

Delegation of India, represented by H.E. Arcot Ramaswami Mudaliar

Position Paper for the Historical Committee

The topic before the United Nations Conference on International Organization (UNCIO) is Envisioning the Postwar World Order following the devastation of the Second World War. The Delegation of India recognises the urgent need to establish a durable system of international security, strengthen cooperation among nations, and ensure responsible coordination in shaping global stability. The Delegation of India looks forward to working with all participating states in San Francisco to draft a Charter that secures lasting peace, promotes social and economic development, and reflects the aspirations of all nations.

I. The San Francisco Conference, Envisioning the Postwar World Order

According to reports circulated in early 1945, the war has caused more than 20 million deaths, widespread destruction, and the displacement of tens of millions. With the Axis Powers collapsing and surrendering across Europe and Asia, the conflict's end is in sight, yet the consequences remain deeply felt. The suffering of civilians, the collapse of economies, and the trauma endured by innocent populations highlight the urgent responsibility of the international community to construct a postwar system capable of preventing another global catastrophe.

India acknowledges that the failure of the League of Nations (LN) demonstrated the need for a stronger and more inclusive organisation rooted in sovereign equality and peaceful solutions on international disputes. The LN's inability to prevent a second world conflict exposed serious weaknesses in an institution lacking authority, universal participation, and equality among its Member States (MS). Influenced by wartime agreements such as the *Declaration of St. James's Palace*, the *Atlantic Charter* and the *Dumbarton Oaks Proposals*, the Delegation of India, despite its colonial status and limited autonomy views this moment as a historic opportunity and is committed to contributing to the creation of an international organization capable of promoting international stability as well as social and economic justice to maintain global peace. During this war, India, a country that contributed significantly to the war effort sending more than 2.5 million Indian soldiers to fight on the Allied side, wants long-lasting peace and no more instability and conflicts that put in danger lives of innocents. India therefore, believes that the inclusion of human rights as a fundamental purpose of the UN is essential, as respect for human dignity is a prerequisite for lasting peace. India also supports mechanisms to ensure accountability within the Organization, including the principle that MS failing to meet their assessed financial contributions should face restrictions in the General Assembly (GA). For India, a successful postwar world order must therefore rest not only on security arrangements but also on international cooperation aimed at raising living standards and ensuring that all nations benefit from shared progress. India therefore calls for a strengthened General Assembly (GA) space for universal membership aiming for a truly global body sought to ensure that all MS regardless of size or power, have a voice. Furthermore, India considers the election of non-permanent members of the Security Council (SC) to be of paramount importance and therefore supports criteria based on equitable geographical representation and the capacity of states to contribute to international peace and security.

India maintains that security cannot be separated from economic and social progress, nor can peace be sustained when large populations lack access to food, housing, education, medical care, and opportunities for development. a Security Council (SC) whose great-power privileges are matched by responsibility acknowledging their victory as well as their veto power, a compromise included to ensure the cooperation of the major powers, which are essential for the organization's enforcement capabilities, and a creation of a powerful Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) able to address the deeper causes of conflict, including poverty and inequality.

India maintains that lasting peace is impossible while millions remain under foreign domination, and that the postwar era must include a responsible and orderly path towards world peace. Guided by the conviction that "there will be no peace as long as a few decide for all," India advocates for a UN capable not only of preventing war but also of promoting human welfare and the dignity of all peoples. A Charter grounded in these principles will provide a beacon of hope and a durable framework for a peaceful and prosperous future for every nation.

As Mahatma Gandhi once said, "There is no path to peace, peace is the path".