

# 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 peacebuilding 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 eight occasions so far—in 1950-51, 1967-68, 1972-73, 1977-78, 1984-85, 1991-92, 2011–2012, and 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.

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**

#### **79<sup>th</sup> Session of the UN General Assembly**

The 79th session of the United Nations General Assembly commenced on 10 September 2024. H.E. Mr. Philemon Yang, former Prime Minister of Cameroon is serving as the President of the 79th session of the General Assembly (79 PGA). Mr. Philemon Yang was unanimously elected on 10 June 2024.

The General Debate of the 79th UNGA was held from 24-30 September 2024. The “Summit of the Future” was held from 22 - 23 September 2024, ahead of the General Debate during which the world leaders adopted the Pact for the Future. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi participated in the Summit. External Affairs Minister, Dr. S. Jaishankar took part in the General Debate. The theme of the General Debate was “Leaving no one behind: acting together for the advancement of peace, sustainable development and human dignity for present and future generations.”

India continues to project its longstanding and growing credentials as a leading South-South development partner, especially in the context of the India-UN Development Partnership Fund and its leadership on climate change including through the Lifestyle for Environment (LiFE) movement, the International Solar Alliance (ISA), Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI), and Global Biofuels Alliance (GBA). India continues to play an active role in all of the key processes in the 79<sup>th</sup> session, including preparations for the Social Summit of 2025, the fourth Conference on Financing for Development, the United Nations Conference to support the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goal 14 and the Fourth High-level Meeting on Non communicable Diseases, and third UN Ocean Conference, among others.

Comprehensive reforms of the United Nations, particularly of the Security Council through the expansion of both categories of membership of the UN Security Council, in order to make it more representative, effective and credible is a key focus for India. This is a key component of Prime Minister Modi’s call for “**reformed multilateralism**”, that reflects today’s realities, gives voice to all stakeholders, addresses contemporary challenges and focuses on human welfare. He reinforced this vision at the Summit of the Future Plenary and remarked that “Reform is the key to relevance!”.

## **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 non-discriminatory 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 behavior in Cyber space 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.

India uses the Second Committee platform to highlight its response to the various challenges facing the international community, especially in the area of sustainable development. These include poverty eradication, empowering women and youth, deploying digital technology, fostering South-South cooperation, and focusing on climate action. India weighs in on issues such as reform of international financial infrastructure, trade restrictions such as Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM), G20-initiatives, renewable energy, disaster risk reduction and macroeconomic policies among others

The **Summit of the Future** was a high-level event held during the High-Level Week of the 79th UNGA in September 2024, bringing world leaders together to forge a new international consensus on how the international community can deliver a better present and safeguard the future. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi presented India's Human centric approach to sustainable development, that focuses on human welfare, food and health security, in the Summit. He highlighted that "Global Action must match Global Ambition".

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, non-discriminatory and inclusive multilateral trading system with development at the core of its agenda.

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 pre2020 commitments.

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's 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 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. India has also been sharing its success story in Digital Public Infrastructure that foster sustainable economic growth in alignment with the UN SDGs.

### **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, aging, 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.

The Third Committee of the United Nations was in session from 3 October to 22 November 2024. During its session of eight weeks, the Committee held general debate on 11 agenda items, interactive dialogue with 83 experts such as Special Procedure Mandate Holders, Special Rapporteurs, Chairs of Independent Mechanisms. General discussions were held under all agenda items allocated to the Committee. The Mission made national statements highlighting its strong legal structure, policy framework and recent initiatives undertaken by the Government of India for promoting cultural and social development inter-alia furthering child rights, women rights and protection of human rights.

Mission reiterated India's traditional position on indigenous people in the national statement, underscored our support for combating racism and xenophobia, and supported the cause of assisting refugees. The Third Committee considered 49 resolutions for adoption of which 5 were country specific resolutions and the rest were centered around specific themes. India co-sponsored 17 resolutions, which included those sponsored by NAM and G-77.

#### **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 ionizing 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. 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 financers of UN peacekeeping, which is involuntary and beyond many TCCs' capacity to pay.

