

Introduction:

International organizations help countries to co-operate in creating better living conditions around the world and provide a common platform to discuss conflicting issues and find peaceful solutions through mechanisms, rules, and bureaucracy. The United Nations was founded on 20 October 1945 by 51 states with headquarters in New York, following the Second World Charter, as the successor to the League of Nations.

1. United Nations [UN]

The United Nations was founded in 1945 after World War II. It is the successor to the League of Nations formed after the First World War. The purpose of the United Nations is to prevent international conflict and to facilitate cooperation between states. In the United Nations Security Council, five permanent members (the United Kingdom, the United States, Russia, France and China) and other permanent members are elected every two years. The most important public figure is the Secretary-General of the United Nations. The United Nations has various structures and agencies. These include the World Health Organization (WHO), the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), the United Nations Commission on Human Rights (UNHRC), and the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR).

**DO YOU KNOW?**

United Nations Charter: The United Nations Constitution deals with the interests of the United Nations.

Veto: This is a negative vote that must be taken by five permanent members of the Security Council to prevent a decision.

Secretary-General: Representative to the United Nations for the preparation of the Annual Record of United Nations Activities.

Important agencies of the United Nations

1. International Monetary Fund (IMF):
 - (a) Internationally, foreign financial institutions and regulations.
 - (b) It shall consist of 180 members. Among them, G8 members hold more power in the US, Japan, Germany, France, the UK, Italy, Canada, and Russia, except China and Saudi Arabia.
 - (c) The United States alone has 16.75% of the voting rights.
2. World Bank:
 - (a) It was created in 1944.
 - (b) It works for human development, agriculture and rural development, environmental protection, infrastructure, and governance and provides loans and grants to developing countries.
 - (c) It has been criticized for setting the economic agenda of poor countries, adding stricter terms to their debt, and forcing free-market reforms.
3. World Trade Organisation:
 - (a) An International Organization for the Establishment of Rules for World Trade, established in 1995 as the successor to the General Trade and Tariffs (GATT) with 157 members (as of 1 September 2012)

(b) Major economic powers such as the US, European Union, and Japan have been able to use the WTO to formulate trade rules to enhance their interests.

(c) Developing countries often complain about the lack of transparency and are pushed by big powers.

4. IAEA - International Atomic Energy Agency:

(a) It was established in 1957 to implement US President Dwight Eisenhower's nuclear proposal for peace.

(b) It seeks to promote the peaceful use of nuclear energy and to prevent its use for military purposes.

(c) IAEA teams regularly inspect nuclear facilities around the world to ensure that civilian reactors are not used for military purposes.

5. Amnesty International:

(a) An NGO to campaign for the protection of human rights worldwide.

(b) It prepares and publishes reports on human rights research and human rights advocacy.

(c) Governments are not always happy with these reports because the main focus of the amnesty is the misconduct of government officials

6. Human Rights Watch:

(a) Another international NGO involved in human rights research and advocacy.

(b) The largest international human rights organization in the United States.

(c) It draws global media attention to human rights violations.

(d) It has helped form international alliances such as the Prohibition of Mines, the Prevention of the Use of Child Soldiers and the Establishment of the International Criminal Court.

2. United Nations reforms after the Cold War

Improvements and improvements are needed for the better performance of any organization. The United Nations is no exception. Demands for reforms have been made at the United Nations. Two demands were raised, namely reform of the structure and policies of the organization and review of



issues falling within the organization. On the reform of structures and policies, it called for increased permanent and permanent membership in the UN Security Council.

On issues related to UN jurisdiction, some countries want the organization to play a greater role in peace and security missions. Some other countries want to limit the role of the United Nations to development and humanitarian work.

DO YOU KNOW?

Kofi A. Annan (1997–2006) Ghana: UN official created the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria; Declared the US-led invasion of Iraq an illegal act; Established the Peacekeeping Commission and the Human Rights Council in 2005; 2001 Nobel Peace Prize winner.

