

Quad

Quad brings together four countries - India, Australia, Japan, and the United States, with a commitment to work as a force for global good and to support an open, free, and inclusive Indo-Pacific that is prosperous and resilient.

2. **Genesis:** Quad came together during the 2004 tsunami in the Indian Ocean region to coordinate response and assistance to countries in the region. The first meeting of Quad officials took place on the sidelines of the ASEAN Regional Forum summit in the Philippines in May 2007. After a gap of 10 years, Quad officials met in Manila in November 2017 on the margins of the East Asia Summit for consultations on connectivity issues; maritime security and counter-terrorism; shared principles for a Free and Open Indo-Pacific; and proliferation threats in Asia.

3. Quad has adopted a positive and practical agenda focusing on contemporary issues and challenges such as health security, climate change, critical and emerging technologies, infrastructure and debt sustainability, cyber security, humanitarian assistance and disaster relief, and strengthening the maritime domain awareness of regional countries. Quad partners engage regularly through Leaders, Foreign Ministers, Quad Sherpas, senior officials, and experts.

4. **Quad Foreign Ministers' Meetings (QFMM):**

- QFMM, 26 September 2019, on the margins of the UNGA in New York
- QFMM, 6 October 2020, Tokyo
- Virtual QFMM, 18 February 2021
- QFMM, 11 February 2022, Melbourne
- QFMM, 3 March 2023, New Delhi
- QFMM, 22 September 2023, on the margins of the UNGA in New York

5. Following their recent meeting in New York, they issued a Joint Readout reiterating, inter alia, their commitment to a free, open, and inclusive Indo-Pacific, support for full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and all its SDGs, countering terrorism, and advancing a comprehensive UN reform agenda including expansion in both the permanent and non-permanent categories of the UN Security Council.

6. **Leaders' Summits:** Quad saw a natural evolution and elevation in 2021 to the level of the Leaders with the first Quad Leaders' Summit taking place in virtual format on 12 March 2021. PM participated along with his counterparts from Australia, Japan, and the USA to discuss regional and global issues, especially the Indo-Pacific. Three Working Groups were announced by the Leaders - Vaccine Partnership, Climate Change, and

Critical & Emerging Technology. The Quad adopted an action-oriented approach to enable practical cooperation.

7. The second Quad Leaders' Summit (first in-person) was held on 24 September 2021 in Washington DC. The Leaders announced three new Working Groups on Infrastructure, Space, and Cyber issues. 100 STEM fellowships (25 from each Quad country) to US universities for graduate and doctoral students from Quad countries were announced.

8. The third Quad Leaders' Summit was held virtually on 3 March 2022 to discuss the situation in Ukraine and its impact on the Indo-Pacific. They also launched a Quad Partnership on HADR.

9. The fourth Quad Leaders' Summit (second in-person) was hosted by Japan on 24 May 2022. Leaders launched the Quad Satellite Data Portal to provide regional countries with space-based data for climate and disaster forecasting and sustainable use of marine resources; Q-CHAMP for practical cooperation on climate action, climate finance, and technology transfer to help countries meet their climate commitments; Quad Debt Management Resource Portal to address challenges of unsustainable debt financing; Quad Partnership on HADR (an India-led initiative) to provide timely and effective assistance in the Indo-Pacific region in the event of future incidents.

10. The fifth Quad Leaders' Summit (third in-person) was held in Hiroshima, Japan on 20 May 2023. In addition to the Joint Statement, the "Quad Leaders' Vision Statement – Enduring Partners for the Indo-Pacific" was also released, outlining the Leaders' vision for a free, open, and inclusive Indo-Pacific, and upholding the principles of sovereignty, territorial integrity, and peaceful resolution of disputes.

11. The practical work of the Quad is taken forward through six Leader-level **Working Groups**.

i. **Climate:** Quad partners are working together to address climate change and support regional partners, in particular the countries in the Indo-Pacific. They are collaborating on sustainable consumption and production, clean hydrogen, disaster risk management, exchanging climate information, green shipping and ports, and capacity building. At the 2023 Leaders' Summit, the Clean Energy Supply Chains Initiative was announced to facilitate research and development and support energy transition in the Indo-Pacific. The Quad Principles of Clean Energy Supply Chains were released to guide engagement with the region on clean energy supply chain development.

The Climate Information Services Taskforce, as part of the Quad Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation Package (Q-CHAMP), is working to increase access to early warning systems and climate data through infrastructure and capacity building in the Indo-Pacific region.

