



# 2024 UNGA Country Alignment Index Report

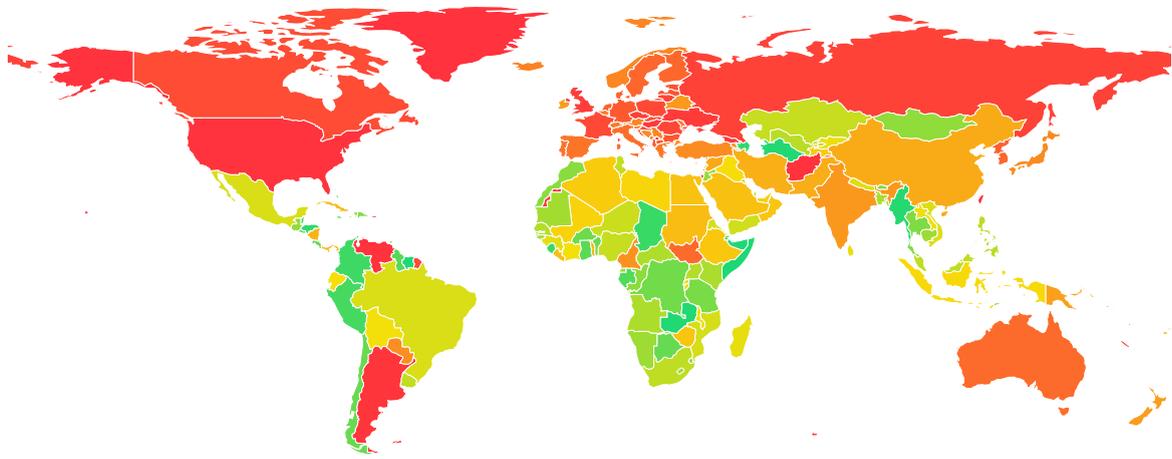
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## Overall Global Alignment Rank (2024)

Dark green represents the highest rank



# 44%

**of countries saw their alignment fall in 2024**

Nearly half of UN member states recorded a drop in their support of dominant positions compared to 2023, a sharp rise from the 30% that saw declines the year before.

*A clear global shift towards greater fragmentation.*

## Complete Country Rankings

Full ranking of all 191 countries in the 2024 UNGA Alignment Index

		● 90-100	● 80-89	● 70-79	● 60-69	● 50-59	● <50				
1	● Cabo Verde	100.0	2	● Suriname	99.2	3	● Somalia	98.9	4	● Zambia	98.9
5	● Turkmenistan	98.8	6	● Myanmar	98.6	7	● Antigua and Barbuda	98.3	8	● Gambia	98.3
9	● Seychelles	98.3	10	● Azerbaijan	98.0	11	● Honduras	97.8	12	● Barbados	97.6
13	● Jamaica	97.6	14	● Sierra Leone	97.6	15	● Chad	97.5	16	● Dominica	97.3
17	● Colombia	97.1	18	● Bahamas	97.0	19	● Grenada	96.9	20	● Peru	96.8
21	● Mauritius	96.8	22	● Djibouti	96.8	23	● Belize	96.7	24	● Samoa	96.7
25	● Gabon	96.6	26	● Guyana	96.3	27	● El Salvador	96.2	28	● Ghana	96.0
29	● Sao Tome and Principe	95.8	30	● Vanuatu	95.8	31	● Singapore	95.5	32	● Trinidad and Tobago	95.5
33	● Maldives	95.5	34	● Botswana	95.3	35	● Chile	95.3	36	● Costa Rica	95.3
37	● Benin	95.3	38	● Burkina Faso	95.2	39	● Timor-Leste	95.0	40	● Democratic Republic o...	95.0
41	● Comoros	94.9	42	● Solomon Islands	94.9	43	● United Republic of Tan...	94.8	44	● Saint Vincent and the ...	94.5
45	● Thailand	94.5	46	● Dominican Republic	94.5	47	● Saint Lucia	94.5	48	● Bhutan	94.5
49	● Saint Kitts and Nevis	94.3	50	● Morocco	94.2	51	● Congo	93.8	52	● Eswatini	93.8
53	● Mongolia	93.8	54	● Guatemala	93.7	55	● Equatorial Guinea	93.7	56	● Jordan	93.7
57	● Haiti	93.6	58	● Namibia	93.6	59	● Cambodia	93.5	60	● Lesotho	93.4
61	● Mauritania	93.4	62	● Guinea-Bissau	93.3	63	● Bangladesh	93.0	64	● Kenya	92.9
65	● Angola	92.7	66	● Central African Republic	92.4	67	● Uganda	92.3	68	● Senegal	92.3
69	● Philippines	92.2	70	● Uzbekistan	92.2	71	● Qatar	92.2	72	● Malaysia	92.1
73	● South Africa	92.1	74	● Uruguay	92.1	75	● Tunisia	92.0	76	● Kazakhstan	91.6
77	● Nigeria	91.5	78	● Niger	91.4	79	● Brunei Darussalam	91.3	80	● Yemen	91.3
81	● Kuwait	91.3	82	● Mozambique	91.2	83	● Eritrea	91.2	84	● Brazil	91.2
85	● Mexico	91.2	86	● Viet Nam	91.0	87	● Nepal	90.9	88	● Burundi	90.8
89	● Guinea	90.7	90	● Madagascar	90.7	91	● Bahrain	90.5	92	● Sri Lanka	90.5
93	● Kyrgyzstan	90.4	94	● Malawi	90.4	95	● Lao People's Democra...	90.3	96	● Bolivia (Plurinational S...	90.1
97	● Côte d'Ivoire	90.0	98	● Ecuador	90.0	99	● Iraq	89.7	100	● Tuvalu	89.6
101	● Indonesia	88.8	102	● Lebanon	88.6	103	● Libya	88.3	104	● Mali	88.3
105	● Rwanda	88.2	106	● United Arab Emirates	87.8	107	● Kiribati	87.5	108	● Algeria	87.1
109	● Tajikistan	86.9	110	● Ethiopia	86.5	111	● Oman	86.2	112	● Zimbabwe	85.8
113	● Egypt	85.3	114	● Saudi Arabia	85.1	115	● Liberia	84.7	116	● Sudan	84.3
117	● Cuba	83.8	118	● Marshall Islands	83.1	119	● Panama	82.6	120	● Togo	80.5
121	● Nicaragua	80.3	122	● Fiji	79.2	123	● Iran (Islamic Republic ...	78.3	124	● Pakistan	77.4
125	● China	77.2	126	● Syrian Arab Republic	77.0	127	● San Marino	76.3	128	● Cyprus	76.3
129	● Malta	76.2	130	● Andorra	75.6	131	● Papua New Guinea	75.3	132	● Ireland	75.2
133	● New Zealand	75.1	134	● Belarus	74.2	135	● India	73.2	136	● Liechtenstein	73.1
137	● Tonga	72.9	138	● Cameroon	72.6	139	● Armenia	72.4	140	● Paraguay	72.0
141	● Türkiye	72.0	142	● Bosnia and Herzegovina	70.9	143	● Japan	70.9	144	● Austria	70.9
145	● Norway	70.9	146	● Serbia	69.4	147	● Iceland	68.2	148	● Palau	67.8
149	● Republic of Moldova	67.6	150	● Slovenia	67.3	151	● Belgium	67.1	152	● Switzerland	66.9
153	● Greece	66.1	154	● Montenegro	66.1	155	● Spain	66.1	156	● Portugal	65.7
157	● Luxembourg	64.8	158	● Nauru	64.8	159	● Italy	64.8	160	● Australia	64.6
161	● South Sudan	64.5	162	● Finland	63.6	163	● Republic of Korea	63.5	164	● Sweden	63.5
165	● Denmark	63.4	166	● Netherlands (Kingdom...	63.1	167	● Democratic People's R...	62.9	168	● North Macedonia	62.7
169	● Monaco	61.9	170	● Germany	61.6	171	● Bulgaria	60.9	172	● Albania	60.9
173	● Latvia	59.8	174	● Estonia	59.7	175	● Croatia	59.6	176	● Slovakia	59.4
177	● Canada	58.0	178	● Poland	57.2	179	● France	56.2	180	● Romania	55.8
181	● Lithuania	55.6	182	● Russian Federation	55.5	183	● Micronesia (Federated...	54.8	184	● Czechia	53.1
185	● United Kingdom of Gre...	52.8	186	● Ukraine	52.0	187	● Hungary	51.9	188	● Georgia	45.2
189	● Argentina	40.0	190	● United States of Ameri...	16.2	191	● Israel	0.0			

Rankings based on the 2024 UNGA Country Alignment Index Pillar 3 (Global Alignment). Lower ranks indicate lower alignment with dominant positions.

# Key Findings

Four critical insights from the 2024 UNGA Country Alignment Index

**342**

**UNGA Resolutions**

Nearly 28% required a vote.

In 2024, the UN General Assembly adopted 342 resolutions and decisions. While most were passed by consensus, 95 resolutions required a formal vote, the most since 2020.

**80%**

**Global Consensus**

80% average resolution support.

Despite heightened polarization, the UNGA maintained broad agreement in 2024: no resolution failed, and 60 countries refrained from casting a single "No" vote, underscoring the resilience of multilateralism.

**-17%**

**Arms Limitations**

A large drop in votes in support.

Thematic alignment on arms limitations saw a significant decline in 2024. This concerning trend reflects growing disagreements among member states regarding disarmament initiatives and arms control measures.

**-170**

**Argentina**

A 170-rank drop in internal alignment.

Under its new president, Javier Milei, Argentina executed the most dramatic policy reversal of any UN member, plummeting 170 ranks in internal consistency. After not casting a single "No" vote for over a decade, the country voted against 38 resolutions in 2024, signaling a radical foreign policy shift.

## Executive Summary

The 2024 UNGA Country Alignment Index reveals a world splintering under renewed geopolitical pressure. Regions across the Global South strengthened their cohesion and supported resolutions more often, while many Western states found themselves in the minority, frequently abstaining or opposing.

African and Asian countries in particular displayed strong bloc discipline, reinforcing the collective weight of the Global South. Yet Gaza-related resolutions fractured long-standing consensus on humanitarian protection and international law, driving the sharpest thematic decline of the year.

