

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION — THE UNITED NATIONS ORGANIZATION AND OTHERS

Main points of discussion

- The objectives of the UNO and its organs
- The United Nations and the world peace
- The United Nations and Human Rights, Human Rights Commission in India
- Other important international institutions

2.1 The Objectives of the United Nations and its Organs:

After the World War-I (1914) the League of Nations was formed to ensure world peace and to stop wars in future. However, because of its failure the World War-II broke out in 1939. The magnitude of the devastations brought by the Second World War made the world population so scared that they re-started thinking about the formation of another world organization. As a result another world organization namely the United Nations Organization was formed on 24 October, 1945. Altogether 51 states put their signature to the UN charter in the San Francisco Conference and thus the UNO came into being. Since the birth, it has been doing its best to save the people of the world from the danger of another world war. The people of the world observe the day of birth of the UNO, i.e. the 24 October as the UN DAY all over the world.

At present with 193 member states, the UNO has been engaged ceaselessly for the peaceful solution to all the disputed issues for which the world people have been extending support to it. The Head office of the UNO is situated at New York in the United States of America. The objectives of the UNO are stated below :



2.1.1 The Objectives of the UNO :

There are altogether 111 Articles in the UN charter. In its very first Article, four objectives of the UNO have been incorporated. They are

1. (To maintain International peace and security ✓✓/)
2. To establish friendship among all countries of the world on the basis of equal rights and self determination.)
3. To bring about solutions of the existing economic, social and cultural problems and disputed issues on the basis of the international cooperation so that each and every individual person becomes able to enjoy Human Rights and Fundamental Rights.
4. To perform as a centre of excellence to establish good and cordial relations among various countries to achieve the aforesaid objectives.

2.1.2 The Principles of the UNO :

The principles of the UNO are as follows- ✓✓

1. The UNO is established on the principle of equal sovereignty of all member countries.
2. All the member states shall perform their own duties and responsibilities by obeying the Rules as mentioned in the UN charter.
3. All the member states of the UNO shall settle all the disputes peacefully and without affecting international peace, security and justice.
4. In the interests of maintaining cordial international relations all

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members shall refrain from threat or use of force against any state.

5. The member states shall extend help and support to the UNO if and when the UN asks for, as in the UN charter and no member state would extend help or support to the particular state or states that are facing UNO's punitive action.

2.1.3 : The organs of the UNO

(The Six organs of the UNO are (1) General Assembly (2) Security Council (3) Economic and Social Council (4) Trusteeship Council (5) International Court of Justice (ICJ) and (6) Secretariat.)



(1) General Assembly : General Assembly is the biggest organ of the UNO. The General Assembly is formed by all the member states of the UNO to which each member state sends five representatives. But at the time of voting each member state can cast only one vote. The session of the General Assembly is held once in a year. Since the size of the General Assembly is gigantic, therefore it performs its various activities through some committees.

(2) Security Council : The Security Council is the most important organ of the UNO. At the time of the UNO's inception there were five permanent members and six temporary members. In the year 1963, the 23rd Article of the UN charter was amended thereby increasing the temporary members to ten from the existing six. The temporary members of the Security Council are elected by the General Assembly. The permanent member states of the Security Council are the USA, Great Britain, France, Russia and China. In order to take decision on any important matter, altogether minimum nine members including five permanent members of the security council must give their consent. Each of the 5 permanent members has the right to exercise veto power. As a result no decision can be taken on any matter even if one permanent member of the Security Council differs and uses its veto power.

(3) Economic and Social Council : At the time of inception of the UNO, the total number of members of the Economic and Social Council was 18. But in 1965 its members were increased to 27 and finally the number of its members was raised to 54 in 1973. The General Assembly

elects the members of this council for a tenure of 5 years. This Council was formed in accordance with the Article 55 of the UN charter to perform its duties in relation to all international economic, social, cultural, educational, health and other related problems. The Council submits its report with necessary suggestions on the aforesaid subjects to the General Assembly after proper study.

(4) Trusteeship Council : The Article 76 of the UN charter refers to the formation of the Trusteeship Council. The Trusteeship Council was formed to make the people of the countries under its jurisdiction for the attainment of freedom by making progress in economic, political, social and educational fields. The Trusteeship Council consists of three types of members namely (A) The countries falling within the jurisdiction of the Trust (B) The permanent members of the Security Council who are not entrusted with the responsibility of the countries under the Trust, (C) The members who are elected by the General Assembly for three years.

