

# Security Council

Since 17 January 1946, the Security Council has been protecting and making sure that the various disputes that all the countries around the world are facing end in a peaceful and secure way. It consists of 15 members, five permanent members (China, France, Russia, United Kingdom and United States); and ten non-permanent members that are elected by the General Assembly for two-year terms.

The Security Council has primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security. To achieve this, it takes the lead in determining the existence of a threat to the peace or act of aggression. It calls upon the parties to a dispute to settle it by peaceful means and recommends methods of adjustment or terms of settlement.

Any state—even if it is not a member of the UN—may bring a dispute to which it is a party to the attention of the Security Council. When a complaint concerning a threat to peace is brought before it, the Council's first action is usually to recommend that the parties try to reach agreement by peaceful means.

As the only UN body with real power to enforce its decisions, the Security Council's powers include: taking military action; imposing sanctions; passing resolutions for peacekeeping operations; establishing international borders; and setting up courts to try war criminals.

References:

*United Nations Security Council | History & Members.* (2022, 28 abril).

Encyclopedia Britannica.

<https://www.britannica.com/topic/United-Nations-Security-Council>

*What is the Security Council? | United Nations Security Council.* (s. f.). UN.

<https://www.un.org/securitycouncil/content/what-security-council>

*UN Security Council: End Inaction on Ethiopia.* (2021, 14 july). Human Rights Watch.

<https://www.hrw.org/news/2021/07/02/un-security-council-end-inaction-ethiopi>

[a](#)