Regionally, average cohesion remained stable, with Northern Africa strengthening and parts of Sub-Saharan and Eastern Asia converging, while Latin America and Oceania weakened. Politics mattered: Argentina underwent the year's most dramatic reversal, breaking from regional peers and global majorities, while Guatemala and Vanuatu climbed by aligning more consistently with broad humanitarian and "system" majorities.

The team at 3DL has worked hard to ensure that the diplomatic behavior of UN Member States is transparent, measurable, and accessible to all for independent analysis. We hope you find this report useful and informative.

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Hugo Zlotowski  
Founder & Director of 3DL

## About the Country Alignment Index

The Country Alignment Index is built on the premise that diplomatic behavior can and should be objectively measured through observed voting patterns in multilateral institutions, specifically the United Nations.

### Three Complementary Pillars

This framework conceptualizes alignment as a behavioral metric that captures the degree to which states agree or diverge from various reference points in their voting behavior. It is centered around three complementary pillars, focused on macro, meso and micro levels.

I

Internal

II

Regional

III

Global

A behavioral index measuring how UN Member States align across three key dimensions: internal consistency, regional alignment, and global consensus. Filter by economic groups and track ranking changes over time.

# The Three Pillars

Each pillar captures a distinct dimension of a country's alignment behavior at the United Nations.



## Internal Alignment

Is a country consistent in its voting habits across time and topics?

This dimension measures the consistency and stability of a state's policy choices.

**Insight:** High internal alignment suggests policy continuity; low internal alignment indicates shifts in foreign policy orientation or strategic repositioning.



## Regional Alignment

How does a country vote in relation to its regional peers?

This dimension measures the degree to which a country aligns with the collective voting behavior of its regional bloc.

**Insight:** High regional alignment indicates bloc cohesion; low regional alignment suggests divergence from regional consensus.



## Global Alignment

How does a country vote in relation to the world?

Global alignment captures the extent to which a state supports or opposes dominant positions in the international system.

**Insight:** High global alignment suggests alignment with dominant international consensus; low global alignment indicates independent or oppositional positions.

## The Index as a Composite Signal

The Alignment Index is not a static measure of foreign policy identity, but rather the product of three interacting factors:



### Domestic Political Changes

Elections, reforms, coups, or shifts in party discipline can directly affect how consistently a state casts its votes at the UN.



### Foreign Policy Choices

Some governments deliberately pursue strategies of prudence, transactionalism, or principled distance shaped by geopolitical calculations.



### Issue-mix at the UNGA

Each year, the prominence of certain topics (e.g., Gaza ceasefire, Ukraine, disarmament) can amplify alignment or divergence, especially when a state is directly targeted.



## Alignment Definition

**Alignment** reflects the extent to which a state supports, opposes, or distances itself from prevailing positions within the international community, a regional bloc, or its own historical behavior.

## About the UNGA

The United Nations were established in 1945 in the aftermath of WWII, with the intention to promote peaceful international relations. The 51 founding nations formed a covenant known as the UN Charter<sup>1</sup>, in which they lay out the following four guiding purposes:

### Four Guiding Purposes of the UN Charter

- 1** To maintain international peace and security
- 2** To develop friendly relations among nations
- 3** To achieve international co-operation in solving international problems
- 4** To be a centre for harmonizing the actions of nations to those ends

### Why the UNGA Matters



#### Universality

The world's only political forum that includes all sovereign states, each with equal voting power (if they pay their dues)



#### Global Coverage

The General Assembly debates and adopts resolutions on almost every issue, from climate change, economic development to nuclear proliferation



#### Moral Weight

UNGA resolutions are non-binding, however they carry political and diplomatic weight, and signal consensus/division/isolation in the global community



#### Geopolitical Messaging

States use the UNGA to express solidarity or protest, navigate alliances and rivalries, or perform symbolic gestures



#### Diplomatic Archive

Uninterrupted records of world politics since 1946. It captures attempts at multilateralism through evolving global landscapes, such as the Cold War, decolonization, the American "unipolar moment" etc.



# About the UNGA

How resolutions are adopted at the United Nations General Assembly



## Adoption Process

~80%

### Consensus (no vote)

If no delegation raises an objection, the resolution is adopted by consensus.

This is the most common practice, covering about 80% of UNGA resolutions.

Consensus requires negotiators to take into account the concerns of all delegations, often resulting in compromises.

It is therefore considered a more inclusive process, as different points of view are accommodated.

~20%

### Vote

Any single member state can request a vote, even if all others agree to consensus.

This means the perspectives of the minority do not affect the outcome.

While efficient, this method can be more divisive, since it highlights disagreements rather than consensus.

#### Two types of votes in the UNGA:

- **Simple majority (50%+1)**  
Most resolutions are adopted by simple majority
- **Two-thirds majority**  
Article 18 of the UN Charter requires a two thirds majority on "important questions", including adding new members, recommendations on Peace and Security, budgetary questions, expelling members etc.

#### Voting options:

Yes

No

Abstain (counts toward quorum)

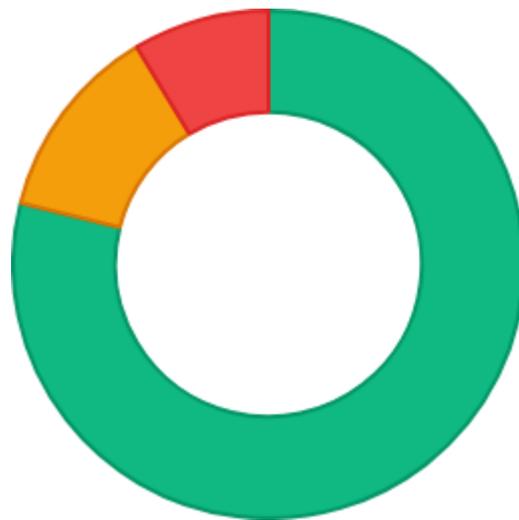
Absent

**Quorum:** For a vote to take place, a simple majority of states must be present

# Yearly trends - Voting patterns and ranges

In 2024, the UN General Assembly adopted 342 resolutions and decisions. Most were adopted by consensus, while 95 were put to a vote.

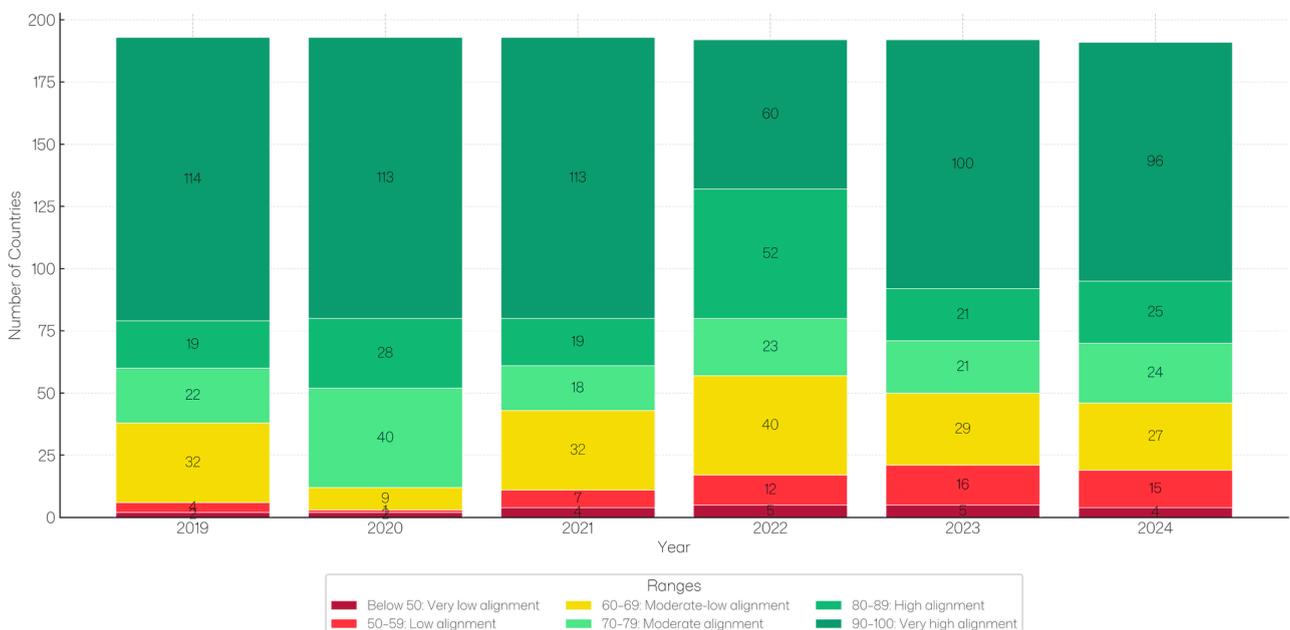
## 🌐 Overall Voting Record



- **Yes**  
78.9%
- **Abstain**  
12.5%
- **No**  
8.6%

95 UNGA Resolutions in 2024

## 📊 Political Alignment 2019-2024



# Yearly trends - Voting patterns and ranges

Countries that never cast a "No" vote in 2024

## Countries Never Voted "No"

In 2024, 60 countries refrained from ever voting no.

- Angola
- Azerbaijan
- Benin
- Bahamas
- Brazil
- Bhutan
- Central African Republic
- Chile
- Côte d'Ivoire
- Cameroon
- Congo
- Colombia
- Cabo Verde
- Costa Rica
- Dominican Republic
- Ecuador
- Gabon
- Ghana
- Guinea
- Gambia
- Guinea-Bissau
- Equatorial Guinea
- Guatemala
- Guyana
- Honduras
- Haiti
- Kazakhstan
- Kenya
- Kyrgyzstan
- Cambodia
- Lesotho
- Madagascar
- Mexico
- Myanmar
- Mongolia
- Mozambique
- Mauritius
- Namibia
- Nigeria
- Nepal
- Panama
- Peru
- Philippines
- Rwanda
- Senegal
- Solomon Islands
- Sierra Leone
- El Salvador
- South Sudan
- Suriname
- Seychelles
- Chad
- Togo
- Thailand
- Timor-Leste
- United Republic of Tanzania
- Uganda
- Uruguay
- Vanuatu
- Samoa



### Perfect Record

Cabo Verde

Only voted YES in 2024

## Yearly trends - Top moves

Deep dives into the countries that experienced the most significant shifts in their UN voting alignment during 2024.



