

Part I: Introduction of the United Nations

Why it was created:

The United Nations (UN) was established on October 24, 1945, in the aftermath of World War II. Its primary objective is to maintain international peace and security, foster cooperation among nations, and promote social progress and better living standards. The horrors of two World Wars highlighted the need for an organization that could prevent conflicts, facilitate dialogue, and address global challenges.

Membership:

United Nations has 193 member states. Membership is open to all sovereign states that are willing to accept the obligations outlined in the UN Charter.

League of Nations: Predecessor and Failure

League of Nations was established on January 10, 1920, following the conclusion of World War I, under the Treaty of Versailles. The primary aim was to prevent future conflicts through collective security and diplomatic cooperation among nations. It was established after World War I but failed to prevent the outbreak of World War II due to various reasons:

Absence of Major Powers:

The United States, despite being a key architect of the League, did not join due to concerns about compromising its sovereignty and the U.S. Senate's reluctance to ratify the Treaty of Versailles. The absence of other major powers, such as the Soviet Union for a significant period, weakened the League's ability to enforce its decisions on a global scale.

Limited Effectiveness in Conflict Resolution

The League struggled to address and resolve major conflicts, including the Manchurian and Abyssinian crises. Its inability to prevent these conflicts eroded confidence in its effectiveness.

National Interests Prevailing

Member states frequently prioritized their own national interests over collective security. The League's inability to compel powerful nations to act against their interests contributed to its ineffectiveness.

Objectives and Charter Articles:

The objectives of the United Nations, as outlined in its Charter, include maintaining international peace and security, promoting friendly relations among nations, achieving international cooperation in solving global problems, and encouraging respect for human rights. Key articles in the UN Charter that highlight these objectives include Articles 1 and 2.

Part II: Main Organs of the United Nations

- **The Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)**

Is one of the six main organs of the United Nations, established to promote international economic and social cooperation and development. ECOSOC plays a crucial role in addressing a wide range of global challenges and advancing the UN's development agenda. Here are the key areas in which ECOSOC works (Coordination of UN Agencies, Economic Development, Social Development, Humanitarian Affairs, Environmental Sustainability, Trade and Development, Global Health, Human Rights, Capacity Building). 54 members of ECOSOC rotate after every 03 years.

- **The Trusteeship Council**

Is one of the principal organs of the United Nations, established to oversee the administration of trust territories and ensure that the interests of their inhabitants were promoted until they were deemed ready for self-government. The Trusteeship Council played a significant role in

facilitating the decolonization process by overseeing the transition of trust territories to **self-government** or **independence**. The council aimed to prepare these territories for responsible self-government and eventual independence.

The Trusteeship System was outlined in Chapter XIII of the UN Charter. While the Trusteeship Council played a crucial role during the mid-20th century, it has since become inactive as all trust territories achieved self-determination.

- **Secretariat**

Led by the Secretary-General, appointed by the General Assembly on the recommendation of the Security Council (Tenure 05 years). The Secretariat carries out the day-to-day work of the UN, including implementing decisions, coordinating activities, and managing peacekeeping operation.

- **The International Court of Justice**

The International Court of Justice (ICJ) is the principal judicial organ of the United Nations. It is commonly referred to as the World Court. The ICJ was established to **settle legal disputes between states** and to **provide advisory opinions on legal questions** referred to it by the UN General Assembly, the UN Security Council, or other UN organs and specialized agencies. Here are the detailed functions of the International Court of Justice.

The primary function of the ICJ is to settle legal disputes between states. States may bring cases to the ICJ voluntarily by accepting its jurisdiction or by including a clause in their treaties or conventions stipulating that dispute will be referred to the Court.

- **The General Assembly**

It is the largest organ of the UN. Comprising of 193 states (All UN members represented here). Every member has 01 vote on the “Resolutions/decisions” of the GA. The General Assembly serves as a forum for member states to discuss and coordinate on international issues, make recommendations, addressing global concerns and promoting cooperation.

Types of Resolutions/decisions by the General Assembly:

- i. Disarmament Issues (Addresses global disarmament and arms control measures) + nuclear weapons: Discusses the prevention of nuclear weapons proliferation and disarmament.
- ii. Economic development, international trade, sustainable development (SDG 2030).
- iii. Human rights, social issues (gender equality)
- iv. Special political issues that require attention.
- v. Budget and administration of the UN itself.
- vi. Issues related to the development and codification of international law.

- **Security Council**

The Security Council consists of 15 members, including five permanent members with veto power (China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United States) and ten non-permanent members elected for two-year terms. The non-permanent members are chosen based on regional representation, ensuring equitable distribution.

The primary function of the Security Council, as outlined in the UN Charter, is to maintain international peace and security:

- **Peacekeeping Operations**: Authorizing the deployment of UN peacekeeping forces to conflict zones (Peacekeeping forces contributed by Member states [Army and Police Personnel])
- **Sanctions**: Imposing economic on states or entities to address threats to peace.
- **Conflict Resolution**: Mediating and resolving conflicts between states or within regions.
- **Advisory Opinions**: Issuing advisory opinions on legal questions referred to it by the General Assembly, as well as specialized UN agencies.

Voting Procedure: The Security Council operates on the principle of collective decision-making. Decisions require the affirmative votes of at least **09 of the 15** members. However, a unique aspect of the Security Council is the veto power held by the five permanent members (**VETO**). The veto power allows any of the five permanent members to block the adoption of a resolution, regardless of the number of affirmative votes from other members. If any one of the P5 members votes against a resolution, it is not adopted, even if it receives the required number of affirmative votes

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