



UN PRIMER



Class : 7, 8 & 9

Category : Pre-Senior

UN PRIMER

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Revised every year since 1972

"This is an honest effort to present the must-know information about UN precisely and in the simplest manner."

Founder Author

Late Mr. Jiya Lal Jain

Founder and Secretary General

United Schools Organisation of India

**FOUNDER AND SECRETARY GENERAL OF UNITED SCHOOLS
ORGANISATION OF INDIA LATE MR. JIYA LAL JAIN**



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PREFACE

This book provides details on the Specialized agencies of the United Nations, work done by the United Nations across the world. An overview about the United Nations, how it came into being, its main aims and objectives, and how it functions can be found in UNESCO books for Juniors. Details about the Millennium Development Goals and Sustainable Development Goals and much more can be found in UNESCO books for Senior categories.

The United Nations has four purposes:

- to maintain international peace and security;*
- to develop friendly relations among nations;*
- to cooperate in solving international problems and in promoting respect for human rights; and*
- to be a centre for harmonizing the actions of nations.*

Cooperating in this effort are more than 30 affiliated organizations, known together as the UN system. The United Nations is not a world government, and it does not make laws. It does, however, provide the means to help resolve international conflicts and formulate policies on matters affecting us all.

At the UN, all the Member States-large and small, rich and poor, with differing political views and social systems have a voice and a vote. The United Nations gives an opportunity for countries to balance global interdependence and national interests when addressing international problems.

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Chapter 1

United Nations – An Overview



What is the United Nations?

The United Nations is an international organisation of independent countries that have come together to work for world peace and social progress. The organisation formally came into existence on 24 October 1945, with 51 countries considered as the founding Members.

What is the purpose of the United Nations?

The UN has the following purposes:

- to maintain international peace and security;
- to promote human rights;
- to deliver humanitarian aid
- to promote sustainable development; and
- to uphold international law.

Why was the United Nations created?

World War I (1914-1918) and World War II (1939-1945) had both caused a great deal of devastation in the world. The idea of the need of an international organization was first realized during World War II when the world leaders felt a strong need for an organization to stop future wars. They realized that this could only be possible if all nations worked together through a global organization, which is now the United Nations.

Was this the first international organization that was created?

No. A similar organization, the League of Nations, was set up in

1919, following World War I, with the aim to keep world peace. However, not every country joined the League. and the League often failed to take action.

Is there a set of rules or principles that guides the United Nations in its work?

Yes, it is called the Charter of the United Nations. It is a set of guidelines that explains the rights and duties of each Member country, and what needs to be done to achieve the goals they have set for themselves. When a nation becomes a Member of the UN, it accepts the aims and rules of the Charter.

Where did the name 'United Nations' come from?

The name 'United Nations' was suggested by United States President Franklin D. Roosevelt. As a tribute to President Roosevelt, who died a few weeks before the signing of the Charter, all those present at the San Francisco Conference agreed to adopt the name 'United Nations'.

Is the United Nations like a world government?

No. Governments represent countries and peoples. The United Nations represents neither a particular government nor any one nation. It represents all its Members and does only what the Member States decide that it should do.

Where are the offices of the United Nations located?

The UN headquarters are located in New York, USA.

Who owns the United Nations Headquarters?

The United Nations Headquarters is an international zone and the land on which the UN sits belongs to all the Members of the United Nations. (*cover page of this study book is the headquarters of the United Nations, New York City*).

Who manages the workings of the United Nations?

The Chief Administrative Officer of the United Nations is the Secretary General, who is appointed by the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Security Council. The general term of office for the Secretary General is five-year renewable term.

Who can become the member of the United Nations?

Any peace-loving country can apply to become a member of the United Nations, so long as they accept the obligations contained in the Charter and are able to carry out these obligations. Each country is provided membership by decision of the General Assembly, upon the recommendation of the Security Council.

How many countries are members of the United Nations?

There are 195 countries in the world today. Presently, 193 countries are members of the United Nations. 2 countries that are non-member observer states: the Holy See, Vatican City and the State of Palestine.

What are Permanent Observers?

Non-Member States of the United Nations, which are members of one or more Specialized Agencies can apply to be a Permanent Observer. Permanent Observers have free access to most meetings and relevant documentation. Many regional and international organizations are also observers in the work and annual sessions of the General Assembly.

What are the main organs of the United Nations?

There are six main organs of United Nations that were established in 1945.

- The General Assembly – It is the main policymaking and representative organ of the UN. All 193 Member States are represented in the General Assembly, with one vote each;
- The Security Council – It is responsible for the maintenance of international peace and security. The Council has 15 Members (five permanent and ten non-permanent);
- The Economic and Social Council – It is the principal body for coordination, policy review, policy dialogue and recommendations on economic, social and environmental issues;
- The Trusteeship Council – It was formed to provide international supervision for 11 Trust Territories (mostly in Africa and in the Pacific Ocean) that had been placed under the administration of seven Member States, and to ensure that

adequate steps were taken to prepare the Territories for self-government and independence. Since all Territories had attained independence the Trusteeship Council suspended its operation on 1 November, 1994, when the last Trust Territory, Palau (formerly administered by the United States) achieved self-government;

- The International Court of Justice- Established in 1946, the ICJ is the main judicial organ of the United Nations. The primary role is to settle, in accordance with international law, legal disputes submitted to it by Member States and give advisory opinions on legal questions referred to it by authorized United Nations organs and specialized agencies;
- The Secretariat - It comprises of the Secretary General and several international UN staff members who carry out the day-to-day work of the UN as mandated by the General Assembly and the Organization's other principal organs.

Who are the five permanent members of the Security Council?

The five permanent members are: China, France, the Russian Federation, United Kingdom and United States;

What is a 'veto' vote?

All members of the Security Council have one vote each. The five permanent members have been given a special voting power called the 'right to veto'. If any of the 'big five' decide to exercise their right to veto, the resolution in the Security Council would not be approved.

What happens when a country ignores the decisions of the Security Council?

When decisions of the Security Council are not complied with, the Council may take several actions to ensure their implementation. Should a country threaten or breach the peace or commit an act of aggression, it may impose economic and trade sanctions, or other specific measures such as arms and travel ban and diplomatic restrictions. It can also authorize the use of force in certain instances. But these measures are usually a last resort, to be used only if peaceful means of settling a dispute have been exhausted.



What is the United Nations Emblem?

The design is "a map of the world representing an azimuthal equidistant projection centred on the North Pole, inscribed in a wreath consisting of crossed conventionalized branches of the olive tree, in gold on a field of smoke-blue with all water areas in white. The projection of the map extends to 60 degrees south latitude, and includes five concentric circles" (original description of the emblem).

Does the UN have a logo?

The original UN logo was created by a team of designers during the United Nations Conference on International Organization in 1945. The design team was led by Oliver Lincoln Lundquist.

What about the UN Flag?

The United Nations Flag has a blue background with a white emblem in the centre. The emblem has a world map with olive branches around it signifying world peace. The emblem should be one half the height of the flag and entirely centred.

What about the UN post office?

The UN has its own post office and issues its own stamps. These stamps can be used only from UN Headquarters or from UN offices in Vienna and Geneva.

How many official languages does the UN have?

There are six official languages of the UN. A delegate may speak in any official UN language. The correct interpretation and translation of these six languages, in both spoken and written form, is critical as it enables clear and concise communication on issues of global importance. The six official languages are: Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish.

Who pays for the work of the United Nations?

The 193 Member States of the United Nations pay for everything that the Organization does. The United Nations has no other

source of income. There are two types of budgets at the UN, and payments to the UN for both budgets are compulsory by all Member States. The two types of budgets are:

- Regular budget: includes the core functions at UN headquarters in New York and field offices around the world;
- Peacekeeping budget: pays for various operations around the world;

What is the Committee of Contributions?

The Committee on Contributions, advises the General Assembly on the proportion of the expenses of the Organization among Members broadly, according to their capacity to pay. The Committee also advises the General Assembly on the assessments to be fixed for new Members, and on appeals by Members for a change of assessments. The Committee also provides advice on the action to be taken with regard to the application of Members who may be in arrears in the payment.

The Committee on Contributions meets annually for 3 to 4 weeks, usually in June of each year. The report of the Committee is considered by the General Assembly at its main session. In December 2018, the new scale of assessment was approved for 2019-2021.

What happens to those Member States if they do not contribute to the United Nations?

