

Somalia wins UN Security Council seat

10th June 2024



Somalia has been elected as one of the ten non-permanent members of the United Nations Security Council. A vote at the UN headquarters in New York on the 6th of June saw the African nation ushered in to take its seat in the UN body. It is the first time for

Somalia to hold such a position since the 1970s. It descended into brutal and bloody conflict throughout the ensuing three decades. Civil and factional wars brought the war-torn country to its knees. A coalition government in 2009 has since brought the return of stability. Political experts believe that Somalia's recent turmoil, and its struggles to defeat Islamist insurgents, give it a valuable voice in promoting peace and security in the world.

The UN Security Council was formed in 1945 as a mechanism to maintain global peace. Its 15 members include five permanent members – China, France, Russia, the UK and the US – and 10 revolving non-permanent members. To win a seat, a nation must secure the support of at least two thirds of the UN General Assembly delegations. Somalia was elected unopposed and will serve for two years from January. It will sit alongside newly-elected Denmark, Greece, Pakistan and Panama. Somali Foreign Minister Ahmed Moallim Fiqi said: "Our tenure will be guided by our full commitment to multilateralism, and our respect of the principles of international law enshrined in the UN Charter."

Sources: un.org / bbc.com / en.wikipedia.org

Writing

There will be global peace one day. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

Somalia / the UN / the Security Council / conflict / wars / stability / turmoil / voice / global peace / support / elected / tenure / multilateralism / principles / charter

True / False

- 1) Somalia became the eleventh non-permanent member of the UN. T / F
- 2) A vote took place at the UN in Geneva. T / F
- 3) A coalition government in 2009 brought stability. T / F
- 4) Analysts believe Somalia's past will help it to make decisions on peace. T / F
- 5) The UN was created in 1954 to maintain global peace. T / F
- 6) There are only five permanent members of UN Security Council. T / F
- 7) Somalia will serve the Security Council for the next five years. T / F
- 8) International law is set down in the UN Charter. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. elected | a. keep |
| 2. headquarters | b. gory |
| 3. ushered | c. responsibility |
| 4. bloody | d. created |
| 5. insurgents | e. main office |
| 6. formed | f. set down |
| 7. maintain | g. rebels |
| 8. delegations | h. chosen |
| 9. commitment | i. representatives |
| 10. enshrined | j. shown |

Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you think about what you read?
- b) What do you know about the Security Council?
- c) Why are there only five permanent members of the Security Council?
- d) Are the five permanent members good?
- e) What do you think of multilateralism?
- f) What are the most important points of international law?
- g) Who causes wars?
- h) What questions would you like to ask Somalia's foreign minister?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|--|------------------------|
| 1. It descended into brutal | a. knees |
| 2. brought the war-torn country to its | b. the UN Charter |
| 3. coalition | c. promoting peace |
| 4. its struggles to defeat Islamist | d. delegations |
| 5. a valuable voice in | e. government |
| 6. a mechanism to maintain | f. international law |
| 7. two thirds of the UN General Assembly | g. global peace |
| 8. Somalia was elected | h. insurgents |
| 9. the principles of | i. unopposed |
| 10. enshrined in | j. and bloody conflict |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you know about Somalia?
- Has the UN Security Council done a good job?
- What can Somalia bring to the Security Council?
- Should the UN be more active in intervening in wars?
- What wars have there been in your country?
- Do you worry about war and conflict?
- How can we end the current wars raging around the world?
- What advice do you have for Somalia's foreign minister?

Spelling

- rsdeeuh in to take its seat
- Civil and fcoanatil wars
- A oalitcoin government
- Somalia's recent ulimrot
- its struggles to defeat Islamist rnstniesug
- give it a baluavel voice
- a hmesinmca to maintain global peace
- 10 lovrevnig non-permanent members
- two thirds of the UN General Assembly eogsiltnaed
- our full commitment to aairmisletmtul
- the ecilrppins of international law
- dihennsre in the UN Charter.

Answers – Synonym Match

1. h	2. e	3. j	4. b	5. g
6. d	7. a	8. i	9. c	10. f

Role Play

Role A – Security Council

You think the Security Council is the most important U.N. body. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their body. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): UNESCO, UNICEF or WHO.

Role B – UNESCO

You think UNESCO is the most important U.N. body. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their body. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): Security Council, UNICEF or WHO.

Role C – UNICEF

You think UNICEF is the most important U.N. body. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their body. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): UNESCO, Security Council or WHO.

Role D – WHO

You think the WHO is the most important U.N. body. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their body. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): UNESCO, UNICEF or Security Council.

Speaking – United Nations

Rank these with your partner. Put the most important U.N. bodies at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|--------------------|----------|
| • Security Council | • WIPO |
| • UNESCO | • UNICEF |
| • WHO | • FAO |
| • IMF | • ILO |

Answers – True False

1	F	2	F	3	T	4	T	5	F	6	T	7	F	8	F
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.