

International Academic Competitions

2026 Regional Model United Nations Conferences

Morning Committee Country Descriptions

Topic: Reforming the UN Security Council

1. Argentina

-Population & Rank: 47,000,000 (33rd)

-Area & Rank: 2,780,000 sq. km (8th)

-Fact to Know: Argentina [lost a war](#) with the United Kingdom in 1982 over the Falkland Islands.

-Description: Argentina is the second largest country in South America by area, and the third largest country by population. It is eager to see more Latin American representation on the Security Council, though it is wary of Brazil, its traditional rival. Argentina's current president, Javier Milei, is known for his libertarian economic policies and is a personal ally of Donald Trump. Argentina still seeks the return of the Falkland Islands archipelago (it calls the Falkland Island *Las Malvinas*), and is thus wary of the United Kingdom, which still controls them. Argentina and Mexico both would like to see greater Latin American representation on the Security Council, but Argentina, as a member of [Uniting for Consensus](#), has traditionally been opposed to increasing the number of permanent seats. However, it has recently announced that it is open to [a potential permanent seat for India](#) on the Security Council.



2. Brazil

-Population & Rank: 214,000,000 (7th)

-Area & Rank: 8,510,000 sq. km (5th)

-Facts to Know: Brazil is by far the largest country in Latin America in both area and population, but unlike most other countries in Latin America, its population mostly speaks Portuguese, not Spanish.

-Description: Brazil is eager to have a permanent seat on the Security Council. Unlike Argentina, it is a traditional ally of the USA, though its current president, Lula da Silva, is a center-left politician who has [clashed with the Trump](#)



[Administration](#). Brazil would seem to have a natural claim to represent Latin America with its size, but as its population is Portuguese-speaking, other Latin American countries are somewhat lukewarm to this idea. On the other hand, Brazil's massive agricultural and mineral resources make it a natural partner for China, and other countries seeking access to these. Brazil has the majority of the Amazon rainforest, the preservation of which is essential to mitigate climate change. Brazil, together with India, Germany, and Japan, is a member of the [G4 group of nations](#) that are seeking permanent seats on the Security Council.

3. Canada

-Population & Rank: 42,000,000 (37th)

-Area & Rank: 9,985,000 sq. km (2nd)

-Fact to Know: Canada is an officially bilingual country, with French being the official language of the province of Quebec.

-Description: Canada has historically been one of the closest allies of the USA, but given provocative statements and tariffs from President Trump, it is increasingly willing to set an independent foreign policy course. Canada is a member of [NATO](#) and a major donor country for international aid. In terms of Security Council reform, Canada is keen to see greater representation by [middle powers](#), and it is a core member of the [Uniting for Consensus](#) group. Canada's high rankings on the [Democracy Index](#) and reputation as a cooperative nation allow it to gain greater influence in the international community than its population size might suggest. However, it has clashed with China [on various issues](#) in recent years, and is wary of increasing Chinese influence. Canada's French heritage also helps facilitate its relations with France.



4. China

-Population & Rank: 1,405,000,000 (2nd)

-Area & Rank: 9,597,000 sq. km (3rd)

-Facts to Know: China is a permanent member of the UN Security Council. It possesses nuclear weapons. Since 1971, China has been represented at the UN by the People's Republic of China; prior to then, it was represented by the Republic of China (Taiwan).

-Description: China possesses the world's largest military by number of troops, and is a rising economic and military superpower. While China lacks many formal allies, it has been building ties, especially in Asia and Africa, through its [Belt and Road Initiative](#). Countries that have been receiving Chinese financial aid may have reason not to antagonize it. Like the other permanent member states of the



Security Council, China is wary of diluting its power. However, it may be willing to compromise in order to further its other geopolitical goals. Above all, this includes the reunification of China by [bringing Taiwan back under control of the People's Republic of China](#). Other East Asian countries, particularly Japan, South Korea, and the Philippines, are very wary of a rising China, and are seeking to bolster their ties with the USA to maintain the balance of power.

5. Colombia

-Population & Rank: 53,000,000 (27th)

-Area & Rank: 1,142,000 sq. km (25th)

-Fact to Know: Colombia is the second largest majority Spanish speaking country in the world after Mexico.

