of work among all members.

[S/2016/619](#) (15 July 2016) was a note by the Council president concerning transitional arrangements for newly elected Council members, which among other matters, called on Council members to agree provisionally on the appointment of chairs of subsidiary bodies by 1 October.

General Assembly Documents

[A/78/PV.86](#) (6 June 2024) was the meeting record of the 2024 elections of five non-permanent members.

[A/77/PV.75](#) (6 June 2023) was the meeting record of the 2023 election of five non-permanent members.

[A/76/PV.79](#) (9 June 2022) was the meeting record of the 2022 election of five non-permanent members.

[A/75/PV.78](#) (11 June 2021) was the record of the 2021 election of five non-permanent members.

[A/RES/72/313](#) (17 September 2018) was on the revitalisation of the work of the General Assembly and welcomed the “efficient implementation” of this provision and decided “to continue to consider, within the Ad Hoc Working Group [on the Revitalization of the Work of the General Assembly], the potential concept and scope of guidelines on how to conduct the election campaigns by Member States, with a view to improving the standards of transparency and equity”.

[A/72/PV.93](#) (8 June 2018) was the record of the 2018 election of five non-permanent members.

[A/RES/71/323](#) (8 September 2017) was on the revitalisation of the work of the General Assembly and decided that “on the day of election...the campaign materials distributed in the General Assembly Hall...shall be limited to a single page of information regarding the candidates, with a view to preserving the decorum of the Assembly”.

[A/71/PV.86](#) (2 June 2017) was the record of the 2017 election of five non-permanent members.

[A/70/PV.108](#) (30 June 2016) was the record of the 2016 elections for the remaining non-permanent member from WEOG.

[A/70/974](#) (30 June 2016) was a letter from Egypt expressing its understanding that the agreement between Italy and the Netherlands to split the 2017-2018 term would not lay the ground for future practice and would have no legal or procedural implications on future elections to the Security Council.

[A/70/971](#) (30 June 2016) was a letter from Russia expressing the position that the exceptional case of the agreement between Italy and the Netherlands to split the 2017-2018 term would not set a precedent, arguing that this practice would have a negative impact on the Security Council's efficiency.

[A/70/964](#) (29 June 2016) was a letter from the chair of WEOG saying that Italy and the Netherlands had agreed to split the term, with Italy serving in 2017 and the Netherlands in 2018, requiring a by-election for the remainder of the term.

[A/70/PV.107](#) (28 June 2016) was the record of the 2016 elections of the non-permanent members for the remaining candidates from WEOG when Italy and the Netherlands announced that they would split the term.

[A/70/PV.106](#) (28 June 2016) was the record of the 2016 elections of four non-permanent members.

[A/70/PV.33](#) (15 October 2015) was the record of the 2015 elections of non-permanent members.

[A/69/PV.25](#) (16 October 2014) was the record of the 2014 elections of non-permanent members.

[A/RES/68/307](#) (18 September 2014) decided that elections of the non-permanent members of the Security Council would take place about six months before the elected members assumed their responsibilities.

[A/59/881](#) (20 July 2005) was a note verbale from Costa Rica containing information on elections from 1946 to 2004.

[A/RES 1991 A \(XVIII\)](#) (17 December 1963) was the resolution adopting amendments to the Charter on the composition of the Council and establishing the allocation of seats to various regions.

GAOR 1st Session, Part I, 14th Plenary Session and Part II (12 January 1946) was the first election of non-permanent members.

Other

Charter of the United Nations, <http://www.un.org/en/charter-united-nations/>

[A/520/Rev.15](#) and amendments 1 and 2 are the Rules of Procedure of the General Assembly, including amendments and additions.

Repertory of Practice of the United Nations Organs, Supplement no. 6, Volume III on Article 23 (1979-1984).

See <http://www.un.org/en/sc/repertoire/> for the online version of the Repertoire of the Practice of the Security Council. (The Repertory and the Repertoire are different resources.)

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Annex 1: Rules and Process for Election to the Council: Relevant Charter Provisions and Rules of Procedure

Charter Provisions on Election to the Council

The UN Charter, in Article 23, specifies the number of non-permanent members to be elected, as amended in 1963:

The General Assembly shall elect ten other Members of the United Nations to be non-permanent members of the Security Council...

