

## UNSC resolution on Gaza ceasefire

### Why in news?

Recently UNSC resolution 2488 has been passed calling for an immediate ceasefire in Gaza.

#### Ongoing conflict in Gaza

- **Gaza strip**- It is home to about 2 million Palestinians, many of them displaced after leaving or being driven from [Israel](#) during the War of Independence.
- **Armistice agreement**- It was signed during Arab-Israeli war 1948 which led Gaza strip to be administered by *Egypt*.
- **Suez crisis, 1956**- Israel captured Sinai Peninsula and Gaza Strip but withdrew under international pressure in 1957.
- **1967 six day war**- Israel gained territory including Sinai Peninsula, Gaza Strip, West Bank, East Jerusalem and Golan Heights (Syria).
- **Camp David Accords 1978**- It was established after Yom Kippur War 1973, it brought an end to the conflict between Israel and Egypt.
- **2023 war**- Hamas, a terror group has launched surprise attack on Israel on October 7, 2023.
- Israeli military embarked on an extensive aerial bombardment of the Gaza Strip followed by a large-scale ground invasion.



### What are the key highlights of the resolution 2488?

- UNSC adopts a resolution tabled by its 10 non-permanent members (E-10) demanding a ceasefire in Gaza by a vote of 14 in favour to none against, with United States abstained from voting.
- The urgency of the issue is underscored by the recent veto by Russia and China of a US-sponsored resolution that sought an immediate and sustained ceasefire.

- The resolution demands an immediate ceasefire between Israel and the Palestinian group Hamas in the Gaza Strip and the release of all hostages.
- It meant that Israel was now “under an obligation, essentially, to stop its military campaign for the next 15 days” — the duration of the remainder of the Muslim holy month of Ramzan,
- **Russia**- UNSC rejected a Russia-proposed amendment that would have called for a permanent ceasefire.
- **Israel’s stand**- Israel has expressed strong dissatisfaction with the US abstention during the vote, viewing it as a departure from the US's traditional support in the UN and a move that could undermine Israel's efforts in the conflict with Hamas.
- Israel said that the draft’s lack of condemnation of Hamas is “a disgrace”.
- **Palestine**- They welcomed the adoption of the resolution, saying it was a step in the right direction.
- The resolution represents a significant diplomatic effort to address the ongoing conflict in Gaza, with the aim of providing a stage for sustainable peace.

### What is the outcome of the resolution?

- **Legally binding**- As per UN Charter, resolutions passed by the Security Council are indeed legally binding on all 193 member nations.

*UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres said that the resolution “must be implemented”, adding that “failure would be unforgivable”.*

- **Restore humanity**-The resolution demands not only a ceasefire but also the immediate and unconditional release of all hostages.
- **Relief to Gaza**- As more than 90% of Gaza’s 2.3 million residents have been displaced, and conditions under Israeli siege and bombardment have pushed Gaza to the brink of famine.
- **Famine threat**- As per report from the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC), [famine](#) could strike Gaza between mid-March and May if hostilities continue and essential supplies are not provided.
- **Enforcement challenges**-Despite the binding nature of such resolutions, enforcement remains a challenge and often depends on the willingness of the conflicting parties to comply and the UNSC’s ability to enforce its decisions.
- **Legal validity**- South Korea has raised concerns about the legal validity of resolution citing the absence of the word “decide” and its non-adoption under the charter.

### References

1. [BBC- UNSC passes resolution on Gaza ceasefire](#)
2. [Indian Express- UNSC resolution on Gaza ceasefire](#)



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