

Indian Institute of Governance - Segment D1- Knowledge

Segment I -Training is all about acquiring Knowledge which will help in gaining decision making capabilities by analysis and wisdom by learning through experience. This Segment is to connect the past & present and analyse events & people to create knowledge and skill sets, values & ethics to make a leader out of every aspirants.



United Nations

Table of Contents

Background 5

UN Charter..... 6

 Programmes and Funds..... 7

 UNDP8

 UNICEF8

 UNHCR8

 WFP8

 UNODC.....9

 UNFPA.....9

 UNCTAD9

 UNEP.....9

 UNRWA.....10

 UN Women10

 UN-Habitat10

UN Specialized Agencies..... 11

 World Bank11

 World Bank Group11

 IMF.....11

Funds, Programmes, Specialized Agencies and Others 11

UN Specialized Agencies..... 11

 WHO.....12

United Nations Operations 12

 UN Specialized Agencies..... 12

 UNESCO12

 ILO.....12

 1. **Maintain international peace and security**.....12



United Nations

UN Specialized Agencies..... 13

 FAO 13

 IFAD 13

 IMO..... 13

2. Promote Sustainable Development..... 13

UN Specialized Agencies..... 14

 WMO 14

 WIPO 14

 ICAO..... 14

 ITU 14

UN Specialized Agencies..... 15

 UNIDO 15

 UPU 15

 UNWTO 15

Other Entities..... 16

 UNAIDS 16

 UNISDR..... 16

 UNOPS 16

3. Promote and protect human rights..... 16

Related Organizations..... 17

 IAEA 17

 WTO 17

 CTBTO..... 17

Related Organizations..... 18

 OPCW..... 18

 UNDG-HRM..... 18

HRuF Initiative 19



United Nations

Legal Initiatives 20

 International Law Commission 20

 UN Treaty Database 20

4. Settling Disputes Between States..... 20

Legal Initiatives 21

 Legal Resources and Training 21

 Legal Technical Assistance for UN Member States 21

 Programme of Assistance for International Law 21

Nobel Peace Prizes to UN 22

Greatest Achievements of UN..... 22

Food aid..... 22

UN Failures – Aid to refugees 23

 Srebrenica Massacre 23

Aid to refugees 23

Protecting Children 23

Peace Keeping – Mal Practices 24

 Child Sex Abuse Scandal 24

Peacekeeping..... 24

Running Elections 25

 UN Failures - The Cold War Effect 25

Fighting AIDS 25

 UN Failures of preventing Genocide 26

 Veto Power..... 26

Preventing nuclear proliferation..... 26

Promoting Women’s Right..... 26

Eradicating Small Pox..... 26

Cleaning up Pollution..... 26



United Nations

Future plan of UN 27

Promoting Economic Reform 27

Promoting Worker Rights 27

Failures of UN..... 27

1. Khmer Rouge..... 27

2. Darfur..... 28

Future plan of UN 28

3. Terrorism 29

Future plan of UN 29

4. Srilanka 29

UN in future..... 30

Web Sources..... 30

Books on UNO..... 30



United Nations

Background

States first established international organizations to cooperate on specific matters. The International Telecommunication Union was founded in 1865 as the International Telegraph Union, and the Universal Postal Union was established in 1874. Both are now United Nations specialized agencies.

In 1899, the International Peace Conference was held in The Hague to elaborate instruments for settling crises peacefully, preventing wars and codifying rules of warfare. It adopted the Convention for the Pacific Settlement of International Disputes and established the Permanent Court of Arbitration, which began work in 1902.

The forerunner of the United Nations was the League of Nations, an organization conceived in similar circumstances during the first World War, and established in 1919 under the Treaty of Versailles "to promote international cooperation and to achieve peace and security." The International Labour Organization was also created under the Treaty of Versailles as an affiliated agency of the League. The League of Nations ceased its activities after failing to prevent the Second World War.

The name "United Nations", coined by United States President Franklin D. Roosevelt was first used in the Declaration by United Nations of 1 January 1942, during the Second World War, when representatives of 26 nations pledged their Governments to continue fighting together against the Axis Powers.

In 1945, representatives of 50 countries met in San Francisco at the United Nations Conference on International Organization to draw up the United Nations Charter. Those delegates deliberated on the basis of proposals worked out by the representatives of China, the Soviet Union, the United



The flag of the United Nations, with its white emblem on a light blue field, flies from a pole in front of UN Headquarters in New York.



UN General Assembly



United Nations

Kingdom and the United States at Dumbarton Oaks, United States in August-October 1944. The Charter was signed on 26 June 1945 by the representatives of the 50 countries. Poland, which was not represented at the Conference, signed it later and became one of the original 51 Member States.