On issues related to Human Resource Management, India's endeavors 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 also called as the "legal committee" is the primary forum within the UN for the consideration of legal questions in the General Assembly. As a founding Member of the UN, India continues to participate in all deliberations in the sixth committee which is crucial to bring its national laws in consonance with its international obligations.

India, having vast coastline and largest provider of seafarers, any multilateral efforts to codify international laws on the subject matter of Oceans and Law of the Sea is also considered as significant. This is evident from the fact that, India participated 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 was also engaged in discussions and

negotiations concerning the Agreement under UNLCOS on Marine Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) the text of which was adopted in June 2023 and signed by India on 25th September, 2025 and is in the process of ratification. India will also participate in the Preparatory Commission meetings to be held in April 2025.

As a party to the UNCLOS, India is also adequately represented in the three key bodies under UNCLOS such as the International Tribunal for Law of the Sea (ITLOS), bodies established under the UNCLOS such as the International Seabed Authority, Commission on the Limits of Continental Shelf. India has also participated in the two UN Ocean Conferences held during 2017 and 2022 and will be participating in the third UN Ocean Conference to be held in June 2025.

India is also 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. The Commission is composed of seventy Member States elected by the General Assembly. Member of the Commission are elected for terms of six years, the terms of half the since its establishment and its current tenure is until 2028. 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). India has also ratified the UNCITRAL Model Law on Electronic Commerce (1996), Model Law on Electronic Signatures (2001) and Model law on Public Procurement (2011)

India is committed to be at the forefront on all efforts to resolve all outstanding legal issues in the UN by contributing in the negotiations and discussions at the annual sixth committee sessions. Being part of the Working Group on Terrorism, India has been voicing its concerns towards adopting the Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism by engaging actively in the discussions. At the annual session of the sixth committee, India engages actively by making statements on all the agenda items at the plenary and in the informal discussions leading to adoption of the report by the committee. |

## **E. INDIAN CONTRIBUTION TO UN PEACEKEEPING**

India's contributions to UN peacekeeping operations are significant, reflecting a distinctive combination of military professionalism, humanitarian values, and diplomatic skills. From the Korean War to conflicts in Gaza and Congo, India's actions exemplify a commitment to maintaining peace and security in tumultuous settings across the world.

India is steadfastly committed to supporting the UN in maintaining international peace and security, with a rich history in peacekeeping dating back to the 1950s. It has contributed nearly 300,000 troops, the highest of any nation, participating in more than 53missions with 181 Indian peacekeepers making the ultimate sacrifice while serving for peace.

Currently, India ranks as the fourth-largest troop contributor with nearly 5500 personnel deployed across 11 of the 13 active UN Peacekeeping Missions. The exemplary performance of Indian contingents and individual officers, often under challenging conditions, has garnered global respect.

The Indian engagement in UN Peacekeeping Operations is a story of sustained commitment to global peace, beginning with the Korean War and continuing through numerous missions across the world to date. Few notable missions where India contributed to peace are enumerated subsequently.

- **Korean War (1950-1954).** India's involvement began by sending a medical unit, the **60 Para**

**Field Ambulance**, to provide medical assistance. This unit established itself as a professional and dedicated team, earning commendations from the Korean government and the US Army. Beyond medical support, India played a crucial role in the **Neutral Nations Repatriation Commission (NNRC)**, managing prisoners of war with impartiality and ensuring their fair treatment.