-Description: Colombia's reputation on the international stage has improved in recent decades, with a increasing level of domestic stability. Still, poverty, the drug trade, and [renegade FARC members](#) present problems for Colombian society. Colombia's relations with the USA have deteriorated over the past two years, as its president, [Gustavo Petro](#), is a left-wing politician who is ideologically opposed to the Trump Administration. This presents an opportunity for China, Brazil, and other nations to improve relations with Colombia. Colombia also borders Venezuela, and its cooperation is crucial to help solve [the ongoing political crisis there](#). Colombia is a research-rich country with extensive rainforests that can help prevent climate change.



6. Egypt

-Population & Rank: 108,000,000 (15th)

-Area & Rank: 1,001,000 sq. km (29th)

-Facts to Know: Egypt is the largest Arab country by population. Arabic is one of the 6 official languages of the UN. It is building a new capital city outside of the current capital, Cairo.

-Description: Egypt is by far the largest country in the Arab world in terms of population, and has historically been seen as a leader in the Muslim world as well. While Arabic is one of the six official languages of the UN, historically both Arab countries and the Muslim world have been historically underrepresented on the Security Council. Egypt receives significant [military and financial aid from the USA](#) as a consequence of the [Camp David Accords](#), which resulted in its recognition of Israel. Though not a member of the bloc, Egypt's goals are in broad alignment with the countries in the [Uniting for Consensus](#) block. Egypt is also one of the largest countries in Africa, and Africa is also not represented among the Security Council permanent member states.



7. France

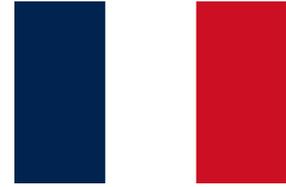
-Population & Rank: 69,000,000 (21st)

-Land Area & Rank: 644,000 sq. km (42nd)

-Fact to Know: France is a permanent member of the UN Security Council, and it possesses nuclear weapons.

However, it has seen its power decline relative to many other countries since the establishment of the UN in 1945.

-Description: France seeks to maintain its current position as one of the five permanent members of the UN Security Council. As a [NATO](#) nation and member of the [European Union](#), it is one of the leaders of the west. However, its current president Emmanuel Macron is broadly unpopular, and has struggled to build a constructive relationship with the USA under President Trump. France has historically significant ties to Africa, but many African countries are skeptical of France due to its legacy of colonialism. France seeks to maintain its independence of the USA, even though both are members of NATO. The recent actions of the USA in the [Greenland Crisis](#) are seen by some in France that this approach is justified.



8. Germany

-Population & Rank: 83,000,000 (19th)

-Area & Rank: 358,000 sq. km (63rd)

-Fact to Know: Germany is the 4th largest country in terms of contributions to the UN budget, providing approximately 6% of its funding.

-Description: Germany is the largest country in Western Europe in terms of population and has the world's [third largest economy](#) in terms of [Gross Domestic Product](#). Since its defeat in World War II, Germany has been a major defender of liberal democratic values, and after the Cold War, its western and eastern portions reunified. However, Germany's population is largely stagnant due to a low birth rate, and it has been criticized (particularly by the USA recently) for not spending enough on its military, despite being a major member of [NATO](#). Germany seeks a permanent seat on the Security Council as a member of the [G4 group](#) of nations.



9. India

-Population & Rank: 1,417,000,000 (1st)

-Area & Rank: 3,287,000 sq. km (7th)

-Fact to Know: India became [the world's most populous country in 2023](#), overtaking China.

-Description: India has a strong claim to greater representation on the Security Council, as it is the world's largest nation by population, and a rising major power. However, India's economy is not yet nearly as developed as China's, and its economy, while [the world's 4th largest](#) in terms of overall GDP, only ranks [141st out of 193](#) in per capita terms. India's traditional major rival is Pakistan, with whom it has fought several wars, particularly over a region in the Himalayas called [Kashmir](#). Under Prime Minister Narendra Modi, India has pursued a nationalist foreign policy, investing in its military to counter both Pakistan and China. India has historically pursued a policy of [non-alignment](#), without major allies, but it has recently looked to increase its ties with the USA, with mixed success. India is a relatively resource poor country, and [relies on Russia](#) for coal and oil. India is a member of the [G4 group](#) of countries seeking a permanent seat on the Security Council.