The United Nations officially came into existence on 24 October 1945, when the Charter had been ratified by China, France, the Soviet Union, the United Kingdom, the United States and by a majority of other signatories. United Nations Day is celebrated on 24 October each year.

Current State & Structure

It is currently made up of 193 Member States. The mission and work of the United Nations are guided by the purposes and principles contained in its founding Charter.

When States become Members of the United Nations, they agree to accept the obligations of the UN Charter, an international treaty that sets out basic principles of international relations. According to the Charter, the UN has four purposes:

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

The United Nations is not a world government and it does not make laws. It does, however, provide the means to help resolve international

UN Charter

- Preamble
- Chapter I: Purposes and Principles
- Chapter II: Membership
- Chapter III: Organs
- Chapter IV: The General Assembly
- Chapter V: The Security Council
- Chapter VI: Pacific Settlement of Disputes
- Chapter VII: Action with Respect to Threats to the Peace, Breaches of the Peace and Acts of Aggression
- Chapter VIII: Regional Arrangements
- Chapter IX: International Economic and Social Co-operation
- Chapter X: The Economic and Social Council
- Chapter XI: Declaration regarding Non-Self-Governing Territories
- Chapter XII: International Trusteeship System
- Chapter XIII: The Trusteeship Council
- Chapter XIV: The International Court of Justice
- Chapter XV: The Secretariat
- Chapter XVI: Miscellaneous Provisions
- Chapter XVII: Transitional Security Arrangements
- Chapter XVIII: Amendments
- Chapter XIX: Ratification and Signature



United Nations

conflicts and formulate policies on matters affecting all of us. 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 in this process.

The United Nations has six main organs.

I. the General Assembly,

- is the main deliberative, policymaking and representative organ of the UN. All 193 Member States of the UN are represented in the General Assembly, making it the only UN body with universal representation. Each year, in September, the full UN membership meets in the General Assembly Hall in New York for the annual General Assembly session. The General Assembly, each year, elects a GA President to serve a one-year term of office.

II. the Security Council,

- has primary responsibility, under the UN Charter, for the maintenance of international peace and security. It has 15 Members (*five permanent members with veto power and ten non-permanent members, elected by the General Assembly for a two-year term*). Each Member has one vote. Under the Charter, all Member States are obligated to comply with Council decisions. The Security Council takes the lead in determining the existence of a threat to the peace or act of aggression. It calls upon the parties to a dispute to settle it by peaceful means and recommends methods of adjustment or terms of settlement. In some cases, the Security Council can resort to imposing sanctions or even authorize the use of force to

Programmes and Funds

- UNDP - The United Nations Development Programme
- UNICEF - The United Nations Children's Fund
- UNHCR - The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
- WFP - The World Food Programme
- UNODC - The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
- UNFPA - The United Nations Population Fund
- UNCTAD - The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
- UNEP - The United Nations Environment Programme
- UNRWA - The United Nations Relief and Works Agency
- UN Women
- UN-Habitat



United Nations

maintain or restore international peace and security. The Security Council has a Presidency, which rotates, and changes, every month.

III. *the Economic and Social Council,*

- The Economic and Social Council is the principal body for coordination, policy review, policy dialogue and recommendations on economic, social and environmental issues, as well as implementation of internationally agreed development goals. It serves as the central mechanism for activities of the UN system and its specialized agencies in the economic, social and environmental fields, supervising subsidiary and expert bodies. It has 54 Members, elected by the General Assembly for overlapping three-year terms. It is the United Nations' central platform for reflection, debate, and innovative thinking on sustainable development.

IV. *the Trusteeship Council* and

- The Trusteeship Council was established in 1945 by the UN Charter, under Chapter XIII, to provide international supervision for 11 Trust Territories that had been placed under the administration of 7 Member States, and ensure that adequate steps were taken to prepare the Territories for self-government and independence. By 1994, all Trust Territories had attained self-government or independence.
- The Charter authorizes the Trusteeship Council to examine and discuss reports from the Administering Authority on the political, economic, social and educational advancement of the peoples of Trust Territories; to examine

UNDP

The United Nations Development Programme is the UN's global development network, focusing on the challenges of democratic governance, poverty reduction, crisis prevention and recovery, energy and environment, and HIV/AIDS. UNDP also coordinates national and international efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals aimed at poverty reduction.

UNICEF

The United Nations Children's Fund provides long-term humanitarian and development assistance to children and mothers.

UNHCR

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees – UNHCR protects refugees worldwide and facilitates their return home or resettlement.

