

---

## ROLE OF INDIA IN UNITED NATIONS

The United Nations since its inception has promoted international cooperation through maintaining international peace and security, promoting human rights and fostering social and economic development.

India was a founding member of the United Nations, joining it in October 1945, two years before acquiring independence from the British Raj. By 1946, it had started raising concerns regarding colonialism, disarmament and racial discrimination. It stood at the forefront during the UN's tumultuous years of struggle against colonialism and apartheid. From early 1947-1948, it took an active part in drafting the **Universal Declaration on Human Rights** highlighting the need for reflecting gender equality by changing the language of the Universal Declaration on Human Rights from 'all men are created equal' to 'all men and women are created equal'.

In 1953, the chief delegate of India at the time, **Vijaya Laxmi Pandit** was elected the first woman **President of UN General Assembly**. India supported the struggle towards global disarmament and the ending of the arms race, and towards the creation of a more equitable international economic order.

Having faced the plight of colonialism for centuries India took a very strong stand on decolonization and the formation of a "free world" where no country is subjugated by the other and every country is allowed to maintain its autonomy and preserve its sovereignty. Through co-sponsoring the landmark **1960 Declaration of UN** on Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples which



proclaimed the need to unconditionally end colonialism in all its forms and manifestations, India achieved this goal. It was also elected the first chair of the Decolonization Committee where its ceaseless efforts to put an end to colonialism have been lauded.



India was also amongst the most outspoken critics of apartheid and racial discrimination in South Africa. In fact, it was the first country to raise the issue in the UN and played a leading role in the formation of a Sub-Committee against Apartheid set up by the General Assembly. When the **Convention on Elimination of all forms of Racial Discrimination** was adopted in 1965, India was among the earliest signatories.