10. Indonesia

-Population & Rank: 284,000,000 (4th)

-Area & Rank: 1,905,000 sq. km. (14th)

-Fact to Know: Indonesia is the world's most populous country with a majority Muslim population. By some measures, Indonesia's capital, Jakarta, is [the world's most populous city](#).

-Description: Indonesia is a sprawling country, consisting of over 17,000 islands off the coast of mainland Southeast Asia. Despite its status as the world's 4th largest country by population, and the world's largest Muslim nation, Indonesia has traditionally been a relatively quiet presence on the international stage - not having many major disputes or alliances. Indeed, Indonesia has been a mainstay of the [Non-Aligned Movement](#), though it seeks good relations with major powers, such as the USA, China, and India. Indonesia is also home to the seat of the [ASEAN organization](#) (Association of Southeast Asian Nations), though this block features less cultural and economic integration than the European Union, for comparison. Indonesia would like to see a greater Islamic presence on the Security Council, though it is culturally very different from the Arab world. Indonesia is a resource rich country, and its rainforests are important in preventing climate change.



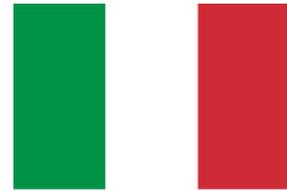
11. Italy

-Population & Rank: 59,000,000 (25th)

-Area & Rank: 301,000 sq. km (71st)

-Fact to Know: Italy's [population is declining](#), from a peak of over 60,000,000 due to a low birth rate, and relatively little migration compared to other European countries.

-Description: As a member of [Uniting for Consensus](#), Italy has been opposed to increasing the number of permanent seats on the Security Council. Italy is a [NATO](#) member nation, and a major ally of the United Kingdom, France, and the USA. It sees itself as a peer nation of the UK and France, but unlike those countries, Italy does not possess nuclear weapons, nor a permanent seat on the UN Security Council. Italy has been a major supporter of the United Nations and contributes the [7th highest amount](#) towards the UN's budget. Italy's Prime Minister, Giorgia Meloni, is a right-wing politician, who has found an ally in President Trump, though Italy remains broadly pro-European, pro-Ukraine, and pro-NATO in its geopolitical outlook. A declining population, however, will make it more difficult for Italy to maintain its relative strength in the international arena going forward.



12. Japan

-Population & Rank: 123,000,000 (11th)

-Area & Rank: 377,915 sq. km (62nd)

-Fact to Know: Japan is the [third largest contributor country](#) to the budget of the UN.

-Description: Japan has the world's fifth largest economy, and is a major non-NATO ally of the USA, hosting [US military bases in East Asia](#). Since the end of World War II, it has maintained a comparatively strong military, though that is changing due to the rise of China and wariness of the USA's ability to defend it. Japan is, together with Germany, India, and Brazil, a member of the [G4 block of nations](#) that is seeking permanent member status on the Security Council. Japan is maintaining an increasingly assertive foreign policy, though it has one of the lowest birthrates in the world, and has traditionally been hostile to large-scale immigration. Japan is a historical rival of South Korea, though both nations are allies of the USA, democracies, and share a common distrust of China and North Korea.



13. Mexico

-Population & Rank: 131,000,000 (10th)

-Area & Rank: 1,964,000 sq. km (13th)

-Fact to Know: Mexico elected [Claudia Sheinbaum](#) as its first woman and Jewish president in 2024.



-Description: Mexico is the largest majority Spanish-speaking country in the world, having over twice as many residents as the second largest such country, Colombia. Spanish is one of the six official languages of the United Nations, but there is no permanent Spanish-speaking seat on the Security Council. As a member of [Uniting for Consensus](#), has been opposed to increasing the number of permanent seats, but this is primarily because the main candidate countries for such a seat (Brazil, Germany, Japan, and India) are culturally different. Mexico ranks in the top 15 in both population and area, but its government's ongoing [struggle with Mexico-based drug cartels](#) casts a shadow on relations with other countries, particularly the USA.

