

# 4

## United Nations and Its Organisations

### Inside the CHAPTER

- United Nations
- The UN in A Unipolar World
- UN Agencies
- Principal Organs of United Nations

### United Nations

United Nations is the most important International Organisation. It helps countries to enhance co-operation and make better living conditions for all.

After the First World War **League of Nations** was born to deal with conflicts within nations. The League of Nations was founded on 10th January, 1920 as a result of **Paris Peace Conference** that ended the First World War. This was the first International Organisation whose main objective was to maintain world peace.

However, despite its initial success, it could not prevent the Second World War. The United Nations was founded as a successor to the League of Nations in 1945 immediately after the Second World War.

It was set up through the signing of the United Nations Charter by 51 states on 24th October, 1945. It tried to achieve which league could not achieve between the two world wars.

### Objectives of UN

The main objectives of the United Nations are

- UN's objective is to prevent international conflicts and to

- Another objective of UN is to promote respect for human rights, dignity and freedom.

### Members of UN

- The UN had 193 member states by 2011 (Last added South Sudan) which included almost all independent states with one vote each in the UN General Assembly.
- There are five permanent members in the UN Security Council and they are, the United Nations, Russia, the United Kingdom, France and China. These five members were chosen as a permanent member because they emerged powerful after the Second World War.
- The most visible public figure of UN is the representative head i.e. the Secretary-General. The present and the ninth Secretary General of UN is Antonio Guterres. He took over as the Secretary General on 1st January, 2017. He was the Prime Minister of Portugal (1995-2002) and the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (2005-2015).

### Reform of the UN After the Cold War

The two basic reforms faced by the UN are

- (i) **Reforms of Structures and Processes** The biggest discussion on the reform of structures and processes was the functioning of the Security Council. To better reflect the realities of the contemporary world politics, in the structure of the organisation, there was demand for an increase in the UN Security Council's permanent and non permanent membership. In particular, there are proposals to increase membership from Asia, Africa and South America. The US and other Western countries want improvements in the UN's budgetary procedures and its administration.
- (ii) **Reform of a Review of the Subjects that Falls Under its Jurisdiction** There was differences on the issues to be given greater priority within the jurisdiction of the UN. Some countries and experts wanted the organisation to play a greater or more effective role in peace and security missions, while others wanted its role to be confined to development and humanitarian works such as, health, education, environment, population control, human rights, gender and social justice.

Therefore, the UN was established immediately after the Second World War in 1945. It was organised and operated in such a way that it reflected the reality of world politics after the Second World War. Following changes occurred in world politics.

- The Soviet-Union had collapsed and the US became the strongest power.
- There was much more cooperative relationship between Russia, the successor to the Soviet Union and the US.
- China-emerging fast as a great power and India is also growing rapidly.
- The economies of Asia are growing at an unprecedented rate.
- Many new countries joined the UN. As they became from the Soviet Union or former Communist states in Eastern Europe.
- The world now faces whole new set of issues (genocide, civil war, ethnic conflict, terrorism, nuclear proliferation, climate change, degradation, epidemics).

## Reform of Structure and Processes of the UN

The UN General Assembly adopted a resolution in 1992, which reflected three main complaints

- (i) Contemporary political realities were no longer represented by the Security Council.
- (ii) Only Western values and interests are reflected in its

Security Council. On 1st January, 1997 the UN Secretary General Kofi Annan initiated an inquiry into how the UN should be reformed. Since then, the criteria for inclusion of new permanent and non-permanent members have been proposed.

Some of the criteria for a new member is

- It should be a major economic power and military power.
- A substantial contributor to the UN budget.
- A big nation in terms of its population and a nation that respects democracy and human rights.
- A country that would make the council more representative of the world's diversity in terms of geography, economic systems and culture.

**Major contributors to the UN regular budget for 2019**

No.	Member State	%
1	USA	22.0
2	China	12.0
3	Japan	8.5
4	Germany	6.0
5	UK	4.5
6	France	4.4
7	Italy	3.3
8	Brazil	2.9
9	Canada	2.7
10	Russia	2.4
11	Republic of Korea	2.2
12	Australia	2.2
13	Spain	2.1
14	Turkey	1.3
15	Netherlands	1.3
16	Mexico	1.2
17	Saudi Arabia	1.1
18	Switzerland	1.1
19	Argentina	0.9
20	Sweden	0.9
21	India	0.8

Different governments saw advantages in some criteria and disadvantages in others depending on their interests and aspirations.

Some of the issues were

- There was an issue to change the nature of membership. A

- There were five permanent and ten non-permanent members in the Security Council. Permanent members had two privileges i.e. permanency and veto power. Whereas, the non permanent members serve for only two years at a time.
- The non permanent members are elected in a manner so that they represent all the continents of the world.
- Non permanent members does not have veto power. By veto power we mean that if a permanent member cast a vote in a negative manner then it may state the decision. Without veto power, there is danger that the great powers would lose interest in the world body and without their support the body would be ineffective.

### World Bank

The World Bank was created during the Second World War in 1944. Its activities are focused on the developing countries. It works for human development (education, health), agriculture and rural development (irrigation, rural services), environmental protection (pollution reduction, establishing and enforcing regulations), infrastructure (roads, urban regeneration, electricity) and governance (anti-corruption, development of legal institutions). It provides loans and grants to the member-countries. In this way, it exercises enormous influence on the economic policies of developing countries. It is often criticised for setting the economic agenda of the poorer nations, attaching stringent conditions to its loans and forcing free market reforms.

## Jurisdiction of the UN

The heads of all the members-states met in September 2005 to celebrate the anniversary of the United Nations and to review the situation. In this meeting, the leaders decided that some steps should be taken to make the UN more relevant in the changing context. Following recommendations were made

- Creation of Peacebuilding Commission.
- To protect their own citizens the countries should accept the responsibility of the international community in case of failures of nation governments.
- Establishment of a Human Rights Council.
- Agreement to achieve the Millennium Development Goals.
- Condemnation of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations.
- To create a Democracy Fund.
- An agreement to wind up the Trusteeship Council.

## India and the UN Reforms

- On Several grounds India has supported the restructuring of the UN. It believes that a strengthened and revitalised UN is desirable in a changing world. India also supports
- India believes that development should be central to UN's agenda as it is vital precondition for the maintenance of international peace and security.
- The most important demand of India is regarding the restructuring of the Security Council. It also argues that an expanded Council, with more representation will enjoy greater support in the world community.
- The membership of the UN Security Council expanded from 11 to 15 in 1965 without any change in the number of permanent members. The size of the council remained stationary since then.
- The facts is that in majority of UN General Assembly more members are of developing countries. Therefore, India argues that they should also have a role in shaping the decisions in the Security Council. Thus, India supports an increase in the number of both permanent and non-permanent members. Its representatives have argued that the activities of the Security Council have greatly expanded in the past few years.
- The success of the Security Council's actions depends upon the political support of the international community. Any plan for restructuring of the Security Council should, therefore, be broad-based. For example, the Security Council should have more developing countries in it. India itself wishes to be a permanent member in a restructured UN.
- India comprises almost one fifth of the world population and is the second most populous country in the world. Moreover, India is also the world's largest democracy.
- The role of India in UN's Peacekeeping efforts is a long and substantial one. The economic emergence of India on the world stage is another factor that perhaps justifies India's claim to a permanent seat in the Security Council. India has also made regular financial contributions to the UN and never faltered on its payments.
- India knows that permanent membership of the Security Council has a symbolic importance.
- As it signifies a country's growing importance in world affairs. This greater status is an advantage to a country in the conduct of its foreign policy: the reputation for being powerful makes you more influential.
- Despite India's wish to be permanent veto wielding member of the UN, some countries questions its inclusion. For example, some countries are concerned about India's nuclear weapons capabilities. While other countries think that its difficulties with Pakistan will make India ineffective as a permanent member.
- Despite India's wish to be a permanent veto holding member of the UN, and all these given concerns it may not be very easy for India or anyone else to become a

## World Trade Organisation (WTO)

The WTO is an international organisation which sets the rules for global trade. This organisation was set up in 1995 as the successor to the General Agreement on Trade and Tariffs (GATT) created after the Second World War. It has 164 members (as on 29 July 2016). All decisions are taken unanimously but the major economic powers such as the US, EU and Japan have managed to use the WTO to frame rules of trade to advance their own interests. The developing countries often complain of non-transparent procedures and being pushed around by big powers.

