

Board of Peace for Gaza - Trump Invites India to Join the Proposed Board

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Board of Peace for Gaza Latest News

- The U.S. President Donald Trump invited India to join the proposed Board of Peace for Gaza, a new governance and conflict-management mechanism.
- The initiative emerges from a group of Islamic countries backed Trump's peace plan for Gaza and coincides with broader U.S. efforts to **restructure global governance** outside traditional multilateral institutions, especially the United Nations (UN).
- The proposal has triggered a global debate on the future of the post-World War II international order, particularly the relevance and authority of the UN Security Council (UNSC).

Board of Peace for Gaza

- **Purpose and mandate:**
 - To supervise Gaza's transitional governance, stabilisation, and reconstruction.

- To oversee a temporary technocratic, apolitical Palestinian administration.
- To manage funding for redevelopment until the Palestinian Authority (PA) completes institutional reforms.
- Trump now seeks to expand this Gaza-specific mechanism into a **global conflict-resolution template**.

- **Composition and leadership:**

- Chaired by U.S. President Donald Trump, its members include select invited countries and global leaders (e.g., Tony Blair).
- It will operate as an invitation-only body, not based on universal membership.

- **UN linkage:**

- UNSC **Resolution 2803** authorised a Board to supervise Gaza's transition until 2027.
- Russia and China abstained, but the countries of the Global South voted for it.

India's Position

- **Current status:** India has received the invitation but has not formally responded. Pakistan has also been invited.
- **India's stated principles:**
 - Consistent support for a **Two-State Solution** (Israel and Palestine coexisting).
 - India welcomed the first phase of Trump's peace plan, especially release of hostages, and enhanced humanitarian assistance to Gaza.
- **On military involvement:** The U.S. is seeking troops for a temporary International Stabilisation Force (ISF). India has clearly **ruled out participation**, as ISF is not a UN peacekeeping mission.

Broader Global Governance Debate

- **Challenge to the UN system:**
 - Critics argue the Board of Peace undermines UN Charter principles, sovereign equality of states, and collective decision-making.
 - It is seen as an attempt to **sidestep the UNSC** and concentrate authority in the U.S.-led executive body.
- **Trump's multilateral skepticism:**
 - Because of the continuation of Trump's long-standing approach. **For example**, withdrawal from UNESCO, WHO; exit from over 60 international organisations.
 - Aligned with **Project 2025** (the Heritage Foundation's blueprint for Trump's second term), which called for sharp reductions in multilateral commitments and a preference for ad hoc coalitions where the US sets the agenda.
- **From Gaza to global template:**
 - Trump aims to transform the Board into a general crisis-management club.
 - It is framed as a solution to UNSC paralysis, especially **veto politics**.
 - It risks diverting funds, legitimacy, and attention away from the UN if successful.

Key Challenges and Way Ahead

- **For global order:**
 - Erosion of multilateralism and UN centrality. Rise of exclusive, power-driven governance mechanisms. Undermining rules-based international order.
- **For India:**
 - Tension between commitment to reformed multilateralism, and pragmatic engagement with the U.S.-led initiatives.
 - Risk of legitimising a system that weakens India's long-term push for UNSC reform, and **marginalises** voices of the **Global South**.
- **India's options:**
 - **Calibrated engagement:** Engage diplomatically without endorsing erosion of UN authority. Maintain distinction between political oversight and military involvement.
 - **Defend UN-centric multilateralism:** Reiterate support for UNSC-authorised mechanisms. Resist normalisation of extra-UN security architectures.
 - **Strategic autonomy:** Balance ties with the U.S. while safeguarding India's principled positions. Coordinate with like-minded countries of the Global South.
 - **Push for UN reform:** Use the crisis to highlight urgency of UNSC reform, not its bypassing.

Conclusion

- The invitation to India to join the Board of Peace for Gaza places New Delhi at a critical crossroads in global diplomacy.
- While the initiative promises flexibility and decisiveness in conflict management, it also represents a fundamental challenge to the UN-led multilateral order that India has long defended.
- As global governance enters a phase of **extraordinary flux**, it tests India's ability to **balance principle with pragmatism** in an evolving world order.

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