Quad is working with the CDRI to support the sustainable development and resilience of new and existing infrastructure systems to address climate and disaster risks. Quad partners intend to facilitate green shipping corridors to reduce greenhouse gas emissions across the shipping value chain.

ii. **Critical and Emerging Technologies:** Quad is working to strengthen supply chain resilience and improve the region's digital connectivity through access to critical and emerging technologies and advanced telecommunications technology, including 5G networks. At the 2023 Leaders' Summit, the Leaders announced Quad support for an Open RAN pilot in Palau to support the diversification and security of telecom networks, the first in the Pacific. They also launched the Quad Investors' Network (QUIN) as a private sector-led platform to facilitate investments in strategic technologies. The Quad also published a Statement of Principles on Critical and Emerging Technology Standards, outlining its common vision for international technology standards, underpinned by values such as transparency, openness, security, and interoperability. The transformative power of technology, including digital public infrastructure, to support sustainable development in the Indo-Pacific and deliver economic and social benefits has also been recognized by Quad Leaders.

iii. **Cyber:** Quad is working towards a more secure cyberspace and strengthening cyber resilience and critical infrastructure protection in the Indo-Pacific. Quad Cyber Challenges are being held to promote cyber awareness and capacity building. At the 2023 Quad Summit, the Quad Joint Principles for Secure Software and the Quad Joint Principles for Cyber Security of Critical Infrastructure were released, to strengthen defences against cyber threats to the software supply chain and critical infrastructure and services.

iv. **Health Security Partnership:** At the 2023 Leaders' Summit, the Leaders decided to evolve the former Quad Vaccine Partnership into a more comprehensive Health Security Partnership to promote coordination and collaboration between Quad countries and partners in the Indo-Pacific to strengthen regional and global health security. It builds on the successful collective efforts to provide safe and effective COVID-19 vaccines, critical medicines, and healthcare equipment to the Indo-Pacific.

v. **Infrastructure:** The Quad shares assessments of regional infrastructure needs and coordinates respective approaches to deliver transparent, demand-driven, quality, and climate-resilient infrastructure. Quad is also coordinating technical assistance and capacity-building efforts to ensure efforts are mutually reinforcing and complementary in meeting the significant infrastructure demand in the Indo-Pacific. At the 2023 Leaders' Summit, 'Quad Infrastructure Fellowships Program', aimed to empower more than 1,800 of the region's infrastructure practitioners to design, build, and manage quality infrastructure in their home countries, was announced. 'Quad

Partnership for Cable Connectivity and Resilience’, aimed to strengthen cable systems in the Indo-Pacific, drawing on Quad countries’ world-class expertise in manufacturing, delivering, and maintaining cable infrastructure, was also announced. Quad partners are also enhancing cooperation among their export credit agencies.

vi. **Space:** Quad is working to exchange Earth observation satellite data and analysis to help Indo-Pacific countries better adapt to climate change, prepare for natural disasters, and better manage oceans and marine resources. Quad partners are committed to strengthening commercial space cooperation. They are also consulting each other on the peaceful, safe, and sustainable use of outer space.

12. **Other initiatives:**

i. **Indo-Pacific Partnership for Maritime Domain Awareness (IPMDA):** Through IPMDA, announced at the 2022 Leaders’ Summit, Quad is providing near-real-time, integrated, and cost-effective maritime domain data to maritime agencies in the region, supports regional partners’ capacity in combatting a wide range of illicit maritime activities, including illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, and responding to climate-related and humanitarian events.

ii. **STEM Fellowships** are scholarship programmes designed to build ties among the next generation of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) leaders. The Fellowship brings together 100 students each year, 25 from each Quad country, to pursue Master's and Doctoral degrees in STEM fields in the United States. The first batch commenced its academic courses in Fall 2023.

iii. **Counter-terrorism:** Quad has condemned terrorism and violent extremism in all forms and manifestations, denounced the use of terrorist proxies, and emphasized the importance of denying any logistical, financial, or military support to terrorist groups that could be used to launch or plan terror attacks, including cross-border attacks. Quad Leaders have condemned the terrorist attacks in India during 26/11 in Mumbai and the Pathankot attacks. They have reiterated the importance of upholding international standards on anti-money laundering and combating the financing of terrorism by all countries, consistent with FATF recommendations.

13. The next Quad Leaders’ Summit is expected to be hosted by India in 2024.

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