## The UN in A Unipolar World

Influence of the United States of America is very powerful and widespread. This can be understood with the help of following points.

- Many countries believed that the reform and restructuring of the UN could help the UN cope better with a unipolar world in which the US was the most powerful country. After the disintegration of USSR, the US stands as the only superpower hence US power cannot be easily checked.
- The influence of the US is considerable within the UN. The US has unmatched financial power, the fact that the UN is physically located within the US territory gives Washington additional sources of influence. Thus, UN can also stop any moves that it finds annoying or damaging to its interests or the interests of its friends and allies with its veto power.
- The power of the US and its veto within the organisation also ensure that Washington has a considerable degree of say in the choice of the Secretary General of the UN. The US can and does use this power to 'split' the rest of the world and to reduce opposition to its policies. Therefore, UN is not a great balance to the US.
- Nevertheless, in a unipolar world in which the US is dominant, the UN can and has served to bring the US and the rest of the world into discussions over various issues.

US leaders, in spite of their frequent criticism of the UN, do see the organisation as serving a purpose in bringing together over 190 nations in dealing with conflict and social and economic development.

Though, UN is an imperfect body, but without it the world would be worse off. Thus, it is important for people to use and support the UN and other international organisations in ways that

## Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch

**Amnesty International** is an NGO that campaigns for the protection of human rights all over the world. It promotes respect for all the human rights in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. It believes that human rights are interdependent and indivisible. It prepares and publishes reports on human rights. Governments are not always happy with these reports since a major focus of Amnesty is the misconduct of government authorities. Nevertheless, these reports play an important role in research and advocacy on human rights.

**Human Rights Watch** is another international NGO involved in research and advocacy on human rights. It is the largest international human rights organisation in the US. It draws the global media's attention to human rights abuses. It helped in building international coalitions like the campaigns to ban landmines, to stop the use of child soldiers and to establish the international Criminal Court.

## Founding of the United Nations

**August 1941** Signing of the Atlantic Charter by the US President Franklin D Roosevelt and British PM Winston S. Churchill.

**January 1942** 26 Allied nations fighting against the Axis Powers meet in Washington, D.C., to support the Atlantic Charter and sign the 'Declaration by United Nations'.

**December 1943** Tehran Conference Declaration of the Three Powers (US, Britain and Soviet Union).

**February 1945** Yalta Conference of the 'Big Three' (Roosevelt, Churchill and Stalin) decides to organise a United Nations conference on the proposed world organisation.

**April-May** The 2-month long United Nations Conference on International Organisation at San Francisco.

**26th June, 1945** Signing of the UN Charter by 50 nations (Poland signed on October 15; so the UN has 51 original founding members).

**24th October, 1945** The UN was founded (hence October 24 is celebrated as UN Day).

**30th October, 1945** India joins the UN.

Check Point

01

1. Which organisation was established as a successor to the League of Nations?
2. Name the two permanent members of UN.
3. How many member states are part of UN?
4. The most visible public figure of UN is the .....
5. Who is ninth secretary General of UN?

## UN Agencies

The UN has various structures and agencies. The conflicts between the states are discussed both in General Assembly and Security Council. Many agencies deal with the social and economic issues such as the World Health Organisations (WHO), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Human Rights Commission (UNHRC), United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) among

Some of the UN key agencies are discussed below

## UNESCO

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) was established on 4th November, 1946. Its headquarter is located in Paris, France. It is a special body of the United Nations whose main objective is to promote education, natural science, society and anthropology, culture and communication. During past several years, the special work done by UNESCO has been to promote literacy, technical and educational training and independent media, etc. all across its member nations.

### Objectives of UNESCO

The objectives of UNESCO are as following

- To access quality of education for everyone
- To actively provide the knowledge of science and policies for sustainable development.
- To address the challenges, whether it be social or ethical.
- It attempts to build a culture of peace in diversity and intercultural dialogue of harmony.
- To establish knowledge societies with the help of information and communication.

### Functions of UNESCO

The major functions of UNESCO are

- To contribute to peace and security in the world by promoting collaboration among nations. This is done through education, science, culture and communication.
- It believes in education being a basic human right, so it encourages education among children.
- UNESCO devotes a large portion of funds to basic research in developing countries.
- It provides assistance and international cooperation among artists, scientists and scholars.

## UNICEF

The United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) was created by the UN general assembly during its first session in 1946 to help the emergency needs of the children in post war Europe. In 1950, its programme was extended to provide long-range benefits to children of all developing countries. Later on its name was changed to United Nations Children's Fund.

However, its acronym UNICEF continued. UNICEF is governed by 36-member Executive Board. It has its headquarter in New York and has more than 200 officers in developing countries. It has been working successfully in

## Objectives of UNICEF

The main objectives of UNICEF are

- To look after children's welfare especially in developing countries.
- To provide people with low cost community based services in maternal and child health, nutrition and immunisation, etc.
- It also helps and encourages the work that promote children's health and better life in all parts of the world.

## Functions of UNICEF

UNICEF provides services in primary health-care nutrition, basic education, sanitation and women's development in developing countries

The main functions of UNICEF are broadly divided into the following categories

- It works for the protection of children in respect of their survival, health and well being.
- This is done in cooperation with individuals, civic groups, governments and the private sector.
- It provides funds for training the personnel, including health and sanitation workers, teachers and nutritionists. Universal Child Immunisations against preventable diseases by 1990 was one of the leading goals of UNICEF.
- It provides technical supplies, equipment and other aids, ranging from paper for textbooks to equipments and medicines to health clinics to pipes and pumps for bringing clean water to villages.
- It assists governments to plan, develop and extend community-based services in the fields of maternal and child healths, nutrition, clean water and sanitation.
- It provides help to children and mothers in emergencies arising from natural calamities, civil strifes and epidemics.
- It makes effort to prevent diseases like T.B, malaria, eye diseases, skin diseases, etc.
- UNICEF performs various other functions. As the role agency for children, it speaks on behalf of children and upholds the convention on the Rights of the child and work for its implementation. UNICEF was awarded the Nobel prize for peace in the year 1965 and the Indira Gandhi Peace Prize in 1989.

## World Health Organisation (WHO)

The World Health Organisation (WHO) is the United Nations specialised agency for health. It was established on 7th April, 1948 when 26 members of the United Nations notified its Constitution. World Health Day is celebrated on 7th April every year. The headquarters of WHO are at Geneva in

## Objectives of WHO

The objectives of WHO are

- To attainment of the highest possible level of health by all people.
- Health is defined in WHO's constitution as a state of complete well being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity.
- To raise awareness of the extent of illness, suffering and death among mothers and children and its impact on health as well as social and economic development.
- When pertaining to health issues it creates an interface between the developed and developing nations.

## Functions of WHO

The functions performed by WHO are

- It helps the countries to improve their health system by building up infrastructure especially manpower, institutions and services for the individual and community.
- It gives important drugs needed for medical care. The WHO launched a programme to immunise children against six major diseases Measles, Diphtheria, Tetanus, Tuberculosis, Polio and whooping cough.
- It promotes research to cure and prevent diseases. For example, it arranged for the investigation of cancer and heart diseases in laboratories in many countries to identify disease-causing organisms to improve vaccines and to train research workers.
- It works towards providing safe drinking water and adequate waste disposal.
- It organises conference, seminars and training for health care personnel from different countries.
- It aims at fighting diseases and preventing them from spreading. Malaria eradication programme continues to be the world's biggest health programme.
- It defines standards for the strength and purity of medicines including biological products.
- It makes special efforts in combating diarrhoeal diseases which are known as killers of infants and young children.

## International Labour Organisations (ILO)

The International Labour Organisation (ILO) was founded in 1919, its constitution forming part of the Treaty of Versailles. The ILO became the first specialised agency of the UN in 1946.

The ILO is the only 'Tripartite' UN agency. It brings together representatives of governments, employers and workers to jointly shape policies and programmes. This unique

The ILO is devoted to advancing opportunities for women and men to obtain decent and productive work in conditions of freedom, equity, security and human dignity.

Its main aims are to

- promote rights at work
- encourage decent employment opportunities
- enhance social protection
- strengthen dialogue in handling work related issues.