**Largest Drop**

**Argentina**

-170 Internal Alignment



**Largest Rise**

**Vanuatu**

+73 Global Alignment



**Second Biggest Rise**

**Guatemala**

+62 Global Alignment

## Largest alignment drop in 2024:

↘ Argentina

### Analysis

Libertarian economist Javier Milei was elected to the presidency of Argentina in late 2023, and moved rapidly to enact radical policy changes in domestic and international affairs.

In his first address to the UN General Assembly in September 2024, President Javier Milei accused the United Nations of overstepping its role as a forum for dialogue and promoting a normative agenda on sovereign states — particularly through the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Framing his stance around individual liberty and national sovereignty, Milei signaled a shift in Argentina's international posture.

Argentina has voted against highly consensual resolutions, such as those calling for a ceasefire in Gaza, and has mostly aligned with Israel on this topic – even when most of Latin America and the global community converged in favor. Argentina exemplified this radical ideological shift by being the only member-state voting against the draft resolution on eliminating digital violence against women and girls (but voting in favor of final resolution) – stating the defense of free speech as justification for this controversial stance.

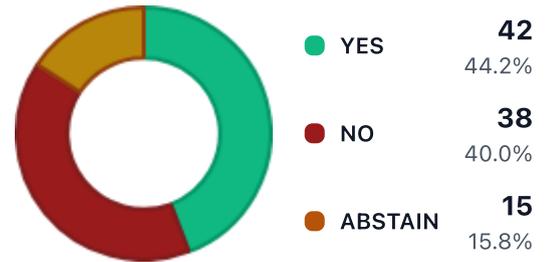
Argentina stands out as the country recording the largest drop in internal alignment in 2024. In other words, of all UN member states, Argentina operated the most dramatic policy reversal compared to the previous year, and shifted its voting stance on a significant number of resolutions across various topics. This is the largest single-year drop in the history of UNGA voting for a country.

Overall, Argentina's decline across all pillars, Global, Regional and Internal, suggests a major recalibration of its foreign policy. Diplomatic posture is adjusted to align with a new set of priorities, and international/regional partners. It is likely Argentina will continue aligning more closely with the US.

*"From this day on, know that the Argentine Republic will abandon the position of historical neutrality that characterized us and will be at the forefront of the struggle in defense of freedom."*

— Javier Milei, Argentinian President

### ✓ Voting Pattern



In 2024, Argentina voted No a total of 38 times. This is significant, as an Argentinian delegation had not cast a single no vote since 2013.

### 📊 Ranking Evolution

Global Alignment 76 → 189 ↘ 113

Regional Alignment 121 → 190 ↘ 69

Internal Alignment 17 → 187 ↘ 170

2023 → 2024 Rankings: 1 = Best, 191 = Worst

## Largest alignment drop in 2024:

🇨🇦 Argentina

### 🇨🇦 Voting Topics

The following topics show the most significant changes in Argentina's voting behavior between 2023 and 2024, measured by the percentage of "Yes" votes cast on resolutions within each topic area.

**How to read:** Numbers show the percentage of "Yes" votes on each topic. Changes represent how this percentage evolved from 2023 to 2024. For example, 0% → 100% (+100) means the country went from never voting "Yes" to always voting "Yes" on that topic.

1

+100

CIVILIAN PERSONS

Yes votes: 0% → 100%

2

+100

GEORGIAN REFUGEES

Yes votes: 0% → 100%

3

-100

OCCUPIED TERRITORIES

Yes votes: 100% → 0%

4

-100

NUCLEAR WEAPONS

Yes votes: 100% → 0%

5

-100

MULTILATERALISM

Yes votes: 100% → 0%

6

-100

MERCENARIES

Yes votes: 100% → 0%

7

-100

MARINE ENVIRONMENT

Yes votes: 100% → 0%

8

-100

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

Yes votes: 100% → 0%

9

-100

EQUALITY

Yes votes: 100% → 0%

10

-100

DOUBLE TAXATION

Yes votes: 100% → 0%

11

-100

DISPUTES

Yes votes: 100% → 0%

12

-100

DEVELOPMENT AND TRANSFER  
OF TECHNOLOGY AND  
PROMOTION OF SCIENCE

Yes votes: 100% → 0%

# Biggest increase in global alignment in 2024:

 **Vanuatu**

## Analysis

Vanuatu registered the sharpest rise in global alignment in 2024, climbing 59 ranks compared to the previous year. Its voting record shows a shift toward consensus positions: out of 88 votes cast, it supported 84 resolutions (95.2%) and abstained only 4 times (4.8%), without casting a single "No." This marks a significant reduction from 10 abstentions in 2023, explaining much of the increase in its score.

In 2023, nine of Vanuatu's ten abstentions were on Palestine/Israel-related resolutions, with the remaining one concerning Iran. In 2024 all of its abstentions were tied to Middle East issues, including the ICJ advisory opinion on Israel's occupation, Golan sovereignty, and Palestinian membership. At the same time, the delegation supported humanitarian-focused resolutions, such as calls for a Gaza ceasefire and assistance to Palestine refugees. It also chose not to participate in a handful of votes—an approach that avoided additional abstentions which would have lowered its alignment score further.

The address delivered by Vanuatu's prime minister put great emphasis on the issue of climate change. This is in line with their consistent stance on the matter of development and environmentalism. In 2023, the member state had made headlines by leading the drafting and introduction of a landmark resolution requesting an advisory opinion from the International Court of Justice (ICJ) on the obligations of States regarding climate change (A/RES/77/276).

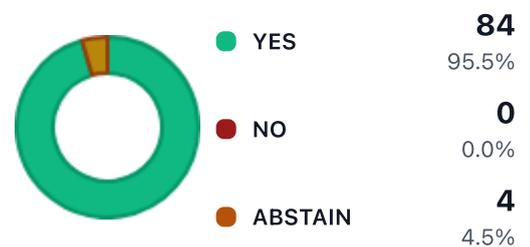
As a small island nation in the Pacific, Vanuatu's broader voting trajectory reflects both its normative commitments and strategic caution. On most UNGA issues, it is a highly supportive member of the multilateral system, particularly on climate change, ocean governance, and environmental protection—areas central to its national identity, where it actively portrays itself as a global champion. Its more cautious approach to Middle East resolutions, by contrast, stems from a complex mix of religious-evangelical influences, geopolitical hedging, and reliance on the U.S./Australia security umbrella and economic partnership.

The result is a pattern of selective abstention rather than outright opposition. Vanuatu stops short of aligning fully with Global South consensus on Palestine, but also avoids the isolation of casting "No" votes. This careful positioning underscores both its normative commitments to international cooperation and the pragmatic considerations that guide its foreign policy.

*"While industrialized nations continue to advance their economies, Small Island Developing States continue to bear the brunt of climate change affecting our development efforts and aspirations."*

— Charlot Salwai Tabimasmās, Vanuatu's Prime Minister

## Voting Pattern



In 2024 Vanuatu did not cast a single NO vote, and abstained 4 times. In context, it has not voted no since 2018.

## Ranking Evolution

Global Alignment 103 → 30  73

Regional Alignment 139 → 142  3

Internal Alignment 33 → 54  21

2023 → 2024      Rankings: 1 = Best, 191 = Worst

# Biggest increase in global alignment in 2024:

 Vanuatu

## Voting Topics

The following topics show the most significant changes in Vanuatu's voting behavior between 2023 and 2024, measured by the percentage of "Yes" votes cast on resolutions within each topic area.

**How to read:** Numbers show the percentage of "Yes" votes on each topic. Changes represent how this percentage evolved from 2023 to 2024. For example, 0% → 100% (+100) means the country went from never voting "Yes" to always voting "Yes" on that topic.

<b>1</b> <span>+100</span> <b>Anti-Apartheid Movements</b> Yes votes: 0% → 100%	<b>2</b> <span>+100</span> <b>Iran Situation</b> Yes votes: 0% → 100%	<b>3</b> <span>+100</span> <b>Palestine Refugees</b> Yes votes: 0% → 100%
<b>4</b> <span>+100</span> <b>Permanent Sovereignty</b> Yes votes: 0% → 100%	<b>5</b> <span>+100</span> <b>Right to Own Property</b> Yes votes: 0% → 100%	<b>6</b> <span>+100</span> <b>Welfare and Social Services</b> Yes votes: 0% → 100%
<b>7</b> <span>+100</span> <b>Colonialism</b> Yes votes: 0% → 100%	<b>8</b> <span>+75</span> <b>Discrimination</b> Yes votes: 25% → 100%	<b>9</b> <span>+50</span> <b>Humanitarian Intervention</b> Yes votes: 50% → 100%
<b>10</b> <span>-25</span> <b>Dispute Settlement</b> Yes votes: 100% → 75%	<b>11</b> <span>-50</span> <b>Advisory Opinions</b> Yes votes: 100% → 50%	<b>12</b> <span>-50</span> <b>Authoritarianism</b> Yes votes: 100% → 50%

## Second biggest increase in global alignment in 2024:

↗ Guatemala

### Analysis

Guatemala emerged as the country showing the most significant rise in global and regional alignment in 2024. The change follows the inauguration of President Bernardo Arévalo, whose administration moved quickly to reorient Guatemala's foreign policy away from the more isolated stance taken under his predecessor, Alejandro Giammattei.

During the elections, the seating authorities launched several politically motivated criminal investigations to try and bar him from reaching office.

In his UNGA address, Arévalo emphasized the importance of the organization, and reaffirmed Guatemala's commitment to SDGs, and overall cooperation through the auspices of the UN for issues such as climate change and migration. He urged for revitalization of the global community.

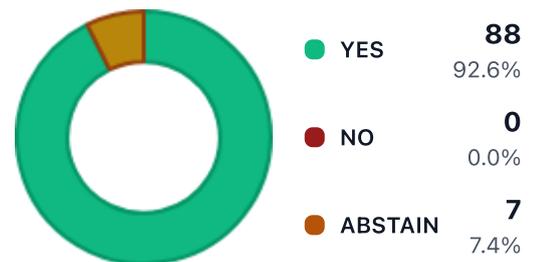
Guatemala's largest alignment gain was its regional alignment (+87), signaling efforts to improve diplomatic integration. No longer positioned as a regional outlier, Guatemala's voting patterns of 2024 closely matched that of the region. The new delegation reverted a number of its previous stances, notably by supporting environmental, Palestinian, and humanitarian resolutions.

