



Pursuing Permanent Membership: India's Contemporary Approach to United Nations Security Council Reform (2014–2024)

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Abstract- The United Nations Security Council (UNSC), created in 1945, continues to embody the geopolitical realities of the immediate post-Second World War era, which increasingly diverge from the dynamics of today's multipolar international system. Growing demands for reform—particularly the enlargement of permanent membership—reflect mounting pressure from emerging powers seeking more equitable representation in global decision-making. India, as the world's largest democracy, an expanding economic force, and one of the foremost contributors to UN peacekeeping operations, has positioned itself prominently within this reform movement. This study explores India's diplomatic engagement between 2014 and 2024 in promoting reform of the UNSC. It evaluates India's efforts through platforms such as the G4, the L.69 coalition, BRICS, the G20, and its outreach to the Global South. The analysis demonstrates how India has articulated Security Council reform not merely as a national objective, but as a broader commitment to fairness, inclusivity, and balanced representation in global governance structures. Simultaneously, it assesses the obstacles confronting this agenda, including procedural stagnation within the UN system, intensifying major-power competition, and resistance from influential member states. The paper contends that although India has succeeded in reinvigorating and internationalizing the reform discourse, the attainment of substantive change remains uncertain, revealing both the potential and the structural constraints of contemporary multilateral diplomacy.

Keywords- United Nations Security Council Reform, Global Governance, Multilateral Diplomacy, Global South Representation, India's Foreign Policy.

I. Introduction

The United Nations Security Council (UNSC), founded in 1945, is the main entity responsible for upholding global peace and security. Its design, which mirrors the power dynamics following World War II, is often considered outdated. The imbalance of power, lack of adequate representation from developing regions, and the dominance of the five permanent members (P5) have sparked demands for reform (Hurd, 2008). The Council's credibility hinges on its capacity to adjust to the contemporary global landscape. During the 75th session of the United Nations General Assembly, Modi underscored the necessity of reforming the Security Council, stressing the importance of altering its response mechanisms and structure. Modi acknowledges that obtaining a permanent seat would bolster India's international stature.

Such a position would place India on the same diplomatic level as the United States, United Kingdom, France, China, and Russia, allowing it to exert influence over global matters. Modi has championed the expansion of the UNSC in both Permanent and Non-Permanent categories to enhance its legitimacy and effectiveness in tackling issues like terrorism, food security, and peace (Kaura & Singh, 2021).



India is a leading proponent of reform, having long aspired to secure a permanent seat on the Council. India's argument is rooted in its enduring commitment to multilateralism, consistent involvement in UN peacekeeping missions, status as one of the world's largest democracies, and increasing influence in international economic and political spheres (Dabhade, 2022). However, despite broad rhetorical support for reform, the process has been characterized by stagnation and indecision within the Intergovernmental Negotiations (IGN) framework. To overcome this deadlock, India, along with the G4 nations (Japan, Germany, and Brazil), has consistently advocated for text-based negotiations, a procedural change intended to shift discussions from informal talks to a more structured and outcome-focused approach (Kaura & Singh, 2021).

From 2014 to 2024, India, led by Prime Minister Modi, pursued changes in the United Nations Security Council (UNSC). India adjusted its strategy by connecting these changes to a larger concept of "reformed multilateralism," which aimed to strengthen multilateralism to tackle modern threats to global peace and security (Gupta et al., 2018). During the Security Council's open debate on "New Orientation for Reformed Multilateralism," New Delhi pushed for a more representative multilateral system and structural changes to the UNSC (Security Council Report, 2022). Throughout this decade, India intensified its diplomatic initiatives and built alliances through groups like the G4, L.69, and the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM). During its eighth term as a non-permanent member (2021–2022), India highlighted its commitment to fair international governance and its role as a responsible global player (Kumar, 2025).

