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UNITED NATIONS & ITS BODIES

United Nations & Its Bodies

- The United Nations is an **international organization founded in 1945**. It is currently made up of 193 Member States. The mission and work of the United Nations are guided by the purposes and principles **contained in its founding Charter**.
- The United Nations can take action on the issues confronting humanity in the 21st century, such as **peace and security, climate change, sustainable development, human rights, disarmament, terrorism, humanitarian and health emergencies, gender equality, governance, food production, and more**.
- It also provides a forum for its members to express their views in the General Assembly, the Security Council, the Economic and Social Council, and other bodies and committees. By enabling dialogue between its members, and by hosting negotiations, the Organization has become a mechanism for governments to find areas of agreement and solve problems together.

Functions

- Maintain International Peace and Security
- Protect Human Rights
- Deliver Humanitarian Aid
- Promote Sustainable Development
- Uphold International Law

Maintain International Peace and Security

- The United Nations came into being in 1945, following the devastation of the Second World War, with one

central mission: the maintenance of international peace and security. The UN does this by working:

- ▶ To prevent conflict;
 - ▶ Helping parties in conflict make peace;
 - ▶ Peacekeeping;
 - ▶ Creating the conditions to allow peace to hold and flourish.
- These activities often overlap and should reinforce one another, to be effective. **The UN Security Council has the primary responsibility for international peace and security.**
 - The General Assembly and the Secretary-General play major, important, and complementary roles, along with other UN offices and bodies.

How does the UN maintain international peace and security?

- Preventive Diplomacy and Mediation
- Peacekeeping
- Peacebuilding
- Countering Terrorism
- Disarmament

Protect Human Rights

- The term “human rights” was mentioned seven times in the UN’s founding Charter, making the promotion and protection of human rights a **key purpose and guiding principle of the Organization**.
- In 1948, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights brought human rights into the realm of international law. Since then, the Organization has diligently protected human rights through legal instruments and on-the-ground activities.

How does the UN promote and protect human rights?

- **High Commissioner for Human Rights:** The Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) has lead responsibility in the UN system for the promotion and protection of human rights.
- **Human Rights Council:** It was established in 2006, it replaced the 60-year-old UN Commission on Human Rights as the key independent UN intergovernmental body responsible for human rights.
- **Human Rights Treaty Bodies:** These are committees of independent experts that monitor the implementation of the core international human rights treaties.
- **Special Procedures:** The special procedures of the Human Rights Council are prominent, independent experts working voluntarily, who examine, monitor, publicly report, and advice on human rights from a thematic or country-specific perspective.
- **UNDG-HRM:** The UN Development Group’s Human Rights Mainstreaming Mechanism (UNDG-HRM) advances human rights mainstreaming efforts within the UN development system.

The International Bill of Human Rights: The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948) was the first legal document protecting universal human rights. Together with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the three instruments form the so-called International Bill of Human Rights.

Deliver Humanitarian Aid

- One of the purposes of the United Nations, as stated in its Charter, is “**to achieve international co-operation in solving international problems of an economic, social, cultural, or humanitarian character.**” The UN first did this in the aftermath of the Second World War on the devastated continent of Europe, which it helped to rebuild.
- The Organization is now relied upon by the international community to coordinate humanitarian relief operations due to natural and man-made disasters in areas beyond the relief capacity of national authorities alone.

What key UN entities deliver humanitarian aid?

- Four UN entities, the **United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)**, the **United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR)**, the **United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF)** and the **World Food Programme (WFP)** have primary roles in the delivery of relief assistance.

- UNDP is the agency responsible for operational activities for natural disaster mitigation, prevention, and preparedness. When emergencies occur, UNDP Resident Coordinators coordinate relief and rehabilitation efforts at the national level.

- **Helping refugees:** The **UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR)** leads and co-ordinates international action to protect refugees and resolve refugee problems worldwide.

- **Helping Children:** The United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) has strived to reach as many children

- as possible with effective, low-cost solutions to counter the biggest threats to their survival. UNICEF also consistently urges governments and warring parties to act more effectively to protect children.

- **Feeding the Hungry: The World Food Programme (WFP) provides** relief to millions of people, who are victims of disasters. It is responsible for mobilizing food and funds for transport for all large-scale refugee-feeding operations managed by UNHCR.