3. Reforming the structures and processes of the United Nations

The United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution in 1992 calling for reforms in the Security Council. The resolution reflected three main complaints. On January 1, 1997, UN Secretary-General Kofi Armand launched an investigation into how the United Nations should be reformed to look into complaints about the



reorganization of the United Nations. Criteria for new member admissions have been set. Some of the new members should be a major economic and military power, making a significant contribution to the UN budget. Different governments have seen advantages in some parameters and disadvantages in others based on their interests and aspirations. Demands were also raised for the complete abolition of the veto power. Many at the United Nations considered the veto to be contrary to the concept of democracy and sovereign equality. Permanent members have two powers on the Security Council: veto power and permanence. Veto power means that if the permanent member vetoes negatively, he can make a decision. Without the power of veto, the great powers run the risk of losing interest in the world body and without their support, the body becomes useless.

4. Jurisdiction of the United Nations

A meeting was held in September 2005 to mark the 60th anniversary of the United Nations and to review the situation. The leaders at the meeting decided on some of the steps that need to be taken to make the United Nations more relevant in the changing context. The establishment of the Human Rights Council, the establishment of the Democratic Fund, the agreement to terminate the Trusteeship Council, etc. are in these stages.



DO YOU KNOW?

WHO: World Health Organization to deal with health-related issues.

UNICEF: United Nations Children's Fund for child welfare.

UNESCO: United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization for the Promotion of Education, Science and Culture.

Peacekeeping operation: A mechanism to restore peace and security by sending UN-controlled forces to the affected area.

5. India and the United Nations Reforms

India has always supported the reorganization of the United Nations. It believes that a strong and revived United Nations is needed in a changing world. The reorganization of the Security Council is one of India's most important demands. It supports an increase in the number of permanent and non-



permanent members. It also argued that an expanded council with more representatives would have greater support in the world community. India wants to become a permanent member of the reconstituted United Nations. India is the largest democracy in the world and the second most populous country in the world. The country's economic progress on the world stage is another factor that justifies India's claim for permanent membership in the Security Council.

Despite India's desire to become a permanent veto-holding member of the United Nations, some countries have questioned its inclusion. They are concerned about Indo-Pak relations, India's nuclear capabilities and so on.

6. United Nations in a unipolar world

Many countries believe that the reform and restructuring of the United Nations will help the United Nations better deal with the unified world of which the US is the most powerful country. America's authority will not be easily checked because America will be the only superpower after the dissolution of the USSR. At the United Nations, American influence is significant. As the largest contributor to the United Nations, the US has unparalleled economic power. So the United States is not a great balance. However, in a polar world dominated by the United States, the United States works to bring the United States and the rest of the world into discussions on a variety of issues. The United Nations is an imperfect body, but without it the world would be a mess. People need access and support from the United Nations and other international organizations in accordance with their interests.

There have been some changes affecting the functioning of the United Nations since the Cold War

1. The collapse of the Soviet Union, the rise of China and India as emerging powers, the influx of new members, and the challenges posed by genocide, civil war, ethnic conflict, terrorism, and nuclear proliferation.
2. They have faced two types of reforms over time, namely the organization structure and policies and veto powers only to permanent members, the domination of powerful nations and the role of peace to be more effective and security issues to be reviewed by the United Nations.
3. In 1992, the United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution on UN reform, which complained about the lack of representation of contemporary powers, the dominance of certain countries based on Western values, and so on.

In January 1997, Kofi Annan, UN Secretary-General, asked, "How should the United Nations be reformed?"