The ILO helps in the creation of decent jobs and the kinds of economic and working conditions that give working people and business people a stake in lasting peace, prosperity and progress.

## Objectives of ILO

There are four principle strategic objectives of ILO which are as follows

- (i) To promote and realise standards and fundamental principles and rights at work.
- (ii) To create greater opportunities for women and men to secure decent employment.
- (iii) To enhance the coverage and effectiveness of social protection for all.
- (iv) To strengthen tripartism and social dialogue.

## Functions of ILO

The functions of ILO are as follows

- Creation of coordinated policies and programmes, directed at solving social and Labour Issues.
- Adoption of International Labour Standards in the form of convention and recommendations and control over their implementation.
- Assistance to member-states in solving social and labour problems.
- Human rights protection (the right to work, freedom of association, collective negotiations, protection against forced labour, protection against discrimination, etc.)
- Research and publication of works on social and labour issues.

## International Labour Standards

- The ILO sets International Labour Standards with conventions, which are ratified by member states. These are non-binding.
- Conventions are drawn up with impact from government, workers and employer's group at the ILO and are adopted by the International Labour Conference.
- In ratifying an ILO convention, a member state accepts it as a legally binding instrument, many countries use

**Check Point**  
**02**

1. When did UNESCO come into existence?
2. Where is the UNESCO's headquarter located?
3. What is the main task of UNICEF?
4. In how many countries UNICEF is successfully working?
5. ILO has been founded in .....

## Principal Organs of United Nations

The United Nations (UN) has six main organs. Five of them are the General Assembly, the Security Council, the Economic and Social Council, the Trusteeship Council and the Secretariat are based at UN Headquarters in New York. The sixth, the International Court of Justice, is located at The Hague in the Netherlands.

### General Assembly

It is the main deliberative organ of the United Nations. It is composed of representatives from all member states, each of which has one vote. It also plays a significant role in the process of standard-setting and the codification of international law.

The Assembly meets from September to December each year (main part), and thereafter, from January to September (resumed part), as required.

The Assembly considers current issues of critical importance to the international community in the form of high-level thematic debates organised by the President of the General Assembly, in consultation with the membership.

### Functions and Powers of the General Assembly

- The Assembly is empowered to make recommendations to States on international issues within its competence.
- Make recommendations for the peaceful settlement of any situation that might impair friendly relations among countries.
- Consider and approve the United Nations budget and establish the financial assessments of Member States.
- Elect the non-permanent members of the Security Council and the members of other United Nations councils and organs and, on the recommendation of the Security Council, appoint the Secretary-General.
- Consider and make recommendations on the general principles of cooperation for maintaining international peace and security, including disarmament.

### Security Council

which five are Permanent (with veto rights) and ten are Non-permanent elected by the General Assembly for two-year terms and 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.

### Functions and Powers of Security Council

- To maintain international peace and security in accordance with the principles and purposes of the United Nations.
- To investigate any dispute or situation which might lead to international friction.
- To recommend methods of adjusting such disputes or the terms of settlement.
- To formulate plans for the establishment of a system to regulate armaments.
- To determine the existence of a threat to the peace or act of aggression and to recommend what action should be taken.
- To call on members to apply economic sanctions and other measures not involving the use of force to prevent or stop aggression.
- To recommend to the General Assembly for the appointment of the Secretary-General and together with the Assembly, to elect the Judges of the International Court of Justice.

### Security Council and the Need for its Expansion

After Cold War, various reforms in the UN took place especially regarding the functioning of the Security Council. There has been a demand on the functioning of the Security Council. Countries demanded an increase in the UN Security Council's permanent and non-permanent membership so that the realities of contemporary world politics are reflected in the structure of UN.

Proposals from Asia, Africa and South America came up to increase membership in the UN Security Council. On the other hand, US and other Western countries demanded improvements in the UN's budgetary procedures and its administration.

In 1992, a debate arose over reform of the UN Security Council in which UN General Assembly adopted a resolution reflecting three main concerns that are

- (i) The Security Council no longer represents contemporary political realities.
- (ii) Security Council's decisions reflect only Western values and interests and are dominated by a few

On 1st January 1997, the UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan initiated an inquiry to implement the reforms. The following criteria have been proposed for new permanent and non-permanent members of UN Security Council

- A major economic power
- A major military power
- A substantial contributor to the UN budget
- A big nation in terms of its population
- A nation that respects democracy and human rights
- A country that would make the Council more representative of the world's diversity in terms of geography, economic systems and culture.

However, some of these criteria were considered valid and some were considered invalid by the governments depending upon their interests and aspirations. It was asserted that current composition of the Security Council represents the post-World War II realities and thus is not in pace with the changing balance of power in the world.

Rise of forum like G4 (India, Brazil, Germany, and Japan) function as important economies and emerging world powers are pushing after quick UN Security Council reforms. But still there is a concern that expansion of the council may lead to a decline in its efficiency and functioning. There are no parameters in the UN Security Council for considering the countries for permanent membership. For the developing countries, there is a need for UN Security Council expansion for equal representation.

## **Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)**

ECOSOC was established in 1945, it is the place where the world's economic, social and environmental challenges are discussed and debated, and policy recommendations issued. Munir Akram was elected seventy-sixth President of the Economic and Social Council on 23rd July, 2020. The Council is made up of 54 members.

### **Functions and Powers of ECOSOC**

- To serve as the central forum for discussions on international economic and social issues.
- To promote higher standards of living, full employment and economic and social progress.
- To find solutions of international economic, social, health and related problems, and international cultural and educational cooperation.
- To encourage universal respect for and observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms.
- To assist the organisation of major international conferences, seminars, forums, symposia, colloquia, etc.

- To prepare draft conventions for submission to the General Assembly.
- To coordinate the work of the specialised agencies and programmes and their functional commissions and five regional commissions.
- To make arrangements for consultations with non-governmental organisations.

## **Trusteeship Council**

The Trusteeship Council was established to provide international supervision for 11 Trust Territories and to make sure that adequate steps were taken to prepare the territories for self-government or independence. It was suspended on 1st November, 1994 with the independence of Palau, the last UN trust territory.

### **Functions and Powers of Trusteeship Council**

- It is authorised to examine and discuss reports from the Administering Authority on the political, economic, social and educational advancement of the peoples of Trust Territories.
- To accept and examine petitions in consultation with the administering authority.

## **Secretariat**

The United Nations Secretariat carries out the day-to-day work of the UN as mandated by the General Assembly and the Organisation's other main organs. The Secretary-General is the head of the Secretariat, who is appointed by the General Assembly on the recommendation of the Security Council for a five-year renewable term.

### **Functions and Powers of Secretariat**

- To gather and prepare background information on various issues so that government delegates can study the facts and make recommendations.
- To help carry out the decisions made by the different organs of the United Nations.
- To organise international conferences.
- To translate speeches and distribute documents into the UN's official languages.
- To keep the public informed about the work of the United Nations.

## **International Court of Justice**

It is the principal judicial organ of the United Nations. The Court is charged with settling legal disputes between States and giving advisory opinions to the United Nations and its



These organs vote simultaneously but separately. In order to ensure a degree of continuity, one third of the Court is elected every three years. Judges are eligible for re-election.

## Functions and Powers of International Court of Justice

- 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 authorised United Nations organs and specialised agencies.
- The Court decides disputes between countries, based on the voluntary participation of the States concerned. If a State agrees to participate in a proceeding, it is obligated to comply with the Court's decision.

**Check Point 03**

1. Where is the International Court of Justice located?
2. General Assembly plays a significant role in the process of standard-setting and .....
3. The ECOSOC is made up of ..... members.
4. How many judges are there in the International Court of Justice?
5. Name G4 countries.

## UN Secretaries-General

**Trygve Lie** (1946-1952) Norway; lawyer and foreign minister; worked for ceasefire between India and Pakistan on Kashmir; criticised for his failure to quickly end the Korean war; Soviet Union opposed second term for him; resigned from the post.



**Dag Hammarskjöld** (1953-1961) Sweden; Economist and lawyer; worked for resolving the Suez Canal dispute and the decolonisation of Africa; awarded Nobel Peace Prize posthumously in 1961 for his efforts to settle the Congo crisis; Soviet Union and France criticised his role in Africa.