Article 19 of the Charter states that: 'A Member of the United Nations which is in arrears in the payment of its financial contributions to the Organization shall have no vote in the General Assembly if the amount of its arrears equals or exceeds the amount of the contributions due from it for the preceding two full years. The General Assembly may, nevertheless, permit such a Member to vote if it is satisfied that the failure to pay is due to conditions beyond the control of the Member'.

Does each Member State contribute the same amount to the UN?

No. Each Member State contributes a different amount. The contribution by each Member State is calculated on a scale of assessment', which is done by the Committee on Contributions.

The scale of assessment is calculated by estimating each Member State's Gross National Product (GNP). Several adjustments for deductions given for debt and low per capita incomes. Similar assessments are done for other organizations of the UN, including peacekeeping operations. For deciding on peacekeeping operations, the adjustments are made for average per capita GNP compared to global average GNP. This is reviewed every three years.

Which Member contributes the most to the United Nations?

The United States, with a share of 22%, is the largest contributor to the United Nations. USA's GNP is approximately 27% of the total GNP of all members of the UN. The other top contributors are:

- China, 12.005%
- Japan, 8.564%
- Germany, 6.090%
- United Kingdom 4.567%
- France, 4.427%

Some Interesting UN Facts

- The building of the UN headquarters in New York City was built with an interest-free loan from the United States;
- The land and building of the UN headquarters are considered international territory;
- The UN has its own post office and issues its own postage stamp. These stamps can only be used from UN headquarters in New York City or from UN offices in Vienna and Geneva;
- UN officials are exempt from taxation on their salaries;
- The top officials of the United Nations are diplomats to the UN, and therefore have diplomatic immunity;
- The Secretary General of United Nations is appointed based on geographical rotation, but not from the five permanent Security Council member states;



- Kofi Annan, the former UN Secretary General, is a twin, and in Ghana, the name 'Kofi' is given to boys born on a Friday;
- The UN employees roughly 15,000 employees worldwide;
- The first UN Logo was designed for a lapel pin;
- 2015 marked 70 years since the formation of the United Nations;
- The Peace Palace is the seat of the International Court of Justice;
- In the original plan for UN Headquarters, a tiny room had been provided as a place dedicated to silence, where people could withdraw into themselves, regardless of their faith, creed or religion, but Dag Hammarskjöld (former UN Secretary General) wanted something more dignified. He was supported by people of various religions, who combined their efforts and provided the money for a room worthy of a world organization. The work on the room began, and Mr. Hammarskjöld personally planned and supervised in every detail the creation of the 'Meditation Room' at UN Headquarters, New York.

Chapter 2

The UN Family

The UN system, also known unofficially as the "UN family", is made up of the UN itself and many affiliated programs, funds, and specialized agencies, all with their own membership, leadership, and budget. The programs and funds are financed through voluntary contributions. The Specialized Agencies are independent international organizations funded by both voluntary and assessed contributions.

The UN system is divided into 4 broad categories:

UN SYSTEM			
Programmes & Funds	UN Specialized Agencies	Other Entities	Related Organizations

Programmes and Funds

UNDP

Expanded form: United Nations Development Programme

Role: The UNDP works in nearly 170 countries to eradicate poverty, reduce inequalities and build resilience so countries can sustain progress. As the UN's development agency, UNDP plays a critical role in helping countries achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

Headquarters: New York, USA



UNEP

Expanded form: United Nations Environment Programme

Role: Established in 1972, UNEP acts as a catalyst, advocate, educator and facilitator to promote the wise use and sustainable development of the global environment.



USO INDIA

It is also the voice for the environment within the United Nations system.

Headquarters: Nairobi, Kenya

UNFPA

Expanded form: United Nations Population Fund

Role: UNFPA is the lead UN agency for delivering a world where every pregnancy is wanted, every birth is safe, and every young person's potential is fulfilled.

Headquarters: New York, USA



UN-Habitat

Expanded form: United Nations Human Settlements Programme

Role: The main mission of UN-Habitat is to promote socially and environmentally sustainable human settlements development and the achievement of adequate shelter for all.

Headquarters: Nairobi, Kenya



UNICEF

Expanded form: The United Nations Children's Fund, originally known as the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund

Role: UNICEF works in 190 countries provides long-term humanitarian and development assistance to children and mothers. UNICEF strives to save children's lives, to defend their rights, and to help them fulfil their potential, from early childhood through adolescence.

Headquarters: New York, USA



WFP

Expanded form: World Food Programme

Role: The WFP aims to eradicate hunger and malnutrition. It is the world's largest humanitarian agency. Every year, the programme feeds almost 80 million people in around 75 countries.

Headquarters: Rome, Italy



UN Specialized Agencies

The UN specialized agencies are autonomous organizations working with the United Nations. All were brought into relationship with the UN through negotiated agreements. Some existed before the World War I, and some were associated with the League of Nations. Others were created almost simultaneously with the UN and yet others were created by the UN to meet emerging needs.

FAO

Expanded form: Food and Agriculture Organization

Role: FAO leads international efforts to fight hunger. It is both a forum for negotiating agreement between developing and developed countries and a source of technical knowledge and information to aid in development of food production.

Headquarters: Rome, Italy



ICAO

Expanded form: International Civilian Aviation Organization

Role: The ICAO sets international rules on air navigation, the investigation of air accidents, and aerial border-crossing procedures. It develops standards for global air transport and assists its 192 Member States in sharing the world's skies to their socio-economic benefit.

Headquarters: Montreal, Canada



IFAD

Expanded form: International Fund for Agricultural Development

Role: The IFAD, created in 1977, focusses exclusively on rural poverty reduction, working with poor rural populations in developing countries to eliminate poverty, hunger and malnutrition; raise their productivity and incomes; and improve the quality of their lives.

Headquarters: Rome, Italy



ILO

Expanded form: International Labour Organization

Role: Promotes international labour rights by formulating international standards on the freedom to associate, collective bargaining, the abolition of forced labour, and equality of opportunity and treatment.

Headquarters: Geneva, Switzerland



International
Labour
Organization

IMF

Expanded form: International Monetary Fund

Role: The IMF fosters economic growth and employment by providing temporary financial assistance to countries to help ease balance of payments adjustment and technical assistance. The IMF currently has \$28 billion in outstanding loans to 74 nations.

Headquarters: Washington DC, USA



IMO

Expanded form: International Maritime Organization

Role: The IMO has created a comprehensive shipping regulatory framework, addressing safety and environmental concerns, legal matters, technical cooperation, security, and efficiency.

Headquarters: London, United Kingdom



ITU

Expanded form: International Telecommunication Union

Role: The ITU is the agency that deals with information and communication technologies. It is committed to connecting all the world's people – wherever they live and whatever their means. Through our work, we protect and support everyone's fundamental right to communicate.

Headquarters: Geneva, Switzerland



UNESCO

Expanded form: United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

Role: UNESCO focuses on everything from teacher training to helping improve education worldwide to protecting important historical and cultural sites around the world. UNESCO added 28 new World Heritage Sites this year to the list of irreplaceable treasures that will be protected for today's travellers and future generations.

Headquarters: Paris, France



UNIDO

Expanded form: United Nations Industrial Development Organization

Role: UNIDO promotes industrial development for poverty reduction, inclusive globalization and environmental sustainability.

Headquarters: Vienna, Austria



UNWTO

Expanded form: World Tourism Organization

Role: UNWTO is the agency responsible to promote responsible, sustainable and universally accessible tourism.

Headquarters: Madrid, Spain



UPU

Expanded form: Universal Postal Union

Role: The UPU is the primary forum for cooperation between postal sector players. It helps to ensure a truly universal network of up-to-date products and services.

Headquarters: Berne, Switzerland



WHO

Expanded form: World Health Organization

Role: The WHO is the directing and coordinating authority on international health within the United Nations system. The objective of WHO is the attainment by all peoples of the highest possible level of health. Health, as defined in the WHO Constitution, is a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity.

Headquarters: Geneva, Switzerland



WIPO

Expanded form: World Intellectual Property Organization

Role: WIPO protects intellectual property throughout the world through 23 international treaties.

Headquarters: Geneva, Switzerland



WMO

Expanded form: World Meteorological Organization

Role: WMO facilitates the free international exchange of meteorological data and information and the furtherance of its use in aviation, shipping, security, and agriculture.

Headquarters: Geneva, Switzerland



World Bank

Role: The World Bank focuses on poverty reduction and improvement of living standards worldwide by providing low-interest loans, interest-free credit, and grants to developing countries for education, health, infrastructure, and communications, and others. The World Bank works in over 100 countries.

