

Pakistan's Foreign Policy

SECURITY COUNCIL

Pakistan's Policy:

Pakistan has a longstanding principled position against the increase of permanent members. Pakistan as part of the Uniting for Consensus (UfC) group has always advocated an effective and feasible reform of the Security Council based on consensus among the UN Membership. Some powerful western countries offered Pakistan to launch its candidature for permanent membership of the UN Security Council in order to break the ongoing deadlock to reform the UN's top decision-making body.

Pakistan, however, rejected the offer as it viewed the move as part of a tactic by certain countries to weaken the group that is opposed to the expansion of permanent seats at the UNSC.

"Some powerful countries have approached us and said Pakistan should launch its bid for the permanent seat at the UNSC," revealed a Foreign Office official while requesting anonymity.

Pakistan's Policy on Veto:

Pakistan opposes adding more permanent members to the council on the current pattern. Pakistan noted that the trigger for holding the General Assembly session in the wake of a veto from a permanent member "is a situation where the Council is prevented from acting on questions relating to maintenance of international peace and security". Pakistan, however, pointed out that slight modifications to the language of this provision could have expressed this qualification with clarity. Pakistan has said use of the veto in the Security Council prevented solving the "longstanding dispute" and "hindered" implementation of UN resolutions on the matter.

Pakistan's Ambassador to the UN, Maleeha Lodhi, speaking in the Intergovernmental Negotiations on Security Council reform here on March 9, said "the use of the veto in the Security Council prevented a resolution of the longstanding dispute of Kashmir and hindered implementation of UN Resolutions on the issue".

Sentiment in Pakistan:

The general population in Pakistan has always shown resentment to the United Nations and especially the Security Council. The birth of this resentment came following the famous walkout of the charismatic leader Zulfikar Ali Bhutto. Since then the local populace believes that the United Nations is a talk shop incapable of solving real-world problems.