India's transition from moral reasoning to pragmatic, coalition-driven diplomacy signifies its effort to synchronize reform with the shifting dynamics of global power. Nonetheless, India encounters both structural and political obstacles. Challenges such as opposition from permanent members, conflicting regional interests, and varied perspectives on reform topics—like membership categories, veto authority, and representation—have stalled progress. This paper examines India's diplomatic tactics for advocating UN Security Council reform from 2014 to 2024, pinpoints the obstacles obstructing these initiatives, and evaluates the consequences for global governance. The importance lies in comprehending how rising powers employ diplomacy to contest institutional hierarchies. By concentrating on a crucial decade of diplomatic transformation, this paper situates India's reform endeavors within larger debates about legitimacy, representation, and institutional adaptation. It also illustrates how India's experience highlights both the possibilities and constraints of reforming a system resistant to change.

II. Evolution of Un Security Council Reform Debates

The reform of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) has long been a complex issue in international governance. Established in 1945, the Council's structure, particularly the permanent members and their veto rights, has reflected the geopolitical dynamics post-World War II. While this arrangement contributed to post-war stability, many experts argue that it is outdated for the twenty-first century (Luck, 2006). Calls for reform gained momentum in the 1960s, aligning with decolonization and a rise in UN membership, as nations from Asia, Africa, and Latin America began



to challenge the Council's democratic legitimacy. The 1965 Charter amendment, which expanded the Council from eleven to fifteen members, remains the only structural change, merely adding non-permanent members without addressing representation issues (Kirgis, 1995).

During the Cold War, the US-Soviet conflict impeded restructuring discussions. However, post-Cold War, reform became a significant topic in both academic and diplomatic spheres. Boutros Boutros-Ghali's "An Agenda for Peace" (1992) emphasized the need to adapt the Council to new security challenges. The rise in internal conflicts and humanitarian crises underscored the necessity for a more representative Council (Hurd, 2008), making reform a persistent item on the UN's agenda.

III. Key Proposals and Institutional Initiatives

Reform proposals and institutional initiatives reflecting evolving expectations in the global system are emphasized in the literature. Established by Resolution 48/26 in 1993 (United Nations General Assembly 1993), the Open-ended Working Group (OEWG) on Equitable Representation encountered limited success due to member disagreements. The OEWG's goal was to reform the United Nations Security Council to ensure fairer representation and improved effectiveness. Despite extensive discussions, the OEWG faced challenges in reaching consensus on significant reform proposals. Differing views on the size, composition, and decision-making processes of an expanded Council emerged as barriers (Schlichtmann, 2011).

The 2004 High-Level Panel report introduced two proposals: Model A, which included six permanent and three non-permanent seats, and Model B, which suggested eight renewable semi-permanent seats. However, neither proposal received enough backing (United Nations, 2004). Brazil, Germany, India, and Japan supported the idea of six permanent and four non-permanent seats on the Security Council (Luck, 2006), while the Uniting for Consensus group opposed the addition of new permanent seats. The African Union's Ezulwini Consensus (2005) advocated for two permanent and five non-permanent seats for Africa, with equal veto rights (Chimdi Mbara et al., 2021).

The 2008 Intergovernmental Negotiations (IGN) framework facilitated discussions on membership, veto powers, and Council representation (UNGA, 2008), but it was criticized for a lack of transparency (Blavoukos & Bourantonis, 2014). The UN's 75th anniversary reignited debates about the Council's legitimacy, with scholars arguing that its structure does not represent the current multipolar world (Binder & Heupel, 2014), highlighting the need for reform. Reforming the UNSC is a challenging task. Article 108 of the UN Charter requires a two-thirds majority in the General Assembly and the consent of all five permanent members, thereby preserving the P5's dominant role (Fassbender, 2009).

IV. India's Historical Engagement With UNSC Reform

India's involvement in the reform of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) has progressed, mirroring changes in the global landscape and India's strategic goals.



Following its independence, India championed a more just United Nations, focusing on the needs of newly independent nations (Thakur, 2011). Systematic efforts towards UNSC reform commenced in 1992 when the UN General Assembly formed the Open-ended Working Group on Security Council Reform, with India becoming a leading advocate for expanding permanent membership. This initiative gained traction in 2005 when India became part of the G4 coalition—along with Brazil, Germany, and Japan—pursuing a permanent seat to better represent current geopolitical dynamics. Since 2014, under Prime Minister Modi's administration, UNSC reform has been a significant foreign policy objective, with India employing normative and strategic methods through multilateral diplomacy, coalition-building, and aligning with Global South perspectives such as the Ezulwini Consensus (Kumar, 2017).