- **Healing the Sick:** The **World Health Organization (WHO)** coordinates the international response to humanitarian health emergencies. It is responsible for providing leadership on global health matters, shaping the health research agenda, setting norms and standards, articulating evidence-based policy options, providing technical support to countries, and monitoring and assessing health trends.

Note:

The UN General Assembly hosted a high-level meeting on 19 September 2016 to address large movements of refugees and migrants, with the aim of bringing countries together behind a more humane and coordinated approach.

Uphold International Law

- The UN Charter, in its Preamble, set an objective: “to establish conditions under which justice and respect for the obligations arising from treaties and other sources of international law can be maintained”.
- Ever since, the development of, and respect for international law has been a key part of the work of the Organization. This work is carried out in many ways - by courts, tribunals, multilateral treaties - and by the Security Council, which can approve peacekeeping missions, impose sanctions, or authorize the use of force when there is a threat to international peace and security if it deems this necessary.

Settling Disputes between States

■ International Court of Justice (ICJ)

- The principal judicial organ of the United Nations is the ICJ. This main body of the UN settles legal disputes submitted to it by States in accordance with international law. It also gives advisory opinions on legal questions referred to it from authorized UN organs and specialized agencies.

■ Courts and Tribunals

- In addition to the ICJ, a wide variety of international courts, international tribunals, ad hoc tribunals, and UN-assisted tribunals have varying degrees of relation to the United Nations (such as the tribunals for the former Yugoslavia and Rwanda, the Special Court for Sierra Leone, the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia and the Special Tribunal for Lebanon).
- The **Mechanism for International Criminal Tribunals (the MICT)** was established by the United Nations Security Council on 22 December 2010 to carry out several essential functions of the **International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR) and the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY)**, after the completion of their respective mandates. These are established by (and are Subsidiary Organs of) the Security Council.
- **The International Criminal Court (ICC) and International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS)**, were established by conventions drafted within the UN, but **are now independent entities with special cooperation agreements**.

What Is International Law?

- International law defines the legal responsibilities of States in their conduct with each other, and their treatment of individuals within State boundaries.
- Its domain encompasses a wide range of issues of international concern, such as human rights, disarmament, international crime, refugees, migration, problems of nationality, and the treatment of prisoners, the use of force, and the conduct of the war, among others.
- It also regulates the global commons, such as the environment and sustainable development, international waters, outer space, global communications, and world trade.

Promote Sustainable Development

- From the start in 1945, one of the main priorities of the United Nations was to “**achieve international co-operation in solving international problems of an economic, social, cultural, or humanitarian character and in promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language, or religion.**”
- Improving people’s well-being continues to be one of the main focuses of the UN. The global understanding of development has changed over the years, and countries now have agreed that sustainable development offers the best path forward for improving the lives of people everywhere.

Sustainable Development: Development that promotes prosperity and economic opportunity, greater social well-being, and protection of the environment.



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■ A Sustainable Development Agenda

- ▶ A **sustainable development portal, 2015 Time for Global Action for People and Planet, was launched by the United Nations in 2015.**
- ▶ It focuses on the **UN's post-2015 sustainable development agenda** and contains information on the UN's efforts to tackle climate change and on many other related issues.

■ SDG Summit 2019

- ▶ On 24 and 25 September 2019, Heads of State and Government will gather at the United Nations Headquarters in New York to follow up and comprehensively review progress in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The event is the **first UN summit on the SDGs since the adoption of the 2030 Agenda in September 2015.**

■ The Millennium Development Goals

- ▶ In September 2000, world leaders committed their nations to achieve eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by 2015.
- ▶ **These goals range from halving extreme poverty to halting the spread of HIV/AIDS and providing universal primary education.**

■ Climate Change

- ▶ The UN is supporting efforts to assess climate science, facilitate negotiations under the UN Framework Convention for a climate agreement, and provide assistance to countries and communities to reduce emissions and to build climate resilience.
- ▶ The UNFCCC Secretariat supported efforts to reach a new universal climate change agreement in Paris in 2015, providing a pathway forward to limit temperature rise to well below 2 degrees, maybe even 1.5.

■ Disaster Risk Reduction

- The **United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR)** works with governments and other stakeholders to ensure the reduction of disaster losses in lives and assets of communities and countries.

■ Gender equality and empowering women and girls

- UN Women works to eliminate discrimination against women and girls, empower all women, and achieve equality between women and men as partners and beneficiaries of development, human rights, humanitarian action and peace, and security.