WFP

The World Food Programme aims to eradicate hunger and malnutrition. Every year, the UN feeds 104 million people in 80 countries. They feed people in war zones, natural disasters, health emergencies and poor countries.



United Nations

petitions from the Territories; and to undertake special missions to the Territories.

- To date, all Trust Territories have attained self-government or independence, either as separate States or by joining neighbouring independent countries. In 1994, the Security Council terminated the United Nations Trusteeship Agreement for the last of the original 11 Territories on its agenda - the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands (Palau), administered by the United States.
- The Trusteeship Council, by amending its rules of procedure, will now meet as and where occasion may require.

V. the Secretariat

- The Secretariat comprises the Secretary-General and tens of thousands of 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. The Secretary-General is chief administrative officer of the Organization, appointed by the General Assembly on the recommendation of the Security Council for a five-year, renewable term. UN staff members are recruited internationally and locally, and work in duty stations and on peacekeeping missions all around the world. But serving the cause of peace in a violent world is a dangerous occupation. Since the founding of the United Nations, hundreds of brave men and women have given their lives in its service.

UNODC

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime – UNODC helps Member States fight drugs, crime, and terrorism.

UNFPA

The United Nations Population Fund – 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.

UNCTAD

The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development is the United Nations body responsible for dealing with development issues, particularly international trade – the main driver of development.

UNEP

The United Nations Environment Programme established in 1972, is the voice for the environment within the United Nations system. UNEP acts as a catalyst, advocate, educator and facilitator to promote the wise use and sustainable development of the global environment.



United Nations

- is organized along departmental lines, with each department or office having a distinct area of action and responsibility.

All the above five UN organs are based at UN Headquarters in New York.

VI. *The International Court of Justice*

- is located at the Peace Palace in Hague (Netherlands).
- The International Court of Justice is the principal judicial organ of the United Nations. The Court's role is to settle, in accordance with international law, legal disputes submitted to it by States and to give advisory opinions on legal questions referred to it by authorized United Nations organs and specialized agencies.
- The Court is composed of 15 judges, who are elected for terms of office of nine years by the United Nations General Assembly and the Security Council. It is assisted by a Registry, its administrative organ. Its official languages are English and French

Due to the powers vested in its Charter and its unique international character, the United Nations can take action on the issues confronting humanity in the 21st century, such as peace and security, climate change, sustainable development, human rights, disarmament, terrorism, humanitarian and health emergencies, gender equality, governance, food production, and more.

The UN also provides a forum for its members to express their views in the General Assembly, the Security Council, the Economic and Social Council, and other bodies and committees. By enabling dialogue between

[UNRWA](#)

The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees 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.

[UN Women](#)

UN Women merges and builds on the important work of four previously distinct parts of the UN system, which focus exclusively on gender equality and women's empowerment.

[UN-Habitat](#)

The mission of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme is to promote socially and environmentally sustainable human settlements development and the achievement of adequate shelter for all.



United Nations

its members, and by hosting negotiations, the Organization has become a mechanism for governments to find areas of agreement and solve problems together.

There are six official languages of the UN. These are Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish. The correct interpretation and translation of these six languages, in both spoken and written form, is very important to the work of the Organization, because this enables clear and concise communication on issues of global importance.

Funds, Programmes, Specialized Agencies and

Others

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

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 First World War. Some were associated with the League of Nations. Others were created almost simultaneously with the UN. Others were created by the UN to meet emerging needs.

UN Specialized Agencies

World Bank

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

World Bank Group

- 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)

IMF

The International Monetary

Fund 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.



United Nations

United Nations Operations

1. 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.

- 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.

Current State: There are 16 UN peacekeeping operations currently deployed and there have been a total of 69 deployed since 1948.

UN Specialized Agencies

WHO

The World Health Organization is responsible for global vaccination campaigns, responding to public health emergencies, defending against pandemic influenza, and leading the way for eradication campaigns against life-threatening diseases like polio and malaria.

UNESCO

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural

Organization 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 travelers and future generations.

ILO

The International Labor

Organization promotes international labor rights by formulating international standards on the freedom to associate, collective bargaining, the abolition of forced labor, and equality of opportunity and treatment.



United Nations

- Peace Building

United Nations peace building 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.

- Countering Terrorism

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 UN, supported by the Office for Disarmament Affairs, work for the disarmament and non-proliferation of nuclear, chemical, biological and other weapons of mass destruction, and conventional weapons.

2. Promote Sustainable Development

- The Millennium Development Goals

In September 2000, world leaders committed their nations to achieving eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by 2015. These goals range from halving extreme poverty to halting the spread of HIV/AIDS and providing universal primary education. To attain them, the Secretary-General has launched different initiatives, including the Zero Hunger Challenge and Every Woman, Every Child.