Headquarters: Washington DC, USA



The World Bank Group is divided into the following:

- International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD);
- International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID);
- International Development Association (IDA);
- International Finance Corporation (IFC);
- Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA).

Other Entities

UNAIDS

Expanded form: Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS

Role: UNAIDS leads the world to achieve its shared vision of zero new HIV infections, zero discrimination and zero AIDS-related deaths. co-sponsored by 11 UN system agencies: UNHCR, UNICEF, WFP, UNDP, UNFPA, UNODC, UN Women, ILO, UNESCO, WHO and the World Bank. Their goals relate to stopping and reversing the spread of HIV/AIDS. They work closely with global and national partners towards ending the AIDS epidemic by 2030, as part of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Headquarters: Geneva, Switzerland



UNCTAD

Expanded form: United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

Role: UNCTAD is responsible for dealing with development issues, particularly international trade – which is the main driver of development.

Headquarters: Geneva, Switzerland



UNHCR

Expanded form: United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

Role: The UNHCR protects refugees worldwide and facilitates their return home or resettlement.

Headquarters: Geneva, Switzerland



UNIDIR

Expanded form: United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research



Role: UNIDIR is a voluntarily funded autonomous institute within the United Nations. An impartial actor, the Institute generates ideas and promotes action on disarmament and security. UNIDIR brings together states, international organizations, civil society, the private sector and academia to work together—internationally, regionally and locally—to build and implement creative solutions that will benefit all states and people.

Headquarters: Geneva, Switzerland

UNITAR

Expanded form: United Nations Institute for Training and Research



Role: UNITAR is an autonomous UN body established in 1963. It is the training arm of the United Nations System, and has the mandate to enhance the effectiveness of the UN through diplomatic training, and to increase the impact of national actions through public awareness, education and training of public policy officials.

Headquarters: Geneva, Switzerland

UNOPS

Expanded form: United Nations Office for Project Services



Role: UNOPS, an operational arm of the United Nations, supports the successful implementation of its partners' peacebuilding, humanitarian and development projects around the world. The mission is to help people build better lives and help countries achieve peace and sustainable development. UNOPS helps the UN, governments and other partners to manage projects, and deliver sustainable infrastructure and procurement in an efficient way.

Headquarters: Copenhagen, Denmark

UNRWA

Expanded form: United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees

Role: UNRWA has contributed to the welfare and human development of four generations of Palestine refugees. Its services encompass education, health care, relief and social services, camp infrastructure and improvement, microfinance and emergency assistance, including in times of armed conflict. It reports only to the UN General Assembly.

Headquarters: divided between Gaza Strip and Amman



UNSSC

Expanded form: United Nations System Staff College

Role: UNSSC is the learning organization of the United Nations system. It designs and delivers learning programmes for staff of the UN system and its partners. It helps the United Nations become more effective by fostering a common leadership and management culture across the system.

Headquarters: Torino, Italy



UN Women

Expanded form: UN Women

Role: UN Women is the global champion for gender equality, working to develop and uphold standards and create an environment in which every woman and girl can exercise her human rights and live up to her full potential. They are the trusted partners for advocates and decision-makers from all walks of life, and a leader in the effort to achieve gender equality.

Headquarters: New York, USA



Related Organizations

CTBTO

Expanded form: Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization

Role: CTBTO promotes the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (which is not yet in force) and the build-up of the verification regime so that it is operational when the Treaty enters into force.

Headquarters: Vienna, Austria



IAEA

Expanded form: International Atomic Energy Agency

Role: The IAEA is the world's centre for cooperation in the nuclear field. The Agency works with its Member States and multiple partners worldwide to promote the safe, secure and peaceful use of nuclear technologies.

Headquarters: Vienna, Austria



IOM

Expanded form: International Organization for Migration

Role: The IOM works to help ensure the orderly and humane management of migration, to promote international cooperation on migration issues, to assist in the search for practical solutions to migration problems and to provide humanitarian assistance to migrants in need, including refugees and internally displaced people.

Headquarters: Geneva, Switzerland



OPCW

Expanded form: Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons

Role: The OPCW is the implementing body of the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC), which



entered into force in 1997. OPCW Member States work together to achieve a world free of chemical weapons.

Headquarters: Hague, Netherlands

UNFCCC

Expanded form: UNFCCC Secretariat (UN Climate Change)

Role: The UNFCCC was established in 1992 when countries adopted the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). With the subsequent adoption of the Kyoto Protocol in 1997 and the Paris Agreement in 2015, Parties to these three agreements have progressively reaffirmed the Secretariat's role as the United Nations entity tasked with supporting the global response to the threat of climate change.

Headquarters: Bonn, Germany



WTO

Expanded form: The World Trade Organization

Role: forum for governments to negotiate trade agreements, and a place where member governments try to sort out the trade problems they face with each other.

Headquarters: Geneva, Switzerland



UNISDR

Expanded form: United Nations Office for Disaster Reduction

Role: UNISDR serves as the focal point in the United Nations system for the coordination of disaster reduction.

Headquarters: Geneva, Switzerland



UNODC

Expanded form: The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

Role: UNODC helps Member States fight drugs, crime, and terrorism.

Headquarters: Vienna, Austria





- Each specialized agency has its own flag, with the official colours of light blue and white. WFP (World Food Programme) has its flag colours reversed;
- UN campaigns for universal immunization against childhood diseases have eradicated smallpox and reduced cases of polio by 99%;
- The WFP is the world's largest humanitarian agency;
- THE UNRWA reports only to the UN General Assembly;
- The IMF uses SDR's (Special Drawing Rights) to lend to various nations. An SDR is an artificial currency instrument used by the IMF, and is built from a basket of important national currencies. The IMF uses SDRs for internal accounting purposes. SDRs are allocated by the IMF to its member countries and are backed by the full faith and credit of the member countries' governments;
- UNESCO has added more than 1000 sites to the World Heritage List globally.

CHAPTER 3

Work of the United Nations

When the United Nations was formed in 1945, it had one primary mission: to maintain international peace and security. The UN Security Council has the primary responsibility for international peace and security. The General Assembly and the Secretary-General play major, important, and complementary roles, along with other UN offices and bodies. In this chapter, we shall take a look at how the UN works vis-à-vis each of its five purposes.

How does the UN maintain international peace and security?

Preventive Diplomacy and Mediation

The most effective way to diminish human suffering and the massive economic costs of conflicts and their aftermath is to prevent conflicts in the first place. The United Nations plays an important role in conflict prevention, using diplomacy, good offices and mediation. Among the tools the Organization uses to bring peace are special envoys and political missions in the field.



The UN was created to keep peace. How does it do that?

The United Nations serves as a global forum where countries can raise and discuss the most difficult issues, including problems of war and peace. When government leaders talk to each other face-to-face, a dialogue is established. This can result in agreement on how to peacefully settle disputes. When many countries speak with one voice - or by consensus - it creates a global pressure on all. The *Secretary General*, either directly or through a representative, may also advance a dialogue between and among nations.

Peacekeeping

Peacekeeping has proven to be one of the most effective tools available to the UN to assist host countries navigate the difficult

path from conflict to peace. Today's multidimensional peacekeeping operations are called upon not only to maintain peace and security, but also to facilitate political processes, protect civilians, assist in the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of former combatants; support constitutional processes and the organization of elections, protect and promote human rights and assist in restoring the rule of law and extending legitimate state authority. There are 14 UN peacekeeping operations currently deployed and there have been a total of 71 deployed since 1948.

Who commands the peacekeeping operations?

Peacekeeping operations are established by the Security Council and directed by the Secretary General, often through a special representative.

When a threat to peace is brought before the Council, it usually first asks the parties to reach agreement by peaceful means. If fighting breaks out or persists, the Council tries to secure a ceasefire. It may then send peacekeeping missions to troubled areas to restore peace or call for economic sanctions and embargoes (*meaning: an official ban on trade or other commercial activity with a particular country*)



Peacebuilding

United Nations peacebuilding activities are aimed at assisting countries emerging from conflict, reducing the risk of relapsing into conflict and at laying the foundation for sustainable peace and development. The UN peacebuilding architecture comprises the Peacebuilding Commission, the Peacebuilding Fund and the Peacebuilding Support Office. The Peacebuilding Support Office assists and supports the Peacebuilding Commission with strategic advice and policy guidance, administers the Peacebuilding Fund and serves the Secretary-General in coordinating United Nations agencies in their peacebuilding efforts.