India encountered obstacles in its quest for reforming the UN Security Council, primarily due to opposition from permanent members and differing regional interests. The slow pace of decision-making and the absence of consensus among members hindered progress. Although structural reforms remained out of reach, India's efforts garnered increased global backing for its potential permanent membership, thereby boosting its international reputation. During the 79th United Nations General Assembly, Bhutan's Prime Minister Tshering Tobgay remarked that India's economic growth and leadership of the Global South justify its claim to a permanent seat on the UN Security Council (PTI, 2024). India bolstered its argument for permanent UNSC membership by emphasizing its contributions to UN peacekeeping, development, climate initiatives, and its efforts in combating terrorism and pandemics. This diplomatic engagement underscored India's pursuit of reform while enhancing its role in global governance. India continues to refine its strategy to align with its expanding economic and strategic significance in international decision-making (Nachiappan, 2020).

V. Emerging Geopolitical Dynamics Affecting UNSC Reform

The discussion surrounding the reform of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) is influenced by changing geopolitical landscapes and the emergence of a multipolar world. Countries like India, Brazil, Germany, and Japan, known as the G4, have advocated for permanent membership to enhance the Council's legitimacy and better represent the current global power dynamics (Hurd, 2008). The African Union, through the Ezulwini Consensus, stresses the importance of permanent African representation to rectify historical underrepresentation (Alene et al., 2023). Meanwhile, the Uniting for Consensus (UfC) group opposes the addition of new permanent members, suggesting instead an increase in non-permanent seats to 21, focusing on geographical representation and the Council's effectiveness (Pirozzi, Finizio, Gargiulo, & Nesi, 2023). The rivalry between the United States and China, along with differing regional priorities, has led to intensified negotiation stalemates. The literature indicates that the push for UNSC reform is driven by arguments for legitimacy and fairness, as well as practical considerations involving power dynamics, alliance formation, and strategic diplomacy.

The P5 members are taking a careful approach to reforming the UNSC. France and the UK support a modest enlargement for the G4 countries, while the US endorses



Japan's bid. China and Russia resist alterations, emphasizing the need for consensus and swift action (Bourantonis, 2004). Smaller nations, especially those from the global south, call for greater transparency within the council, and regional organizations seek recognition for their security efforts. The discussion on UN Security Council reform from 2014 to 2024 reflects changing geopolitical dynamics. Although there is a shared understanding of the necessity for reform, achieving consensus is challenging due to differing member priorities.

VI. Methodology

This study utilizes a qualitative and descriptive research design to examine India's diplomatic strategies and challenges in pursuing United Nations Security Council (UNSC) reform from 2014 to 2024. The qualitative approach is deemed suitable for analyzing political processes, discourses, and policy documents that are not amenable to quantification but necessitate contextual interpretation.

The research utilizes both primary and secondary sources. The primary data comprises official speeches, press releases, and documents from the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), Government of India, alongside reports and resolutions from the United Nations. The secondary data includes peer-reviewed journal articles, policy analyses, academic books, and credible news media that examine India's reform initiatives and international responses. Sources were selected based on their relevance, authenticity, credibility of publication, and temporal coverage (2014–2024) to ensure that the information accurately reflects contemporary developments. The study acknowledges certain limitations, including potential biases in official documents and interpretive subjectivity inherent in qualitative analysis.

VI. India's Diplomatic Strategies

Bilateral Diplomacy

India has utilized its bilateral relationships to further its campaign for reforming the United Nations Security Council, using diplomatic, economic, and cultural approaches. The nation has engaged with UN member states, especially the permanent members (P5), to gain support for its goal of obtaining a permanent seat (Hall, 2016). India has strengthened ties with Russia and China, highlighting its global influence, responsible behavior, and contributions to UN peacekeeping missions. Historically, Russia has offered cautious support for India's quest for permanent membership, while China's stance has been more intricate, often aligning with the Uniting for Consensus (UfC) group (Kumar, 2017). Additionally, India has enhanced its relations with the United States, France, and the United Kingdom, focusing on shared interests and its role in maintaining regional and global security.

