

# United Nations Organisation

United Nations (UN) is a global organisation tasked with maintaining international peace and security, while fostering friendly relations among nations.

It is the largest, most recognized and most powerful intergovernmental organisation in the world.

## When was the United Nations established?

The UN was formed following the devastating aftermath of World War II, with the aim of preventing future global-scale conflicts. It was a successor to the ineffective League of Nations. The representatives of 50 governments met in San Francisco on 25 April 1945, to draft what would become the UN Charter. The charter was adopted on 25 June 1945 and came into effect on 24 October 1945.

In accordance with the Charter, the organization's objectives include maintaining international peace and security, protecting human rights, delivering humanitarian aid, promoting sustainable development, and upholding international law. At its founding, the UN had 51 member states; this number grew to 193 in 2011, representing the vast majority of the world's sovereign states.

## Structure of the UN

The UN is structured around five principal organs:

1. General Assembly,
2. United Nations Security Council (UNSC)
3. Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC),
4. International Court of Justice
5. UN Secretariat.

A sixth principal organ, the Trusteeship Council, suspended operations on 1 November 1994, upon the independence of Palau, the last remaining UN trustee territory.

A brief table about their primary function is given in table below:

Principal Organs of the United Nations		
Name of the Organ	Primary Function	Primary Tasks of the Organ
UN General Assembly	Deliberative assembly of all	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• May resolve</li></ul>

	<p>the UN member states</p>	<p>non-compulsory recommendations to states or suggestions to the Security Council (UNSC);</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Decides on the admission of new members, following proposal by the UNSC;</li> <li>● Adopts the budget;</li> <li>● Elects the non-permanent members of the UNSC; all members of ECOSOC; the UN Secretary General (following his/her proposal by the UNSC); and the fifteen judges of the International Court of Justice (ICJ). Each country has one vote.</li> </ul>
<p>UN Secretariat</p>	<p>Administrative organ of the UN</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Supports the other UN bodies administratively (for example, in the organization of conferences, the writing of reports and studies and the preparation of the budget);</li> <li>● Its chairperson – the UN Secretary General – is elected by the General Assembly for a five-year mandate and is the UN's foremost representative.</li> </ul>

International Court of Justice	Universal court of international Law	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Decides disputes between states that recognize its jurisdiction;</li> <li>● Issues legal opinions;</li> <li>● Renders judgment by relative majority. Its fifteen judges are elected by the UN General Assembly for nine-year terms.</li> </ul>
UN Security Council	Arbiterates international security issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Responsible for the maintenance of international peace and security;</li> <li>● May adopt compulsory resolutions;</li> <li>● Has fifteen members: five permanent members with veto power and ten elected members.</li> </ul>
UN Economic and Social Council	For global economic and social affairs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Responsible for the maintenance of international peace and security;</li> <li>● May adopt compulsory resolutions;</li> <li>● Has fifteen members: five permanent members with veto power and ten elected members.</li> </ul>
UN Trusteeship Council	For administering trust territory (now disbanded)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Responsible for the maintenance of international peace and security;</li> <li>● May adopt compulsory resolutions;</li> <li>● Has fifteen members:</li> </ul>

		five permanent members with veto power and ten elected members.
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To know more about the UN and its principal organs, visit the linked article.

## What are the specialized agencies of the UN?

The UN Charter stipulates that each primary organ of the United Nations can establish various specialized agencies to fulfil its duties. Some of them are given in the table below:

United Nations Specialized Agencies			
Agency	Acronym	Headquarters	Founding Year
Food and Agriculture Organization	FAO	Rome, Italy	1945
International Atomic Energy Agency	IAEA	Vienna, Austria	1957
International Fund for Agricultural Development	IFAD	Rome, Italy	1977
International Labour Organization	ILO	Geneva, Switzerland	1946
International Maritime Organization	IMO	London, United Kingdom	1948
International Monetary Fund	IMF	Washington, United States	1945
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization	UNESCO	Paris, France	1946
World Health Organization	WHO	Geneva, Switzerland	1948

## What has been the UN's contribution to India?

India was among the founding members of the United Nations. Before achieving independence, India signed the Declaration by the United Nations at Washington, D.C. in 1944 October and also participated in the United Nations Conference on International Organization at San Francisco from 25 April to 26 June 1945. As one of the original members of the United Nations, India enthusiastically supports the purposes and principles of the UN and has made significant contributions in implementing the goals of the organisation

The UN field networks in India are the largest anywhere in the world through the many offices, programmes and funds currently at work in the country. Some of the milestones that the UN has made in India is elaborated upon below:

- **Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO):**
  - When FAO began its India operations in 1948, its priority was to transform India's food and farm sectors through technical inputs and support for policy development.
  - Over the years, FAO's has made major inroads in resolving issues such as access to food, nutrition, livelihoods, rural development and sustainable agriculture. With the Sustainable Development Goals in full swing, the FAO's primary focus will be on improving India's sustainable agricultural practices.
- **International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD):**
  - IFAD and the Government of India have achieved significant results investing in the **commercialization of smallholding-agriculture** and building small farmers' capacity to increase incomes from market opportunities.
  - IFAD-supported projects have also provided women with access to financial services, such as by linking women's self-help groups with commercial banks.
- India has worked with the UN on the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (**UNAIDS**). The main aim of the programme is to help prevent new HIV infections, care for people living with HIV and mitigate the impact of the epidemic. Between 2001 and 2012 the total number of cases of the disease in India fell down by 50%, one of the highest in the world at that time. So far, India has managed to continue the trend.