UN Specialized Agencies

FAO

The Food and Agriculture

Organization leads international efforts to fight hunger. It is both a forum for negotiating agreements between developing and developed countries and a source of technical knowledge and information to aid development.

IFAD

The International Fund for

Agricultural Development, since it was created in 1977, has focused 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.

IMO

The International Maritime

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



United Nations

Current State: Great progress has been made in reaching many of these goals, but much more needs to be done.

- Climate Change

The UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change has warned of the increasing dangers of climate change and has spoken of the urgency to find solutions before it is too late. At the present rate, greenhouse gas emissions are rising and the world is on a path to raise the global average temperature by more than three degrees Celsius this century. The world is already experiencing the impacts of climate change, from sea-level rise to melting glaciers, to more extreme weather patterns. Sustainability is an important part of counteracting 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. To address climate change, Secretary General Ban Ki-moon has launched a number of initiatives, including Sustainable Energy for All, that is working to help people access clean energy, improve energy efficiency and increase their use of renewable sources of energy.

Current State: The UNFCCC Secretariat is supporting efforts to reach a new universal climate change agreement in Paris in 2015. 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 and catalysing action in advance of the Paris meeting in 2015.

UN Specialized Agencies

WMO

The World Meteorological

Organization facilitates the free international exchange of meteorological data and information and the furtherance of its use in aviation, shipping, security, and agriculture, among other things.

WIPO

The World Intellectual Property

Organization protects intellectual property throughout the world through 23 international treaties.

ICAO

The International Civilian Aviation Organization sets international rules on air navigation, the investigation of air accidents, and aerial border-crossing procedures

ITU

The International Telecommunication Union is the United Nations specialized agency for information and communication technologies. It is committed to connecting the entire world's people – wherever they live and whatever their means. Through our work, we protect and support everyone's fundamental right to communicate.



United Nations

- 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.

Current State: A conference in 2015, near the site of the devastating earthquake and tsunami in Japan, will advance actions to reduce the risks from disasters. To learn more, visit the portal for the post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction.

- 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.

- UN Agencies involved in this area

Many UN agencies work on specific aspects of development, such as the World Health Organization, the Food and Agriculture

UN Specialized Agencies

UNIDO

The United Nations Industrial Development Organization is the specialized agency of the United Nations that promotes industrial development for poverty reduction, inclusive globalization and environmental sustainability.

UPU

The Universal Postal Union 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.

UNWTO

The World Tourism Organization is the United Nations agency responsible for the promotion of responsible, sustainable and universally accessible tourism.



United Nations

Organization, UNICEF, UNESCO and the UN Environment Programme.

- *UN bodies promoting development*

The General Assembly's Second Committee (Economic and Financial) deals with issues relating to economic growth, human settlements, poverty eradication, globalization and information and communication technologies.

3. Promote and protect human rights

- *The International Bill of 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 so-called 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.

- *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.

- *Human Rights Treaty Bodies*

The human rights treaty bodies are committees of independent experts that monitor implementation of the core international

Other Entities

UNAIDS

The Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS is co-sponsored by 10 UN system agencies: UNHCR, UNICEF, WFP, UNDP, UNFPA, UNODC, the ILO, UNESCO, WHO and the World Bank and has ten goals related to stopping and reversing the spread of HIV/AIDS.

UNISDR

The United Nations Office for Disaster Reduction serves as the focal point in the United Nations system for the coordination of disaster reduction.

UNOPS

The United Nations Office for Project Services is an operational arm of the United Nations, supporting the successful implementation of its partners' peacebuilding, humanitarian and development projects around the world.



United Nations

human rights treaties

- Special Procedures

The special procedures of the Human Rights Council are prominent, independent experts working on a voluntary basis, who examine, monitor, publicly report and advice on human rights from a thematic or country-specific perspective.

- Special Advisers on the Prevention of Genocide and the Responsibility to Protect

The Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide acts as a catalyst to raise awareness of the causes and dynamics of genocide, to alert relevant actors where there is a risk of genocide, and to advocate and mobilize for appropriate action; the Special Adviser on the Responsibility to Protect leads the conceptual, political, institutional and operational development of the Responsibility to Protect.

Democracy

Democracy, based on the rule of law, is ultimately a means to achieve international peace and security, economic and social progress and development, and respect for human rights – the three pillars of the United Nations mission as set forth in the UN Charter.

Democratic principles are woven throughout the normative fabric of the United Nations. The 2009 Guidance Note on Democracy of the Secretary-General sets out the United Nations framework for democracy based on universal principles, norms and standards and commits the Organization to principled, coherent and

Related Organizations

IAEA

The International Atomic Energy Agency, 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.