**U Thant** (1961-1971) Burma (Myanmar); teacher and diplomat; worked for resolving the Cuban Missile Crisis and ending the Congo crisis; established the UN Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus; criticised the US during the Vietnam War.



**Kurt Waldheim** (1972-1981) Austria; diplomat and foreign minister; made efforts to resolve the problems of Namibia and Lebanon; oversaw the relief operation in Bangladesh; China blocked his bid for a third term.



**Javier Perez de Cuellar** (1982-1991) Peru; lawyer and diplomat; worked for peace in Cyprus, Afghanistan and El Salvador; mediated between Britain and Argentina after the Falklands War; negotiated for the independence of Namibia.



**Boutros Boutros-Ghali** (1992-1996) Egypt; diplomat, jurist, foreign minister; issued a report, *An Agenda for Peace*; conducted a successful UN operation in Mozambique; blamed for the UN failures in Bosnia, Somalia and Rwanda; due to serious disagreements, the US blocked a second term for him.



**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 as an illegal act; established the Peacebuilding Commission and the Human Rights Council in 2005; awarded the 2001 Nobel Peace Prize



**Ban Ki-moon** (2007-2016) Republic of Korea (South Korea); diplomat and foreign minister; the second Asian to hold the post; highlighted climate change; focused on the Millennium Development Goals and Sustainable Development Goals; worked for the creation of UN Women; emphasised conflict resolution and nuclear disarmament.



**António Manuel de Oliveira Guterres** (2017) Portugal; former Prime Minister of Portugal from 1995 to 2002; was the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees during 2005-2015; President of the Socialist International from 1999 to 2005. He is serving as the ninth Secretary-General of the United Nations.



## TERMS TO KNOW

- **UN Charter** It is a Constitution of UN to deal with the objectives of the UN.
- **Peacekeeping Operation** A mechanism for restoring peace and security by sending UN controlled troops in the affected area.
- **World Bank** It is an international financial institution that provides loans and grants to member countries particularly developing nations.
- **Veto** It is a negative vote to be enjoyed by five permanent members of Security Council to stop a decision.
- **Unipolar World** It is that order in which one state exercises most of the cultural, economic and military influence.
- **Secretary General** A representative head of the UN to prepare an annual record of the UN activities.

## NCERT FOLDER

1. Mark correct or wrong against each of the following statements about the veto power.
- Only the permanent members of the Security Council possess the veto power.
  - It's a kind of negative power.
  - The Secretary-General uses this power when not satisfied with any decision.
  - One veto can stall a Security Council resolution.

**Ans.** (a) Correct (b) Correct  
(c) Wrong (d) Correct

2. Mark correct or wrong against each of the following statements about the way the UN functions.
- All security and peace related issues are dealt with in the Security Council.
  - Humanitarian policies are implemented by the main organs and specialised agencies spread across the globe.
  - Having consensus among the five permanent members on security issues is vital for its implementation.
  - The members of the General Assembly are automatically the members of all other principal organs and specialised agencies of the UN.

**Ans.** (a) Correct (b) Correct  
(c) Correct (d) Wrong

3. Which among the following would give more weightage to India's proposal for permanent membership in the Security Council?

- Nuclear capability.
- It has been a member of the UN since its inception.
- It is located in Asia.
- India's growing economic power and stable political system.

**Ans.** (d) India's growing economic power and stable political system.

4. The UN agency concerned with the safety and peaceful use of nuclear technology is

- The UN Committee on Disarmament
- International Atomic Energy Agency
- UN International Safeguard Committee
- None of the above

**Ans.** (b) International Atomic Energy Agency

5. WTO is serving as the successor to which of the following organisations?

- General Agreement on Trade and Tariffs
- General Arrangement on Trade and Tariffs

6. Fill in the Blanks

(i) The prime objective of the UN is .....

**Ans.** to maintain peace and security

(ii) The highest functionary of the UN is called .....

**Ans.** Secretary-General

(iii) The UN Security Council has ..... permanent and ..... non-permanent members.

**Ans.** five, ten

(iv) ..... is the present UN Secretary-General.

**Ans.** Antonio Guterres

7. Match the principal organs and agencies of the UN with their functions.

Principal Organs and Agencies	Functions
(i) Economic and Social Council	(a) Oversees the global financial system.
(ii) International Court of Justice	(b) Preservation of international peace and security.
(iii) International Atomic Energy Agency	(c) Looks into the economic and social welfare of the member countries.
(iv) Security Council	(d) Safety and peaceful use of nuclear technology.
(v) UN High Commission for Refugees	(e) Resolves disputes between and among member countries.
(vi) World Trade Organisation	(f) Provides shelter and medical help during emergencies.
(vii) International Monetary Fund	(g) Debates and discusses global issues.
(viii) General Assembly	(h) Administration and coordination of UN affairs.
(ix) World Health Organisation	(i) Providing good health for all.
(x) Secretariat	(j) Facilitates free trade among member countries.

**8. What are the functions of the Security Council?**

- Ans.** The main functions of the Security Council is to maintain peace and security in the world. Some of the other functions are discussed below
- To investigate any dispute or situation which might lead to international friction.
  - To recommend methods of adjusting such disputes or the terms of settlement.
  - To formulate plans for the establishment of a system to regulate armaments.
  - To determine the existence of a threat to the peace or act of aggression and to recommend what action should be taken.
  - It can apply economic sanctions also to stop any aggression.

**9. As a citizen of India, how would you support India's candidature for the permanent membership of the Security Council? Justify your proposal.**

- Ans.** As the citizen of India we should support India's candidature for the permanent membership of the Security Council. India rightly deserves a permanent seat, as it fulfils almost all the criteria laid down by the UN. These criteria are
- India is the second most populous country of the world comprising one-fifth of the world population that too of multi-cultural diaspora.
  - It is the world's largest democracy and upholds the democratic ideals.
  - It has emerged as potential economic power in the world with a stable political system.
  - India supports the initiatives taken up by the USA.
  - It has also made regular financial contributions to the UN and never faltered on its payments.
- Thus, all these factors justify India's claim to a permanent seat in the UN Security Council.

**10. Critically evaluate the difficulties involved in implementing the suggested reforms to reconstruct the UN.**

- Ans.** Many difficulties are involved in implementing the suggested reforms to reconstruct the UN which are as follows
- There is lack of representation especially in Asia, Africa and Latin America. The countries in these continents are not represented equally like the developed countries in the UN.
  - The current composition of the UN Security Council represents the post-World War II realities and thus is not in pace with the changing balance of power in the world.

- There is lack of adequate membership criteria well as conditions for membership in the UN. There are no parameters in the UN Security Council for considering the countries for permanent membership.
- There is a dominance of permanent members of UN who use their Veto power which further deteriorate the process of reform and restructuring of UN.

**11. Though the UN has failed in preventing wars and related miseries, nations prefer its continuation. What makes the UN an indispensable organisation?**

- Ans.** The following facts makes the UN an indispensable organisation for maintaining the world peace
- (i) Interdependence and globalisation is not possible without the international organisation such as the UN.
  - (ii) To enforce cooperation on the issues of poverty, unemployment, environmental degradation, crime rate etc.  
Thus, it works for the cooperation and protection of basic rights and conditions for survival.
  - (iii) To provide financial assistance to developing countries to stabilise economy all over the world, the UN and its specialised agencies are always required.
  - (iv) The UN works as a forum to solve any international dispute among nations and sort out the problem in best possible way. It is the only organisation which consists of 193 member states.

Hence, though the UN has failed in preventing related wars and miseries, despite the nations require its continuation due to above mentioned reasons to promote international peace and security.

**12. 'Reforming the UN means restructuring of the Security Council'. Do you agree with this statement? Give arguments for or against this position.**

- Ans.** Yes, I agree with the statement because Security Council plays a crucial role in functioning of the UN. In today's scenario power equations have been changed with the disintegration of USSR and many new countries are entering into the UN
- (i) The UN Charter has given a privileged position to permanent members to bring stability all over the world. This position remains the same and no one is allowed to enter.
  - (ii) Permanent member enjoy veto power to be placed in a valuable position.
  - (iii) Permanent members category is from industrialised developed country which should be balanced by enhancing representation from developing countries to become either permanent or non-permanent members.