- **UN Emergency Force (UNEF) in Gaza, Egypt, and Israel (1956-1967).** In response to the continuous confrontations between Israel and Arab states, India contributed a **PARACHUTE Battalion** and supporting troops to the UNEF. Tasked with maintaining peace along the Armistice Demarcation Line (ADL), units like the 4 Guards stabilized the region and were highly appreciated by locals and the UN.
- **UN Operations in Congo (ONUC) (1960-1963).** Following Congo's independence and subsequent instability, India provided initial logistical support and then deployed the **99 Infantry Brigade Group**. Indian troops played a crucial role in Operation Sunflower, providing safety and security for Congolese Parliament members. They operated under constraints to ensure minimal harm to the civilian population. **Captain Gurbachan Singh Salaria was posthumously awarded the Param Vir Chakra for his exceptional courage during these operations.**
- **Lebanon (UNIFIL).** The Battalion took over operational responsibility from a Norwegian Battalion on 28th November 1998. All ranks displayed high degree of enthusiasm towards learning and adapting to the new role of peacekeeping. Manning of check posts was an important task. The Unit also took up various projects as part of humanitarian assistance with close co-operation with the local population.
- **Other Significant contributions of India in UN Missions.**
  - **West New Guinea (1962-1963):** Brigadier IJ Rikhye supervised the ceasefire.
  - **Cyprus (1964-1976):** Lieutenant General PS Gyani and General KS Thimayya served as Force Commanders.
  - **Namibia (UNTAG):** Lieutenant General Dewan Prem Chand was the Force Commander designate.
  - **Cambodia (UNAMIC/UNTAC):** India sent military observers, with the 4 Jammu and Kashmir Rifles playing a key role. An ambush on a patrolling party was handled effectively, raising morale and earning praise for the unit.
  - **Former Yugoslavia (UNPROFOR):** Lieutenant General Satish Nambiar was the first head of the mission.
  - **Somalia (UNOSOM II):** The Indian Brigade adopted a unique approach, focusing on building peace with the consent of the Somali people.
  - **Rwanda (UNAMIR):** India contributed an Infantry Battalion Group, with 1/3 Gorkha Rifles providing security and humanitarian assistance.
  - **Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL):** Indian troops faced challenges and controversies, but their professionalism and discipline were widely recognized. During Operation Khukri, commandos from the Special Forces Team were sent to rescue held UNAMSIL troops.
  - **Ethiopia and Eritrea (UNMEE):** The 12 Maratha Light Infantry was deployed, undertaking significant humanitarian work.

Current Indian deployments include South Sudan (UNMISS) which focusses on protecting civilians and supporting the implementation of the peace agreement. Current Force Commander of UNMISS is Lt Gen Mohan Subramanyam from the Indian Army; Lebanon (UNIFIL)- Engaged in monitoring ceasefire lines and helping maintain peace along the Lebanon-Israel border; Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO) - Supporting efforts for stabilizing the region and protecting civilians Abyei (UNISFA) and Golan Heights (UNDOF).

India continues to push for having realistic and clear exit strategies as part of our advocacy on peacekeeping operations. We have also highlighted in various forums that Peacekeepers should be adequately equipped and budgeted to not only ensure their own safety, but also achieve mandate objectives. We have taken initiative in technology infusion into Peacekeeping as we proceed to support systems like Unite Aware pushing their wider adaptation.

India is a central part of the Group of Friends for promoting Accountability for Crimes against Peacekeepers has been actively advocating the need to address impunity for crimes against Peacekeepers by promoting accountability and rule of law. We are also taking the lead in establishment of a Memorial Wall for Peacekeepers in the UN headquarters.

Indian efforts in promoting women in peacekeeping has been seminal. We co-hosted the launch of the UN study “**Towards Equal Opportunity for Women in the Defense Sector**”. We also hosted a conference on “**Enhancing the Role of Women in Peacekeeping: A Global South Experience**,” in New Delhi on 24-25 February 2025. This conference brought together women officials from 35 countries across the Global South. Under Secretary General Jean-Pierre Lacroix and Special Coordinator on Improving the UN Response to Sexual Exploitation and Abuse, Christian Saunders, participated.

India remains a crucial ally in UN peacekeeping efforts. Its contributions are characterized by a blend of unwavering commitment, innovative approaches, and a focus on integrating peace and development. Overall, India’s peacekeeping legacy embodies the blend of military strength and humanitarian commitment and enjoys the reputation as a trusted force in international conflicts.

