

B.A.L.L.B. 6th semester

UNIT:1st

TOPIC:UNITED NATION

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Introduction

The United Nations (UN) is an international organization founded in 1945. It is currently made up of 193 Member States.

Its mission and work guided by the purposes and principles contained in its founding Charter and implemented by its various organs and specialised agencies.

Its activities include maintaining international peace and security, protecting human rights, delivering humanitarian aid, promoting sustainable development and upholding international law.

Components

The main organs of the UN are

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

1. General Assembly

- 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**, and general debate, which many heads of state attend and address.
- Decisions on important questions, such as those on peace and security, admission of new members and budgetary matters, require a **two-thirds majority** of the General Assembly.
- Decisions on other questions are **by simple majority**.
- **The President** of the General Assembly is elected each year by assembly to serve a one-year term of office.
- **6 Main Committees: Draft resolutions** can be prepared for the General Assembly by its six main committees: (1) First Committee (Disarmament and International Security), (2) Second Committee (Economic and Financial), (3) Third Committee (Social, Humanitarian, and Cultural), (4) Fourth Committee (Special Political and Decolonization), (5) Fifth Committee (Administrative and Budgetary), (6) Sixth Committee (Legal).



2. Security Council

- It has primary responsibility, under the UN Charter, for the **maintenance of international peace and security**.
- The Security Council is made up of **fifteen member states**, consisting of five permanent members—China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United States—and ten non-permanent members elected for two-year terms by the General Assembly on a regional basis.
- **"Veto power"** refers to the power of the permanent member to veto (Reject) any resolution of Security Council.
- The unconditional veto possessed by the five governments has been seen as the **most undemocratic** character of the UN.
- Critics also claim that veto power is the main cause for international inaction on war crimes and crimes against humanity. However, the United States refused to join the United Nations in 1945 unless it was given a veto. The absence of the United States from the League of Nations contributed to its ineffectiveness. Supporters of the veto power regard it as a promoter of international stability, a check against military interventions, and a critical safeguard against U.S. domination.

3. Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)

- It 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 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.
- Each year, ECOSOC structures its work around an annual theme of **global importance to sustainable development**. This ensures **focused attention**, among ECOSOC's array of partners, and throughout the UN development system.
- It coordinates the work of the 14 UN specialized agencies, ten functional commissions and five regional commissions, receives reports from nine UN funds and programmes and issues policy recommendations to the UN system and to Member States.

4. Trusteeship Council

- It was established in 1945 by the UN Charter, under Chapter XIII.
- **Trust territory** is a non-self-governing territory placed under an administrative authority by the Trusteeship Council of the United Nations.
- **A League of Nations mandate** was a legal status for certain territories transferred from the control of one country to another following World War I, or the legal instruments that contained the internationally agreed-upon terms for administering the territory **on behalf of the League of Nations**.
- **United Nations trust territories** were the successors of the remaining League of Nations mandates, and came into being when the League of Nations ceased to exist in 1946.
- It had to provide international supervision for 11 Trust Territories that had been placed under the administration of seven 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 Trusteeship Council suspended operation on 1 November 1994.**

5. International Court of Justice (ICJ)

- The International Court of Justice is the principal judicial organ of the United Nations. It was established in June 1945 **by the Charter of the United Nations** and began work in April 1946.
- The ICJ is the **successor** of the **Permanent Court of International Justice (PCIJ)**, which was established by the League of Nations in **1920**.

6. 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.