As a result of these adjustments and realignments on the global and regional scale, Guatemala registered a decline in internal alignment, as its voting habits of 2024 marked a shift from previous years. These changes signify ideological alternance (right to left), but could also be indicative of a broader strategy of integration in the multilateral system. The new government claims to be undoing years of democratic backsliding, corruption and repression by rebuilding credibility, strengthening regional ties and committing to value-based diplomacy by supporting international law and human rights. In turn, Guatemala may rely on new regional and international partners for support on reform, and leverage its renewed commitment to international cooperation to attract development assistance. Whatever the motivations, it is likely we will see Guatemala play a renewed role in diplomacy in future years.

*"The rescue of multilateralism as a core principle of the international system is urgently needed."*

— Bernardo Arévalo, Guatemalan President

### ✓ Voting Pattern



In 2024 Guatemala did not cast a single NO vote, and abstained 7 times. In contrast, it had voted NO 3 times in 2023.

### 📊 Ranking Evolution

Global Alignment 116 → 54 ↘ 62

Regional Alignment 164 → 77 ↘ 87

Internal Alignment 87 → 114 ↗ 27

2023 → 2024 Rankings: 1 = Best, 191 = Worst

## Second biggest increase in global alignment in 2024:

 Guatemala

### Voting Topics

The following topics show the most significant changes in Guatemala's voting behavior between 2023 and 2024, measured by the percentage of "Yes" votes cast on resolutions within each topic area.

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1

+97

Oil Pollution

Yes votes: 3% → 100%

2

+97

Marine Environment

Yes votes: 3% → 100%

3

+96

Marine Environment

Yes votes: 4% → 100%

4

+96

Oil Pollution

Yes votes: 4% → 100%

5

+94

Computer Science and  
Technology

Yes votes: 6% → 100%

6

+94

Computer Science and  
Technology

Yes votes: 6% → 100%

7

+93

Welfare and Social Services

Yes votes: 6% → 98%

8

+93

Resources (General)

Yes votes: 7% → 100%

9

+92

Welfare and Social Services

Yes votes: 6% → 98%

10

+92

Resources (General)

Yes votes: 8% → 100%

11

+92

Permanent Sovereignty

Yes votes: 8% → 100%

12

+92

Palestine Refugees

Yes votes: 7% → 99%

## Top Movers Summary

Guatemala and Argentina case studies are emblematic of political dynamics in southern-America, where political alternance is often sharp, and policy changes are enacted swiftly as governments alternate between right and left-wing ideologies. In these two cases, we see radical evolution in both directions, meaning an increase or decrease in alignment, in the first year of a Presidential term. By contrast, Vanuatu's swing illustrates a different logic: rather than a change of government, its alignment shift stemmed from modifying its pattern of selective abstentions on Middle East questions, with its broader profile remaining that of a consistently pro-multilateral Pacific island state.

The Top 10 countries are largely from the Global South and tend to be less geopolitically exposed. These states may perceive themselves as more protected by international law and multilateral frameworks, and thus have fewer incentives to challenge the global consensus. By contrast, stronger powers often feel constrained by these same rules, and are therefore more inclined to oppose them.

It is noteworthy that among the Bottom 10 countries, four are nuclear powers. Their consistently low scores reflect frequent opposition to the global majority, particularly on sensitive Security and Human Rights issues such as Gaza or Ukraine. Most of the 10 are western states.

Paradoxically, this means that the so-called "non-aligned movement" states are the most aligned with UNGA outcomes, whereas great powers distance themselves from consensus.

Overall, the landscape can be understood as consisting of three broad coalitions:

- The US/Israel bloc, often isolated in opposition;
- Russia and its close allies, resisting resolutions from the other pole;
- The majority of states, which align broadly with international consensus and support multilateralism. (a third of states did not even vote no in 2024)

These coalitions are not fixed, and may switch depending on the issue at hand, and the strategic interest of member states. However, they reflect general trends in the voting patterns of the UNGA.

# Yearly trends - Pillar trends

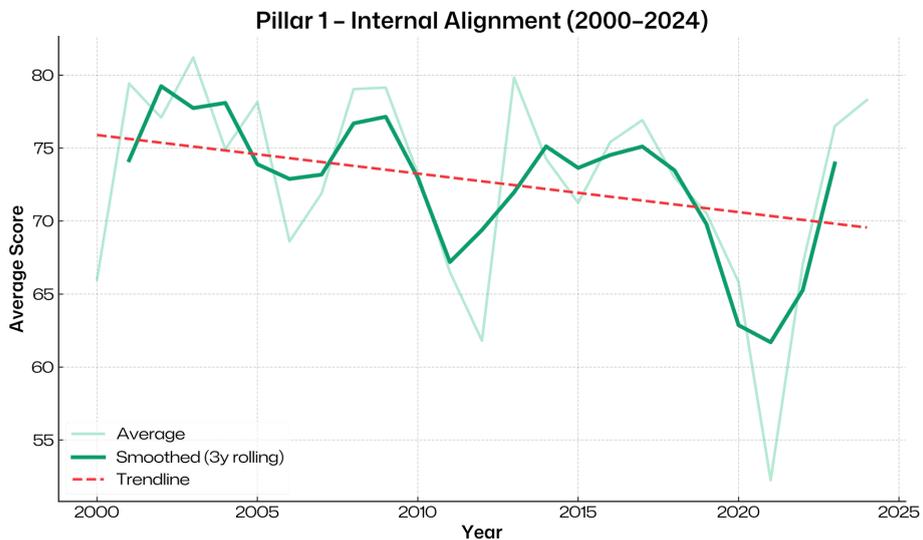
Analysis of internal alignment changes across our three pillars, examining both country-level shifts and external geopolitical drivers influencing global voting patterns.

## 📈 P1 Trends - Internal Alignment

The world average internal alignment increased slightly in 2024, up from 76.5 in 2023 to 78.3 in 2024. That is, countries have been regaining consistency in their voting behavior, after a collapse of the world average in 2020 and 2021. To understand dynamics in global alignment shifts, we examine country-level drivers of change, as well as external drivers (e.g., geopolitical events).

### 📊 Key Metric

**+1.8 points** increase in world average internal alignment (76.5 → 78.3)



## Country Level Shifts

Broadly, there are 3 main reasons for sharp changes in internal alignment between 2023 and 2024:

### Change of Leadership

Elections and sharp political swings remain the single biggest reason for changes in internal consistency. Because Israel-related resolutions occupy so much space on the agenda, a new stance on this topic often moves the needle strongly. Argentina illustrates this: Javier Milei's right-leaning government came to power in late 2023 and quickly realigned foreign policy toward Israel and the United States. Argentina shifted from voting "Yes" on virtually all decolonisation and humanitarian resolutions to siding with Israel on contentious votes; its internal-alignment score plunged from 93.4 to 23.1. By contrast, Ghana and Nicaragua, where leadership remained stable, saw modest gains (~9–10 points) because they kept their positions aligned with regional partners.

### Spotty Voting

Some countries struggled to maintain consistent representation at the UN or to articulate clear positions on key issues, reflecting a lack of cohesive diplomatic strategy. Others improved simply by voting more often. Dominica went from almost no participation in 2023 to nearly full attendance in 2024; with a delegation present for most roll-calls, its internal-alignment score surged from 18.2 to 82.7. Myanmar also cast far more votes (especially on peacekeeping and decolonisation) and gained about 29 points. Conversely, Panama's delegation missed several sessions and abstained on a range of development and environmental resolutions, resulting in a decline of roughly 14 points. These examples show how attendance alone can make or break a country's consistency.

### Alliances

Alliances also play a role in how countries vote at the UN. China has practised "chequebook diplomacy" with small island nations; several of the top movers on internal alignment have moved more closely aligned with specific powers. Paraguay's newly elected government reaffirmed its recognition of Taiwan yet shifted closer to the United States and Israel, which contributed to a ~31-point drop in its internal-alignment score. The Solomon Islands, by contrast, deepened its ties with China and voted more uniformly on decolonisation and development issues, gaining roughly 18 points. Nicaragua's higher score reflects a deeper alignment with Russia and China, analysts note that Managua is increasingly collaborating with those powers for economic and diplomatic support. Zimbabwe's improvement is a continuation: at the 2023 Russia–Africa summit, President Emmerson Mnangagwa publicly declared solidarity with Russia's actions in Ukraine, reinforcing long-standing ties.

## External Drivers

Shifts in internal alignment across voting themes reveal how countries adjust their positions in response to unfolding geopolitical events. For instance, between 2023 and 2024, the situation in the Gaza Strip underwent dramatic changes.

### Negative Shifts

Despite the overall increase in global alignment, several themes experienced notable declines between 2023 and 2024. Rather than isolated disagreements, these drops point to broader geopolitical rifts. Following the October 7, 2023 Hamas attack, Israel launched raids and a ground invasion of Gaza, punctuated by brief ceasefires through the end of the year. In 2024, the intensity and duration of the conflict significantly escalated, deepening the humanitarian crisis. These developments influenced UN voting patterns, with resolutions traditionally commanding broad consensus such as aid and humanitarian relief facing increased opposition and abstention. This is reflected in the theme with the steepest alignment drop: "Arms Limitations" (down about 17%).

