



Permanent Membership: Objective Criteria

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During the current debate about additional non-elected (permanent) members of the Security Council, delegations often say that this or that member state meets the requisite criteria. All too often, though, the attributes mentioned are extremely vague -- such as "the ability to undertake global responsibilities." But sometimes delegations mention more objective criteria -- such as population size, wealth, contribution to UN peacekeeping operations, and other kinds of support for the UN (including timeliness of payment of budget assessments). The following table looks at how existing and aspirant "permanent" members measure up on some of the more commonly-mentioned criteria.

Based on December 1996 Data

Country	Pop. Rank	Pop. Size Millions	GNP Rank	PKO Trp. Cont. Rank	Assessmt. Payment Timeliness
<i>Permanent-5</i>	.	.	.	.	.
China	1	1,210	7	48	fair
France	19	58	4	24	fair
Russia	6	148114poor			
United Kingdom	18	58627fair			
United States	3	266117poor			
<i>Candidates</i>	.	.	.	.	.
Argentina	30	352121fair			
Brazil	5	163	9	8	poor
Egypt	16	643434fair			
Germany	12	84330fair			
Indonesia	4	2071629fair			
India	2	952132fair			
Japan	8	125245fair			
Mexico	11	9610nonefair			
Nigeria	10	104	52	39	fair
Pakistan	7	129	23	1	fair
South Africa	26	42	24	none	good

Assessment Payment Timeliness Criteria:

good = pays on time

fair = does not pay on time, but pays within the budget year -- no major debts outstanding

poor = does not pay within the budget year -- major debts outstanding