What is the difference between peacekeeping and peacebuilding?

Peacekeeping is organized around a military deployment in a particular area. It is often a central part of a peacebuilding effort.

Peacebuilding provides all that is needed **to** help a country move from war to peace and a functioning self-government.

Countering Terrorism

The United Nations is being increasingly called upon to **coordinate the global fight against international terrorism**. Reflecting the determination of the international community to eliminate this threat, the Organization and its agencies have developed a wide range of international legal instruments that enable the international community to take action to suppress terrorism and bring those responsible to justice. Eighteen universal instruments against international terrorism have been elaborated within the framework of the United Nations system relating to specific terrorist activities. In September 2006, UN Member States adopted the United Nations **Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy**. This was the first time that Member States agreed to a common strategic and operational framework against terrorism.

Disarmament

The General Assembly and other bodies of the United Nations, supported by the Office for Disarmament Affairs, work to advance international peace and security through the pursuit of the elimination of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction and the regulation of conventional arms. General and complete disarmament — or gradual elimination of weapons of mass destruction — is one of the goals set by the United Nations. Its immediate objectives are to eliminate the danger of war, particularly nuclear war, and to implement measures to halt and reverse the arms race.

How does the United Nations protect Human Rights?

‘Human Rights’ has been mentioned seven times in the UN Charter, making the promotion and protection of human rights a key purpose and guiding principle of the UN. In 1948, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights brought human rights as part of international law. Since then, the UN has diligently protected human rights through legal instruments and on-the-ground activities.

High Commissioner for Human Rights

The Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) has lead responsibility in the UN system for the promotion and protection of human rights. The office supports the human rights components of peacekeeping missions in several countries, and has many country and regional offices and centres. The High Commissioner for Human Rights regularly comments on human rights situations in the world and has the authority to investigate situations and issue reports on them.

Human Rights Council

The Human Rights Council, established in 2006, replaced the 60-year-old UN Commission on Human Rights as the key independent UN intergovernmental body responsible for human rights. Several prominent, independent experts work on a voluntary basis, and examine, monitor, publicly report and advise the Council on human rights from a thematic or country-specific perspective.

Is there an actual law for human rights?



The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948) was the first legal document protecting universal human rights. Together with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on

Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the three instruments form the International Bill of Human Rights. A series of international human rights treaties and other instruments adopted since 1945 have expanded the body of international human rights law.

Democracy

The UN mission is based on three pillars, as outlined in the UN Charter:

- international peace and security;
- economic and social development;
- respect for human rights.

Democracy brings all of the above. At the 2005 World Summit, all the world's governments reaffirmed "that democracy is a universal value based on the freely expressed will of people to

determine their own political, economic, social and cultural systems and their full participation in all aspects of their lives” and stressed “that democracy, development and respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms are interdependent and mutually reinforcing”.

Can the Security Council help enforce Human Rights?

The UN Security Council deals with grave human rights violations, often in conflict areas. The UN Charter gives the Security Council the authority to investigate and mediate, dispatch a mission, appoint special envoys, or request the Secretary-General to use his good offices. The Security Council may issue a ceasefire directive, dispatch military observers or a peacekeeping force. If this does not work, the Security Council can opt for enforcement measures, such as economic sanctions, arms embargos, financial penalties and restrictions, travel bans, the severance of diplomatic relations, a blockade, or even collective military action.



Does the General Assembly get involved with respect to Human Rights?

The General Assembly's Third Committee (Social, Humanitarian and Cultural) examines a range of issues, including human rights questions. The Committee also discusses questions relating to the advancement of women, the protection of children, indigenous issues, the treatment of refugees, the promotion of fundamental freedoms through the elimination of racism and racial discrimination, and the right to self-determination. The Committee also addresses important social development questions.



Secretary-General

The 'Human Rights Up Front' Initiative is an initiative by the UN Secretary-General. This initiative ensures that the UN system takes

early and effective action to prevent or respond to serious and large-scale violations of human rights. The initiative underlines a shared responsibility among the various UN entities to work together and address such violations. HRuF seeks to achieve this by effecting change at three levels: cultural, operational and political. The initiative has been progressively rolled-out since 2013.

UN Peace Operations

Many United Nations peacekeeping operations and political and peace building missions also include the human rights-related mandates aimed at contributing to the protection and promotion of human rights through both immediate and long-term action; empowering the population to assert and claim their human rights; and enabling State and other national institutions to implement their human rights obligations and uphold the rule of law.

Commission on the Status of Women

The Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) is the principal global intergovernmental body dedicated to the promotion of gender equality and the advancement of women.

How the United Nations deliver humanitarian aid?

After World War II, the UN started with humanitarian aid by helping rebuild Europe, which was in a devastated condition post the war. The UN now relies upon the international community to coordinate humanitarian relief operations due to natural and man-made disasters in areas beyond the relief capacity of national authorities alone.

OCHA and the UN system

The Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) of the UN Secretariat is responsible for coordinating responses to emergencies through the Inter-Agency Standing Committee, whose members include the UN system entities most responsible for providing emergency relief. A coordinated, system-wide approach to humanitarian relief is essential in providing assistance

quickly and efficiently to those in need. The UN Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF), managed by OCHA, is one of the fastest and most effective ways to support rapid humanitarian response for people affected by natural disasters and armed conflict. CERF receives voluntary contributions year-round to provide immediate funding for life-saving humanitarian action anywhere in the world.

What key UN entities deliver humanitarian aid?

Four UN entities, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the World Food Programme (WFP) have primary roles in the delivery of relief assistance.



Helping refugees

The UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) was formed after World War II to help Europeans displaced by that conflict. The agency leads and co-ordinates international action to protect and resolve refugee problems worldwide. The General Assembly created the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) to provide emergency relief to some 750,000 Palestine refugees, who had lost their homes and livelihoods as a result of the 1948 Arab-Israeli conflict. Today, some 5 million Palestine refugees are eligible for UNRWA services.

Helping Children

Since its beginning, The United Nations Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) has strived to reach as many children as possible with effective, low-cost solutions to counter the biggest threats to their survival. UNICEF also consistently urges governments and warring parties to act more effectively to protect children.

Feeding the Hungry

The World Food Programme (WFP) provides relief to millions of people, who are victims of disasters. It is responsible for mobilizing food and funds for transport for all large-scale refugee-feeding operations managed by UNHCR. The Food and

Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) is often called on to help farmers re-establish production following floods, outbreaks of livestock disease and similar emergencies.

Healing the Sick

The World Health Organization (WHO) coordinates the international response to humanitarian health emergencies. WHO is responsible for providing leadership on global health matters, shaping the health research agenda, setting norms and standards, articulating evidence-based policy options, providing technical support to countries and monitoring and assessing health trends.

How does the United Nations promote sustainable development?



What is sustainable development?

Sustainable development is defined as: the development that promotes prosperity and economic opportunity, greater social well-being, and protection of the environment.

Improving people's well-being continues to be one of the main focuses of the UN. The global understanding of development has changed over the years, and countries now have agreed that sustainable development offers the best path forward for improving the lives of people everywhere. In order to tackle poverty and several other issues, the United Nations set the Millennium Development Goals, which contributed to the progress of several of the issues. Recognizing the success of the MDGs, the UN adopted an ambitious 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. At the same time, as climate change poses a growing challenge to the world's development objectives, the UN supported negotiations to adopt a meaningful and universal global climate agreement in 2015. The UN is also working to develop a financing for development framework to ensure that both the sustainable development agenda and climate action are properly resourced.

Climate Change

The UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change has warned of the increasing dangers of climate change and urgency to find solutions before it is too late. At the present rate, greenhouse gas emissions are rising and the global average temperature has increased by more than three degrees Celsius this century. The impact of climate change can be witnessed from rising sea-levels melting glaciers, to extreme weather patterns. Sustainability is an important part of countering climate change. The UN is supporting efforts to assess the climate science, facilitate negotiations under the UN Framework Convention for a climate agreement, and provide assistance to countries and communities to reduce emissions and to build climate resilience. UN has launched several initiatives to help combat climate change. (Sustainable Energy for All, works to help people access clean energy, improve energy efficiency and increase use of renewable sources of energy). The Climate Summit, held in New York in September 2014, helped raise awareness of the importance of climate change by mobilizing support for a climate agreement. The Climate Change Agreement Paris in 2015, concluded the global temperature increase be limited to well below 2 degrees.