14. Nigeria

-Population & Rank: 224,000,000 (6th)

-Area & Rank: 924,000 sq. km (31st)

-Fact to Know: Nigeria is the most populous country in Africa. By some projections, Nigeria will be [the 4th most populous country in the world](#) by the end of the 21st century.



-Description: Africa has by far the world's highest fertility rates, and Nigeria, its largest country by population is no exception. 54 of the 193 UN member states are African as well. However, despite this, only 3 of 15 seats on the Security Council - none of them permanent - are allocated to African countries. Nigeria has a strong claim to greater representation on the council, but domestic instability, including [frequent kidnappings](#) and terrorism may prevent this. On the other hand, Nigeria's population is relatively evenly-split between Christians and Muslims, a fact which may facilitate its ability to act a bridge-builder in international diplomacy. Nigeria's diplomatic corps will aim to collaborate with Egypt and South Africa to achieve greater African representation on the Security Council. Developed nations may attempt to secure its diplomatic support through promises of foreign aid.

15. Pakistan

-Population & Rank: 242,000,000 (5th)

-Area & Rank: 882,000 sq. km (31st)

-Fact to Know: Pakistan and India both successfully tested nuclear weapons in the 1990's and have fought several wars regarding the status of Kashmir.

-Description: Pakistan's foreign policy has evolved in opposition to that of its neighbor, India. Pakistan is vehemently opposed to any inclusion of India as a permanent member of the Security Council. It has expressed this position by being a member of [Uniting for Consensus](#), a block of countries which is opposed to increasing the number of permanent seats on the Security Council. Pakistan is the second-largest majority Muslim country in the world. It has a burgeoning population, which [may become the world's third-largest](#) later this century. Terrorism, poverty, and political instability remain large concerns. Pakistan is also highly vulnerable to climate change with a hot climate and a limited amount of farmland. Pakistan has often allied itself with China to gain leverage against India. It is a formal ally of the USA, but the two countries have had many disagreements, particularly regarding how to counter terrorist groups that have influence and support from portions of the Pakistani populace and government.



16. Philippines

-Population & Rank: 113,000,000 (12th)

-Area & Rank: 300,000 sq. km (72nd)

-Fact to Know: The Philippines is the largest predominantly Christian country in Asia, due to the legacy of it being a Spanish colony for hundreds of years.

-Description: The Philippines is a country with growing strategic importance, as it has been a US ally for decades, and is very close to both Taiwan and Mainland China. As a member of [Uniting for Consensus](#), The Philippines has been opposed to increasing the number of permanent seats of the Security Council. The Philippines is wary of China due to [territorial disputes in the South China Sea](#), and under President Bongbong Marcos has withdrawn from the [Belt and Road Initiative](#). The Philippines shares broad strategic goals with other American allies in the region, including South Korea and Japan, but due to cultural and historical differences has not allied closely with them. Islamist terrorism has been a problem, particularly in the southern portions of the archipelago.



17. Russia

-Population & Rank: 146,000,000 (9th)

-Area & Rank: 17,098,000 sq. km (1st)

-Fact to Know: Russia is one of the world's major oil and gas producing nations, and its mineral resources have helped its economy to weather economic sanctions

imposed by the USA and Western European nations since its 2022 invasion of Ukraine.

-Description: Russia is the world's largest country, [possesses the world's largest stockpile of nuclear weapons](#), and is a permanent member of the UN Security Council. However, due to [its 2022 invasion of Ukraine](#), Russia has been ostracized by much of the international community. Russia has sought to improve its ties with nations (such as China) that are generally opposed to the USA and its allies. It has also sought to improve its ties with non-aligned nations, such as India and Indonesia. Russia will be wary of any attempts to reform the Security Council that aim at diminishing its influence. However, its approach to international relations can be pragmatic, particularly if it can gain a further advantage in its war with Ukraine.



18. South Africa

-Population & Rank: 63,000,000 (24th)

-Area & Rank: 1,219,000 sq. km (24th)

-Fact to Know: South Africa has been a democracy since the end of the [apartheid](#) regime in 1994, which had entrenched segregation for the benefit of its white minority.