### Positive Shifts

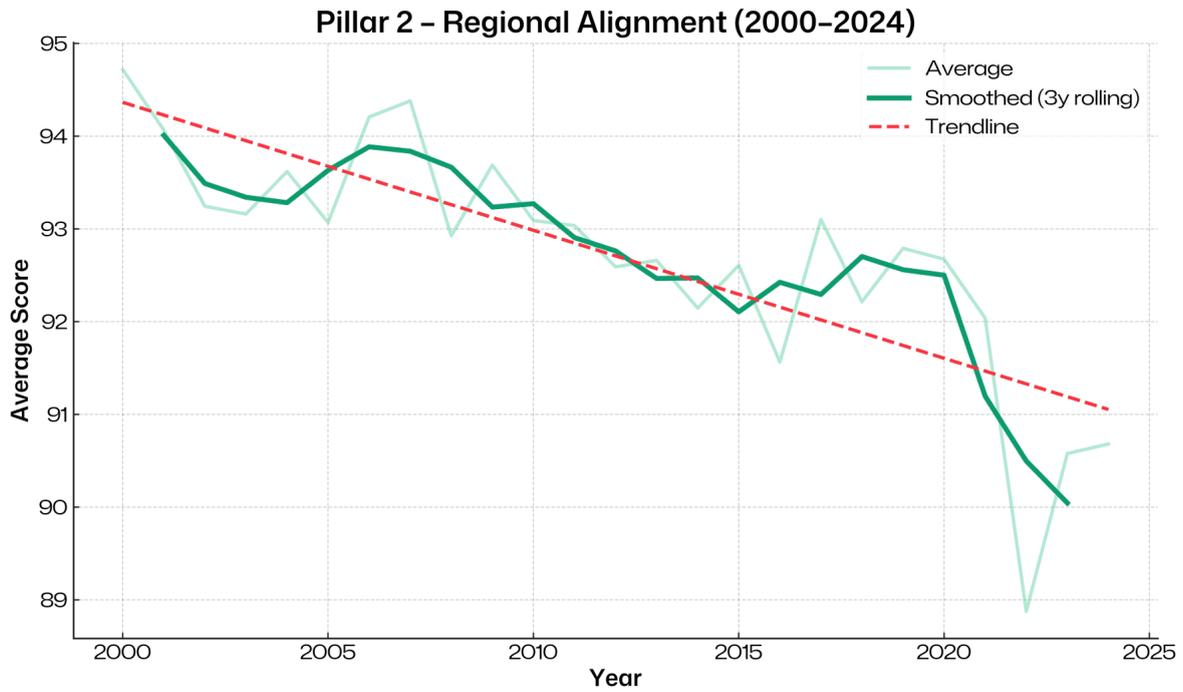
Some notable points of greater agreement were "Disarmament and military questions," "Political and legal questions," and "Maintenance of peace and security," where cross-regional majorities grew. "Discrimination" posted the biggest gain (+6.2 points), suggesting growing consensus around anti-racism and gender-equality measures. Generally these topics are broadly agreed upon and sometimes passed without a vote, as many are non-binding and therefore offer little incentive to oppose.

## P2 Trends - Regional Alignment

Overall, regional alignment inched upward in 2024, moving from an average score of 90.6 in 2023 to 90.8 in 2024. While the regional-level changes are modest, the averages conceal sharper movements at the country level, where individual states diverged or converged strongly with their blocs.

### Key Metric

**+0.2 points** increase in regional alignment (90.6 → 90.8)



## Regional Scores

Some regions are structurally diverse and prone to lower cohesion. Eastern Asia groups China, Japan, and the Koreans; Western Asia stretches from the Gulf to the Caucasus and the Near East; and Oceania blends Australia and New Zealand with a large set of island states. In such cases, year-to-year movement offers a clearer signal than static scores.

### Significant Shifts ( $\pm 1.5+$ )

#### Latin America & Caribbean -2.6

93.8  $\rightarrow$  91.2

Driven above all by Argentina's dramatic break from regional consensus, aligning more with the United States and Israel, pulling the regional average downward.

#### Oceania -1.8

84.2  $\rightarrow$  82.4

Declined, confirming its volatility. Australia and New Zealand align closely with the US, at odds with Pacific island states. Fiji broke with peers on Gaza-related votes.

#### Eastern Asia +1.8

78.7  $\rightarrow$  80.5

Rose, reducing fragmentation despite structural differences among its largest members.

#### Sub-Saharan Africa +1.7

92.1  $\rightarrow$  93.8

Reflecting bloc cohesion on humanitarian issues and steadier participation. CAR, South Sudan, and Libya all posted significant improvements.

### Moderate Movements ( $\pm 1.0$ to $\pm 1.4$ )

#### Western Asia +1.4

79.6  $\rightarrow$  81.0

GCC members clustered on humanitarian and Palestine-related votes. Israel continues to diverge from regional peers by aligning with Washington.

#### Northern Africa +1.0

94.6  $\rightarrow$  95.6

States aligned strongly on Gaza-related humanitarian resolutions. Egypt and Algeria reinforced cohesion, while Libya's steadier attendance posted notable gains.

#### Eastern Europe -0.5

85.4  $\rightarrow$  84.9

Russia and Belarus remain detached from EU-leaning peers, while Hungary has edged closer to Moscow's positions, widening the bloc's divides.

### Broadly Stable Regions (Less than $\pm 1.0$ )

Western Europe  
92.4  $\rightarrow$  92.9 (+0.5)

Southern Asia  
90.9  $\rightarrow$  91.2 (+0.3)

South-eastern Asia  
94.7  $\rightarrow$  95.7 (+1.0)

Northern Europe  
94.8  $\rightarrow$  94.3 (-0.5)

Southern Europe  
93.3  $\rightarrow$  93.2 (-0.1)

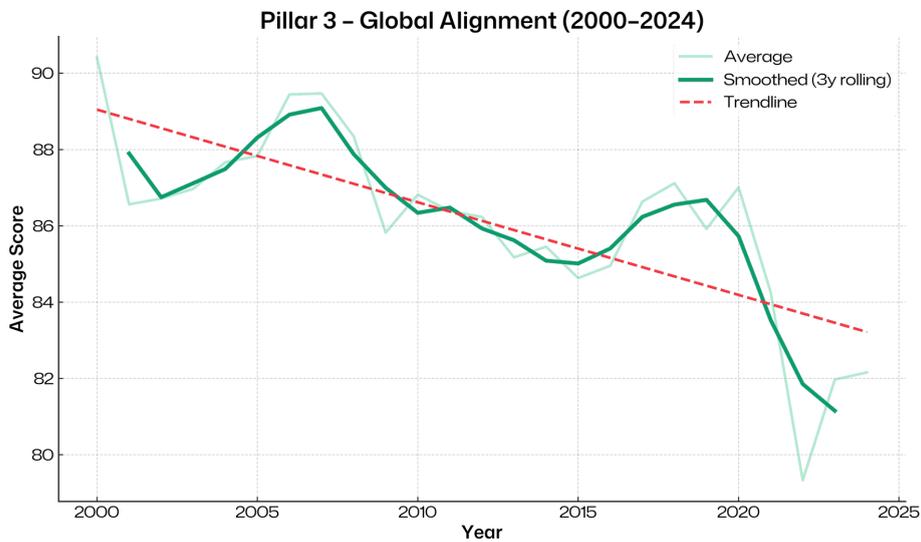
Central Asia  
96.8  $\rightarrow$  98.3 (+1.5)

## 🌐 P3 Trends - Global Alignment

Pillar 3 tracks how often a country votes with the world's majority, and whether its overall mix of Yes, No, and Abstain looks like the world's mix. In 2024 two clusters of votes drove most of the movement.

First, Gaza-related resolutions on ceasefire, protection of civilians, aid access, and support to UNRWA. Second, systematic votes that historically draw a large share of consensus on security, dispute settlement, and peace and security, where cross-regional majorities grew larger than in 2023.

Countries that joined the bigger majorities on those system files and also voted Yes with the world on the Gaza humanitarian texts moved up. Countries that stood apart on Gaza, or that sat out the large security majorities, went down.



## Voting Dynamics: Gaza vs System Files

### Gaza-Related Divisions

The sharpest fall in global alignment sits around Gaza. Scores dropped on humanitarian-aid and relief resolutions and on questions related to Palestinian refugees. These are the texts that asked for ceasefire, civilian protection, unhindered aid, or support to UNRWA. Most countries voted Yes. Those that voted No or abstained moved away from the global center.

There were also value-heavy areas that fractured beyond Gaza. "Democracy" and "Equality" slid significantly, which fits the broader culture and sovereignty fights seen in recent sessions.

### System Files Convergence

At the same time, a different group of themes pulled the world together, in line with historical patterns. Alignment rose on "International security," "Dispute settlement," "Maintenance of peace and security," "Diplomacy," and several legal and technical items such as "Treaties," "Outer space," and "Trade-related finance."

In 2024 more states converged on Yes for these system and rules-of-the-road texts. Countries that joined those larger majorities gained points even if they were cautious elsewhere.

*Against that backdrop, a handful of country moves do most of the work:*

## Major Gains in Global Alignment

**South Sudan** rose by more than 30 points, reflecting near-total participation and voting Yes on humanitarian and system files. **Marshall Islands** climbed 14.3 points, joining the broad majorities on both. **Mali, Syria, Canada, Guatemala, and Saudi Arabia** each gained between 7 and 10 points by backing Gaza humanitarian texts and systemic resolutions.

**The United States** rose from 9.8 to 16.2. It still sits far from the global middle because it often voted No on Gaza humanitarian texts where most of the world voted Yes. The gain came from joining more of the larger majorities on security and procedural items and on a few contentious resolutions it shifted from No to Abstain.

**China's** score ticked up slightly, as Beijing generally joined the humanitarian majorities on Gaza; the modest increase masks caution elsewhere, including on responsible-behavior proposals in outer space and some arms-control texts.

**Russia**, by contrast with 2023, joined more of the larger majorities on peace-and-security and procedure, improving by roughly seven points, though it remains isolated on Ukraine accountability.

## Major Declines in Global Alignment

**Argentina** fell precipitously, from 92.0 to 40.0. Its new government opposed or abstained on Gaza humanitarian texts and sided with a small minority on several controversial votes. **Paraguay and Fiji** each fell by around 10–16 points for similar reasons. Countries like **Liberia, Panama and Ecuador** slipped after missing more votes or abstaining on popular resolutions. Even smaller declines, such as **India's** two-point drop, often trace back to abstentions on core Gaza votes that carried very broad Yes majorities.

**Several Central and Eastern European members** lost between 5 and 10 points. **Poland, Czechia, Slovakia, Romania, and the Baltic states** often abstained on Gaza humanitarian resolutions that passed by large margins, while staying very firm on Ukraine accountability where parts of the wider membership softened or moved to abstain. **Hungary's** seven-point fall reflects the same pattern, with more abstentions on Gaza and occasional votes that placed it closer to Russia than most EU states.

**The Gulf split** shows how Gaza and system files can push scores in opposite directions. **Saudi Arabia** rose sharply into the low 80s by voting Yes on the main Gaza humanitarian texts and by joining more of the larger security majorities than in 2023. **The United Arab Emirates and Bahrain** moved down after more abstentions on Gaza and more distance on several legal or security resolutions.

**In the Pacific, Fiji and Tonga** fell by about 5–12 points, while the **Marshall Islands, Samoa, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu** rose. The difference tracks the same two pressure points. Those that voted Yes with the global majority on Gaza and joined the larger 2024 majorities on consensual themes improved. Those that opposed or abstained on Gaza, or sat out more of the security and institutional votes, fell.