WTO

The World Trade Organization is a 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.

CTBTO

The Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization 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.



United Nations

consistent action in support of democracy.

- Other UN offices & bodies responsible for protecting human rights

Security Council

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.

Third Committee of the General Assembly

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.

Various Other UN Bodies

Different intergovernmental bodies and interdepartmental mechanisms based at the United Nations headquarters in New York, as well as the United Nations Secretary-General, address a range of human rights issues. The General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and their subsidiary

Related Organizations

OPCW

The Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons 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.

UNDG-HRM

The UN Development Group's Human Rights Mainstreaming Mechanism (UNDG-HRM) advances human rights mainstreaming efforts within the UN development system.



United Nations

organs make policy decisions and recommendations to Member States, the United Nations system and other actors. The United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII), an advisory body to the Economic and Social Council, has a mandate to discuss indigenous issues, including human rights. The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights interacts with and provides advice and support on human rights issues to these bodies and mechanisms.

UN Peace Operations

Human rights teams on the ground work in close cooperation and coordination with other civilian and uniformed components of peace operations, in particular, in relation to the protection of civilians; addressing conflict-related sexual violence and violations against children; and strengthening respect for human rights and the rule of law through legal and judicial reform, security sector reform and prison system reform.

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. UN Women, established in 2010, serves as its Secretariat.

HRuF Initiative

HRuF is Human Rights UpFront initiative by the UN Secretary-General to ensure the UN system takes early and effective action, as mandated by the Charter and UN resolutions, to prevent or respond to serious and large-scale violations of human rights or international humanitarian law. HRuF seeks to achieve this by effecting change at three levels: cultural, operational and political.

Current State: The initiative has been progressively rolled-out since late 2013. Through various presentations, letters and policy documents, the Secretary-General and Deputy Secretary-General have presented HRuF to the General Assembly and to staff and UN system leaders.



United Nations

4. Settling Disputes Between States

The Security Council and International Law

Some of the actions 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. Many subsidiary bodies of the General Assembly consider specific areas of international law and report to the plenary. Most legal matters are referred to the Sixth Committee, which then reports to the plenary. The International Law Commission and the UN Commission on International Trade Law report to the General Assembly. The General Assembly also considers topics related to the institutional law of the United Nations, such as the adoption of the Staff Regulations and the establishment of the system of internal justice.

General Assembly - Sixth Committee (Legal)

The General Assembly's Sixth Committee is the primary forum for the consideration of legal questions in the General Assembly. All UN Member States are entitled to representation on the Sixth Committee as one of the main committees of the General Assembly.

Legal Initiatives

International Law Commission

The International Law Commission promotes the progressive development of international law and its codification. The Commission's work on a topic usually involves some aspects of the progressive development, as well as the codification of international law, with the balance between the two varying depending on the particular topic.

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.



United Nations

United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL)

The United Nations Commission on International Trade Law is a 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 rules on international business. The UNCITRAL Secretariat has established a Case Law on UNCITRAL texts (CLOUT) system for collecting and disseminating information on court decisions and arbitral awards relating to the Conventions and Model Laws that have emanated from the work of the Commission.

The UN Convention on the Law of the Sea

The United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea lays down a comprehensive regime of law and order in the world's oceans and seas, establishing rules governing all uses of the oceans and their resources. The Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea (DOALOS) of the Office of Legal Affairs of the United Nations serves as the secretariat of the Convention on the Law of the Sea.

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.

Legal Initiatives

Legal Resources and Training

The historic archives at the Audiovisual Library of International Law provide a unique resource for the teaching, studying and researching significant legal instruments on international law.

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.

Programme of Assistance for International Law

The Programme of Assistance in the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law is meant to contribute to a better knowledge of international law “as a means for strengthening international peace and security and promoting friendly relations and co-operation among States.”



United Nations

Delivering Humanitarian Aid

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.

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.

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. UNDP is the agency responsible for operational activities for natural disaster mitigation, prevention and preparedness. When emergencies occur, UNDP Resident Coordinators coordinate relief and rehabilitation efforts at the national level.

Greatest Achievements of UN

Food aid

As most of us remember, in 2010 and 2011, the earthquake disasters that happened in Haiti and Japan respectively, destroyed infrastructures and changed the lives of its residence for the worse. In those circumstances, UN have stepped in and provided the residents in the devastating areas with aid in food supplies and other necessities.