India has established alliances with Japan and Germany through the G4, facilitating collaborative advocacy in international forums. By nurturing economic partnerships and offering assistance, India has secured backing from African countries while promoting their inclusion in the UNSC. As a leader of the Global South, India pushes for an equitable international system through summits and multilateral discussions (Kaura & Singh, 2021). Through its "Neighborhood First" policy, India has



strengthened economic connections and infrastructure initiatives with Bangladesh, Nepal, and Sri Lanka to ensure regional stability (Thanh Ha, 2023).

In Central Asia, India focuses on securing energy resources, enhancing connectivity, and fostering counter-terrorism cooperation through both regional platforms and bilateral discussions (Pradhan, 2020). In the Indo-Pacific region, India's "Act East" policy and involvement in the Quad are designed to impact regional security by promoting maritime collaboration, economic integration, and addressing climate change (Palit, 2016). India has forged alliances with major global powers. With the United States, this includes defense cooperation and advancements in emerging technologies, while maintaining robust ties with Russia through summits and defense agreements. India also navigates economic relations with China, taking strategic considerations into account (Ito, 2014). This bilateral diplomacy has bolstered India's strategic interests and global stature, allowing it to manage geopolitical challenges while tackling climate change and terrorism.

Multilateral Initiatives

Since 2014, India has strengthened its involvement with the G4 group, which includes Brazil, Germany, India, and Japan, by emphasizing the necessity of reforming the UNSC to improve its legitimacy and effectiveness. The G4 has held ministerial meetings and issued joint statements at the UN General Assembly, advocating for permanent seats and a broader expansion of the Council. India has positioned itself as a representative of emerging powers from the Global South, contending that reform would more accurately reflect the geopolitical dynamics of the 21st century (Kumar, 2017).

Through the G4 platform, India has presented reform as a collective demand rather than a national aspiration, enhancing its diplomatic influence. India's involvement in the L.69 coalition, which includes over 40 developing countries from Asia, Africa, and Latin America, demonstrates its strategy of building alliances to increase support for reform. Through this coalition, India has advocated for fair geographic representation and the inclusion of developing nations in decision-making bodies. By aligning with the Global South, India has emphasized that reforming the UNSC is about fairness and justice, not just the distribution of power (Pirozzi et al., 2023).

India has utilized the BRICS platform to emphasize the necessity for reforms. Although BRICS nations have differing opinions on reform strategies, their joint statements advocate for a more inclusive United Nations Security Council (UNSC). Within BRICS, India's approach focuses on the collective responsibility of emerging powers in global governance, furthering its ambition for permanent membership while acknowledging China's position (Chaulia, 2021).

As a G20 member and the host in 2023, India leveraged this platform to underscore the need for UNSC reform as part of broader changes in global governance. By associating reform with multilateral effectiveness, development, and inclusivity, India expanded the dialogue beyond mere institutional politics. This effort integrated UNSC reform into the global development agenda, resonating with middle and smaller powers. However, this initiative encountered three risks: contextual (geopolitical



tensions), procedural (organizational capacity), and institutional meaning (balancing G20 insider status with Global South solidarity) (Cooper, 2023). India's efforts for the Global South, as demonstrated in the 2023 Voice of Global South Summit, have bolstered its approach to UNSC reform. By positioning itself as a mediator for fair governance, India has reframed its pursuit as a goal for underrepresented nations (Ministry of External Affairs, 2023). This strategy enhances India's credibility in multilateral discussions.