-Description: South Africa has only approximately a quarter of the population of Nigeria, but it has often been seen as the leader of its continent (and the developing world, more broadly) on the international stage. South Africa has the [largest economy of any African country](#), and it has pursued a policy of non-alignment since apartheid ended. South Africa will certainly seek to increase the representation of African countries on the Security Council, though its relatively low population and economic heft compared to many of the other countries listed here, will make it difficult for it to advocate for a permanent seat just for itself. South Africa is well-positioned to build consensus among countries looking to expand the weight of the developing world.



19. South Korea

-Population & Rank: 51,000,000 (30th)

-Area & Rank: 100,000 sq. km (107th)

-Fact to Know: Despite sharing broad strategic goals as economic powerhouses and democracies allied with the USA, South Korea and Japan have traditionally had cold relations, in part due to [disputes over the Dokdo islets](#).

-Description: South Korea is a member of [Uniting for Consensus](#), and has thus been opposed to increasing the number of permanent seats on the Security Council. While it relies on its alliance with the USA to protect it from North Korean aggression, and increasing Chinese influence, South Korea has been opposed to reforms to the Security Council that would give Japan more influence. Unlike North Korea, its major enemy, South Korea does not possess nuclear weapons, though it has [started to question](#) whether it should start to develop them. One challenge for South Korea, both geopolitically and economically, is that it has one of the lowest birth rates in the world, and may see its population [decline by over 50%](#) by the end of the century.



20. Turkey

-Population & Rank: 86,000,000 (18th)

-Area & Rank: 302,000 sq. km (36th)

-Fact to Know: Turkey is a member of [NATO](#), and maintains its second-largest military after that of the USA..

-Description: Due to its strategic location on the south shore of the Black Sea, and at the crossroads of Asia and Europe, Turkey has seen its influence increase in recent years. This is particularly due to the War in Ukraine (Turkey has supplied drones to Ukraine, and has hosted peace talks), and its growing influence in the Caucasus region, particularly with regards to [Azerbaijan](#). As a member of [Uniting for Consensus](#), Turkey has been opposed to increasing the number of permanent seats on the Security Council. Turkey has traditionally been an ally of the USA, though relations with the USA and Western European nations have soured due to the increasingly autocratic regime of President [Recep Erdogan](#), who has been in office as Prime Minister or President since 2003. Turkey is a predominantly Muslim country, and it has treated its Kurdish minority harshly, leading to criticism due to violations of human rights.



21. United Kingdom

- Population & Rank: 69,000,000 (20th)
- Area & Rank: 244,000 sq. km (78th)
- Fact to Know: The UK withdrew from the European Union through the [Brexit process](#) in 2020. It remains a member of [NATO](#) and a major ally of the USA.



-Description: The United Kingdom is one of the five permanent members of the UN Security Council. It possesses nuclear weapons, and the world's 6th largest economy. The UK and the USA are close allies, sharing cultural, historical, and linguistic affinities - their bilateral ties are often referred to as the "[special relationship](#)." The UK, however, has seen its relative influence in the world decline since the founding of the UN at the end of World War II. It sees its seat on the Security Council, along with its veto power, as a cornerstone of its foreign policy, and is unlikely to favor large-scale changes to the current Security Council structure. The UK also maintains close ties with the countries that used to form the British Empire, such as India. Many of these countries belong to the [Commonwealth of Nations](#).

22. United States

- Population & Rank: 342,000,000 (3rd)
- Area & Rank: 9,525,000 sq. km (4th)
- Fact to Know: The USA hosts the headquarters of the UN in New York City and is the largest contributor to the UN budget.



-Description: The USA is the world's acknowledged superpower, though China is currently challenging its dominance of the international system. The USA spends [by far the greatest amount of money](#) of any country on its military budget and possesses the world's [second largest nuclear weapons arsenal](#), just behind the size of Russia's. The USA, particularly under the Trump Administration, is sensitive to any efforts to limit its influence, including on the UN Security Council. The USA is a permanent member of the Security Council, and has used its veto [on 95 occasions](#) through 2025. The US is a founding member of [NATO](#), and the acknowledged keystone nation within the alliance. However, the recent [Greenland Crisis](#), along with Trump Administration tariff policies, has called into question the USA's reliability as an ally, and its commitment to preserving the current state of the international system broadly speaking. The USA is particularly sensitive to a rising China, and may seek new allies in countering rising Chinese influence, particularly in Asia.