

Current Affairs (Osg.)

Question: Discuss in detail the structure of the United Nations. Do you believe that the United Nations have the capacity to fulfil the goals of promoting a more united, peaceful, and free world? Explain your answer with logical analysis and examples supporting your arguments?

Introduction

The United Nations Organization (UNO) stands as a beacon of international cooperation, striving for peace, equality, and sustainable development on a global scale. Since its establishment in 1945, the UNO has been instrumental in addressing pressing issues ranging from conflict resolution to climate change, championing the rights and dignity of every individual across borders. With its diverse membership, the UNO serves as a platform for dialogue and action, shaping a prosperous world for generations to come.

Preamble

The UNO was the second multipurpose international organization established in the 20th century. Its predecessor, the League of Nations, was created by the Treaty of Versailles in 1919 and disbanded in 1946. Headquartered in New York City, the UN also has regional offices in Geneva, Vienna, and Nairobi. Its official languages are Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian, and Spanish. It has 193 member countries.

Objectives

According to its charter, the UN aims:

“ To save succeeding generations from the scourge of war, to reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights, to establish conditions under which justice and respect for the obligations arising from treaties and other sources of international law can be maintained, and to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom.”

⇒ Organizational structure

According to UN Charter, Chapter III: Organs Article 7; These are established as principal organs of the United Nations:

1. A General Assembly
2. A Security Council
3. An Economic and Social Council
4. A Trusteeship Council
5. An International Court of Justice
6. A Secretariat

Such subsidiary organs as may be found necessary may be established in accordance with the present Charter.

1: A General Assembly:-

The UN General Assembly is the main organ of the six principal organs of the United Nations.

Composition:-

According to article 9 of Chapter IV :

- The General Assembly shall consists of all the members (193) of the UN.
- Each state has One vote.

b. Purpose :-

- Forum for member states to discuss global issues.
- Deliberate on matters of international peace, security, and development

c. Functions :-

- Adopts resolutions and decision on various topics.
- Elects non-permanent members to the security council.
- Oversees the work of other UN organs and agencies.

d. Sessions :-

- Annual session held in September
- Member states deliver speeches, engage in debates and adopt resolutions.

e. Voting :-

- Each member have One vote.
- Some decisions require a two-third majority.

2: A Security Council :-

According to
Chapter V: The Security Council (Article 23-32).

a. mandate :-

The primary mandate of the United Nations Security Council is to maintain international peace and security. It achieves this through various means:

- **Peacekeeping**: sends peacekeeping mission to conflict zones and maintain stability.
- **Sanctions**: impose sanctions (economic and diplomatic) on countries that threaten peace and security.
e.g. sanctions on Iran, ceasefire on Rwanda, Somalia, Kosovo etc.
- **Conflict Resolution**: initiate investigation (preemptive approach) to an issues which might lead to international conflict.
- **Peacebuilding**: Recommends methods and terms of settlement.

b. Composition :-

The United Nation Security Council consists of 15 members:

- Five Permanent members (PS) : China, France, Russia, U.K, U.S.A.
- Ten Non-Permanent members ; Elected for two-year terms by the General Assembly

2. Voting :-

In the UN Security Council, each member has one vote. However, the five permanent members (PS) hold the power of veto. This means that any substantive resolution or decision can be blocked if any of the PS members cast a negative vote, regardless of the level of support from other members.

3: An Economic and Social Council

The Economic and Social Council is responsible for promoting international economic and social cooperation and development.

- It consists of 54 member states.
- Rotate after every 3 years.
- Elected by the General Assembly.

4: Trusteeship Council

The Trusteeship Council is established to oversee the administration of Trust Territories. However, since 1994, when Palau, the last remaining Trust Territory, became independent, the Trusteeship Council has had a dormant role. It meets infrequently to hear reports from the administering authorities of former Trust Territories and is essentially inactive.

5: International Court of Justice

It established to settle legal disputes between states and offers advisory opinion on legal matters. It consists of 15 judges elected for nine-year terms by the UN General Assembly and the Security Council.

6: Secretariat:-

The Secretariat is the administrative arm of the United Nations led by the Secretary-General. It supports the organization's operations, implement decisions, and provides administrative service playing a crucial role.

UN Capabilities in Promoting Unity, Peace, & Freedom

The UN possesses the capacity to contribute significantly to promoting a more peaceful world, it depends on several factors:

1. Global Cooperation:-

UN's capacity to promote a more united, peaceful world hinges on its ability to foster cooperation among its diverse member states. It provides a platform for member states to engage in dialogue, facilitating diplomatic efforts to resolve conflict.

Example: The Iran nuclear deal negotiated by the UN Security Council and the JCPOA aimed at curbing Iran's nuclear program demonstrate successful diplomatic initiative.

2. Peacekeeping and Conflict Resolution:-

The UN capacity to maintain peace and resolve conflicts relies on its peacekeeping operations.

Example: UN peacekeeping mission, such as those in Cyprus, Kosovo, and Liberia, have contributed to stabilizing conflict-affected regions, protecting civilians, and facilitating political transitions.

3: Promotion of Human Rights

The UN plays crucial role in promoting and protecting human rights globally through various mechanisms, including:

- **Human Rights Council:** The UN Human Rights Council monitors human rights violations worldwide. e.g. the Council's scrutiny of human rights abuses in Myanmar and Syria highlights its role in promoting justice.

4: Development & Poverty Reduction

The UN's efforts to promote sustainable development and alleviate poverty are vital for creating a more equitable and prosperous world.

Example: UN agencies, such as the United

Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the World Food Programme (WFP), provide vital assistance to countries in implementing development projects.

- The UN's response to humanitarian crises, such as the Ebola outbreak in West Africa and the Rohingya refugee crisis, illustrates its commitment to saving lives and promoting human dignity.

Conclusion

The United Nations has the capacity to fulfill its goals of promoting a more united, peaceful, and free world through diplomatic efforts, peacekeeping operations, human rights advocacy, and sustainable development initiatives, the UN plays a crucial role in addressing global challenges.