Article 23(2) also stipulates the length of their term:

The non-permanent members...shall be elected for a term of two years.

The practical impact of rotation occurring every two years is mitigated by staggering the cycle, so that the General Assembly elects five members each year for the stipulated two-year period. This was determined by Rule 142 of the Rules of Procedure of the General Assembly.

Despite the specification of a two-year term, there have been exceptions when members have served shorter terms. There have been one-year terms, either to establish the required rotational cycle or to break electoral deadlocks.

Article 23(2) also contains a provision that ensures that no member can become a de facto permanent member by being re-elected to serve continuously in the Council:

A retiring member shall not be eligible for immediate re-election.

This is further reinforced by Rule 144 of the Rules of Procedure of the General Assembly, which also says that a retiring member of the Council is not eligible for immediate re-election. In addition to the provisions cited above, the Charter specifies the criteria that the members of the General Assembly shall apply when considering which countries should be elected to serve on the Council. It provides in Article 23 that due regard shall be:

...specially paid, in the first instance to the contribution of Members of the United Nations to the maintenance of international peace

and security and to the other purposes of the Organization, and also to equitable geographical distribution.

"Contribution to the maintenance of international peace and security" is often interpreted in this context as the personnel or financial contributions for peacekeeping operations and peace processes. "Contribution to the other purposes of the Organization", by contrast, is a very wide term. In recent years, most discussions regarding Article 23 at the General Assembly have focused on the criteria of equitable geographical distribution, with issues related to the candidates' contribution to international peace and security being left aside.

A key procedural provision of the Charter that is relevant to Security Council elections is Article 18(2). This requires a two-thirds majority vote in the General Assembly on important questions. Under that article, election to the Council is defined as an important question.

In addition, Article 18(3) defines the required majority by reference to members present and voting. This refers to members casting an affirmative or negative vote. Members who abstain from voting are considered not voting.

Relevant Rules of Procedure

Voting, especially during elections to the Security Council, can sometimes produce tense and dramatic situations on the floor of the General Assembly. In such circumstances, understanding the relevant rules of procedure can become very important.

Rule 88 of the Rules of Procedure of the General Assembly indicates that once the president of the General Assembly announces the commencement of voting, the process can only be interrupted on a

Annex 1: Rules and Process for Election to the Council: Relevant Charter Provisions and Rules of Procedure

point of order regarding the conduct of the vote. Furthermore, explanations of vote are not permitted when votes are cast by secret ballot.

Elections are governed by Rules 92, 93, and 94 of the Rules of Procedure of the General Assembly.

Under Rule 92, elections to the Council are held by secret ballot. Nominations are not required. Countries simply declare their intention to run, sometimes many years ahead, either by circular note to all members of the UN or to the chair of their regional grouping, or both.

Rule 93 sets out the procedure that applies when there is only one vacancy to be filled and no candidate obtains the required two-thirds majority in the first ballot. It provides that:

...a second ballot shall be taken, which shall be restricted to the two candidates obtaining the largest number of votes...if a two-thirds majority is required, the balloting shall be continued until one candidate secures two-thirds of the votes cast...

What this first part of Rule 93 means is that if there are more than two candidates and there is no clear winner on the first ballot, the lower-polling candidates drop out, and the contest then continues to a second ballot between the top two candidates. The effect of Rule 93 is that voting simply continues until one candidate prevails, either by securing the required majority or because the other withdraws.

If neither candidate receives the required majority on the second

and third ballots, Rule 93 says that after the third inconclusive ballot, votes may be cast for “an eligible ... Member”. This allows new candidates to come into the process, and the fourth ballot is therefore technically referred to as an unrestricted ballot. (It also allows any candidate excluded after the first restricted ballot to come back again.)

If a result is not achieved after three of these unrestricted ballots, Rule 93 requires that the pool again be reduced to the top two. This cycle then repeats until a result is achieved. The emergence of new candidates during the unrestricted stage is rare but not unprecedented. If a trend is starting to emerge in one direction after a succession of inconclusive ballots, it is not unusual for the candidate with fewer votes to withdraw.

Rule 94 is similar to Rule 93 but is applied when there are two or more seats to be filled.