## **Conclusion: Dual Pressure Points**

In conclusion, 2024 rewarded countries that aligned with broad humanitarian majorities on Gaza and that also joined the bigger coalitions on security, legal, and procedural business. It penalized countries that stood apart on Gaza or resisted tighter standards on rules and security. The theme shifts explain the country moves, and the country moves in turn make clear where the global center of gravity hardened and where it split.

### **2024 Rewarded Countries That:**

- ✓ Aligned with broad humanitarian majorities on Gaza
- ✓ Joined bigger coalitions on security, legal, and procedural business
- ✓ Maintained consistent participation in UN voting

### **2024 Penalized Countries That:**

- × Stood apart on Gaza humanitarian resolutions
- × Resisted tighter standards on rules and security
- × Sat out major security and institutional votes

# Global alignment score by regions

Regional performance analysis revealing the persistent North-South divide in UN General Assembly voting patterns and bloc cohesion dynamics.

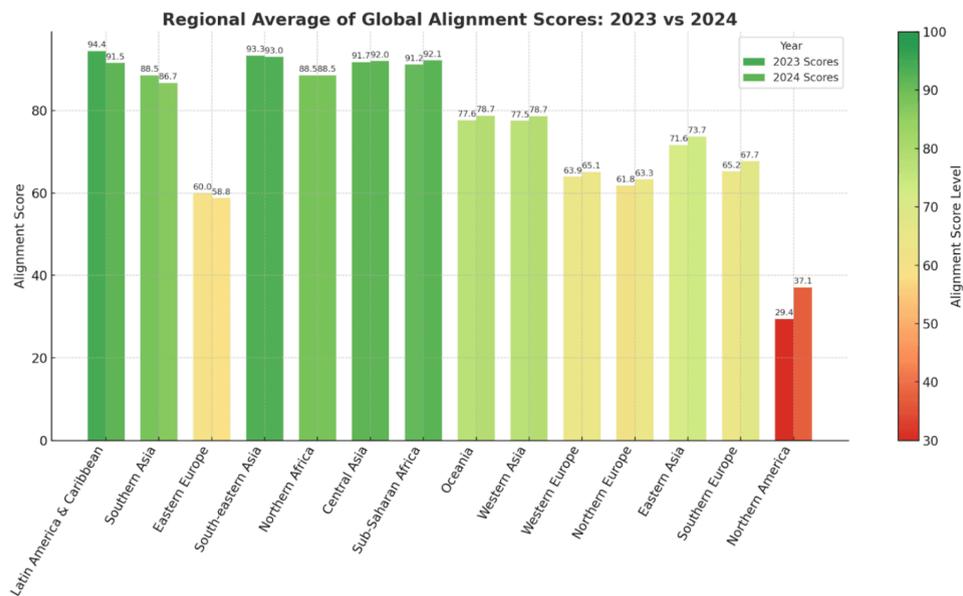
## Regional Performance Overview

In 2024, four regions declined while ten improved. The lowest performers remain concentrated in the West — North America, Eastern Europe, Northern Europe, and Western Europe — whereas the highest scores were recorded in South-eastern Asia, Sub-Saharan Africa, and Central Asia.

These results confirm the North-South divide: Global South regions vote "Yes" more frequently, while Western states are often in the minority, either abstaining or opposing. African and Asian regions consistently post very high averages > 90, underscoring the strength of bloc cohesion in the Global South as a whole.

### Key Pattern

**African & Asian regions** consistently score >90, while **Western regions** show lower alignment



## ↑↓ Regional Movements & Driving Forces

Among the movers, North America registered the sharpest increase (+7.68), due to Canadian and American scores climbing, while Latin America and the Caribbean fell the most (-2.87), a decline largely driven by Argentina's sharp departure from its historic voting patterns and large use of NO votes.

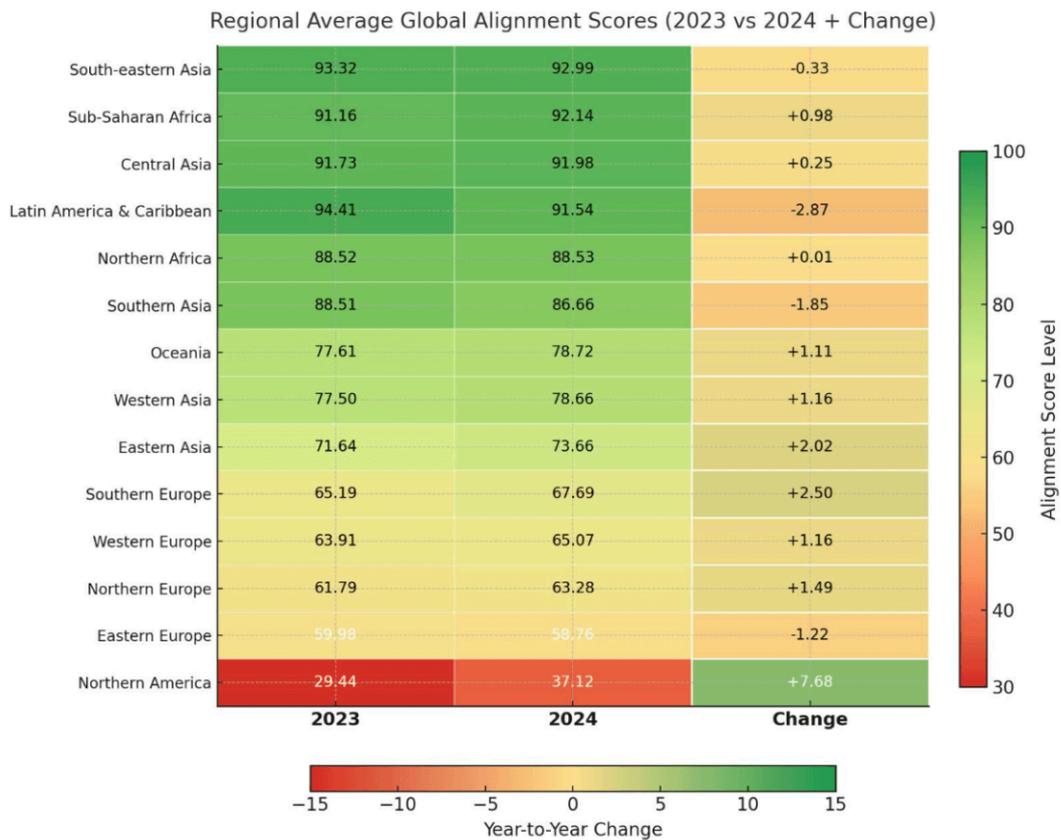
Together, these dynamics offer a clear visualization of the enduring North–South divide in the UN General Assembly.

### ↗ Top Gainer

**North America: +7.68 points**

### ↘ Biggest Decline

**Latin America & Caribbean: -2.87 points**





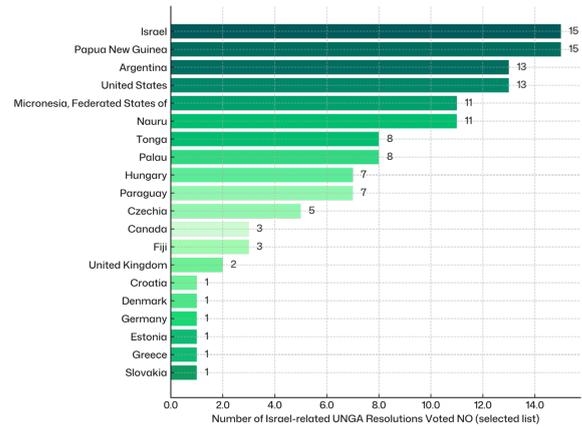
## Papua New Guinea's Opposition Pattern

Papua New Guinea stands out as the lead opponent to Israel-related resolutions. This may be due to several factors of ideological, economic and strategic nature.

The first is **ideological**: Evangelical christian beliefs hold sway in Papuan society, and support for Israel is often framed in religious terms. Furthermore, Papua New Guinea is a recipient of Israeli development aid and assistance programs, which may inform their bilateral relations.

In **strategic terms**, Papua New Guinea has little stakes in the Middle East. However the United States, its "patron" in military and economic terms, has a vested interest in the region. Diplomatic support here may be an opportunity to strengthen ties with partners such as Israel and the US, at little personal cost.

## Countries voting against Israel-related resolutions



Further research is encouraged to explain the mechanisms influencing the behavior of Papua New Guinea and other states on this topic.

This pattern of aligning against a widely supported position in the UNGA, despite having little direct stake in the issue, is clearly illustrated by UNGA Resolution ES-10/26.

## A/RES/ES-10/26 - Demand for ceasefire in Gaza

Calls for ceasefire from all parties in Gaza war



### Outcome Snapshot

Non-Voting  
**13**  
6.7%

Total Membership  
**193**  
UN member states

A broad majority backed the ceasefire resolution, while opposition remained limited to a small minority.

## Global Consensus Despite Opposition

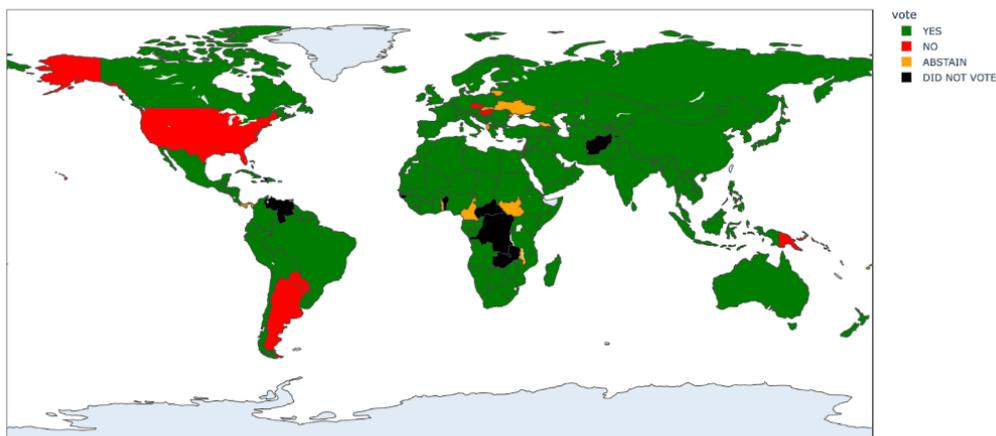
Despite disciplined opposition from a small group of states, the issue of Israel/Palestine continues to draw significant consensus in the international community.

An explanation for this is the largely symbolic nature of the issue, and the low level of strategic implications for external actors.

