

UN debates supersized Security Council

A draft UN General Assembly resolution on Security Council enlargement from Germany, Japan, India and Brazil – all aspirants to permanent council seats – would expand the body from 15 to 25 members. Opponents argue that the so-called Group of Four's plan is nothing more than a bid for power

Security Council: Most powerful UN body, has five veto-wielding permanent members plus 10 countries elected by General Assembly for two-year terms. Each member has one vote
Total: 15 members

Permanent members: United States, Britain, France, China and Russia

Current rotating members: Algeria, Argentina, Benin, Brazil, Denmark, Greece, Japan, Philippines, Romania, United Rep. of Tanzania

GROUP OF FOUR'S PROPOSAL

Six new seats for permanent members without veto power – four for themselves and two for African nations, plus another four non-permanent seats
Total: 25 members

OTHER PROPOSALS

African Union wants 11 new seats, six permanent with veto power and five non-permanent.

Uniting for Consensus backs adding 10 new non-permanent members who would face re-election

Group of Four draft resolution supported by: Japan, France, Latvia, Poland, Sweden, Finland, Iceland, Lithuania, Tuvalu, and Bhutan. Jordan favours the resolution provided that an Arab nation is given a seat on the council

Opposed by: Algeria, Pakistan, China, Argentina, Colombia and San Marino. Key is Mauritius which represents African Union's 53 votes

Proposal requires two-thirds or 128 votes in 191-member General Assembly