India's participation in the intergovernmental negotiations (IGN) aimed at reforming the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) is centered on expanding its membership and enhancing representation. India argues that the dialogue on Security Council reform is often used as a "convenient smokescreen" by nations opposing change, and it calls for concrete reforms (PTI, 2020). The IGN process is still informal and lacks negotiations based on a written text, which impedes progress. India has collaborated with regional organizations to push for UNSC reform. Understanding that regional consensus can amplify influence, India has partnered with the African Union (AU), ASEAN, the European Union (EU), and CARICOM to form alliances. India's endorsement of the Ezulwini Consensus—which calls for permanent African representation with veto power—demonstrates its dedication to inclusive reform (Chimdi Mbara et al., 2021). By aligning with the priorities of African and Latin American countries, India underscores that UNSC reform is a shared demand for fair representation (Gould & Rablen, 2016).

Public Diplomacy and Soft Power

India showcases its rich cultural heritage through international festivals and exhibitions that highlight its traditions and art forms. These events serve to present India's cultural diversity on a global stage. The nation's cultural diplomacy encompasses elements such as cuisine, yoga, Buddhism, and Ayurveda, with International Yoga Day underscoring India's role as a hub for well-being (Mazumdar, 2018). Bollywood plays a part in cultural outreach by participating in film festivals and forming partnerships. The Indian diaspora, numbering 18 million, acts as informal ambassadors, engaging in cultural activities supported by initiatives like Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (Isar, 2017). External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar describes Overseas Indians/PIOs/NRIs as a "living bridge," emphasizing their influence on trade, technology, culture, and more (Indian Express, 2025). The philosophical teachings of Gandhi, Vivekananda, and Tagore influence global perspectives on peace and development through international conferences (Chattopadhyay & Tripathy, 2021).

India capitalizes on its status as a rising economy to gain backing for its aspirations to join the UNSC, utilizing its economic influence in diplomatic negotiations. The "Make in India" campaign aims to establish the nation as a manufacturing center to draw international investors, while "Digital India" focuses on enhancing its digital economy through cashless transactions (Make in India, n.d.; Digital India, n.d.). India showcases its technological prowess through space missions, digital payments, and vaccine production. ISRO's budget-friendly Mars and lunar missions underscore India's potential as a space collaborator (Stroikos, 2024). The country's IT industry, comprising both multinational corporations and startups, propels global digital



transformation and bolsters its diplomatic sway. India highlights its scientific accomplishments in space exploration, renewable energy, and healthcare innovations to position itself as a leader in global innovation.

India's pharmaceutical sector, known for producing cost-effective medications, expanded its global reach during the COVID-19 pandemic through its vaccine diplomacy efforts. Under the humanitarian initiative named Vaccine Maitri (Vaccine Friendship), India successfully distributed the COVID-19 vaccine to over 100 countries (New Indian Express, 2025). India's strategy for enhancing its global influence involves a combination of cultural diplomacy, media engagement, and economic strength, aiming to foster a positive international image by promoting its heritage and leadership in innovation.

V. Challenges and Obstacles

Geopolitical Constraints

The Modi administration's initiative to reform the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) encounters significant geopolitical obstacles. A primary challenge is the resistance from permanent members China and Russia, who oppose reforms that might diminish their influence (Kaura & Singh, 2021). The broader geopolitical landscape further complicates the Modi government's reform agenda. Although the United States, United Kingdom, and France have expressed support for reform, they may hesitate to endorse changes that could alter power dynamics or lessen their influence. This hesitation is rooted in their desire to maintain their privileged positions in global governance (Malone, 2000). China is particularly opposed to India obtaining a permanent seat, due to historical conflicts, border tensions, and economic competition. Gaining China's backing will be a formidable task for India.

India's reform efforts are complicated by regional dynamics, particularly its relationship with Pakistan. The ongoing tensions between these nations influence India's diplomatic strategies both regionally and on the global stage. Their historical animosity, rooted in territorial disputes and ideological differences, continues to shape their interactions and impact wider regional dynamics (Observer Research Foundation, n.d.). This relationship goes beyond bilateral concerns, affecting India's dealings with other regional powers and international bodies. It also influences India's involvement in regional cooperation forums like the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) and shapes its stance on global issues such as counterterrorism and nuclear non-proliferation. As India seeks to enhance its global standing and implement reforms, it must carefully manage these regional dynamics, balancing its own interests with the need for regional stability (Dabhade, 2022).