1. Since 1997, a key economic and military force to be added to the new member of the United Nations has been the United Nations Budget, a population that respects democracy and human rights, and the Council should be more representative.
2. In September 2005, the heads of all UN member states agreed to make the United Nations more relevant by formulating measures such as the Peace Building Commission, the Human Rights Council, the Convention on the Achieving of the Millennium Development Goals, the Counter-Terrorism and the Democracy Fund. An agreement to close the Trusteeship Council.
3. India is a major supporter of the reorganization of the United Nations, the composition of the Security Council, and the inclusion of greater representation in the Council for its political support to promote development and cooperation between states.
4. As Indian Citizens, India's candidacy for permanent membership in the United Nations Security Council is the second-most populous country in the world. . We strongly support the evidence.
5. Some countries are questioning the inclusion of India as a permanent member of the Security Council based on some developing countries (Brazil, Germany, Japan), including the turbulent relations with Pakistan, nuclear capabilities, and even India, (South Africa) also accommodates, France and the USA argue that Africa and South America should be represented as they are not represented in the current structure.
6. Since the United States has been the only superpower since 1991, the United Nations cannot act as a balance against US hegemony and can ignore any international body, financially and militarily, while its veto power can stop any movement that harms its interests and at the same time. The Secretary-General of the United Nations is very happy with the election.



DO YOU KNOW?

U Thant (1961–1971) Burma (Myanmar): Teacher and diplomat working to resolve the Cuban Missile Crisis and end the Congo Crisis; Established United Nations peacekeeping force in Cyprus; Criticized America during the Vietnam War.

Kurt Waldheim (1972–1981) Austria: Diplomat and Minister of Foreign Affairs; Tried Resolving the issues of Namibia and Lebanon; Oversees relief efforts in Bangladesh, China suspends bid for third time

Questions For Practice

1. Which among the following would give more weightage to India's proposal for a permanent member in the Security Council?
 - (a) Nuclear Capability
 - (b) It has been a member of the UN since its inception
 - (c) It is located in Asia
 - (d) All the above
2. The U.N. agency concerned with the safety and peaceful use of nuclear technology is?
 - (a) The UN Committee on Disarmament
 - (b) International Atomic Energy Agency
 - (c) UN International Safeguard Committee
 - (d) None of the above
3. WTO is serving as the successor to which of the following organizations?
 - (a) General Agreement on Trade and Tariff
 - (b) General Arrangement on Trade and Tariff
 - (c) World Health Organization
 - (d) UN Development Programme
4. India became a member of the U.N. in?
 - (a) 1945 (b) 1947
 - (c) 1950 (d) 1962
5. Who was the first woman President of the U.N. General Assembly?
 - (a) Sarojini Naidu
 - (b) Aruna Asaf Ali
 - (c) Vijay Lakshmi Pandit
 - (d) Raj Kumari Amrit Kaur
6. Which one of the following is not a permanent member of the U.N. Security Council?
 - (a) Russia (b) India
 - (c) China (d) France
7. Who blocked the Second term for Boutros Ghali as Secretary-General?
 - (a) USA (b) India
 - (c) France (d) China
8. "The United Nations was not created to take humanity to heaven, but to save it from hell." Who made this statement?
 - (a) Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru
 - (b) Kofi Annan
 - (c) Ban Ki Moon
 - (d) Dag Hammarskjold
9. The UN Security Council has ___permanent and ___ non-permanent members?
 - (a) 5,10 (b) 4,9
 - (c) 5,9 (d) 4,10
10. When was the San Francisco Conference held?
 - (a) June,24,1945
 - (b) June,25,1945
 - (c) April 24,1945
 - (d) April 25, 1945
11. Which of the following would give high priority to India's proposal for permanent membership in the Security Council?
 - (a) Atomic capacity
 - (b) It has been a member of the United Nations since its inception
 - (c) It is located in Asia
 - (d) India's growing economic power and stable political system
12. United Nations Agency for the Security and Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Technology?
 - (a) United Nations Committee on Disarmament
 - (b) International Atomic Energy Agency
 - (c) United Nations Committee on International Security
 - (d) None of the above
13. The WTO is the successor to which of the following organizations?
 - (a) General Agreement on Trade and Tariffs
 - (b) General arrangement on trade and tariffs
 - (c) World Health Organization
 - (d) United Nations Development Program
14. India is a member of the United Nations?
 - (a) 1945 (b) 1947
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15. Who is the first woman President of the United Nations General Assembly?
 - (a) Sarojini Naidu
 - (b) Aruna Asaf Ali
 - (c) Vijay Lakshmi Pandit
 - (d) Raj Kumari Amrit Kauri
16. Kofi Annan created the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis?
 - (a) Diarrhea. (b) Fatigue.
 - (c) Malaria (d) Smallpox.
17. The main objective of the International Atomic Energy Agency is to promote the peaceful use?
 - (a) Atomic energy.
 - (b) World Trade.
 - (c) Military power.
 - (d) Veto Power.
18. What is the significance of India's proposal for permanent membership in the Security Council?
 - (a) Atomic capacity.
 - (b) is in Asia.
 - (c) India's membership in the United Nations.
 - (d) India's growing economic power and stable political system.
19. When was the World Trade Organization established?
 - (a) 1993 (b) 1994
 - (c) 1995 (d) 1996
20. An international organization working for the protection of human rights worldwide?
 - (a) Amnesty International.
 - (b) International Monetary Fund.
 - (c) WTO.
 - (d) International Court of Justice.
21. Who was the first woman President of the United Nations General Assembly?
 - (a) Sarojini Naidu
 - (b) Aruna Asaf Ali
 - (c) Vijay Lakshmi Pandit
 - (d) Raj Kumari Amrit Kauri

