



DEMOCRACY
COALITION
PROJECT

BACKGROUND NOTE
Caucuses and Groupings at the UN

NAME	MEMBERS	MISSION	UN ACTIVITIES	CURRENT/FUTURE CHAIR
Andean Community	(4) Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru	Association of Andean countries dedicated to achieving “more rapid, more balanced and autonomous development” through Andean integration and a system of common institutions and law.	The Andean Community has a Common Foreign Policy mechanism, which seeks the coordination of positions, statements and candidacies, such as at the UN. Meetings of heads of mission to the UN are to be held at least every quarter.	Bolivia (until June 2007)
Arab League	(21 + the Palestine Liberation Organization) Algeria, Bahrain, Comoros, Djibouti, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia, UAE, Yemen, (Palestine Liberation Organization)	To promote economic, social, cultural, political and military cooperation among Arab states.	The Arab League has an observer office in New York.	Chairmanship of Arab group in New York rotates monthly in a loose alphabetical order.
African Group/ African Union	(53) Algeria, Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Republic of the Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gabon, the	To coordinate the positions of African states at the UN, furthering the goals of the African Union: to achieve greater unity among African States; to defend states' integrity and independence; to	Second largest regional group at the UN. For the elections to the Human Rights Council, the African Group chose to submit a closed slate of thirteen candidates for thirteen pre-assigned African slots,	Republic of Congo (Brazzaville) since January 2006

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	Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Africa, Sudan, Swaziland, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe	accelerate political, social, and economic integration; to encourage international cooperation; to promote democratic principles and institutions	thus ensuring that no contest was held for the African seats. The African group has also been active in voicing collective opinions on the upcoming election of the next Secretary-General. The Permanent Observer Mission of the African Union acts as a secretariat for meetings of the African Group, assisting with the adoption of common strategies and positions.	
Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN)	(10) Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam	“The ASEAN Declaration states that the aims and purposes of the Association are: (1) to accelerate economic growth, social progress and cultural development in the region and (2) to promote regional peace and stability...”	Occasionally hold ASEAN-UN summits on the sidelines of the General Assembly. ASEAN has organized a series of annual joint summits with UN officials on conflict prevention in South East Asia.	Philippines (until July 2007)
Caribbean Community - CARICOM	(15) Antigua and Barbuda, The Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Montserrat, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago	Economic co-operation through the Caribbean Common Market; Co-ordination of foreign policy among the independent Member States; and Common services and co-operation in functional matters such as health, education and culture, communications and industrial relations.	CARICOM members make joint statements at the UN. The CARICOM also has an active relationship with the UN Economic Commission on Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC). Chairmanship of the UN CARICOM caucus rotates quarterly by alphabetical order.	Trinidad and Tobago

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Democracy Caucus	(120) Afghanistan, Albania, Andorra, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bolivia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Cape Verde, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Dominica, Dominican Republic, East Timor, Ecuador, El Salvador, Estonia, Fiji, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kiribati, Latvia, Lesotho, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Macedonia, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia, Moldova, Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nauru, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Serbia and Montenegro, Seychelles, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, South Korea, Spain, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Tanzania, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey, Tuvalu, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States,	“To consult, coordinate possible actions, and foster cooperation to deepen democratic governance, protect human rights, and to promote and improve democratic practices...[and] to strengthen the international mechanisms to support democracy”	Periodic meetings, convened by chair; support for creation of UN Democracy Fund. The caucus has issued statements on the Human Rights Council, and has begun to hold annual ministerial meetings during the General Assembly.	Mali (until 2007) – Portugal expected to take over in 2008.

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	Vanuatu, Venezuela, Zambia			
European Union (EU)	(25) Austria, Belgium, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden	“The European Union (EU) is a family of democratic European countries, committed to working together for peace and prosperity. It is not a State intended to replace existing States, nor is it just an organisation for international cooperation. The EU is, in fact, unique. Its member states have set up common institutions to which they delegate some of their sovereignty so that decisions on specific matters of joint interest can be made democratically at European level. “	“Through the establishment of the EU’s common foreign and security policy in 1992, EU Member States have enhanced the coordination of their actions in international organizations and have undertaken to uphold common positions in such forums in order to give greater impact to their collective weight in the world.” “During the 58th session of the General Assembly (up to 20 July 2004), EU Member States cast identical votes on 289 out of 322 resolutions (89.75%). EU Member States could not get consensus on 33 resolutions, twelve of which were on the issue of nuclear weapons and disarmament as well as sixteen on the issue of decolonisation and human rights. The EU failed to reach consensus on only three resolutions concerning the Middle East during this session.” “Member states are assisted by the European Commission, which has an observer mission at the UN, along with	Finland (until December 2006); Germany (Jan-July 2007)