Institutional Inertia

India encounters significant obstacles in its efforts to reform the UN Security Council, primarily due to the organization's inherent resistance to change. The reform process is further complicated by the procedural rigidity embedded in the UN Charter. According to Article 108, any amendments require the approval of a two-thirds majority in the General Assembly and ratification by two-thirds of the Member States, including all permanent members of the Security Council (UN Charter, 1945, Art.



108). This stipulation is considered nearly unattainable and has been rarely achieved since the Charter was established. The only notable structural modification to the UNSC occurred with A/RES/1991 (XVIII) in 1963, which amended Article 23 to increase the number of non-permanent members from six to ten, thereby expanding the Council from eleven to fifteen members—this change was implemented on 31 August 1965 (United Nations General Assembly, 1963).

The veto authority that permanent members possess over amendments to the Charter presents a major challenge to the expansion of permanent membership. The Council's structure, which has remained the same since the end of World War II, has solidified existing power dynamics. The five permanent members—the United States, Russia, China, France, and the United Kingdom—maintain significant influence through their veto power, which they are unwilling to relinquish (Giné & Tsebelis, 2003). While these permanent members are reluctant to reduce their control, rising powers are keen to increase theirs. Concerns about altering the power balance within the Security Council are heightened by economic and political interests. Furthermore, there is worry that such changes could establish precedents for other UN entities.

The process of reforming the UN is complicated by the need for consensus among member states. Divergent interests and geopolitical considerations make it challenging to establish criteria for permanent membership and representation. Striking a balance between effectiveness and representation is a persistent issue. India's push for reform encounters varied opinions, with some nations supporting its bid while others are concerned about shifts in regional power (Hosli & Dörfler, 2019).

African countries are advocating for permanent seats due to their involvement in Council matters, whereas Latin American countries desire improved geographical representation. The G4 nations (India, Brazil, Germany, and Japan) are united in their quest for permanent seats but must navigate regional dynamics (Kumar, 2017). Smaller countries fear that increasing permanent membership could diminish their influence. The reform process lacks a unified framework, with suggestions ranging from expansions to complete overhauls. Although this indicates a need for reform, it complicates the process of building consensus. These factors slow down reform efforts and pose challenges to India's attempts to reform the Security Council, necessitating diplomatic acumen and coalition-building.

Domestic Factors

For the Modi administration, the task of aligning UNSC reform with other foreign policy goals presents a considerable challenge. India's foreign policy encompasses regional security, economic partnerships, and climate initiatives, necessitating careful prioritization to ensure that efforts toward UNSC reform do not eclipse other diplomatic objectives. The economic dimensions of pursuing UNSC reform present domestic challenges, as India's developing economy requires investment across various sectors (Pant & Thakkar, 2021). The government must justify diplomatic expenditures by demonstrating long-term benefits for India's global stature (Tellis, 2019). Raising public awareness about UNSC reform is difficult, as international diplomacy may not resonate with citizens who are more concerned with domestic issues. The Modi government must skillfully navigate domestic politics to build



consensus on UNSC reform, remain adaptable in negotiations, and effectively communicate its importance to garner public support.

The Modi administration must address the internal security implications of its initiatives to reform the United Nations Security Council (UNSC). As India seeks a more significant role on the world stage, it faces increased scrutiny and security challenges. This situation requires a coordinated approach that combines diplomatic, economic, and security strategies. Civil society and think tanks provide valuable insights and suggestions to support these efforts (Tellis, 2019). Their expertise not only strengthens the credibility of India's UNSC reform initiatives but also encourages inclusive policy-making. How the government handles these challenges will affect India's ability to achieve UNSC reform and its influence in global governance. Effectively addressing these issues can enhance India's diplomatic efforts and improve its chances for UNSC reform.