(5) International Court of Justice (ICJ) : The International Court of Justice is the judicial organ of the UNO. This is an important organ of the UNO formed with 15 Judges. All the member states of the UNO are its members. The main function of the ICJ is to settle the cases filed by the affected member states of the UNO. The disputed states are bound to accept the verdict passed by the ICJ.

(6) Secretariat : The Secretariat is like the heart of the UNO. This is formed by its Secretary General and other staff. The Secretariat executes and implements all the decisions taken by the UNO. According to Article 97 of the UN charter, the General Assembly appoints the Secretary General with the recommendation of the Security Council. The role of the permanent members of the Security Council is very significant in the appointment of the Secretary General. His tenure is 5 years duration, but he/she may be re-elected. The first Secretary General of the UNO was Tryvealdan Lee of Norway. The present Secretary General is Antonio Guterres of Portugal.

Apart from the six organs of the UNO, the other Agencies of the UNO are (1) International Labour Organization (ILO) (2) World Health Organization (WHO) (3) Development Planning Agency of the UNO (UNDP) (4) United Nations Human Rights Commission (UNHRC) (5) United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) (6) United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) (7) International Monetary Fund (IMF) (8) Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

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2.2 The UNO and the world peace:

The UNO which is turning 70 years by now was established in 1945 after the World War-II. The very objective of the UNO was to remove the fear of war and its subsequent devastations from the mind of the world people forever and to build a peaceful world. The role that the UNO has been playing during this long period to create a peaceful environment in this problematic world through discussion and mutual understanding, is in fact encouraging, inspiring and also positive. However, in many cases, the strong stand taken by the USA and frequent US interventions through military activities without the UN recommendation and approval, has certainly created some tremor in the efficacy of the UNO. Nevertheless, the UNO has been proved successful in difusing many warlike situations on several occasions during UNO's long run.

The bold steps taken by the UNO to remove the war like situations among the nations through disarmament is certainly significant and praiseworthy. In January, 1952, the UNO had established the Disarmament Commission. The UNO has accorded many treaties to bring about peace in the world. Among those, important treaties are – the Partial Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (1963), the Outer Space Treaty (1967), the Nuclear Non Proliferation Treaty (1968), the Seabed Control Treaty (1971), SALT-I (1972), SALT-II (1979), Nuclear Arms Control Treaty (1993), the START-I (Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty, 1991) and START-II (1993) and the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) (1996). CTBT was supported by as many as 158 nations. These are certainly a great intervention for the peace loving people of the world. In the long run the Preventive Diplomacy adopted by the UNO in June, 2007 has certainly helped to take initiative in settling disputes through discussion.

On the whole, it is the sole duty and responsibility of the member states of the UNO to make the UNO strong, competent and united. With the good will, cooperation and loyalty of the members, the UNO may be able to bring about world peace.

2.3. The UNO and the Human Rights Commission;

The Human Rights Commission of the UNO was set up on 16 February 1946. This permanent organization came into being in order to secure the rights of the people of the world. At the inception of this organization there were 18 members. In 1962 the number of members of the Commission was increased to 21. Again in 1993 its number was increased to 53. The members of the Human Rights Commission are elected for three years. The Commission takes its decision on the basis of the majority of vote.

The Human Rights Commission seeks reports on the violation of human rights from the member states and it takes up such cases for hearing.

2.3.1. The Human Rights Declaration of the UNO:

The UNO which was formed to increase cooperation among its member states and to ensure a peaceful environment in the world, has also emphasized the aspect of Human Rights. The General Assembly of the UNO adopted the Human Rights Declaration on 10 December, 1948 with the support of the 48 member states to secure the Human Rights that are essential for each individual to live a dignified human life. That is the reason why the day 10th December is being celebrated as the World Human Rights Day all over the world every year.

The Human Rights Declaration which consists a Preamble and 30 Articles has mainly served two objectives. Firstly, the rights of the people of the world have been incorporated in this Declaration. Secondly, the member states have given recognition to these rights which have been mentioned in the Declaration.