# CHAPTER PRACTICE

## Objective Type Questions

### Multiple Choice Questions

1. Which one of the following is not a principal organ of the United Nations? **CBSE Term I 2021**
- Security Council
  - World Bank
  - International Court of Justice
  - General Assembly

**Ans.** (b) World Bank

2. Which one of the following criterion was NOT proposed for new permanent and non-permanent members of the UN Security Council?
- Should be a substantial contributor to the UN Debates.
  - Should be a major economic power.
  - Should be a major military power.
  - Should be a nation that respect democracy.

**Ans.** (a) Should be a substantial contributor to the UN Debates.

3. Which one of the following organs of the United Nations has been suspended since 1994?
- General Assembly
  - Trusteeship Council
  - Economic and Social Council
  - Secretariat

**Ans.** (b) Trusteeship council

4. Which one of the following statements does not justify India's claim to be a permanent member of the UN Security Council? **CBSE Term I 2021**
- India is the world's largest democracy.
  - India is the second most populous country.
  - India has won two battles against Pakistan.
  - India makes regular contributions to the United Nations.

**Ans.** (c) India has won two battles against Pakistan.

5. Given the contemporary realities of the, world how can the UN play a more important role?
- By being more assertive about human rights violations and calling for change.
  - By letting the regional powers take change.
  - By indulging US-China to resolve disputes.
  - By being proactive and sending peace keeping forces to resolve territorial disputes.

**Ans.** (a) By being more assertive about human rights violations and calling for change.

6. How many founder states signed the UN Charter in

7. In Which of the following areas does UNESCO work for their promotion? **CBSE Term I 2021**

- Print and Electronic Media
  - Education and Natural Science
  - Culture and Communication
  - Literacy, Technical and Educational Training
- Choose the correct option

- (i), (ii) and (iii)
- (ii), (iii) and (iv)
- (i), (iii) and (iv)
- (i), (ii) and (iv)

**Ans.** (b) (ii), (iii) and (iv)

8. Which one of the following statements is a function of the UNICEF?

- It works for human development.
- It works for agriculture and rural development.
- It works for the promotion of children's health
- It works for environmental protection.

**Ans.** (c) It works for the promotion of children's health

9. Which of the following statements about the United Nations is incorrect?

- The UN was founded as a successor to the League of Nations.
- It was established in 1946.
- Its primary objective is to prevent international conflict.
- It was intended to bring countries together.

**Ans.** (b) It was established in 1946.

10. Identify the main function of the UNICEF.

**CBSE Term I 2021**

- To promote efficient conditions of social justice and work.
- To collect emergency funds for children.
- To promote education and science.
- To create safety, parity and self-respectful conditions for both women and children.

**Ans.** (b) To collect emergency funds for children.

11. What is 'Amnesty International'?

**CBSE 2020**

- Nuclear Safety Organisation
- Government Organisation
- Non-Government Organisation
- Human Development Organisation

**Ans.** (c) Non-Government Organisation

12. Arrange the following cities in the order of given organisations as their respective Headquarters.

Organisations : ILO, UNESCO, International Court

Choose the correct option

- (a) (ii), (i), (iv) and (iii)      (b) (ii), (iv), (i) and (iii)  
(c) (i), (ii), (iii) and (iv)      (d) (iv), (iii), (ii) and (i)

**Ans.** (a) (ii), (i), (iv) and (iii)

**13.** The Headquarter of UNESCO is located in .....

- (a) Paris                                      (b) Geneva  
(c) Italy                                        (d) Netherlands

**Ans.** (a) Paris

**14.** The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) was created by .....

- (a) UN Development Council  
(b) UN Development Group  
(c) UN Security Council  
(d) UN General Assembly

**Ans.** (d) UN General Assembly

**15.** UNICEF was founded on .....

- (a) 11th May, 1946                      (b) 11th December, 1946  
(c) 11th April, 1947                      (d) 11th June, 1947

**Ans.** (b) 11th December, 1946

**16.** Which organisation is the only 'Tripartite agency'?

- (a) World Bank  
(b) World Trade Organisation  
(c) International Labour Organisation  
(d) UNESCO

**Ans.** (c) International Labour Organisation

**17.** How many UN members were there by 2011?

- (a) 180                                        (b) 195  
(c) 193                                        (d) 190

**Ans.** (c) 193

**18.** UN Security Council has how many permanent members?

- (a) Ten                                        (b) Five                                      (c) Fifteen                                      (d) Four

**Ans.** (b) Five

**19.** How much is the tenure of the judges in the International Court of Justice?

- (a) Five years                                (b) Seven years  
(c) Nine years                                (d) Ten years

**Ans.** (c) Nine years

**20.** The countries which used WTO to advance its own interest are .....

- (a) USA                                        (b) European Union  
(c) Japan                                        (d) All of these

**Ans.** (d) All of these

**21.** The International Labour Organisation (ILO) is a body of the United Nations which aims to promote

(c) Equal opportunities for men and women at the work place.

(d) Ensure safety and incentives for women workforce at the global level.

**Ans.** (a) Efficient conditions of social justice and work for workers through International Labour Standards.

**22.** Which of the following statements are the aims of the International Labour Organisation (ILO)?

**CBSE Term I 2021**

- (i) It aims to promote efficient conditions of social justice.  
(ii) It works for workers according to International Labour Standards.  
(iii) It mainly works for the protection of human rights.  
(iv) It gives incentive for women and male workers to engage productive work.

Choose the correct option

- (a) (i), (ii) and (iii)                      (b) (ii), (iii) and (iv)  
(c) (i) and (iv)                              (d) (i), (ii) and (iv)

**Ans.** (a) (i), (ii) and (iii)

**23.** Arrange the following in the chronological order of their establishment.

**CBSE 2020**

- |                                  |      |
|----------------------------------|------|
| (i) The World Trade Organisation | 1995 |
| (ii) Amnesty International       | 1961 |
| (iii) League of Nations          | 1920 |
| (iv) World Bank                  | 1944 |

Choose the correct option

- (a) (iii), (iv), (ii) and (i)                      (b) (iv), (iii), (ii) and (i)  
(c) (ii), (iii), (iv) and (i)                      (d) (i), (ii), (iii) and (iv)

**Ans.** (a) (iii), (iv), (ii) and (i)

**24.** The ILO became the first specialised agency of UN in

- (a) 1946                                        (b) 1944                                        (c) 1934                                        (d) 1948

**Ans.** (a) 1946

**25.** Which of the following changes occurred after the Cold War?

- (a) The Soviet Union Collapsed  
(b) The US became the strongest power  
(c) Growth of major military power  
(d) Both (a) and (b)

**Ans.** (d) Both (a) and (b)

**26.** Arranged in correct sequence

1. India Joins the UN.
2. Yalta Conference of the Big three i.e. Roosevelt, Churchill and Stalin.

**Codes**

- (a) 1, 4, 2 and 3 (b) 4, 3, 2 and 1  
 (c) 2, 4, 3 and 1 (d) 3, 4, 2 and 1

**Ans.** (b) 4, 3, 2 and 1

**27.** Match the following.

Organisations	Headquarters
A. UNESCO	1. Geneva
B. UNICEF	2. Washington D.C.
C. IMF	3. New York
D. WHO	4. Paris

**Codes**

- A B C D A B C D  
 (a) 4 1 2 3 (b) 4 3 2 1  
 (c) 2 4 3 1 (d) 4 2 3 1

**Ans.** (b) 4 3 2 1

**28.** The main objective of the United Nations is to

**CBSE Term I 2021**

- (a) control the big powers to exploit small countries.  
 (b) check population growth  
 (c) prevent international conflicts  
 (d) manufacture medicines

**Ans.** (c) prevent international conflicts

**29.** The United Nations was established **CBSE Term I 2021**

- (a) after the First World War  
 (b) after the disintegration of the USSR  
 (c) before the Second World War  
 (d) after the Second World War

**Ans.** (d) after the Second World War

**30.** Which of the following statements are true about the steps to be taken to make the UN more relevant as recommended by heads of all the member states who met in September 2005 to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the UN?

**CBSE Term I 2021**

- (i) Creation of a Peace Building Commission.  
 (ii) Creation of Democracy Fund.  
 (iii) Making no war zones.  
 (iv) Condemnation of terrorism in all its forms.