When two or more elective places are to be filled at one time under the same conditions, those candidates obtaining in the first ballot the majority required shall be elected.

Rule 94 also specifies that if additional rounds of voting are required, the pool is reduced by a formula that says that the remaining candidates should not be more than twice the number of places available.

Annex 2: Historical Background

When the UN was established in 1945, the Charter provided for 11 members of the Security Council: five permanent members and six elected members.

Article 23(2) included a provision that in the first election of Council members, three members would be chosen for a period of one year so that in the future, three new members could be elected annually. This was decided by drawing lots for the one- and two-year terms.

In the first election, on 12 January 1946, the following countries were elected: Australia, Brazil, Egypt, Mexico, the Netherlands, and Poland. The pattern of geographical distribution was: two seats for Latin America, one for the Middle East, one for Eastern Europe, one for Western Europe, and one for the British Commonwealth.

The interpretation of what equitable geographic distribution should mean in terms of seats was based on an informal agreement among the permanent members, sometimes known as the London Agreement. From the start there was a lack of agreement about what had been agreed to. The US saw the 1946 formula as applying only to the first election, but the Soviet Union maintained that there had been a gentlemen’s agreement of a more general nature for the future meaning of geographic distribution.

The Charter clearly specifies a two-year term for elected members of the Council, but in addition to the 1946-1947 period, split terms started to occur in the late 1950s until the Council was enlarged in 1966. This was driven in part by fallout from the disagreement over regional rotation and associated Cold War politics. But the

aspirations of newly independent countries were also an important factor. The first example of this was seen in 1955 when the Philippines and Poland contested a seat. After four inconclusive ballots, Poland withdrew, and Yugoslavia declared its candidacy. However, the stalemate continued, and after two months and more than 30 rounds of voting, it was informally agreed that the Philippines would withdraw and that Yugoslavia would resign after one year, at which point the Philippines would run as the only candidate for that seat. Over the next few years, this became a common occurrence.

By the early 1960s, there was a growing acceptance that the original composition of the Council had become inequitable and unbalanced. Between 1945 and 1965, UN membership rose from 51 to 117 member states, with the proportion of Asian, African, and Caribbean states increasing from 25 percent to about 50 percent. On 17 December 1963, the General Assembly adopted resolution 1991 A (XVIII), which contained amendments to the Charter to address the issue by increasing the number of elected members to ten. The resolution also dealt with the issue of geographic distribution, which was resolved as follows:

- five elected members from the African and Asian states (this was subsequently subdivided in practice into two seats for the Asian Group and three seats for the African Group);
- one from the Eastern European states;
- two from the Latin American states (this included the Caribbean); and
- two from the Western European and other states (this included

Annex 1: Rules and Process for Election to the Council: Relevant Charter Provisions and Rules of Procedure

Australia, Canada, and New Zealand).

At the same time, Article 27 was altered so that resolutions of the Council required the vote of nine members instead of seven. This also meant that for the first time, the permanent members could be

outvoted by non-permanent members, although only on procedural questions, which are not subject to vetoes by permanent members, and when the permanent members choose not to cast a veto.

Annex 3: Results of Recent Elections for Non-Permanent Members of the Security Council

The left-hand column lists the year and the UN General Assembly Session in which the voting was held, as well as the number of the plenary meetings (the ordinal numbers) and the date of meetings. The middle column reflects the highest number of votes and

abstentions in a given round of elections. (The number of votes cast to fill the different seats in a given round is not always the same.) Candidate countries that won the election are in bold.