This resolution calls for a ceasefire from all parties in the Gaza war, and reiterates UNGA calls for upholding international law. The resolution falls short of issuing a condemnation of either party, likely in an attempt to gather a large consensus.

### Key Observation

None of the member-states voting against the resolution are regional actors, nor are they strategically implicated, with the exception of Israel and the United States.



UNGA voting map A/RES/ES-10/26

## Israeli Isolationism

In 2024, Israel ranked as the least aligned state both globally and regionally, continuing the pattern observed in previous years. For decades, Israel has consistently occupied the bottom tier of global alignment measures.

Its isolation is especially pronounced in regional dynamics, where since the 1970s it has stood out as the least regionally aligned country worldwide.

## Spotlight: Russia & Ukraine

### Russia/Ukraine

In 2024, the Russia–Ukraine war remained a central focus of the UN General Assembly, even as global attention shifted heavily toward Gaza. With the Security Council unable to act due to repeated Russian vetoes, the UNGA once again emerged as the forum for expressing international sentiment on the conflict in Ukraine.

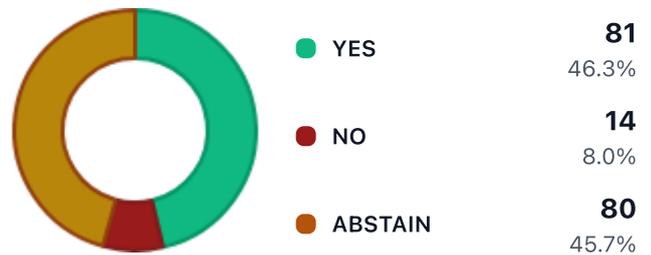
The votes revealed both the durability of international support for Ukraine's sovereignty and the emergence of "Ukraine fatigue" among certain regions, wary of entanglement in a conflict they see as peripheral to their core interests.

Votes seem to be the result of geopolitical balancing, illustrating North–South grievances, more than a reflection of the conflict itself.

### A/RES/79/184 - Situation of human rights in the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine

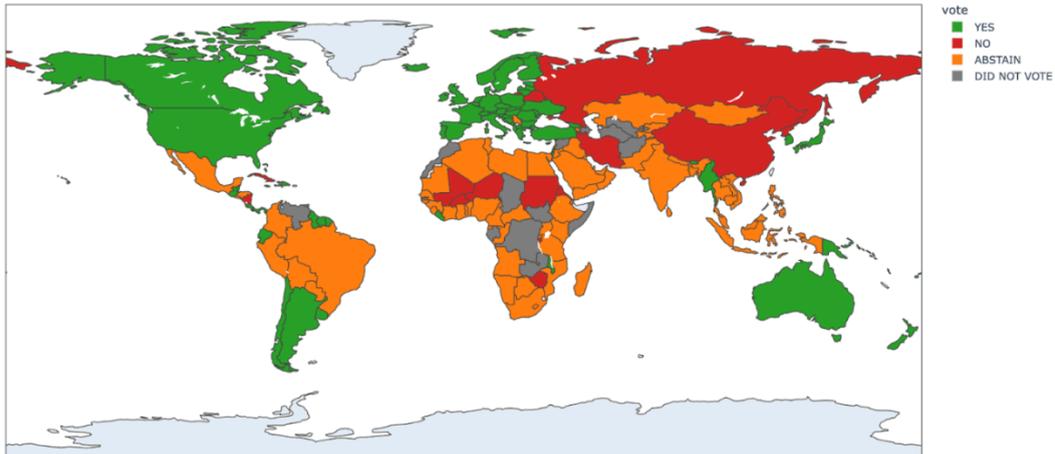
Including the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol

December 17, 2024



Non-Voting: 18

Total: 193

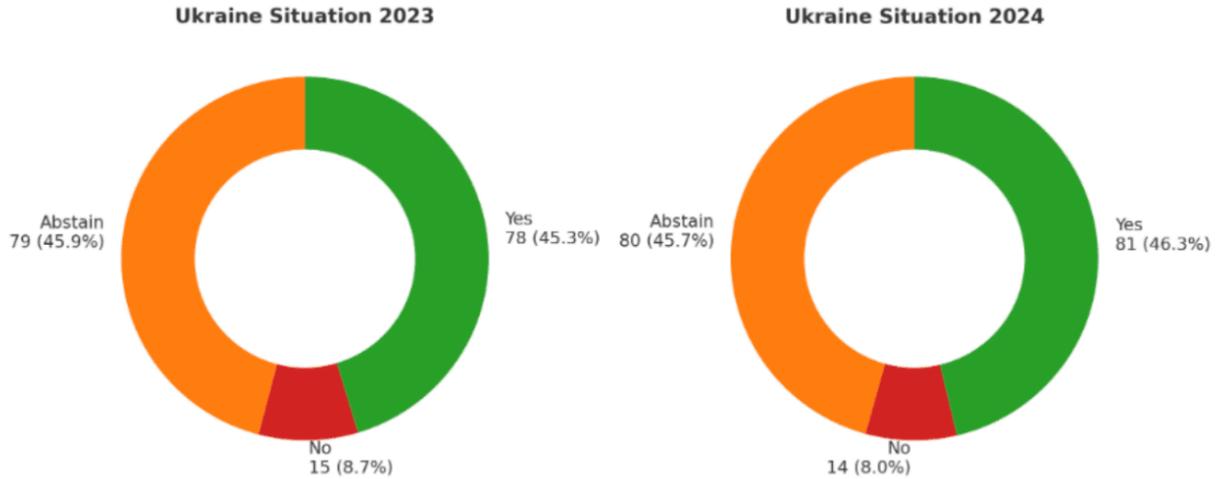


Only 4 African countries voted "YES": Malawi, Cabo Verde, Seychelles and Liberia

## ☑ Stable Voting Equilibrium (2023-2024)

The voting distribution remained largely unchanged between 2023 and 2024, with the Yes and Abstain camps holding nearly equal shares of total votes, while the No camp continued to represent only a small minority. The yearly evolution of the topic "UKRAINE SITUATION" shows this stable equilibrium.

The absence of change in voting patterns, with little movement between camps, indicates that diplomatic efforts have had limited impact, and that most states remain confident in their initial positioning.



- ⓘ The impermeability of the abstention camp indicates the failure of Ukraine and its western allies to build on the initial widespread condemnation of the Russian invasion of Ukraine in 2022. At the time, A/RES/ES-11/1 had obtained an overwhelming majority of Yes votes: **Yes: 141 ; No: 5 ; Abstentions: 35 ; Non-Voting: 12.**

## Russian Isolation

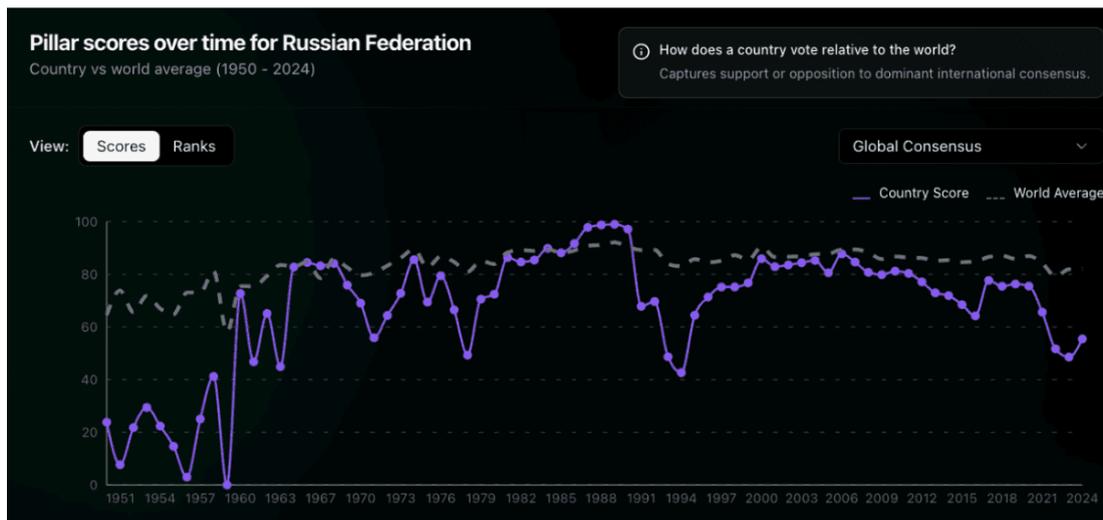
Russia has slightly corrected its recent downward trajectory, gaining seven ranks from 2023 to 2024. This comes in the context of a long-term decline in alignment observed over the past two decades, a trend that has sharply accelerated in the last five years.

The biggest driver of improved alignment was Humanitarian Aid & Relief, where Russia increasingly voted with the global majority — largely tied to Gaza humanitarian resolutions. Despite this slight increase in alignment, Russia remains largely isolated (#182).

The Russian Federation stood out as the only state to vote against multiple disarmament resolutions, including on nuclear disarmament verification (A/RES/79/240, A/RES/79/34, A/RES/79/58). It cast a solitary 'No' three times — the highest for any country in 2024 — followed by Israel (2), and India (1), Türkiye (1), and Mali (1).

While Moscow can rarely rally affirmative support, it largely relies on the abstentions of many Global South states, who prefer to remain non-aligned rather than openly endorse Western-backed resolutions. The Russian Federation can leverage its grain and energy exports to limit support for critical resolutions and to encourage higher levels of abstention.

### Global Consensus Ranking (1950-2024)



# Spotlight: Afghanistan

## 🌐 Loss of Voting Rights

Afghanistan is absent from the 2024 Country Alignment Index, having lost its UNGA voting rights in May 2024 due to unpaid membership dues. This comes in the broader context of the crisis over Afghan diplomatic representation since the Taliban's return to power in 2021.