22. Human rights have two dimensions?
 (a) Social and legal aspects
 (b) Natural and legal aspects
 (c) Economic and political aspects
 (d) Economic and natural aspects
23. The most visible public figure and head of the United Nations delegation?
 (a) Chief Executive Officer.
 (b) Chief Secretary.
 (c) Administrative Officer.
 (d) Deputy General.
24. Who among the following is not a permanent member of the United Nations Security Council?
 (a) Russia (b) India
 (c) China (d) France
25. Kofi Annan created the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis?
 (a) Diarrhea. (b) Dating.
 (c) Malaria (d) Smallpox.
26. The main goal of the International Atomic Energy Agency is to promote peaceful use?
 (a) Atomic energy
 (b) World Trade
 (c) Military power
 (d) The power of veto
27. How many judges are there in the International Court of Justice?
 (a) Fifteen judges
 (b) Sixteen Judges
 (c) Seventeen Judges
 (d) Eighteen Judges
28. When was the World Trade Organization established?
 (a) 1993 (b) 1994
 (c) 1995 (d) 1996
29. Known as the International Court of Justice?
 (a) World Court
 (b) Supreme Court
 (c) Criminal Court
 (d) Subordinate Courts
30. The United Nations was established?
 (a) October 24, 1945.
 (b) October 30, 1945.
 (c) June 26, 1945.
 (d) January 26, 1942.
31. Who was the first woman President of the United Nations General Assembly?
 (a) Sarojini Naidu
 (b) Aruna Asaf Ali
 (c) Vijay Lakshmi Pandit
 (d) Raj Kumari Amrit Kaur
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37. How many judges are there in the International Court of Justice?
 (a) Fifteen judges
 (b) Sixteen Judges
 (c) Seventeen Judges
 (d) Eighteen Judges
38. When was the World Trade Organization established?
 (a) 1993 (b) 1994
 (c) 1995 (d) 1996
39. Known as the International Court of Justice?
 (a) Principle Judicial Organ of UN
 (b) Supreme Court
 (c) Criminal Court
 (d) Subordinate Courts
40. The United Nations was established?
 (a) October 24, 1945.
 (b) October 30, 1945.
 (c) June 26, 1945.
 (d) January 26, 1942.

Solutions

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|--------|--------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| 1. (d) | 5. (c) | 9. (a) | 13. (a) | 17. (a) | 21. (c) | 25. (c) | 29. (a) | 33. (b) | 37. (a) |
| 2. (b) | 6. (b) | 10. (d) | 14. (a) | 18. (d) | 22. (b) | 26. (a) | 30. (a) | 34. (b) | 38. (c) |
| 3. (a) | 7. (a) | 11. (a) | 15. (c) | 19. (c) | 23. (b) | 27. (a) | 31. (c) | 35. (c) | 39. (a) |
| 4. (a) | 8. (d) | 12. (b) | 16. (c) | 20. (a) | 24. (b) | 28. (c) | 32. (b) | 36. (a) | 40. (a) |