| | | |
|---|--|--|
| 2024 UNGA 78 86th 06-06-2024 | 1 ROUND Round 1: 188 votes, 6 abstention | Pakistan 182, Somalia 179, Panama 183, Denmark 184, Greece 182 |
| 2023 UNGA 77 75th 06-06-2023 | 1 ROUND Round 1: 192 votes, 1 abstention | Sierra Leone 188, Algeria 184, Republic of Korea 180, Slovenia 153, Belarus 38, Guyana 191 |
| 2022 UNGA 76 79th 09-06-2022 | 1 ROUND Round 1: 192 votes, 2 abstentions | Mozambique 192, Ecuador 190, Switzerland 187, Malta 185, Japan 184, Mongolia 3 |
| 2021 UNGA 75 78th 11-06-2021 | 1 ROUND Round 1: 190 votes, 14 abstentions | Ghana 185, Gabon 183, Brazil 181, United Arab Emirates 179, Albania 175, Democratic Republic of the Congo 3, Islamic Republic of Iran 1, Peru 1 |
| 2020 UNGA 74 17-06 2020* 18-06-2020* | 2 ROUNDS Round 1: 192 votes, 0 abstentions Round 2: 191 votes, 0 abstentions | Djibouti 78, India 184, Ireland 128, Kenya 113, Mexico 187, Norway 130 Kenya 129, Djibouti 62 |
| 2019 UNGA 73 89th 07-06-2019 | 2 ROUNDS Round 1: 193 votes, 4 abstentions Round 2: 193 votes, 2 abstentions, restricted | Viet Nam 192, Niger 191, Tunisia 191, Estonia 111, Romania 78, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines 185, El Salvador 6, Georgia 1, Latvia 1 Estonia 132, Romania 58 |
| 2018 UNGA 72 93rd 08-06-2018 | 1 ROUND Round 1: 190 votes, 8 abstentions | Dominican Republic 184, Germany 184, South Africa 183, Belgium 181, Indonesia 144, Maldives 46 |
| 2017 UNGA 71 86th 02-06-2017 | 1 ROUND Round 1: 192 votes, 5 abstentions | Poland 190, Côte d'Ivoire 189, Kuwait 188, Peru 186, Equatorial Guinea 185, Netherlands 184, Argentina 1, Guinea 1, Morocco 1 |
| 2016 UNGA 70 106th 28-06-2016 107th 28-06-16 | 6 ROUNDS Round 1: 191 votes, 8 abstentions Round 2: 193 votes, 2 abstentions, restricted Round 3: 190 votes, 3 abstentions, restricted Round 4: 191 votes, 2 abstentions, restricted Round 5: 190 votes, 2 abstentions, unrestricted | Ethiopia 185, Bolivia 183, Sweden 134, Netherlands 125, Kazakhstan 113, Italy 113, Thailand 77, Colombia 1, Cuba 1, Belgium 1 Kazakhstan 178, Netherlands 99, Italy 92, Thailand 55 Netherlands 96, Italy 94 Netherlands 96, Italy 95 Netherlands 95, Italy 95 |

*General Assembly decided "to hold the election of non-permanent members of the Security Council in June 2020, simultaneously, without holding a plenary meeting of the General Assembly" A/74/L.67

Annex 3: Results of Recent Elections for Non-Permanent Members of the Security Council

| | | |
|--------------------|---|--|
| 108th 30-06-16 | Round 6: 184 votes, 6 abstentions, unrestricted | Italy 179, Netherlands 4, San Marino 1 |
| 2015 UNGA69 | 1 ROUND | |
| 33rd 15-10-2015 | Round 1: 192 votes, 14 abstentions | Senegal 187, Uruguay 185, Japan 184, Egypt 179, Ukraine 177 |
| 2014 UNGA69 | 3 ROUNDS | |
| 25th 16-10-2014 | Round 1: 193 votes, 10 abstentions | Angola 190, Malaysia 187, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela 181, New Zealand 145, Spain 131, Turkey 109, Democratic Republic of the Congo 1, Brazil 1 |
| | Round 2: 193 votes, restricted | Spain 120, Turkey 73 |
| | Round 3: 192 votes, 1 abstention, restricted | Spain 132, Turkey 60 |
| 2013 UNGA68 | 1 ROUND AND A SPECIAL ELECTION | |
| 34th 17-10-2013 | Round 1: 191 votes, 5 abstentions | Lithuania 187, Chile 186, Nigeria 186, Chad 184, Saudi Arabia 176 (declined), Senegal 2, The Gambia 2, Lebanon 1, Croatia 1 |
| 61st 6-12-2013 | Round 1: 185 votes, 4 abstentions | Jordan 178, Saudi Arabia 1 |

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Security Council Report is a non-profit organisation supported by the Governments of Australia, Austria, Denmark, Finland, Greece, India, Ireland, Japan, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Singapore, Spain, Switzerland, Türkiye, United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, the Carnegie Corporation, and Open Society Foundations.

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