Choose the correct option

- (a) (i) and (ii) (b) (i), (ii) and (iii)  
 (c) (i), (ii) and (iv) (d) (ii), (iii) and (iv)

**Ans.** (b) (i), (ii) and (iii)

**31.** Choose the number of incorrect argument/arguments as far as India's claim to a permanent seat in the Security Council is concerned **CBSE 2020**

- (i) India has made financial contributions to the UN

(iii) India has participated in virtually all of the initiatives of the United Nations.

(iv) India's role in the United Nations' peacekeeping force is a long and substantial one.

**Codes**

- (a) (i) is incorrect.  
 (b) (ii) and (iii) are incorrect.  
 (c) (ii), (iii) and (iv) are incorrect.  
 (d) All are incorrect.

**Ans.** (a) (i) is incorrect.

**32.** From the following statements related to the United Nations Organisation, choose the one which is NOT true? **CBSE Term I 2021**

- (a) It does not have authority over its member states  
 (b) It is a sovereign body.  
 (c) It was created by and responds to its member states.  
 (d) The UN came into being when states agreed to its creation.

**Ans.** (b) It is a sovereign body.

**33.**



The message that this picture gives is .....

**CBSE Term I 2021**

- (a) Denuclearisation of the world is the need.  
 (b) Use of military power to control the world.  
 (c) Believe in peace and moving ahead together.  
 (d) Colonisation of the world is not to be appreciated.

**Ans.** (b) Use of military power to control the world.

**34.** Study the logo given below and carefully answer the question that follows **CBSE Term I 2021**



Name the organisation to which this 'logo' belongs.

- (a) United Nations Organisation  
 (b) World Health Organisation  
 (c) UN Security Council

## Assertion-Reason Questions

**Directions** (Q. Nos. 35-38) In the questions given below, there are two statements marked as Assertion (A) and Reason (R). Read the statements and choose the correct option.

- (a) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A  
(b) Both A and R are true, but R is not the correct explanation of A  
(c) A is true, but R is false  
(d) A is false, but R is true

**35. Assertion (A)** All members of the UN have one vote. However, the permanent members can vote in a negative manner. **CBSE Term I 2021**

**Reason (R)** The developing world consists of countries at many different levels of development.

**Ans.** (b) Both A and R are true, but R is not the correct explanation of A

**36. Assertion (A)** The main privilege of the five permanent members of the UN Security Council is the 'Veto Power'.

**Reason (R)** The UN Charter gave the permanent members a privileged position to bring about the stability in the world. **CBSE Term I 2021**

**Ans.** (a) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A

**37. Assertion (A)** India supports an increase in the number of both permanent and non-permanent members of the UN Security Council.

**Reason (R)** India itself is not interested to be a permanent member of the UN Security Council.

**Ans.** (c) A is true, but R is false

**38. Assertion (A)** The membership of the UN Security Council was expanded from 11 to 15 in 1965.

**Reason (R)** Number of permanent members of the Security Council was changed. **CBSE Term I 2021**

**Ans.** (d) A is false, but R is true

## Passage Based Objective Type Questions

1. Study the passage given below carefully and answer the questions that follow. **CBSE 2020**

The UN is an imperfect body, but without it the world would be worse off. Given the growing connections and links between societies and issues-what we often call 'interdependence'-it is hard to imagine how more than seven billion

Peoples and governments will have to find ways of supporting and using the UN and other International Organisation in ways that are consistent with their own interests and the interests of the International Community more broadly.

- (i) Which of the following are the limitations of the United Nations that make it an imperfect body?
- (a) US stands as the only superpower after the disintegration of USSR and the UN cannot check the US powers.  
(b) The single largest contributor of UN is the US which increases the influence of US over the UN.  
(c) The UN provides an arena in which it is possible to modify US attitudes and policies.  
(d) Both (a) and (b)

**Ans.** (d) Both (a) and (b)

- (ii) How would the world would be worse off, if there were no United Nations?

- (a) The UN provides an arena in which it is possible to modify US attitudes and policies.  
(b) The UN represents all the countries from each continent of the world.  
(c) The UN provide a space within which arguments against specific US attitudes and policies are heard and compromises and concessions are shaped.  
(d) Both (a) and (c)

**Ans.** (d) Both (a) and (c)

- (iii) Which one of the following is the example of Planetary interdependence?

- (a) Technology (b) Trade  
(c) Globalisation  
(d) International Community Interests

**Ans.** (a) Technology

- (iv) How can UN work in favour of meeting interests of International Community?

- (a) By providing them equal representation.  
(b) Peoples and governments will have to find ways of supporting and using the UN effectively.  
(c) By disregarding the aspects provided by the US at the international level.  
(d) None of the above

**Ans.** (b) Peoples and governments will have to find ways of supporting and using the UN effectively.

2. Study the passage given below carefully and answer the questions that follow.

By 2011, the UN had 193 member states. These included almost all independent states. In the UN General Assembly, all members have one vote each. In the UN Security Council, there are five permanent members. These are: the United States, Russia, the United Kingdom, France and China.

(i) Which of the following country is not a permanent member of UN Security Council?

- (a) China (b) France  
(c) Vietnam (d) USA

**Ans.** (c) Vietnam

(ii) Which among the following state joined the UN before 2011?

- (a) Vietnam (b) Iraq  
(c) South Sudan (d) Japan

**Ans.** (c) South Sudan

(iii) Why only some states are part of permanent membership in the UN Security Council?

- (a) Because these states were independent at the time of Second World War.  
(b) Because they were the most powerful countries immediately after the Second World War and they also emerged victorious.  
(c) Because these countries were colonial powers.  
(d) None of the above

**Ans.** (b) Because they were the most powerful countries immediately after the Second World War and they also emerged victorious.

(iv) Wars and Peace differences between member states of US are discussed in ..... and .....

- (a) General Assembly (b) Security Council  
(c) WHO (d) Both (a) and (b)

**Ans.** (d) Both (a) and (b)

### Very Short Answer Type Questions

1. List any four principal organs of the UN. **CBSE 2014**

or Name any four main organs of the United Nations.

**CBSE 2013**

**Ans.** The four principal organs of the UN are

- (i) The General Assembly  
(ii) The Security Council  
(iii) International Court of Justice  
(iv) Economic and Social Council

2. Mention any two functions of World Bank. **CBSE 2014**

**Ans.** The functions of World Bank are

- (i) It works for human development (education, health).  
(ii) It provides loans and grants to member states.

3. State any two objectives of the UN.

**Ans.** The objectives of the UN are

- (i) To maintain international peace and security.  
(ii) To facilitate co-operation among member countries by avoiding conflicts and war.

4. Why are International Organisations like the UN is

or Mention any two advantages of having

International Organisation in the world. **CBSE 2010**

**Ans.** We need organisation like UN to

- Resolve the conflicts and differences among the nations.
- Prescribe rules, regulations and mechanisms for co-operation to avoid mistrust and mis-management.

5. How many member countries have got veto power in the UN Security Council and why? **CBSE 2011**

**Ans.** All the five permanent member countries of the UN Security Council have got veto power. The UN Charter gave the permanent members a privileged position to bring about stability in the world after the Second World War.

6. Suggest any two major changes to improve the functioning of the Security Council. **CBSE 2011**

**Ans.** Two major changes to improve the functioning of the Security Council are

- (i) Number of permanent members of the Security Council of UN is to be increased.  
(ii) Veto power of five permanent countries is to be withdrawn instantly.

7. What were the complaints reflected in the resolution of the UN passed in 1992?

**Ans.** The resolution reflected three main complaints. These are as follows

- (i) The Security Council represents contemporary political realities.  
(ii) Its decisions reflect only Western values and interests and are dominated by a few powers.  
(iii) It lacks equitable representation.

8. Mention any two agencies of the United Nations.

**Ans.** Two agencies of the United Nations are **CBSE 2014**

- (i) United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation.  
(ii) International Labour Organisation (ILO)

9. List any two functions of the General Assembly of the UN. **CBSE 2010**

**Ans.** Two functions of the General Assembly of the UN are

- (i) To discuss and make recommendation on any issue under the ambit of the UN Charter.  
(ii) To maintain international peace and security.