It is noteworthy that the human rights mentioned in the Declaration have brought certain limitations to the powers and functions of the member states of the UNO. Because on principle, no state can ignore these rights. The UNO has made it clear through the Human Rights Declaration that by depriving the citizens of the country of their rights, it is not possible to secure international peace and security. It is encouraging and praiseworthy that the UNO has taken positive steps for the citizens of the world to live a dignified life.

Although the Human Rights Declaration is not a Treaty and the member states of the UNO are not bound, nevertheless this Declaration with the good will of the member states of the UNO has helped the people of the world to make all round development of their personality.

2.3.2 National Human Rights Commission (India) :

In 1966 the UNO adopted a resolution and it sought suggestions from all its member states regarding the formation of Human Rights Commission in the respective state. In 1970 the Human Rights Commission of the UNO pursued the issue of forming Human Rights Commission in all the member states seriously and accordingly the UN proposal in this regard was put forward to all the member states. Again in June, 1993 in the Human Rights Commission's conference held in Vienna, the issue of forming Human Rights Commission in each of the UN member states was reiterated. As a result such Human Rights Commission was formed in the member states to secure and protect human rights in respective states.

(On 28 September, 1993 the president of India through an ordinance formed National Human Rights Commission in India. On December 18 in the same year

a bill was tabled in the parliament in place of the ordinance. On 8 January, 1994 the president gave his consent on the Bill and the same became an Act. The same Act is known as the Human Rights Protection Act, 1993. In accordance with this National Human Rights Commission, State Human Rights Commissions have also been set up in the provinces.

The Chairman of the National Human Rights Commission should be a retired Chief Justice of the Supreme Court. Among other members are (1) one member is either a serving or a retired judge of the Supreme Court (2) another member is either a serving Chief Justice of any High Court or retired Chief Justice of High Court and (3) two members are from those having knowledge and experience on human rights activities as activists.

In addition the chairman of the National Minority Commission, the chairman of the Schedule Caste and Schedule Tribe's National Commission and the chairman of the National Women's Commission shall be the members of the National Human Rights Commission. The president of India appoints all the members of the Commission for 5 years.

The Commission shall take up all the human rights violation cases in India and after proper scrutiny and review, it shall submit its report to the Government for necessary action. On the whole the National Human Rights Commission must play the role of a sentinel so far the human rights are concerned.

2.4. Other important International Organizations:

Apart from the UNO, other important international organizations are—

International organizations	Head Quarters
(1) Commonwealth of Nations	London
(2) Amnesty International (AI)	London
(3) North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)	Brussels
(4) International Renewable Energy Agency	UAE
(5) Asia Pacific Economic Corporation (APEC)	Singapore
(6) Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN)	Jakarta
(7) International Cricket Council (ICC)	Dubai
(8) International Federation of Football Association (FIFA)	Zurich
(9) World Economic Forum (WEF)	Geneva
(10) International Hockey Federation	Lausanne, Switzerland
(11) South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC)	Kathmandu, Nepal

SUMMARY

- ✓ The UNO was set up on 24 October, 1945
- ✓ 24 October is celebrated as the UN DAY every year
- ✓ Altogether there are 111 Articles in the UN charter
- ✓ The six organs of the UNO are (1) General Assembly (2) Security Council (3) Economic and Social Council (4) Trusteeship Council (5) International Court of Justice (6) Secretariat.
- ✓ The steps taken by the UNO to eradicate war like environment among the countries of the world through Disarmament is quite significant and laudable.
- ✓ The UN General Assembly adopted the Human Rights Declaration with the support of 48 member states of the UNO on 10 December, 1948.
- ✓ The president formed the National Human Rights Commission on 28 September, 1993 through an ordinance. On 8th Jan, 1994, it became an Act.

EXERCISE

Very short answer questions :

1. ✓ Why was the UNO formed?
2. ✓ Mention two objectives of the UNO.
3. ✓ Write the names of the UN organs.
4. ✓ Write the names of the two Agencies related to the UNO.
5. ✓ Write the names of two Treaties which were signed on Disarmament.
6. ✓ What is meant by Human Rights?

Long Answer Questions :

1. ✓ Discuss the aims of the UNO for which it came into existence and also discuss its principles.
2. ✓ Write a note on the Security Council of the UNO.
3. ✓ Discuss the steps taken by the UNO on world peace.
4. ✓ Write a note regarding National Human Rights Commission in India.
5. ✓ Discuss the steps taken by the UNO regarding Human Rights.