

Pakistan's Role and Membership in the United Nations

Introduction

Pakistan Joins the United Nations

After gaining independence in 1947, Pakistan applied for UN membership and was admitted on **September 30, 1947**. This gave Pakistan **international recognition** as a new and sovereign state. The UN provided Pakistan a global platform to express its views, protect its national interests, and promote peace and cooperation. From the beginning, Pakistan used its membership to build friendly relations with other countries and support justice among nations.

Reasons for Pakistan's Membership in the UN

Pakistan joined the United Nations to gain **global support and legitimacy** after its creation. The country aimed to safeguard its independence, strengthen its economy, and promote peaceful coexistence with neighbors. The UN offered Pakistan a stage to highlight important issues such as the **Kashmir dispute** and seek international aid for development. It also helped Pakistan cooperate with other Muslim and developing nations, improving its diplomatic strength worldwide.

UN Involvement in the Jammu and Kashmir Dispute

Soon after independence, **the Kashmir issue** became the main conflict between Pakistan and India. In 1948, Pakistan brought the matter to the **UN Security Council**, seeking peaceful resolution. The UN passed resolutions declaring Kashmir a **disputed territory** and promised a **plebiscite** so the people of Kashmir could decide their future. However, India refused to hold the plebiscite. The UN also sent observers to maintain the ceasefire. Pakistan continues to raise the issue in the UN to gain international attention.

The Canal Water Dispute and UN Mediation

After partition, India stopped the flow of river water to Pakistan in 1948, leading to the **Canal Water Dispute**. This threatened Pakistan's agriculture and economy. Pakistan approached international forums, including the UN, for help. With UN support, the **World Bank** mediated between the two countries. This led to the **Indus Waters Treaty (1960)**, signed by Ayub Khan and Nehru. Under the treaty, Pakistan received control over the **Indus, Jhelum, and Chenab** rivers. It became a successful example of peaceful settlement through international cooperation.

UN's Role in Indo-Pakistan Wars

During the wars of **1948, 1965, and 1971**, the UN played an important role in stopping violence. The UN called for **ceasefires** and encouraged **peaceful dialogue** between India and Pakistan. UN peacekeeping forces were sent to monitor the ceasefire line in Kashmir. Pakistan always

responded positively to these peace appeals, showing its **commitment to world peace**. Though disputes remained unresolved, Pakistan's behavior strengthened its image as a responsible UN member.

Pakistan's Contributions to the United Nations

Pakistan has been an **active and respected member** of the UN. It has served several times as a **non-permanent member of the UN Security Council**. Pakistan is one of the **largest contributors to UN peacekeeping missions**, sending soldiers to countries like **Congo, Somalia, Bosnia, and Sierra Leone**. The country also supports human rights, development, and cooperation among Muslim nations. Through its efforts, Pakistan has earned a reputation as a peace-loving and responsible member of the international community.

Overall Significance

Pakistan's role in the UN highlights its commitment to **peaceful diplomacy, justice, and international cooperation**. The country has used the UN to voice concerns about **Kashmir, water disputes, and regional peace**. Its continuous participation in UN activities and peacekeeping missions has strengthened its global position and promoted friendly relations worldwide.