Disaster Risk Reduction

Disasters can destroy communities in seconds, which is why building resilience must be at the heart of sustainable development. The United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR) works with governments and other stakeholders to ensure the reduction of disaster losses in lives and assets of communities and countries. A conference in 2015, near the site of the devastating earthquake and tsunami in Japan, advanced actions to reduce the risks from disasters by adopting the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030.

Gender equality and empowering women and girls

While the world has achieved progress towards gender equality under the UN Millennium Development Goals, women and girls continue to suffer discrimination and violence in every part of the world. Gender equality is not only a fundamental human right, but a necessary foundation for a peaceful, prosperous and sustainable world. UN Women works to eliminate discrimination against women and girls, empower all women, and achieve equality

between women and men as partners and beneficiaries of development, human rights, humanitarian action and peace and security.

How does the UN uphold international law?

The development of, and respect for international law is a key part of the work of United Nations. This work is carried out in many

ways - by courts, tribunals, multilateral treaties - and by the Security Council, which can approve peacekeeping missions, impose sanctions, or authorize the use of force when there is a threat to international peace and security, if it deems this necessary. These powers are given to it by the UN Charter, which is considered an international treaty, and UN Member States are bound by it.

International Court of Justice

The principal judicial organ of the United Nations is the International Court of Justice (ICJ). This main body of the UN settles legal disputes submitted to it by States in accordance with international law. It also gives advisory opinions on legal questions referred to it from authorized UN organs and specialized agencies. The Court is composed of 15 judges, who are elected for terms of nine years by the General Assembly and the Security Council.

Courts and Tribunals

In addition to the International Court of Justice, a wide variety of international courts, international tribunals, ad hoc tribunals and UN-assisted tribunals have varying degrees of relation to the United Nations and were established by (and are Subsidiary Organs of) the Security Council.

What is International Law?

International law is defined as the legal responsibilities of States in their conduct with each other, and their treatment of individuals within State boundaries. It encompasses a wide range of issues of international concern, such as human rights,



disarmament, international crime, refugees, migration, problems of nationality, the treatment of prisoners, the use of force, and the conduct of war, among others. It also regulates the global commons, such as the environment and sustainable development, international waters, outer space, global communications and world trade.

The Security Council and International Law

Some of the action of the Security Council have international law implications, such as those related to peacekeeping missions, ad hoc tribunals, sanctions, and resolutions adopted under Chapter VII of the Charter. In accordance with Article 13(b) of the Rome Statute, the Security Council can refer certain situations to the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court (ICC), if it appears international crimes (such as genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes, the crime of aggression) have been committed.

The General Assembly and International Law

The UN Charter gives the General Assembly the power to initiate studies and make recommendations to promote the development and codification of international law. Most legal matters are referred the Sixth Committee (the primary forum for the consideration of legal questions in the General Assembly), which then reports to the plenary. The International Law Commission (promotes the progressive development of international law and its codification) and the UN Commission on International Trade Law (core legal body of the United Nations system in the field of international trade law, with universal membership, specializing in commercial law, with a focus on the modernization and harmonization of

UN Treaty Database

The Status of Multilateral Treaties Deposited with the Secretary-General online database provides the most detailed information on the status of over 560 major multilateral instruments deposited with the Secretary-General of the United Nations and covers a range of subject matters, such as Human Rights, Disarmament, Commodities, Refugees, the Environment, and the Law of the Sea. This database reflects the status of these

instruments, as Member States sign, ratify, accede to, or lodge declarations, reservations or objections.

The Internal Justice System at the United Nations

A new Internal Justice System for the United Nations was introduced in 2009, with the goal of having a system that was independent, professionalized, expedient, transparent and

decentralized, with a stronger emphasis on resolving disputes through informal means, before resorting to formal litigation. Because the United Nations has immunity from local jurisdiction and cannot be sued in a national court, an internal justice system has been set up to resolve staff-management disputes, including those that involve disciplinary action.

Legal Technical Assistance for UN Member States

The United Nations currently offers Member States technical assistance in connection with a range of legal matters. Such assistance includes the provision of advice, expertise, research, analysis, training or other assistance.

CHAPTER 4

Work of the United Nations - Geographical Areas

The work of the UN is global, touching the lives of billions of people. The work is mostly done locally, within regions and countries. In order to accomplish this, the UN and the many entities comprising the UN system have created a presence in every region of the world, so the people most in need of help can be reached quickly. The Secretary General of the United Nations has Special and Personal Representatives and Envoys in each of the areas. The UN's work is divided into five geographical regions:

- Africa
- Americas
- Asia and the Pacific
- Europe and Central Asia
- Middle East

AFRICA

The two main centres of UN activity in Africa are Nairobi, Kenya and Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. There are also, in Africa, many regional and country offices of UN system entities, UN political offices, and nine UN peacekeeping missions.

Nairobi, Kenya

The United Nations Office at Nairobi is the UN's headquarters in Africa. The UN Environment Programme (UNEP) and the UN Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT) also have their main offices in Nairobi. The mission of the UN Environment Programme is to provide leadership and encourage partnership in caring for the environment. It is a lead UN actor in the fight to adapt to and mitigate climate change.

UN-HABITAT's mission is to work towards a better urban future. It promotes sustainable human settlements development and the achievement of adequate shelter for all.

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

The Economic Commission for Africa in Addis Ababa is made up of 54 Member States from the area. It is the only UN agency mandated to operate at the regional and sub-regional levels to harness resources and bring them to bear Africa's priorities. In addition to its headquarters office in Addis Ababa, the ECA has sub-regional offices for Central Africa (in Yaounde, Cameroon), Eastern Africa (Kigali, Rwanda), North Africa (Rabat, Morocco), Southern Africa (Lusaka, Zambia) and West Africa (Niamey, Niger).

UN Peacekeeping Operations in Africa

There are several missions all over Africa to aid with peacekeeping.

Secretary-General

The Secretary-General of the United Nations has Special and Personal Representatives and Envoys to Africa. The Office of the Special Advisor on Africa supports UN system efforts for the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD).

Department of Political Affairs

The UN's Department of Political Affairs works in many countries, regions, and areas of concern in Africa.

UN Office for West Africa

The UN Office for West Africa, in Dakar, Senegal was the first regional conflict prevention and peacebuilding office of the United Nations. Its overall mandate is to enhance contributions of the UN towards the achievement of peace and security in West Africa and promote an integrated regional approach in addressing issues that impact stability in West Africa.

Department of Global Communications

There are 17 UN Information Centres in sub-Saharan Africa, which organize events, hold press conferences, launch reports and visit schools and communities to explain the work of the United Nations to local populations.

AMERICAS

The centre of UN activity in North America is New York City, USA, host of the United Nations Headquarters. The centre of UN activity in South America is Santiago, Chile, home to the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean.

United Nations Headquarters

UN Headquarters in New York City, USA, is home to the General Assembly, Security Council, Economic and Social Council, Trusteeship Council, and much of the UN Secretariat.

Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)

The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, in Santiago, Chile contributes to the economic development of Latin America, coordinates actions directed towards this end, reinforces economic ties among countries and with other nations of the world, and promotes the region's social development.

Secretary-General

The Secretary-General of the United Nations has Special and Personal Representatives and Envoys to the Americas.

Department of Political Affairs

The UN's Department of Political Affairs works in many countries, regions, and areas of concern in the Americas.

Peacekeeping Operation

United Nations Mission for Justice Support in Haiti (MINUJUSTH)

Department of Global Communications

The United Nations has 10 Information Centres in the Americas.

ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

The main centre of United Nations activity in Asia and the Pacific is Bangkok, Thailand, home to the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific. There are also many regional

and country offices of UN system entities, and UN political offices in the Asia and Pacific region.

Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)

The UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific located in Bangkok, Thailand, is the regional development arm of the UN for the Asia-Pacific region. Made up of 53 Member States and 9 Associate Members, it has a geographical scope that stretches from Turkey in the west to the Pacific island nation of Kiribati in the east, and from the Russian Federation in the north to New Zealand in the south. The Asia and the Pacific region is home to 4.1 billion people, or two thirds of the world's population. This makes ESCAP the most comprehensive of the five regional commissions of the United Nations, and the largest UN body serving the Asia-Pacific region, with over 600 staff.