VI. Conclusion

India's decade-long effort from 2014 to 2024 to reform the UN Security Council underscores the tension between power dynamics and principles in multilateralism. Although achieving these changes has been challenging, India's advocacy has established it as a credible advocate for reform (Hans, 2023). The study indicates that the transformation of global governance institutions hinges on shifts in power and international norms. India's initiatives reflect a continuous effort to align national objectives with fair global governance. The analysis highlights that India's reform diplomacy involves building coalitions and engaging in multilateral, bilateral, and cultural diplomacy (Kaura & Singh, 2021). However, the findings also point to structural obstacles. Resistance from the Uniting for Consensus group, the misuse of veto power by the P5, the complex process of amending the charter, and China's position hinder progress. Balancing UNSC reform with other foreign policy priorities remains a challenge. Opportunities have arisen through India's economic influence, normative leadership, and involvement in BRICS, G20, and the Quad, which bolster its reform advocacy.

Under Modi's leadership, India's efforts to reform the United Nations Security Council have yielded mixed outcomes in the realm of global diplomacy. The country's quest for a permanent seat on the UNSC has garnered backing from influential nations such as the United States and France. This support highlights India's growing diplomatic clout, which is attributed to its economic expansion, strategic significance, and active role in international peacekeeping missions (Dabhade, 2022). India's argument for a permanent position is bolstered by its status as the largest democracy globally and its dedication to multilateral cooperation. India argues that Western nations should perceive it not as a potential rival due to its multi-alignment strategy, but as a vital ally whose interests are aligned with theirs, particularly in maintaining the global rules-based order against revisionist powers like China (Pant & Thakkar, 2021).

Despite receiving support, India's bid for a permanent seat on the UNSC faces considerable obstacles. Certain permanent members, like China, have expressed



reservations, fearing alterations to the existing power structure. Regional adversaries, particularly Pakistan, have vehemently opposed India's bid, arguing it would disrupt the power balance in South Asia (Nafey, 2005). The complex geopolitical landscape and the varying priorities of current permanent members have resulted in a stalemate, with reform efforts struggling to gain unanimous approval. This impasse highlights the challenges of reforming a long-standing international institution and the intricate diplomatic negotiations required to agree on expanding the UNSC, primarily due to the 'duplicity' of the permanent five (P-5) members and the lack of consensus among other parties (Kumar, 2017).

India's quest for a permanent seat on the UNSC has gained momentum through its engagement in multilateral diplomacy. Its participation in groups like G4, L69, and BRICS, along with its leadership role in the Global South, reflects a strategic push for UNSC reform. The G4 coalition, which includes India, Germany, Japan, and Brazil, acts as a platform to promote permanent membership. By collaborating with major democracies, India presents a cohesive stance for a more inclusive UNSC (Kaura & Singh, 2021). Through the G4, India orchestrates reform efforts and underscores the shortcomings of the Council's structure. Nonetheless, the coffee club, also known as Uniting for Consensus (UFC), remains a significant hurdle, opposing the permanent membership of G4 countries (Nafey, 2005). India's leadership in the Global South bolsters its diplomatic approach by championing development, climate action, and fair governance, establishing itself as a responsible global player. This leadership allows India to position UNSC reform as part of a larger movement towards a democratic international order.

Exploring the potential paths for reforming the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) presents intricate consequences for global governance. These options range from slight modifications to extensive transformations, impacting international power dynamics. India's strategic approach to UNSC reform focuses on diplomatic initiatives through both bilateral and multilateral means, building coalitions with nations that support reform, and showcasing global leadership through contributions to peace and security (Hans, 2023).

India utilizes its economic clout and cultural diplomacy while keeping reform proposals flexible to align with global changes. This strategy highlights India's goal to secure a significant role in global governance. The implications of UNSC reform are significant for global governance and India's standing. Reform could alter international relations and create a more varied Council to tackle modern challenges. For India, reform could enhance its peacekeeping duties, strengthen its regional influence, and improve its advocacy for the interests of developing countries. While this study offers a thorough evaluation of India's diplomatic approaches and their effects on UNSC reform, there are still several areas that warrant further exploration. Future research might delve into the internal factors influencing India's foreign policy actions, such as the influence of bureaucratic bodies, leadership perspectives, and the domestic political dialogue in shaping its reform efforts.



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