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			<p>the Liaison Office of the Council Secretariat, where coordination meetings are held. EU Member States, together with the European Commission, regularly coordinate their actions at the UN. This coordination has gradually increased and now covers all six main committees of the General Assembly and its subordinate bodies, including ECOSOC and the subordinate functional commissions. More than a thousand internal EU coordination meetings occur each year.”</p>	
Group of 77 (G-77)	<p>Note that the name has remained G-77, even though the membership has increased. (131 plus the Palestine Liberation Organization) Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, The Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei, Burkina Faso, Burma, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Republic of the Congo, Costa Rica, Cote d'Ivoire, Cuba, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, East Timor,</p>	<p>“As the largest Third World coalition in the United Nations, the Group of 77 provides the means for the developing world to articulate and promote its collective economic interests and enhance its joint negotiating capacity on all major international economic issues in the United Nations system, and promote economic and technical cooperation among developing countries.”</p>	<p>Produces joint declarations, action programmes and agreements on specific topics Makes statements, sponsors and negotiates resolutions and decisions at global conferences and other meetings held under the aegis of the United Nations dealing with international economic cooperation and development. Work is organized into regional chapters based at the various UN seats; the chairmanship of each chapter is rotated among member</p>	<p>South Africa chairs New York chapter of the G77 in 2006</p>

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	Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gabon, The Gambia, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, North Korea, Kuwait, Laos, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Federated States of Micronesia, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Romania, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Syria, Tanzania, Thailand, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, Uganda, UAE, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Vietnam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Palestine Liberation Organization		states. Ministerial meetings, held every year before the General Assembly session as well as before the General Conference of UNCTAD, UNESCO and UNIDO, are the supreme decision-making bodies of the G-77. Other technical and follow-up committees meet regularly.	
Mercosur (Common Market of the South/ Mercado Comun del Sur)	(5) Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, Uruguay, Venezuela	To integrate member states' economies in support of growth and development; to act as a body for political consensus among members.	Foreign ministers recently agreed to develop more common positions at the UN. They are expected to present common Mercosur positions on disarmament, human rights, and other issues at the 2006 General Assembly.	Brazil (until December 2006)

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Non-Aligned Movement (NAM)	(114 plus the Palestine Liberation Organization) Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, The Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brunei, Burkina Faso, Burma, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, Colombia, Comoros, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Republic of the Congo, Cote d'Ivoire, Cuba, Cyprus, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gabon, The Gambia, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, North Korea, Kuwait, Laos, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Somalia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Syria, Tanzania, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, Uganda, UAE, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Vietnam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Palestine Liberation Organization	Originally formed as an association of developing countries that wished to transcend the East-West divide, the NAM is today an association of political and economic coordination among the developing countries.	The chairmanship and secretariat of the NAM rotates with each high-level summit, usually every two or three years. A number of committees, working groups and bureaus carry out the NAM's work in different domains. A New York-based Coordinating Bureau (NAM-CoB) supervises the day-to-day work of the NAM. Members of the NAM on the Security Council are expected to coordinate with each other on common positions. Ministers will meet in New York during the sessions of the General Assembly.	Malaysia

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Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC)	(56 plus the Palestine Liberation Organization) Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Benin, Brunei, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, Comoros, Cote d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Egypt, Gabon, The Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Libya, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sudan, Suriname, Syria, Tajikistan, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uganda, UAE, Uzbekistan, Yemen, Palestine Liberation Organization	“The Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) is an international organization grouping fifty seven States which have decided to pool their resources together, combine their efforts and speak with one voice to safeguard the interests and secure the progress and well-being of their peoples and of all Muslims in the world.”	Consult and present common statements in the UN, especially in the Human Rights Council. A Summit Conference is held every three years, setting policy for the OIC; meetings of foreign ministers are held once a year. Ad hoc committees also meet regularly.	Chair is the host country of the annual ministerial meeting. Current Chair: Azerbaijan, until June 2007. Next chair/host is decided at the Ministerial Meeting. A source suggested Pakistan could be the next host.
Rio Group (Permanent Mechanism of Political Consultation and Coordination)	(18) Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay, Venezuela, plus one representative from CARICOM	“To expand and systematize political cooperation among the member states. To examine international issues which may be of interest and coordinate common positions on these issues. To promote more efficient operation and coordination of Latin American cooperation and integration organizations.”	Make joint statements, hold consultative meetings.	Guyana (2006)