## **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.

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 chaired 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, -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**

India's representation in key UN bodies in the recent past have been:

|     |                                                                 |           |
|-----|-----------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| 1.  | United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) | 2022-2028 |
| 2.  | International Seabed Authority (ISA) Council                    | 2023-2028 |
| 3.  | Legal and Technical Commission of the ISA                       | 2023-2027 |
| 4.  | Finance Committee of ISA                                        | 2023-2027 |
| 5.  | International Law Commission (ILC)                              | 2023-2026 |
| 6.  | Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)                            | 2026-2028 |
| 7.  | International Court of Justice (ICJ)                            | 2018-2026 |
| 8.  | Commission for Social Development (CSocD)                       | 2018-2027 |
| 9.  | Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations (CNGO)              | 2023-2026 |
| 10. | Executive Board of UNDP/UNFPA/UNOPS                             | 2025-2027 |
| 11. | Executive Board of UN-Women                                     | 2019-2027 |
| 12. | International Narcotics Control Board (INCB)                    | 2025-2030 |
| 13. | Committee for Programme and Coordination (CPC)                  | 2024-2027 |
| 14. | Commission on the Status of Women                               | 2025-2029 |
| 15. | Commission on Population and Development                        | 2021-2025 |
| 16. | Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions    | 2024-2026 |

## **H. SIGNIFICANT ACHIEVEMENTS 2014-23**

### **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 ever 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 75<sup>th</sup> 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 adoption 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.

## **I. Elections**

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

India has continued its successful run at the elections to various UN bodies. India has won several major elections in the last few years including elections to the Human Right Council (HRC-2022-24), Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC-2026-28), Ms. Jagjit Pavadia's election to International Narcotics Control Board (INCB 2025-30), Judge Dalveer Bhandari's election to International Court of Justice (ICJ-2017- 2026), Amb. Preeti Saran's election to Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR), Dr. Neeru Chadha's election to International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS) for 2017-26, Dr. Aniruddha Rajput (2017-21) and Dr. Bimal Patel's (2023-27) election to International Law Commission (ILC), Amb. P. Gopinathan's election to Joint Inspection Unit (JIU). India has also been represented to the ACABQ in the 5th Committee, consistently since the inception of the body in 1946. The current term of India's ACABQ member extends till 2026.

Indian PR was the Chair of the election as the Chair of the 62nd Session of the Commission for Social Development in 2023.

ECOSOC bodies that India has elected to (by acclamation) include: Commission on the Status of Women for the term 2025-2029; Executive Board of the United Nations Children's Fund for the term 2025-2027; Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme/United Nations Population Fund/United Nations Office for Project Services for the term 2025-2027; Executive Board of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women for the term 2025-2027; Executive Board of the World Food Programme for the term 2025-2027.

## Other achievements/participation in important events:

- In November 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 September 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 February 2018.
- India ratified the Paris Agreement and 'Second commitment period of Kyoto Protocol' in Climate Change in August 2017.
- UNGA adopted a Resolution in December 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 October 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 Shri Narendra Modi spoke virtually at the **Climate Ambition Summit** on 12 December 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- During India’s Security Council term in 2021-22, as the Chair of the Counter Terrorism Committee, India hosted a special meeting in Mumbai and Delhi in October 2022. “Delhi Declaration” was adopted during the meeting on countering the use of new and emerging technologies for terrorist purposes.
- India is a strong advocate of reformed multilateralism and was guided by an innovative NORM approach during its Security Council term in 2022 – New Orientation for a Reformed Multilateral System.
- Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi took part in the International Day of Yoga event in the UN Headquarters on 21 June 2023. The said event set a new Guinness world record for the participation of most nationalities in a Yoga session.
- India stands out as the largest cumulative troop contributor to United Nations Peacekeeping. India also took the lead in the adoption of a resolution in June 2023 for the establishment a memorial wall for fallen peacekeepers.
- India took a leadership role in the United Nations General Assembly resolution that declared

2023 as International Year of Millets unanimously.

- India was a member of the core group, which piloted the unanimous adoption of the resolution declaring 21 December as World Meditation Day in the United Nations General Assembly December 2024.

## **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.*

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

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

**Mr. Kamal Kishore**, Special Representative of UNSG for Disaster Risk Reduction and Head of UNDRR, Geneva

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

**Lt. Gen Mohan Subramanian**, Force Commander, UNMISS

**Judge Dalveer Bhandari**, Judge, International Court of Justice