Nobel Peace Prizes to UN & Individual

- 2013 Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons
- 2007 Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and Albert Arnold (Al) Gore Jr
- 2005 International Atomic Energy Agency, Mohamed ElBaradei
- 2001 United Nations, Kofi Annan
- 1988 United Nations Peacekeeping Forces
- 1981 Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees
- 1969 International Labour Organization
- 1965 United Nations Children's Fund
- 1961 Dag Hammarskjöld
- 1954 Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees
- 1950 Ralph Bunche



United Nations

But the World Food program is not only helpful when natural disasters happen but it also helps stabilize the food security. Right now, the UN is trying to expand the spectrum of its World Food Program with the support of many countries in the world.

Aid to refugees

UN High Commissioner on Refugees (UNHCR) is another success of the United Nations. Founded in 1949, UNHCR has helped more than 19 million refugees, mostly women and children, who are receiving food, shelter, medical aid, education and repatriation assistance.

The officers of UNHCR help the refugees directly, working to ensure governments meet their responsibilities to the expatriates. Two Nobel Peace Prizes in 1954 and 1981 are persuasive evidences for the success of UNHCR.

Right now, UNHCR is facing a problematic financial issue, trying to protect and assist 700,000 people who had fled conflict in Syria, Mali, Sudan and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). It is truly the hope of millions of refugees all over the world.

Protecting Children

Perhaps, many of us are too familiar with the phrase “UNICEF” because it is repeated myriad of times on the media.

Through UNICEF's efforts, the Convention on the Rights of the Child entered into force as international law in 1990 and has become law in 166 countries by the end of September 1994; following the 1990 World Summit for Children convened by

UN Failures – Aid to refugees

Srebrenica Massacre

This 1995 Bosnian War massacre was the single worst act of mass murder on European soil since World War II. After an ethnic cleansing campaign led by the Serbs targeted the Bosniaks, a largely Muslim community, the United Nations designated Srebrenica a safe-zone in 1993 and a peacekeeping force was put in place, consisting of six hundred Dutch soldiers. When the UN forces were running low on ammunition, fuel, and food, the Serbs continued to build an army around Srebrenica. Later Serbian forces invaded the area, forcing the small UN team back. As many as 20,000 Bosniak refugees fled to the UN compound in Potocari, seeking protection from the advancing Serbs. Despite the UN peacekeeping force present, Serbian soldiers entered the camp, raping Bosniak women and murdering freely while the Dutch peacekeepers did nothing. By July 18th, 7,800 Bosniaks were dead, due



United Nations

UNICEF, more than 150 governments have committed to reaching over 20 specific measurable goals to radically improve children's lives by the year 2000.

With the significant contribution of UNICEF, the number of deaths for children under the age of 5 has declined from nearly 12 million in 1990 to 6.9 million in 2011.

Peacekeeping

By having deployed a total of 42 peace-keeping forces and observer missions as of September 1996, the United Nations has been able to restore calm to allow the negotiating process to go forward while saving millions of people from becoming casualties of conflicts.

Since 1945, the United Nations has been credited with negotiating 172 peaceful settlements that have ended regional conflicts. Recent cases include an end to the Iran-Iraq war, the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan, and an end to the civil war in El Salvador

Currently, the UN has 16 active peacekeeping missions in hotspot like Syria, Kosovo, North Korea... The contribution the UN has given to global peace is undeniable and therefore, peacekeeping should be regarded as one of the most successful task the UN has undertaken in its 68 years of history.

Peace Keeping – Mal Practices

Child Sex Abuse Scandal

Many nations plead for support from the United Nations in times of desperation and war. To the oppressed, the blue helmets of UN peacekeepers represent stability and safety. Unfortunately, this was not the case in numerous countries in the 1990s. Reports from Bosnia, Kosovo, Cambodia, Haiti, and Mozambique revealed a shocking trend; areas with peacekeeping forces saw a rapid rise in child prostitution.

Often, soldiers would reward the children with candy or small sums of money, so they could claim the sexual relationship was prostitution rather than rape. Senior officials in the United Nations refused to condemn the peacekeepers, as they feared this public shaming would discourage nations from joining peacekeeping forces.



United Nations

Running Elections

The United Nations has enabled people in over 45 countries to participate in free and fair elections, including those held in Cambodia, Namibia, El Salvador, Eritrea, Mozambique, Nicaragua, South Africa, Kosovo and East Timor. It has provided electoral advice, assistance, and monitoring of results.

Incontrovertibly, free election is one of the most basic political rights of everybody around the world. But in fact, not everyone gets access to freedom of choice. The UN has fought continuously for the voting right of people in areas where the ideology of dictatorship or monarchy is still dominating. A great example of this is with Iraq. With the external support from an international community, represented by the UN, Iraq successfully overthrew Saddam's government and installed an interim administration in which the government was completely elected by Iraq citizens. The successful election in Iraq did not only create a momentous turning point in Iraq's history but it also marked a new step for the UN in the war against dictatorship and totalitarianism.