10. What is meant by Security Council? Mention its composition. **CBSE 2010**

**Ans.** Security Council is one of the principal organs of UNO.

It consists of five permanent members and ten non-permanent members. The permanent members



**11.** Why do only the five permanent members of the Security Council have right to veto? **CBSE 2009**

**Ans.** All the members of the UN have one vote. But right to veto is given only to permanent members because permanent members can vote in a negative manner so that even if all the permanent and non-permanent members vote for a particular decision, any permanent member's negative vote can hold the decision.

**12.** Mention any two basic concerns about the reforms related to the processes and restructuring of the UNO.

**Ans.** The two basic concerns about the reforms related to the processes and restructuring of the UNO are

- (i) To increase the number of permanent and non-permanent members of Security Council.
- (ii) US and other Western countries want improvements in the UN's budgetary procedures and its administration.

**13.** Give any two reasons why Veto Power of permanent members of Security Council cannot be abolished.

**Ans.** Veto power of permanent members of Security Council cannot be abolished because

- (i) No permanent member would agree to do this.
- (ii) To maintain the interest of big powers in functioning of UN, veto power is significantly important and without active participation of the permanent powers, the UN itself will become irrelevant.

**14.** Give any two arguments in support of India's permanent membership to the UN Security Council.

**Ans.** Arguments in favour of India to be the member of UN Security Council are

- (i) India is the world's second largest populated country which gives place to almost one-fifth of the people of the world.
- (ii) India is the world's largest democracy.

**15.** Give any two arguments of some countries, which oppose the inclusion of India in UNSC as a permanent member. **CBSE 2008**

**Ans.** Arguments of countries which oppose India's inclusion as permanent member in UNSC are

- (i) The conflict between India and Pakistan will make India ineffective as a permanent member.
- (ii) With India's inclusion in UNSC, prominent member countries like Brazil, Germany, Japan, South Africa will demand for their inclusion too.

**16.** Mention any two reforms in the UN after the Cold War. **CBSE (C) 2008**

**Ans.** UN was restructured and reformed after the Cold War on following two basis

- (i) Reform of the organisation's structures and processes.
- (ii) Review of the issues that fall under the jurisdiction of UN.

**17.** How is the International Court of Justice composed? Where is it based?

**Ans.** The International Court of Justice consists of fifteen judges who are elected for nine years by absolute majority in both the General Assembly and the Security Council. It is based in Hague, Netherlands.

**18.** List out the specialised agencies of UN which deals with social and economic issues.

**Ans.** The agencies are World Health Organisation (WHO), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), International Labour Organisation (ILO) and United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

**19.** Write the main objective of UNICEF.

**Ans.** The main objective of the UNICEF is to look after children's welfare especially in developing countries by providing people with low-cost community based services in maternal and child health, nutrition and immunisation etc.

**20.** How has the static composition of the Security Council harmed its representative character?

**Ans.** The static composition of the Security Council has harmed its representative character because of the following reasons

- As it doesn't represent Africa, South America and even doesn't adequately represent Asia.
- A large population of the world is not represented. It makes the Security Council non-democratic in character.

**21.** Mention any two functions of WHO?

**Ans.** The two functions of WHO are as follows

- Providing leadership on matters critical to health and engaging in partnerships where joint action is needed.
- Monitoring the health situation and addressing health trends.

## Short Answer Type Questions

1. State the two main expectations on the basis of which the United Nations was formed in 1945. Mention any two organs and agencies each of the UN. **CBSE 2018**

**Ans.** Two expectations on the basis of which the United Nations was formed in 1945 were

- The UN's objective is to prevent international conflicts and to facilitate co-operation among states. It also helps to limitise situation of war between states. It is intended to bring countries together to improve the prospects of social and economic development.
- To promote respect for human rights, dignity and freedom.

Two organs of the UN are the General Assembly and the Security Council and two agencies of the UN are World Health Organisation (WHO) and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

2. State any four criterias that have been proposed in the recent years for new permanent and non-permanent members of the UN Security Council. **CBSE 2013**

or Describe any four proposed criterias for the new permanent and non-permanent members of the Security Council in order to improve its functioning. **CBSE 2010**

or Describe any four criteria that have been proposed in recent years for new permanent and non-permanent members of the UN Security Council. **CBSE 2009**

**Ans.** In view of reorganisation, UN Secretary General, Kofi Annan initiated an inquiry into the ways of reformation of UN on 1st January, 1997. After the years of inquiry, following criteria have been suggested for the permanent and non-permanent members of the Security Council

- It should be a major economic power.
- It should contribute substantially to the UN budget.
- Population of the nation should be high.
- Nation should respect human rights and democracy.
- It should be a major military power. *(any four)*

3. Explain any four reasons as to why India should be given a permanent membership in the UN Security Council. **CBSE (C) 2008**

**Ans.** The four reasons suggesting that India should be given a permanent membership in the UN Security Council are

- India actively participated in UN's programme and played an important role in keeping and managing peace and co-operation.
- The regular financial aid to UN and evolution of its economy support India's desire to be the permanent member.

4. What is the full form of WTO? When was it set up? How does it function? **CBSE 2017, 2016**

**Ans.** The full form of WTO is World Trade Organisation which sets the rules for global trade. It is an International Organisation. WTO replaced GATT (General Agreement on Trade and Tariffs) in 1995.

It includes 157 members. Major economic powers such as EU, US and Japan have managed to use the WTO to work in favour of them. And the developing countries complain about its non-transparent procedures and it being influenced by big powers.

5. What is UNICEF? Mention any four functions performed by it?

**Ans.** The United Nations Children's Fund is a United Nations agency responsible for providing humanitarian and developmental aid to children worldwide.

It was established in 1946 by the UN General Assembly and its headquarter is located in New York, United States.

There are many functions performed by UNICEF some of which are mentioned below

- It works for the protection of children in respect of their survival, health and well-being. This is done in cooperation with individuals, civil groups, governments and the private sector.
- It provides help to children and mothers in emergencies arising from natural calamities, civil strikes and epidemics.
- It assists governments to plan, develop and extend community based services in the fields of maternal and child health, nutrition, cleans water and sanitation.
- It delivers funds for the training of personnel including health and sanitation workers, teachers, nutritionists, etc. Universal Child immunisation against the preventable diseases is one of the chief goals of UNICEF.

6. What is International Labour Organisation? Mention its objectives.

**Ans.** International Labour Organisation is the only tripartite UN agency. It brings together government, employers and workers of 187 member states to set labour standards develop policies and devise programmes promoting decent work for all women and men.

There are four principle strategic objectives of ILO which

- (ii) To create greater opportunities for women and men to secure descent employment.
- (iii) To enhance the coverage and effectiveness of social protection for all.
- (iv) To strengthen tripartism and social dialogue.

### Long Answer Type Questions

1. Describe the two basic reforms of the UN on which almost everyone agrees that they are necessary after the Cold War. CBSE 2016

**Ans.** As reform and improvement are fundamental to any organisation, there have been demands for changes in the UN from different countries.

The nature of reforms that are desired are of two types

- (i) Reform of the organisation's structure and processes.
- (ii) Review of the issues that fall within the jurisdiction of the organisation.

The major area of structural reform was the functioning of the Security Council. This covers increasing the number of permanent and non-permanent members of UN Security Council so as to show in better way the realities of present world politics. Whereas, the proposed increment should be from Asia, Africa and South America. The another area of reform for UN was its budgetary procedures and its administration.

When the areas of jurisdiction are taken, some states and experts wish that the UN should have more role in peace and security missions whereas others wish to restrict UN's role in development and humanitarian work like health, education, environment, population control, human rights, gender and social justice.

2. Describe the organisational structure and working of the UN Security Council.

**Ans.** **Organisational Structure of the UN Security Council**

The Security Council is an important organ of the United Nations Organisation (UNO). It consists of five permanent member (China, United States of America, United Kingdom, Russia and France) and ten non-permanent members who are elected for a period of two years.

#### Working of the UN Security Council

UN includes many different structures for dealing with different issues. The issues relating to war and peace and differences between member states are dealt by discussion in General Assembly as well as in the Security Council.

The other issues such as social and economic are dealt by a number of agencies which include

3. Which three complaints related to the UN Security Council were reflected in the resolution passed by the UN General Assembly in 1992? Describe any three criterias that have been proposed for new permanent members of the Security Council.

CBSE 2016

or Describe any six criterias for the new membership of Security Council as suggested after 1997.

CBSE 2015

**Ans.** In 1992, with a view to bring reforms in the UN Security Council, a resolution was adopted by the UN General Assembly.