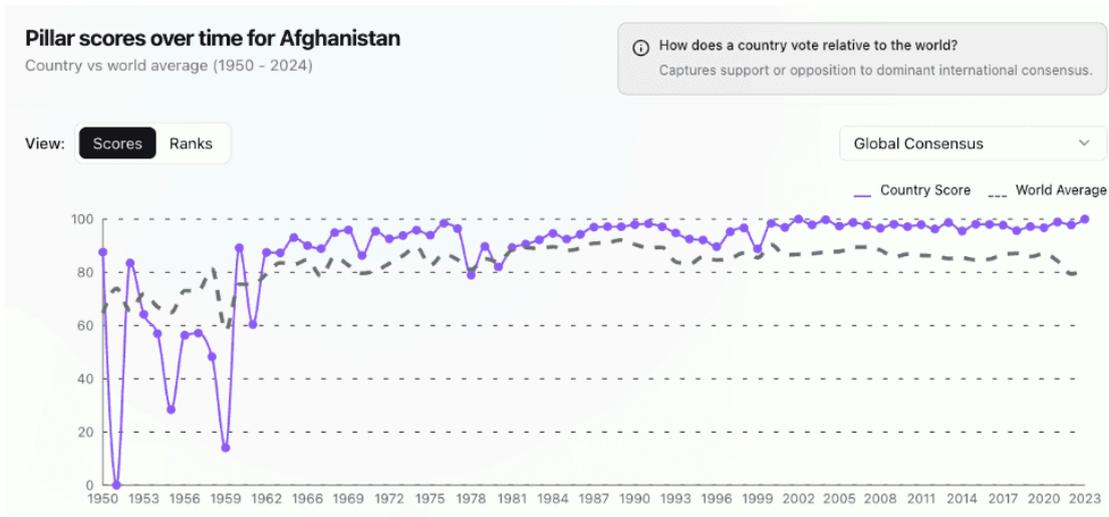
As of 2024, the country's UN seat remained occupied by a representative of the pre-Taliban government. Embassies around the world have not been staffed by Taliban envoys either since regime change occurred, as no country formally recognized Taliban rule until Russia in July of 2025.

### ⓘ Historical Parallel

A similar situation had occurred under previous Taliban rule of Afghanistan (1996-2001); while in effective control of 90% of the country's territory, the Taliban could not oust the previous government's delegation from its UN seat, and obtained formal recognition from only a handful of states.

## Afghanistan's Alignment Over Time

Continuity despite dramatic leadership changes



## **Stable Alignment Despite Regime Change**

As a result, Afghanistan's alignment remained relatively stable despite the country navigating dramatic shifts in leadership. Despite radical changes on the ground, Afghanistan's alignment remains stable and elevated.

This is due to the **continuity of the country delegation's political affiliation**. The UN seat has remained occupied by representatives from the pre-Taliban government, maintaining consistent voting patterns that reflect the previous administration's international positioning rather than the current Taliban regime's ideology.

This creates a unique situation where Afghanistan's UN voting record does not reflect the actual governing authority within the country, illustrating the complex interplay between diplomatic recognition, de facto control, and international representation.

## **Venezuela: A Parallel Case**

Likewise, Venezuela has lost voting rights since 2022. The cause is also financial non-payment, as the country has been in arrears for several years. This also comes in the context of a domestic crisis in leadership, and economic hardship, as well as international isolation and sanctions.

### **Member Status Without Voting Rights**

Both Afghanistan and Venezuela formally remain UN member-states, but without the ability to cast a vote in the Assembly. This highlights how financial obligations and political crises can impact participation in international governance, even while formal membership status persists.

## Conclusion

Geopolitical Implications & Key Insights from 2024 UN General Assembly Voting Patterns

### UNGA, the body of Consensus

The UNGA remains a consensus-driven body: In 2024 the UNGA adopted 342 resolutions and decisions; most passed by consensus, and none failed. Of the 95 that went to a roll-call vote, average support still hovered near 80%.

**342**

Resolutions Adopted

**80%**

Average Support

### Political alternance as a major driver

Shifts in alignment, positive or negative, are heavily linked to changes in government. Argentina's reversal (including 38 "No" votes after a decade without one) and Guatemala's rise (with 0 "No" votes) exemplify how alternance can flip UNGA positions within a single session.

#### Argentina

38 "No" votes in 2024  
0 from 2013-2023

#### Guatemala

0 "No" votes in 2024  
+62 global alignment

### Power Asymmetries and Dependency

2024 patterns reinforce that structural dependencies (export markets, security umbrellas, and aid) shape vote choice. For smaller or resource-dependent states, these ties often outweighed normative preferences, especially on Gaza-related and system files highlighted in this year's votes.

## **Patterns of opposition**

Most members continued to signal distance via abstention rather than outright "No." In 2024, 62 countries never voted No at all. Frequent No-voting clustered among a few states.

### **Key Statistic**

**62 countries** never voted "No" in 2024, preferring abstention to signal distance

Argentina this year, and countries directly targeted by resolutions such as Russia and Israel, including occasional solitary "No" positions that underscored outlier status against overwhelming majorities.

*At times, such states vote in complete isolation, as the sole country opposing a resolution, which highlights their divergence from the overwhelming global majority and may signal a role as a challenger to prevailing multilateral norms.*

## **Polarization**

The 2024 rankings preserved entrenched blocs: the United States and Israel among the least aligned, Russia and close partners similarly low, while much of the Global South and non-aligned states clustered above the global average.

### **Regional Cohesion Changes**

**Northern Africa:** +1.0% (tightened)

**Latin America:** -2.6% (dropped)

Regionally, cohesion diverged: Northern Africa tightened on humanitarian texts, while Latin America & the Caribbean posted the steepest cohesion drop ( $\approx -3\%$ ), driven in part by Argentina's break with peers.



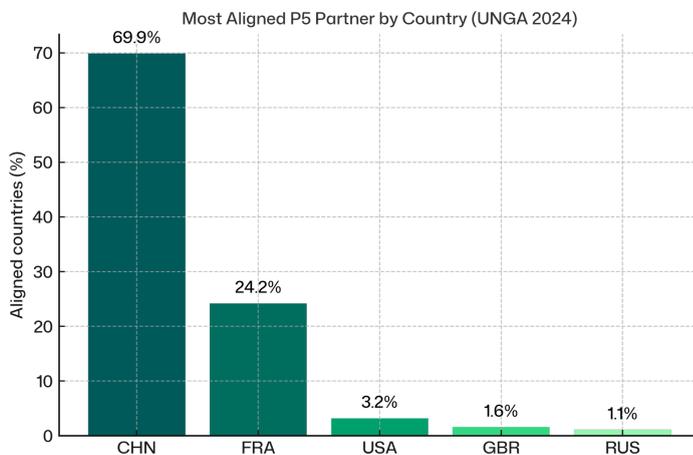
## China's Prudent Voting vs NATO isolation

In 2024 China again led the P5 (Permanent members of Security Council) on alignment, ranking near the UNGA midpoint (#118, score 77.19) while the other four permanent members clustered in the bottom twelve (all <60). Beijing's approach was cautious: it joined large humanitarian majorities when these aligned with its interests, but diverged on select strategic files such as disarmament and outer-space governance.

The effect was a low-cost, low-isolation posture, positioning China as a disciplined leader of the Global South while distancing itself from other nuclear states whose reputations are tied to disruption.

By contrast, NATO members concentrated near the bottom of the 2024 ranking, reflecting sustained polarization on Gaza-related and legal-security texts. The bloc's top performer was Türkiye (#126), followed by Slovenia (#142), with most others falling below #170. The pattern underscores NATO's durable distance from UNGA majorities on the year's most salient roll-call items, in sharp relief to China's mid-table positioning.

### UNGA Member-states Alignment on P5 members (2024)



### Key Finding

## 69.9%

**130 countries** had China as the P5 member most aligned with their voting patterns

### P5 Alignment Rankings (2024)

China	<b>#118 (77.19)</b>
Russia	<b>#182 (&lt;60)</b>
United Kingdom	<b>Bottom 12</b>
France	<b>Bottom 12</b>
United States	<b>Bottom 12</b>

### NATO Performance

Top performer: **Türkiye (#126)**

Second: **Slovenia (#142)**

**Most members: Below #170**



## **Palestine Overrepresentation**

The Palestine question exerts an outsized influence on UNGA voting dynamics, playing a determining role in how states rank within alignment indices. Because of the frequency and politicization of these resolutions, a country's overall position can hinge disproportionately on its stance toward Israel-Palestine.

One of the first crises assigned to the UN, the topic still fails to draw consensus. Its voting patterns reflect broader North-South divides of the General Assembly.



## **Isolationism**

The index does an effective job at detecting and quantifying isolationist diplomatic stances in the UNGA. Member-states scoring below 50 should be understood as either extremely isolated, or at least strongly defiant of multilateralism.



### **Isolation Threshold**

Scores <50 indicate extreme isolation or strong multilateral defiance



## **What to look out for in 2025?**

### **Syria**

Following the collapse of the Assad regime and the emergence of an interim government under Ahmed al-Sharaa, it will be important to watch whether Syria's voting behavior shifts in 2025. A move away from Russia's orbit and toward greater convergence with multilateral norms would not only represent an ideological repositioning, but also serve as a signal of openness—an attempt to rebuild diplomatic ties and attract foreign investment after years of isolation. If sustained, this could lead to a steep rise in Syria's alignment scores in 2025.

### **Bolivia**

Bolivia's presidential elections, headed to a second round in 2025, mark the first contest in two decades without the ruling Movement for Socialism (MAS) on the ballot. Depending on the outcome, Bolivia could undergo a sharp ideological shift that could reverberate in its foreign policy positions and UN voting behavior. A right wing victory may induce a realignment on US positions, as was the case in Argentina in 2024, and a decrease in global alignment.

### **Palestine recognition votes**

Future votes on Palestine recognition and related resolutions will continue to be critical indicators of shifting diplomatic alignments and regional bloc cohesion.



## Limitations and recommendations

### Delegation vs. De Facto authority

UN voting records capture the positions of officially recognized delegations. In some instances, however, these delegations do not represent the authorities effectively in control of the country. This can occur in contexts of coups, civil wars, or other forms of contested domestic authority (e.g. Afghanistan, Myanmar, Yemen, Libya). In such cases, UNGA alignment may not accurately reflect the policies or actions of the governing power on the ground, and should therefore be interpreted with caution.

### Addressing difference between non-voting and abstention

The distinction between abstaining from a vote and not voting at all carries different diplomatic signals and should be analyzed separately in future research.

### Vote ≠ implementation

UNGA resolutions are non-binding. While they may communicate political signaling, they do not necessarily translate into policy implementation. A member-state may have high levels of alignment on a given issue, like the environment or disarmament, and yet enact policy choices that have adverse effects on the matter.

### Match with other data (trade flow, security agreements etc.)

For deeper analysis, the UN alignment index should be crossed with complementary data, such as trade flows, security agreements, or aid dependencies. This triangulation helps uncover potential drivers of alignment or divergence beyond the votes themselves.