Fighting AIDS

The UN is the leader when it comes to the global battle against HIV/AIDS. Between the World Health Organization, UNAIDS, and the Global Fund to fight AIDS, the UN is at the heart of every aspect of dealing with this epidemic, from heightening awareness to raising funds to making sure appropriate programs for prevention and treatment are implemented.

UN Failures - The Cold War Effect

The Cold War exemplifies the failure behind the United Nations Charter. In 1948, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) was established, which was binding to all nations, along with the Convention against Genocide.

Almost immediately, the USSR disregarded these. Civic rights were virtually non-existent. Stalin continued to rule with an iron fist, silencing all opponents. In numerous Soviet Bloc nations, uprisings demanding the rights established in the UDHR were crushed with force. With the United Nations unwilling to act upon such atrocities, the words in the charter were rendered meaningless for those who needed them the most.



United Nations

According to the most recent report of UNAIDS, the number of people who died from AIDS and the opportunistic disease caused by AIDS has decreased from 2.3 million in 2005 to 1.6 million in 2012. There are more and more people who have HIV and who are supported by the UN and its sub-organizations.

Preventing nuclear proliferation

The United Nations, through the International Atomic Energy Agency, has helped minimize the threat of a nuclear war by inspecting nuclear reactors in 90 countries to ensure that nuclear materials are not diverted for military purposes.

Promoting Women's Right

A long term objective of the UN has been to improve the lives of women and to empower women to have greater control over their lives.

Eradicating Small Pox

A 13 year effort by the World Health Organization resulted in the complete eradication of smallpox from the planet in 1980. WHO also helped wipe out Polio from the Western hemisphere with global eradication expected by 2000.

Cleaning up Pollution

UNEP led a major effort to clean up the Mediterranean Sea. It encouraged adversaries such as Syria and Israel, Turkey and Greece to work together to clean up beaches. As a result more

UN Failures of preventing Genocide Veto Power

The five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council enjoy the luxury of veto power; when a permanent member vetoes a vote, the Council resolution cannot be adopted, regardless of international support. Even if the other fourteen nations vote yes, a single veto will beat this overwhelming show of support.

The most recent use of the veto was by China and Russia, on July 19th, 2012. The Security Council attempted to evoke chapter VII sanctions from the United Nations Charter to intervene and prevent genocide in Syria. But the vetoes by China and Russia halted any international intervention. Since the Syrian Civil War began, an estimated 60,000 civilians have been killed, with thousands more displaced.

The Rwandan genocide of 1994 details the gross inability of the United Nations to carry out its sworn duty to maintain peace and security.



United Nations

than 50 per cent of the previously polluted beaches are now usable.

Promoting Economic Reform

Together with the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund the United Nations has helped many countries improve their economic management offered training for government finance officials, and provided financial assistance to countries experiencing temporary balance of payment difficulties.

Promoting Worker Rights

The International Labour Organization (ILO) has worked to guarantee freedom of the right to association, the right to organize, collective bargaining, the rights of indigenous and tribal peoples, promote employment and equal remuneration and has sought to eliminate discrimination and child labour.

Failures of UN

1. Khmer Rouge

Ruling Cambodia from 1975 to 1979, the Khmer Rouge practiced an extreme form of Communism, as dictated by their borderline-psychotic leader Pol Pot. Any suspected enemies were executed, including professionals and intellectuals. Ethnic Vietnamese, Ethnic Chinese, and Christians were executed en masse.

In 1979, the Vietnamese army invaded Cambodia to oust the Khmer Rouge and end the massacre. Pol Pot was forced in exile, and a new government was put in place in Cambodia. Shockingly,

Future plan of UN

1. The “action agenda” presented on 2012 described specific measures regarding each of the five imperatives, including an unprecedented campaign to wipe out five of the world’s major killers – malaria, polio, paediatric HIV infections, maternal and neonatal tetanus, and measles.
2. Mr. Ban also announced that the UN would work with Member States to make Antarctica a World Nature Preserve and that he would appoint a new special representative for youth.
3. Among his other proposals was the convening of a first-of-its-kind World Humanitarian Summit to help ***share knowledge and establish common best practices***, and the creation of a ***New UN Partnerships Facility*** to harness the full power of transformative partnerships across the world body.
4. Achieving a universal climate change agreement and thereby improving our living environment.
5. Development in terms of Urban sustainability and inclusiveness of older persons



United Nations

the United Nations refused to recognize this new government because it was backed by Vietnam, which had recently ended a decade-long conflict with the United States. Until 1994, the United Nations recognized the Khmer Rouge as the true government of Cambodia, despite the fact that they had killed 2.5 million Cambodians, amounting to 33% of their total population.