The resolution was about following three main complaints

- (i) The Security Council is not adequately representing the present political realities.
- (ii) Decisions by Security Council are reflective of Western values and interests and dominance by a few powers.
- (iii) The representation is not on an equitable basis.

In view of reorganisation, UN Secretary General, Kofi Annan initiated an inquiry into the ways of reformation of UN on 1st January, 1997.

After the years of inquiry, following criterias have been suggested for the permanent and non-permanent members of Security Council.

Six criterias for new membership of Security Council suggested after 1997 are

- (i) It should be a major economic power.
- (ii) A major military power.
- (iii) A substantial contributor to the UN budget.
- (iv) A big nation in terms of its population.
- (v) A nation that respects democracy and human rights.
- (vi) A country that would make the council more representative of the world's diversity in terms of geography, economic system and culture.

4. Why should India be made a permanent member of the UN Security Council? Give any three arguments.

**Ans.** The three arguments suggesting that India should be given a permanent membership in the UN Security Council are

- (i) India is the second most populous country which constitutes 1/5th of the population of the world. It is also the world's largest democracy.
- (ii) India actively participated in all the initiatives of the UN's programmes and played a significant role in the UN's peace keeping efforts.
- (iii) India made regular financial contribution to UN and

5. Suggest any six steps since 2005 to make the United Nations more relevant in the changing context.

- Ans.** In September 2005, the UN celebrated its 60th anniversary and leaders decided to make it more relevant in the changing context by following step
- Creation of Peace Building Commission.
  - Acceptance of the responsibility of the international community in case of failures of national government to protect their own citizens from atrocities.
  - Establishment of Human Rights Council.
  - Agreement to achieve Millennium Development Goals.
  - Condemnation of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations.
  - Creation of a Democracy Fund.
  - An agreement to wind up the Trusteeship council.

6. Describe the composition of the UN Security Council. What is the major difference in the privileges given to its permanent and non-permanent members? **CBSE 2016**

- Ans.** **Composition of the UN Security Council** The Security Council is an important organ of the United Nations Organisation (UNO). It consists of five permanent members (China, United States of America, United Kingdom, Russia and France) and ten non-permanent members who are elected for a period of two years).

The selection of the permanent members were on the basis of their being powerful immediately after the Second World War and they being the victors in the war.

#### Privileges to its Permanent and Non-Permanent Members

There is the major difference in the privileges given to the permanent and non-permanent members.

- The UN Charter gave the permanent members a privileged position to bring about stability in the world. After the Second World War the main privileges enjoyed by the permanent members are
  - Permanency
  - Veto power
- The non-permanent members are elected only for two years at a time and cannot be re-elected immediately after completing two years. They are elected in a manner that they represent all continents of the world.
- The non-permanent members do not have the veto power. When decisions are taken by Security Council, voting is done.
- All members have one vote. But the permanent members can veto in a negative manner as they can

7. Trace the evolution of the United Nations since its establishment in 1945. How does it function with the help of its structures and agencies. **CBSE 2017, 2016**

- Ans.** The United Nations was established in 1945 after the end of Second World War as a successor to the League of Nations. The United Nations Charter was signed by 51 States for setting up of UN. The basic aim was to achieve what League of Nations was not able to achieve during the two World Wars. The other objectives of the UN are as follows
- Prevention of conflicts and facilitating co-operation among nations.
  - To stop conflicts among states resulting into war and if it takes the shape of war, then to limit the effects of war.
  - To reduce the reasons of conflict by bringing the countries together for improving social and economic development all over the world.

#### UN Structures and Agencies

UN includes many different structures for dealing with different issues. The issues relating to war and peace and differences between member states are dealt by discussion in General Assembly as well as in the Security Council.

The other issues such as social and economic are dealt by a number of agencies which include

- World Health Organisation (WHO)
- United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)
- United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO)

### Picture Based Questions

1. Observe the picture given below and answer the following questions.



- To which organisation the above logo is concerned? When did this organisation formally established?
- What is made in this logo or the emblem? When did India join it? What is seen around the world map given in the emblem and what is being

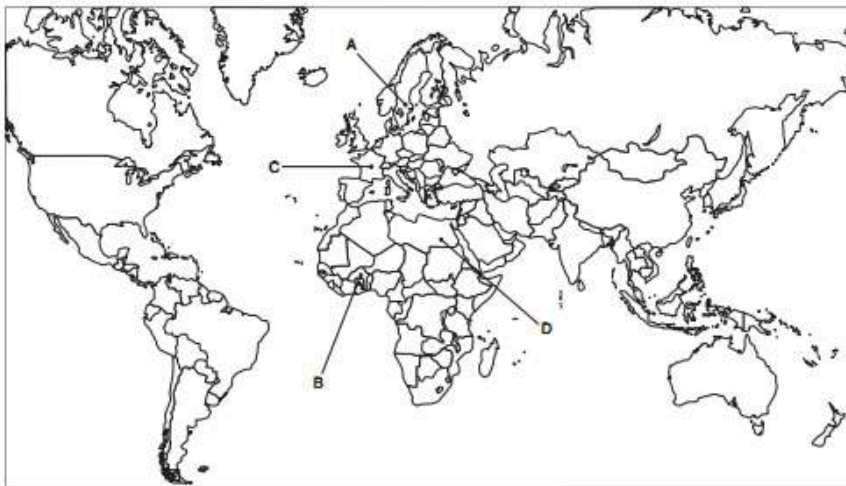
- Ans.** (i) This is the 'United Nations' logo. The UNO was formally established on 24th October, 1945.
- (ii) The logo or emblem has a world map. India joined the UN on 30th October, 1945. The world map has olive branches around it. These branches signify world peace.
- (iii) The Security Council is considered the most important organ among the principal organs of the United Nations. It has fifteen members in all. Out of them, five members are permanent with veto rights and other ten members are elected by the General Assembly of the UN for two years.

### Map Based Question

1. Study the given map of the world and answer the following questions in your answer book.

Delhi 2009

- (i) Identify and name the countries marked as A, B, C and D respectively.
- (ii) Write the names of the following UN Secretary Generals with the names of the countries they belonged to
- |                           |                   |
|---------------------------|-------------------|
| (a) Dag Hammarskjöld      | (b) Kurt Waldheim |
| (c) Boutros Boutros-Ghali | (d) Kofi Annan    |



- Ans.** (i) A- Sweden, B- Ghana, C-Austria, D- Egypt
- (ii) (a) Dag Hammarskjöld -Sweden (b) Kurt Waldheim-Austria  
(c) Boutros Boutros-Ghali-Egypt (d) Kofi Annan-Ghana

## CHAPTER ASSESSMENT

### Objective Type Questions

1. UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres was the Prime Minister of which Country?  
(a) Portugal (b) UK (c) France (d) Japan
2. Human Right Council is operational since which year?  
(a) 2001 (b) 2006 (c) 2012 (d) 2009
3. Arrange in Sequence
  1. India joins the UN.
  2. The Second World War.
  3. Humanitarian Crisis in Darfur, Sudan.
  4. League of Nations.

#### Codes

- (a) 4, 2, 1 and 3 (b) 1, 2, 3 and 4 (c) 3, 1, 2 and 4 (d) 4, 1, 2 and 3
4. The Trusteeship Council was suspended on .....  
(a) 1st November, 1994 (b) 1st September, 1994  
(c) 1st December, 1995 (d) 1st November, 1995
  5. Choose the wrong statement  
(a) UNICEF was established in 1946 by the UN General Assembly.  
(b) Its main task is to collect emergency funds for natural disasters.  
(c) It is working in almost 193 countries.  
(d) Its headquarter is in New York, United States.

### Very Short Answer Type Questions

1. What is UNO?
2. What is veto power?
3. What is the objective of WHO?
4. Suggest any two major changes to improve the functioning of the Security Council.
5. Suggest any one measure that should be taken to make WTO more acceptable to the developing countries.

### Short Answer Type Questions

1. When was the United Nations Organisation established? What were its aims?
2. Write a short note on the functions of UNSC.
3. Give two suggestions for the reform of the structures and processes of the UNs.
4. State any two functions of UNICEF.
5. List any four principle organs of UN.

### Long Answer Type Questions

1. Discuss the aims and programmes of UNESCO.