

3.1 Introduction of United Nations

The United Nations is an international organization founded in 1945. It is currently made up of 193 Member States. The mission and work of the United Nations are guided by the purposes and principles contained in its founding Charter. Established by charter signed in San Francisco, California, on June 26; effective October 24, 1945.

Purposes:

- To maintain international peace and security
- To develop friendly relations among nations;
- To achieve International cooperation in solving economic, social, cultural, and humanitarian problems and in promoting respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms;
- The United Nations (UN) is an intergovernmental organization to promote international co-operation.
- Official languages: Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian, Spanish
- Principal organs: General Assembly, Security Council, Economic and Social Council, Trusteeship Council, International Court of Justice, Secretariat.

A replacement for the ineffective League of Nations, the organization was established on 24 October 1945 after World War II in order to prevent another such conflict. At its founding, the UN had 51 member states; there are now 193. The headquarters of the United Nations is in Manhattan, New York City, and experiences extra territoriality. Further main offices are situated in Geneva, Nairobi, and Vienna. Its objectives include maintaining international peace and security, promoting human rights, fostering social and economic development, protecting the environment, and providing humanitarian aid in cases of famine, natural disaster, and armed conflict.

The United Nations Charter was drafted at a conference between April–June 1945 in San Francisco, and was signed on 26 June 1945 at the conclusion of the conference. This charter took effect 24 October 1945, and the UN began operation. The UN's mission to preserve world peace was complicated in its early decades by the Cold war between the US and Soviet Union and their respective allies. The organization participated in major actions in Korea and the Congo, as well as approving the creation of the state of Israel in 1947. The organization's membership grew significantly following widespread decolonization in the 1960s, and by the 1970s its budget for economic and social development programs far outstripped its spending on peace keeping. After the end of the Cold War, the UN took on major military and peace keeping missions across the world with varying degrees of success.

The UN has six principal organs:

1. The General Assembly (the main deliberative assembly);
2. The Security Council (for deciding certain resolutions for peace and security);
3. The Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) (for promoting international economic and social co-operation and development);
4. The Secretariat (for providing studies, information, and facilities needed by the UN);
5. The International Court of Justice (the primary judicial organ); and
6. The United Nations Trusteeship Council (inactive since 1994).

1. The General Assembly (the main deliberative assembly);

The General Assembly is the main deliberative assembly of the United Nations. Composed of all United Nations member states, the assembly meets in regular yearly sessions, but emergency sessions can also be called. The assembly is led by a president, elected from among the member states on a rotating regional basis, and 21 vice-presidents.

The first session convened 10 January 1946 in the Methodist Central Hall in London and included representatives of 51 nations.

When the General Assembly votes on important questions, a two-thirds majority of those present and voting is required. Examples of important questions include:

- Recommendations on peace and security;
- election of members to organs;
- Admission,
- Suspension, and
- Expulsion of members; and
- Budgetary matters

All other questions are decided by a majority vote. Each member country has one vote.

Apart from approval of budgetary matters, resolutions are not binding on the members. The Assembly may make recommendations on any matters within the scope of the UN, except matters of peace and security that are under consideration by the Security Council.

Draft resolutions can be forwarded to the General Assembly by eight committees:

1. General Committee – a supervisory committee consisting of the assembly's president, vice-president, and committee head
2. Credentials Committee – Responsible for determining the credentials of each member nation's UN representative
3. First Committee (Disarmament and International Security)
4. Second Committee (Economic and Financial)
5. Third Committee (Social, Humanitarian, and Cultural)
6. Fourth Committee (Special Political and Decolonization)
7. Fifth Committee (Administrative and Budgetary)
8. Sixth Committee (Legal)

2. Security Council

United Nations Security Council

The Security Council is charged with maintaining peace and security among countries. While other organs of the United Nations can only make "recommendations" to member states, the Security Council has the power to make binding decisions that member states have agreed to carry out, under the terms of Charter Article 25. The decisions of the Council are known as United Nations Security Council resolutions. The Security Council is made up of fifteen member states, consisting of;

➤ Five permanent members

- China,
- France,
- Russia,
- the United Kingdom,
- and the United State

➤ Ten non-permanent members

- Belgium (term ends 2020),
- Dominican Republic (2020),
- Estonia (2021),
- Germany (2020),
- Indonesia (2020),
- Niger (2021),
- Saint Vincent and the Grenadines (2021),
- South Africa (2020),
- Tunisia (2021), and
- Vietnam (2021)

The five permanent members hold veto (reject) power over UN resolutions, allowing a permanent member to block adoption of a resolution, though not debate.

The ten temporary seats are held for two-year terms, with member states voted in by the General Assembly on a regional basis. The presidency of the Security Council rotates alphabetically each month.

3 .United Nations Economic and Social Council

The Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) assists the General Assembly in promoting international economic and social co-operation and development. ECOSOC has 54 members, which are elected by the General Assembly for a three-year term. The president is elected for a one-year term and chosen amongst the small or middle powers represented on ECOSOC. The council has one annual meeting in July, held in either New York or Geneva. Viewed as separate from the specialized bodies it co-ordinates, ECOSOC's functions include information gathering, advising member nations, and making recommendations.

ECOSOC's subsidiary bodies include

- the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, which advises UN agencies on issues relating to indigenous peoples;
- the United Nations Forum on Forests, which co-ordinates and promotes sustainable forest management;
- the United Nations Statistical Commission, which co-ordinates information-gathering efforts between agencies; and
- the Commission on Sustainable Development, which co-ordinates efforts between UN agencies and NGOs working towards sustainable development.

ECOSOC may also grant consultative status to non-governmental organizations. By 2004, more than 2,200 organizations had received this status

4. Secretariat

The UN Secretariat is headed by the Secretary-General, assisted by a staff of international civil servants worldwide. It provides studies, information, and facilities needed by United Nations bodies for their meetings. It also carries out tasks as directed by the Security Council, the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council, and other UN bodies.

The Secretary General acts as the spokesperson the and leader of the UN. The position is defined in the UN Charter as the organization's "chief administrative officer". "Any matter which in his opinion may threaten the maintenance of international peace and security", The Secretary-General is appointed by the General Assembly, after being recommended by the Security Council, where the permanent members have veto power. There are no specific criteria for the post, but over the years it has become accepted that the post shall be held for one or two terms of five years, that the post shall be appointed on the basis of geographical rotation, and that the Secretary-General shall not originate from one of the five permanent Security Council member states. The current Secretary-General is [AntónioGuterres](#), who replaced [Ban Ki-moon](#) in 2017.

5.International Court of Justice

Membership: 15, elected for 9-year terms by the General Assembly and the Security Council from nominees of national groups under provisions of the International Court of Justice Statute. The court had ruled that Kosovo's unilateral declaration of independence from Serbia in 2008 did not violate international law

The International Court of Justice (ICJ), located in The Hague, in the Netherlands, is the primary judicial organ of the UN. Established in 1945 by the UN Charter, the Court began work in 1946 as the successor to the Permanent Court of International Justice. The ICJ is composed of 15 judges who serve 9-year terms and are appointed by the General Assembly; every sitting judge must be from a different nation. It is based in the Peace Palace in The Hague, sharing the building with the Hague Academy of International Law, a private Centre for the study of international law.

The ICJ's primary purpose is to adjudicate disputes among states. The court has heard cases related to war crimes, illegal state interference, ethnic cleansing, and other issues. The ICJ can also be called upon by other UN organs to provide advisory opinions.