2. Darfur

In 2003, the unstable nation of Sudan erupted in conflict, as various militia groups criticized and attacked the government for oppressing non-Arabs. Early in the war, rebel forces defeated the Sudanese military in more than thirty battles. Seeing that defeat was imminent, the government funded the Janjaweed, a group of Arab militants. By 2005, the Janjaweed were carrying out attacks on populated villages using artillery and helicopters. Despite this condemnation by UN Secretary General Kofi Annan, the UN did not enter Sudan, instead urging members of the African Union to intervene.

As the African Union attempted an intervention, it became apparent that the Sudanese military was destroying civilian populations. Reports emerged revealing that Sudanese military planes were painted white, to resemble UN humanitarian aircraft, only to drop bombs on villages. It was not until 2006 that 200 UN soldiers were dispatched to the area. Despite their limited presence, fighting continued until 2010. In seven years, an estimated 300,000 Sudanese civilians were killed.

Future plan of UN

6. United Nations World Health Organization (WHO) announced earlier, as it issued new guidelines that could help avert more than 21 million deaths and 28 million new infections by 2030 against HIV infections
7. While extreme poverty rates have been cut by more than half since 1990, one in five people in developing regions still live on less than \$1.25 a day, and there are millions more who make little more than this daily amount, plus many people risk slipping back into poverty. And in too many places, having a job doesn't guarantee the ability to escape from poverty. This slow and uneven progress requires us to rethink and retool our economic and social policies aimed at eradicating poverty.
8. Sustainable economic growth will require societies to create the conditions that allow people to have quality jobs that stimulate the economy while not harming the environment. Job opportunities and decent working conditions are also required for the whole working age



United Nations

3. Terrorism

Many experts agree that “modern” terrorism began with the 1968 hijacking of El Al Israel Flight 426 by a Palestinian terrorist organization. The United Nations condemned the action, but failed to take any further action. These terrorist acts continued throughout the remainder of the twentieth century, with no reaction from the UN; a simple condemnation was as far as they would go.

With the 9/11 terrorist attacks, the UN finally took action, outlawing terrorism and punishing those responsible for the attacks. Unfortunately, this applied only to Al Qaeda and the Taliban. State-funded terrorist programs—such as Hamas, Hezbollah, and Mossad—were unaffected. Nations that support groups that are widely linked to terrorism, such as Iran, are not held accountable specifically for these actions. To this date, the UN still does not have a clear definition of terrorism, and they have no plans to pursue one.

4. Sri Lanka

The small island nation of Sri Lanka experienced a bloody civil war lasting from 1983 to 2009, pitting the militant, separatist Tamil Tigers against government forces. In the final months of the war, the opposing sides were fighting in the heavily populated northeast coastline, a designated safe zone.

The fighting forced 196,000 people to flee, and trapped over 50,000 civilians. Independent experts urged the Human Rights Council of the UN to investigate claims of war crimes, and UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon acknowledged being “appalled”

Future plan of UN

9. There is growing consensus that economic growth is not sufficient to reduce poverty if it is not inclusive and if it does not involve the three dimensions of sustainable development – economic, social and environmental. To reduce inequality, policies should be universal in principle paying attention to the needs of disadvantaged and marginalized populations.

10. Sustainable consumption and production is about promoting resource and energy efficiency, sustainable infrastructure, and providing access to basic services, green and decent jobs and a better quality of life for all. Sustainable consumption and production aims at “doing more and better with less,” increasing net welfare gains from economic activities by reducing resource use, degradation and pollution along the whole lifecycle, while increasing quality of life



United Nations

by the situation, but the United Nations made no attempts to intervene on behalf of the civilian population. From January to April of 2009, over 6,500 civilians were killed in this so-called “safe-zone”.

UN in future

- In a speech to the General Assembly Mr. Ban presented five imperatives – or generational opportunities – that must be addressed to ensure a better future for the world’s people.
- These are ***sustainable development; preventing and mitigating conflicts, human rights abuses and the impacts of natural disasters; building a safer and more secure world; supporting countries in transition; and working to engage the talents of women and young people.***

Books on UNO

- The United Nations Today by United Nations
- The United Nations in the New World Order: The World Organization at Fifty by Dimitris Bourantonis
- United Nations in the Contemporary World by David J. Whittaker
- United Nations, Divided World: The Un's Roles in International Relations by Adam Roberts
- UN in schools 2015 by Late Mr. Jiya Lal Jain and revised by Mrs. Aleyamma Jain

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