Sub-regional Offices of ESCAP

There are four sub-regional offices of ESCAP. They are:

- East and North-East Asia
- North and Central Asia
- Pacific
- South Asia
- South-West Asia

Climate Preparedness

The ESCAP Trust Fund for Tsunami, Disaster and Climate Preparedness, established in 2005, now provides overall disaster and climate preparedness.

UN Peacekeeping Operations in Asia and the Pacific

There is one United Nations peacekeeping operations in Asia and the Pacific: United Nations Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan (UNMOGIP)

Secretary-General

The Secretary-General of the United Nations has Special and Personal Representatives and Envoys to the Asia and the Pacific region.

Department of Political Affairs

The UN's Department of Political Affairs works in countries in the Asia and the Pacific region.

Department of Global Communications

There are 11 UN Information Centres in the Asia and the Pacific region. There is also an Information Service located in Bangkok, which is part of ESCAP.

EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA

The main centres of United Nations activity in Europe and Central Asia are Geneva, Switzerland, Vienna, Austria and The Hague in the Netherlands. Geneva is home to the UN Office at Geneva (UNOG) and the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE). Vienna is home to the UN Office in Vienna (UNOV). The Hague is the seat of the International Court of Justice. There are also many regional and country offices of UN system entities, and UN political offices in Europe and Central Asia.

UN Office at Geneva (UNOG)

The UN Office in Geneva located in Geneva, Switzerland, serves as the representative office of the Secretary-General at Geneva. It is a focal point for multilateral diplomacy, and services more than 8,000 meetings every year, making it one of the busiest conference centres in the world. With more than 1,600 staff, it is the biggest duty station outside of United Nations Headquarters in New York. There are many UN system entities with a presence in Geneva.

UN Office in Vienna (UNOV)

The UN Office in Vienna performs representation and liaison functions with permanent missions to the United Nations (Vienna), the host Government and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations in Vienna. There are many UN system entities with a presence in Vienna.

The Hague, International City of Peace and Justice

The Hague is the International City of Peace and Justice. There are 160 international organisations in The Hague, employing around

14,000 people dedicated to the cause of world peace. The seat of the **International Court of Justice** is at the Peace Palace in The Hague. Of the six principal organs of the United Nations, it is the only one not located in New York.

Economic Commission for Europe (ECE)

The major aim of the **Economic Commission for Europe (ECE)**, which has its Headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland, is to promote pan-European economic integration. To do so, it brings together **56 countries** that are part of the European Union, non-EU Western and Eastern Europe, South-East Europe, Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) and North America. All these countries dialogue and cooperate under the aegis of UNECE on economic and sectoral issues. However, all interested United Nations member States may participate in the work of UNECE. Over 70 international professional organizations and other non-governmental organizations take part in UNECE activities.

UN Peacekeeping Operations in Europe and Central Asia

United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK)
United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP)

Secretary-General

The Secretary-General of the United Nations has **Special and Personal Representatives, Envoys and Advisers** in the European region.

Department of Political Affairs (DPA)

The UN's Department of Political Affairs works in the European region.

Department of Global Communications

There are **UN Information Centres** in the Europe and CIS region.

MIDDLE EAST

The centre of UN activity in the Middle East is Beirut, Lebanon, home to the **Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia**. In addition to ESCWA, there are also **UN political offices** in the Middle

East, and many regional and country offices of UN system entities in the Middle East and North Africa region.

Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)

The purpose of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia is to raise the level of economic activity in member countries, strengthen cooperation among them, and promote economic and social development in the region. ESCWA activities are coordinated with the divisions and main offices of the Headquarters of the UN, specialized agencies, and international and regional organizations, including the League of Arab States and its subsidiary bodies, and the Gulf Cooperation Council. ESCWA comprises 18 Arab countries in Western Asia: Bahrain, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the Sudan, the Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, the United Arab Emirates and Yemen.

United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA)

The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees is unique due to its long-standing commitment to one group of refugees. It has contributed to the welfare and human development of four generations of Palestine refugees. The Agency's services encompass education, health care, relief and social services, camp infrastructure and improvement, microfinance and emergency assistance, including in times of armed conflict. UNRWA is committed to fostering the human development of Palestine refugees by helping them to acquire knowledge and skills, lead long and healthy lives, achieve decent standards of living, and enjoy human rights to the fullest possible extent. UNRWA Headquarters and the Jordan Field Office are located in Amman, Jordan. UNRWA also works in the Gaza Strip, the West Bank, Lebanon, and Syria.

Secretary-General

The Secretary-General of the United Nations has Special and Personal Representatives, Envoys and Advisers to the Middle East region.

Department of Political Affairs (DPA)

The UN's Department of Political Affairs works on several issues and in many countries in the Middle East.

Department of Global Communications

There are 9 UN Information Centres in the Arab States.



The United Nations works for peace and progress. But there is so little peace in the world today. Do we really need the UN?

The world has fought several wars since World War II. Luckily, none of them turned into devastating world wars. There is general agreement that the UN's campaign for peace and disarmament have played a key role in this regard. Many people feel that the UN should be made stronger to stop smaller wars and have its decisions fully carried out. But the effectiveness of UN actions depends on the political will of the Member States - on their readiness to respect the decisions they have collectively taken. Also, these operations are costly. Because of a lack of funds, the UN is often unable to play a greater role.

The strength of the UN comes from its refusal to give up, even in the face of the stiffest challenge. When countries at war do not have the political will to stop, the UN sometimes has to withdraw its peacekeeping troops. But it continues its work through diplomacy and negotiations, by constantly speaking with the parties concerned. When better conditions are created, the peacekeepers generally return. The world still has a long way to go before it can ensure peace and justice for everyone. Wars, poverty and human rights violations are still widespread. And, that's precisely why there is a need for the UN to continue to operate. It has been said that, if the UN did not exist, the countries of the world would have to create another organization, maybe with another name, to do exactly what the UN does.

CHAPTER 5

Success of United Nations So Far

The United Nations Charter first took effect on October 24, 1945. Since 1948, that day is being celebrated as United Nations Day or UN Day. This day is used as an occasion to celebrate the UN and its values: spreading democracy, promoting peace, combating world hunger and other sweeping noble missions. This chapter will detail ten accomplishments that the UN has actually achieved in the 70+ years of its tenure.

1. Saving the Pyramids

UNESCO, the U.N.'s cultural agency, has a list of World Heritage Sites that it deems culturally significant and takes steps towards preserving or protecting these Sites. The area around the Giza Pyramids and Sphinx in Egypt is one such site. When construction began on an eight-lane highway a mile south of the Sphinx and three great pyramids in 1995, the impending change threatened the architectural site and its ancient structures. UNESCO dispatched an expert mission to Egypt to meet with government authorities about diverting the highway, which the officials agreed to do.



2. Eradicating Smallpox

The World Health Organization led the global effort to eradicate the smallpox. By 1980, after almost 13 years of an immunization campaign, the WHO declared smallpox extinct.



TIME magazine, reported on its campaign in 1977:

“Unlike other viral diseases transmitted by insects, birds or mammals, smallpox is spread by man himself. Because of this distinctive characteristic of smallpox, WHO officials realized at the

start of their ambitious program in 1967 that they had to locate every victim, keep all of them totally isolated during the infectious period and inoculate as many people as possible in the vicinity. These were formidable goals, and many health authorities were openly sceptical that they could be achieved during WHO'S self-imposed timetable of only ten years."

"To administer it effectively—not always an easy task in areas where modern medicine is virtually unknown—WHO used a simple two-pronged needle developed by Wyeth Laboratories. It held just a single drop of vaccine between the points and could be used to make 15 quick jabs into the skin—a nearly foolproof technique that almost anyone could master."

3. Protecting the Ozone layer

In 1987, the UNEP sponsored a conference of 24 nations to pledge to take action against the deterioration of the ozone layer at the time. After nearly five years of talks, the group produced the Montreal Protocol — a treaty to reduce the emissions of chlorofluorocarbons, or CFCs, on a broad scale.



That week, TIME magazine reported:

"To paraphrase that famous remark about the weather, everyone talks about the ozone layer, but no one does anything about it. Though evidence has mounted that man-made compounds called chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) are destroying the screen of ozone-enriched air that helps shield the earth from the sun's dangerous radiation, the world's nations have been slow to develop a consensus on how to cope with the problem."

"Last week the world, or at least a part of it, finally did something. At a conference in Montreal sponsored by the United Nations Environment Program, 24 countries signed a milestone accord that promised to halve the production and use of ozone-destroying chemicals by 1999. "There has never been an agreement like this on a global scale," exulted Winfried Lang of Austria, Chairman of the Conference. Said Lee Thomas, administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency: "The

signing shows an unprecedented degree of cooperation among nations of the world in balancing economic development and environmental protection.”

