

**CHINA'S STAND ON INDIA'S BID FOR
PERMANENT SECURITY COUNCIL
MEMBERSHIP**

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Executive Summary

1. India's bid for permanent membership of the United Nations (UN) Security Council (SC) receives mixed response from UN members. The strongest opposition comes from a group called "Uniting for Consensus", which includes Pakistan.
2. The fate of India's bid is largely in the hands of the veto-wielding permanent members of the SC, including China. China's position on India's bid is crucial since the other four permanent members—the United Kingdom, France, Russia, and the US—have all expressed their support for India.
3. China has laid out the general principles for UN and SC reforms: the SC reform should enhance SC's authority, efficiency and capacity; increase the representation of developing countries, especially the African nations; broaden the participation of member states in the SC decision making process; consider the geographic balance and representation of different cultures and civilizations; and achieve consensus through consultation among all parties.
4. However, China has not put forth any specific reform scenarios or promised to support any specific country's bid for SC membership.
5. Chinese official statements on India's bid have never substantially changed since former Chinese State Councillor Tang Jiaxuan set the tone in New Delhi on 20 October 2004. He said, "The Chinese government values India's influence and role in international and regional affairs and is willing to see a greater Indian role in the international arena, the United Nations included."
6. He further expressed China's desire to see India playing a larger and constructive role in the SC for world peace and development and that it fully understands and endorses India's interest in playing a bigger role in international affairs.

7. On another occasion on 15 December 2010, Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao reiterated China's stand to Indian Premier Manmohan Singh: "China attaches great importance to India's status in international affairs as a large developing country, understands and supports India's aspiration to play a greater role in the United Nations, including the Security Council."
8. On 14 April 2011, Paragraph 8 of the Sanya Declaration by BRICS leaders reads, "...China and Russia reiterate the importance they attach to the status of India, Brazil and South Africa in international affairs, and understand and support their aspiration to play a greater role in the UN."
9. These reiterated statements have been interpreted by some Indian officials and commentators as China's support for India's bid for SC permanent membership.
10. However, a thorough research and analysis of the Chinese official documents and statements concerned shows that China has never clearly expressed support for, or opposition to India's bid.
11. China would be very cautious about supporting India's quest for SC permanent membership due to a trust deficit which has its roots in both history and geopolitics.