In an era where climate change is becoming increasingly dire, the agreement is still hailed as a success in environmental protection.

4. Helping Save the Lives of 90 Million Children

UNICEF is a broader example, but merits acknowledgment on any list of UN successes. Created in 1946, the United Nations Children’s Fund works for the rights of children, and has won the Nobel Peace Prize less than two years after it was founded. Its efforts have steadily increased since. In its last annual report, the fund states that it has helped save over 90 million children since 1990.



5. Promoting Arms Control

The U.N. was founded with goals of promoting non-violence. The resolutions of disarmament proposed in UN General Assembly and discussed by the five permanent members of the Security Council played an instrumental role in the lead-up to the 1968 Treaty on Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.



On March 22, 1968, TIME described the Treaty and the U.N.’s role:

“The treaty permits the three nuclear-power members of the disarmament committee—the U.S., Russia and Britain—to continue their own development of nuclear power for whatever use, looking forward to the eventual possibility of disarmament. It binds them, however, to insure that peaceful benefits deriving from their nuclear programs will be passed on to non-nuclear countries that sign the treaty. To safeguard non-nuclear signers against non-signers who have nuclear power or aspire to it, the treaty provides assurances. Under it, any non-nuclear member that

feels itself threatened can notify the U.N. Security Council and, at the same time, request immediate help from either the U.S. or Russia”.

Ultimately, the NPT did not eradicate nuclear weapons—but it moved UN efforts forward significantly, securing a commitment of responsibility from major world powers.

6. Peace

Thanks in part to UN conflict resolution and peacekeeping initiatives, the number of people dying in conflicts has declined rapidly since 1945. Worldwide, fewer people died in conflict in the first decade of the 21st century than any decade in the 20th century.



7. Ending famine

The world is an unequal place, with large parts beset by poverty and hunger, and thousands still die of malnourishment every year. But as with war, the numbers have fallen from the 20th century, when more than 70 million died from famine. Again, intervention by the UN’s World Food Programme, Food and Agriculture Organisation and UN-sponsored emergency aid management can take some of the credit.



8. Protecting the Galapagos Islands

..... and 1,000 other World Heritage sites. Since the Islands became one of 12 initial sites named by the UN cultural organisation UNESCO in 1978, its listings have become the international benchmark for the protection of the world’s most important natural and historic places. That has allowed tourism and its economic benefits to develop in step with conservation.



Protecting the Environment

The natural world around us is a fragile place that requires care, respect and knowledge by all people in all nations. Air pollution, waterborne diseases, toxic chemicals and natural disasters are just some of the challenges the environment presents for mankind. The UN plays a key role in shaping international action to protect our environment, and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) leads its global efforts.



9. Safe Drinking Water

Water is such a basic necessity that it is often called the source of life. When contaminated, water can become dangerous and cause serious illnesses. In many countries, people have limited access to safe drinking water. As a result, at least 4 million children die every year in developing countries from water-borne diseases. In 1980, the United Nations launched an international campaign to bring safe drinking water to everyone by the year 2000. This campaign has already brought safe drinking water to over 1.3 billion people worldwide. Another 1.9 billion people have been helped with sanitation facilities.



Are we all connected? If so, how?

The environment is everything that surrounds us. It is the air we breathe, the water we drink, the soil that grows our food, and all living beings. Development is what we do with these resources to improve our lives. Globally, we do things that we think will make our lives better, but everything we do changes us and our environment. Sometimes we do not see how we are connected to the Earth and to each other, but the connections exist. Medicines that save lives in Germany, may depend on plants that grow in the forests of Costa Rica. Pollution from automobiles in London or Mexico City may

affect the climate in Rabat or Tokyo. We now know that carbon dioxide and other gases from factories and cars cause the temperature to heat up. This rise in temperature may change the world's climate. Forests help free the air of carbon dioxide, but many forests are being cut down for their wood or to clear land for farms. Crushing poverty and growing populations also create great pressure on the environment. When land and forests, which provide food, natural resources and employment, are exhausted, people find it harder, and sometimes impossible, to survive. Many go to cities, crowding into unhealthy and unsafe slums.

CHAPTER 6

United Nations and the Nobel Peace Prize

The United Nations, its specialised agencies, related agencies, funds, programmes and staff have been awarded the prestigious Nobel Peace Prize eleven times. The UN agency, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has received the famous prize in both 1954 and 1981.

Two Secretaries-General, Kofi Annan and Dag Hammarskjöld, were also honoured for their work by the Norwegian Nobel Committee. After being awarded the prize jointly with the world body, Secretary-General Kofi Annan in 2001 told UN staff he hoped that winning the prize *"will urge us forward and encourage all of us to tackle our tasks with even greater determination"*.

What is the Nobel Peace Prize?



Alfred Nobel, a Swedish scientist, in his will established five Nobel prizes in 1895. The prizes were to be awarded to those who made outstanding contributions for humanity in Chemistry, Literature, peace, Physics,

Physiology or Medicine, and Economics. The Peace Prize was to be awarded to the person who had done most for "fraternity between nations, for the abolition or reduction of standing armies and for the holding and promotion of peace congresses". The world's most prestigious award, is announced annually, and awarded on 10 December in Oslo City Hall.

UN Nobel Laureates

1950

Ralph Bunche received the 1950 Nobel Peace Prize for his late 1940s work as a United Nations mediator in the Palestine conflict. He was the first African American and person of colour to be so honoured in the history of the prize.

1954

The prize was awarded to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in appreciation of its work in bringing relief and aid to the countless refugees and displaced persons to be found in Europe during the immediate post-war years. UNHCR began its work in 1951 and has sought to bring assistance to the refugees and to help the authorities understand their problems.

1961

Dag Hammarskjöld, Second Secretary-General of the United Nations was awarded the Peace Prize posthumously (after his death) for his efforts to promote the ideals of United Nations. He fought for the creation of peace and goodwill among nations and men.

1965

UN specialized agency, UNICEF, received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1965. UNICEF, through its actions proved that compassion does not have any boundaries. Their work formed a link between the rich and poor countries.

1969

The International Labour Organization was awarded the Peace Prize since it had promoted fraternity among nations by ensuring social justice. Beneath the foundation stone of the ILO's main office in Geneva lies a document on which is written: *'Si vis pacem, cole justitiam. If you desire peace, cultivate justice.'*

1981

UNHCR was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1981 for their humanitarian and diplomatic activities. They provided international protection for refugees by maintaining their right of asylum and seeking to prevent any forced return to the country from which they had fled.

1988

The Nobel Committee awarded the prize because the peacekeeping forces of the United Nations had, under extremely difficult conditions, contributed to reducing tensions where an armistice had been negotiated but a peace treaty had yet to be established.

2001

The United Nations and its Secretary-General Kofi Annan were chosen to receive the prize for their work for a better organized and more peaceful world.

2005

The Nobel Committee selected the IAEA and its Director General Mohamed ElBaradei as the recipients of the 2005 Nobel Peace Prize due to their efforts to prevent nuclear energy from being used for military purposes and to ensure that nuclear energy for peaceful purposes is used in the safest possible way.

2007

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and Albert Arnold (Al) Gore Jr. were been awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for their efforts to build up and disseminate greater knowledge about man-made climate change, and to lay the foundations for the measures that are needed to counteract such change. The Nobel Committee decided that the Prize is to be shared, in two equal parts, between the IPCC and Al Gore.

2013

The Nobel Peace Prize in 2013 was awarded to the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons for its extensive efforts to eliminate chemical weapons. OPCW's Director-General Ahmet Üzümcü said the award will only spur the organisation's efforts, commitment and dedication.



What do the winners of the Nobel prize receive?

The Nobel prize is not only the most prestigious international award (since 1901), but winners also receive an 19-carat gold medal and a cheque of 8 million Swedish Kroner (approx. US\$ 850 million; approx. INR 6 crores).

CHAPTER 7

Some More Information About the UN

As part of its ongoing global efforts to improve situation on the various issues facing us today, the United Nations along with the Member States, set up the Millennium Development Goals, and subsequently the Sustainable Development Goals.

Millennium Development Goals



The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) were eight international development goals that had been established at the Millennium Summit of the United Nations in 2000. These call for national action, and international cooperation to provide food, education, healthcare and economic opportunities to children, women, and men globally. All 191 United Nations member states at that time, and 22 international organizations committed to help achieve the MDG's by 2015.

What are the eight goals?

These eight goals were:

1. To eradicate extreme poverty and hunger
2. To achieve universal primary education
3. To promote gender equality and empower women
4. To reduce child mortality
5. To improve maternal health
6. To combat HIV/AIDS, malaria, and other diseases
7. To ensure environmental sustainability
8. To develop a global partnership for development



Success achieved by the MDG's

- Extreme poverty had been reduced, falling from almost half the developing world population in 1990 to around 14%;
- Previous disparities between boys' and girls' enrolment in primary education did not exist on average for the developing world;
- Between 2000 and 2013, tuberculosis prevention, diagnosis and treatment interventions saved approx.. 37 million lives;
- More than two and a half billion people gained access to clean drinking water since 1990.

Sustainable Development Goals

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), officially known as Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, is a set of 17 global goals with 169 targets that cover a broad range of sustainable development issues and address urgent global challenges over the next 15 years. These range from ending poverty and hunger, improving health and education, combating climate change to protecting oceans and forests.

What are these goals?	Why do we need these goals?	Who are part of these goals?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •The goals set in the agenda, is a road map for people to ensure sustainable social and economic progress around the world. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •These goals are to integrate and balance the 3 dimensions of sustainable development - Economic, Social and Environmental - in a comprehensive global vision. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •These goals apply to all societies, even the wealthiest countries. All nations are being requested to build these goals into their national policies and plans.



The 17 Sustainable Development Goals

CHAPTER 8

India and the United Nations



UN Security Council:

India has been seeking a permanent seat on the United Nations Security Council. All members of the G4 (an organization composed of Brazil, Germany, Japan, and India), are currently seeking permanent representation. According to the G4 proposal, the UN Security Council should be expanded beyond the current fifteen members to include twenty-five members. If this actually happens, it would be the first time permanent Security Council status is extended to a South Asian nation and supporters of the G4 plan suggest that this will lead to greater representation of developing nations rather than the current major powers.

UN Budget:

India is a contributor to the UN budget. India's scale of assessment is 0.834% to the regular UN budget, and is at 24th place in the list of highest contributors. For 2019-2021, India needs to contribute US\$ 23.253 million (Rs. 163 crores, approx.). India's contribution to the UN budget in fiscal year 2014-2015 was Rs. 157 crores. In 2015-16, India's contribution rose to Rs. 244 crores, which was a 55% increase. India also contributes to other UN agencies like UNDP, UNICEF, UNEP etc. Among the BRICS nations (acronym for countries of Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa). India's contribution is more than only South Africa.

Peacekeeping missions:

India is the third largest contributor of troops to United Nations peacekeeping missions. India has contributed nearly 160,000 troops, the largest number from any country, participated in more than 43 missions and 156 Indian peacekeepers have made the supreme sacrifice while serving in UN missions. India has also provided and continues to provide eminent Force Commanders for UN Missions.

Posts held by India at United Nations:

- Vijaya Lakshmi Pandit, was the first Indian representative to the United Nations of free India. Vijaya Lakshmi Pandit was elected the first woman President of the UN General Assembly;
- Hansa Mehta, the Indian delegate to the United Nations Human Rights Commission, was responsible for changing the language of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights from “all men” are born free and equal in dignity and rights to “all human beings”;
- Dalveer Bhandari, appointed in 2012 is an Indian judge currently appointed at the International Court of Justice;
- Shakti Devi, is the recipient of the UN International Female Peacekeeper Award in 2014.
- Ambassador Gharekhan, served as President of the Security Council in 1991;
- Sir A. Ramaswamy Mudaliar was first president of the United Nations Economic and Social Council.



- India, is one of the countries that voted against the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT);
- India publishes more human development reports than any other country. The reports provide insights even at the district level;
- On 30 January, 1948, the morning of the assassination of Mahatma Gandhi, the UN Security Council held a silent tribute to his memory;
- The Record for the longest ever speech in the United Nations Security Council is held by India's **Krishna Menon**. On 23rd

January 1957, he delivered an unparalleled eight-hour speech while defending India's stand on Kashmir;

- India is represented at the United Nations by Syed Akbaruddin, who was appointed in January 2016. As the Permanent Representative of India, he is head of the diplomatic mission to the United Nations in New York City, and is appointed by the President of India.

USO and the United Nations

United Schools Organisation of India (USO) was established in 1951, with an aim to promote teachings about the United Nations, among the youth. Started by Late Mr. Jiya Lal Jain, USO is one of the oldest non-government organizations in India with a mandate of advancing the social, cultural, and moral standards of school teachers and students across India to global standards. One such way is providing exposure to United Nations by means of the UN Information Test held annually. Several United Nations officials, including United Nations Information Centre (UNIC) Directors have presided over meetings and attended USO's numerous Conferences and Seminars. With an aim to imbibe peace education among schools in India, several UN ideals are constantly highlighted in various events and conferences organized by USO.



- The first UN Information Test was held 1958;
- So far, more than 6.5 million students all-over India have participated in our tests;
- USO awards cash prizes to students who secure 1st, 2nd, 3rd prizes nationally. To date, USO has awarded Rs. 10 million to school students as cash prizes;
- Year-to-date, 5 million books have been published by USO to promote the teachings about the United Nations;
- UN Information Test Results are declared every year on UN Day, 24 October;
- The Asian edition of UN Chronicle was printed by USO (on behalf of the UN) and circulated nationally.

Sample Questions

Choose the right answer:

1. What does the 'A' in IFAD stand for?
a) Atomic (b) Agricultural (c) Army (d) Artificial Intelligence
2. All member states of the United Nations are members of the General Assembly.
a) True (b) False
3. In which city, is the centre of United Nations activity in South America?
a) Columbia (b) Buenos Aires (c) Santiago (d) Lima
4. In which city was the UN Charter signed?
a) Paris (b) San Francisco (c) New York (d) Washington DC
5. What is the head of Diplomatic Mission of India to the United Nations called?
a) Ambassador (b) Permanent Representative
(c) Council General (d) Attache General
6. When shall the results of USO organised – 61st National UN Information Test be declared?
a) October 2 (b) October 24 (c) August 15 (d) October 30
7. Which of the following is not an official language of the United Nations?
a) German (b) Hindi (c) Both of these (d) None of these
8. How many goals were adopted in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development?
a) 13 (b) 15 (c) 17 (d) 19
9. The Secretary General of United Nations _____ appointed based on geographical rotation, but _____ from the five permanent Security Council member states.
a) is / not (b) is not / can be
(c) may be / not (d) may not be / can be
10. What does the 'W' in UNRWA stand for?
a) World (b) Women (c) Works (d) Welfare
11. Which specialized agency reports only to UN General Assembly?
a) World Bank (b) UNRWA (c) UNESCO (d) IMF
12. UN officials are not exempt from taxation on salaries paid to them.
a) True (b) False

PHOTO GALLERY



1.1 Eleanor Roosevelt with Universal Declaration of Human Rights



***1.2 Mr. António Guterres (Portugal) present Secretary General
Term of office: 2017 – to date***



**Trygve Lie
(Norway)**

Term of office 1946-1952



**Dag Hammarskjöld
(Sweden)**

Term of office 1953-1961



**U Thant
(Myanmar)**

Term of office 1961-1971



**Kurt Waldheim
(Austria)**

Term of office 1972-1981



**Javier Pérez de Cuellar
(Peru)**

Term of office 1982-1991



**Boutros Boutros Ghali
(Egypt)**

Term of office 1992-1996



**Kofi Annan
(Ghana)**

Term of office 1997-2006



**Ban Ki-moon
(Korea)**

Term of office 2007-2016

1.3 Previous Secretaries-General of United Nations and terms of office



1.4 United Nations Stamp



1.5 United Nations General Assembly



1.6 United Nations Security Council



1.7 UN Flag



1.8 UN Official Language Speakers

Founder Author
LATE Mr. JIYA LAL JAIN

Revised by
Ms. NINA JAIN



UNITED SCHOOLS ORGANISATION OF INDIA

USO House, USO Road, 6 Special Institutional Area, New Delhi-110067, INDIA

Tel : +91 11 4106 8486, +91 11 4165 1103, +91 11 4010 8825, +91 11 4010 8835,

Mob. +91 98100 46619, E-mail : info@usoindia.org, tests@usoindia.org, Web : www.usoindia.org