What are the main UN offices and programmes working on development?

- The **UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs** works closely with governments and stakeholders to help countries around the world to meet their economic, social, and environmental goals.
- The **United Nations Development Programme** works with people at all levels of society to help build nations that can withstand crisis and drive and sustain the kind of growth that improves the quality of life for everyone.
- Many UN agencies work on specific aspects of development, such as the World Health Organization, the Food and Agriculture Organization, UNICEF, UNESCO, and the UN Environment Programme.

Structure of the United Nations

The main organs of the UN are the **General Assembly, the Security Council, the Economic and Social Council, the Trusteeship Council, the International Court of Justice, and the UN Secretariat**. All were established in 1945 when the UN was founded.

General Assembly

- All 193 Member States of the Organization are represented in the General Assembly to discuss and work together on a wide array of international issues covered by the Charter of the United Nations, such as development, peace, and security, international law, etc.
- Every year in September, all the Members meet in this unique forum at **Headquarters in New York** for the General Assembly session.
- **Functions and powers of the General Assembly:**
 - ▶ The Assembly **is empowered to make recommendations to States on international issues within its competence.**
 - ▶ It has also initiated actions—political, economic, humanitarian, social, and legal—which have benefitted the lives of millions of people throughout the world.
- According to the Charter of the United Nations, the General Assembly may:
 - ▶ 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;
 - ▶ Discuss any question relating to international peace and security and, **except where a dispute or situation is currently being discussed by the Security Council**, make recommendations on it;
 - ▶ Discuss, with the same exception, and make recommendations on any questions within the scope of the Charter or affecting the powers and functions of any organ of the United Nations;
 - ▶ Initiate studies and make recommendations to promote international political cooperation, the development and codification of international law, the realization of human rights and fundamental freedoms, and international collaboration in the economic, social, humanitarian, cultural, educational and health fields;
 - ▶ Make recommendations for the **peaceful settlement of any situation that might impair friendly relations among countries;**
 - ▶ Consider reports from the Security Council and other United Nations organs.
- The Assembly may also take action in cases of a threat to the peace, breach of peace or act of aggression when the Security Council has failed to act owing to the negative vote of a permanent member. In such instances, **according to its “Uniting for Peace” resolution of 3 November 1950**, the Assembly may consider the matter immediately and recommend to its Members collective measures to maintain or restore international peace and security.

United Nations Security Council

- The Security Council has primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security. It has 15 Members, and each Member has one vote.
- Under the Charter of the United Nations, 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. It calls upon the parties to a dispute to settle it by peaceful means and recommends methods of adjustment or terms of the settlement. In some cases, the Security Council can resort to imposing sanctions or even authorize the use of force to maintain or restore international peace and security.

Under the United Nations Charter, the functions and powers of the Security Council are to:

- Maintain international peace and security by the principles and purposes of the United Nations;
- Investigate any dispute or situation which might lead to international friction;
- Recommend methods of adjusting such disputes or the terms of settlement;
- Formulate plans for the establishment of a system to regulate armaments;
- Determine the existence of a threat to the peace or act of aggression and to recommend what action should be taken;
- Call on Members to apply economic sanctions and other measures not involving the use of force to prevent or stop aggression;
- Take military action against an aggressor;
- Recommend the admission of new Members;
- Exercise the trusteeship functions of the United Nations in "strategic areas";
- Recommend to the General Assembly the appointment of the Secretary-General and, together with the Assembly, to elect the Judges of the International Court of Justice.

Members

- **Five nations are permanently represented on the Security Council.** They reflect the post-war power structure that held sway when the council was formed. **(Five permanent members are China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United States)**
- Members of this privileged group work alongside 10 non-permanent member countries. **Each member - permanent or otherwise - holds the presidency of the council for one month, on a rotating basis.**
- The **non-permanent members are elected for two-year terms by members of the UN General Assembly.**
- The aim is to achieve a regional balance, with five Asian or African members, two Latin American members, one east European, and two members from Western Europe or other regions making up the mix of non-permanent members.
- Nations compete keenly for council membership, maybe because of the prestige attached, or the chance to raise an issue that is in the national interest. Some countries announce their candidacy many years in advance and actively canvass votes.

How are non- permanent members elected?

- Each year, the **General Assembly elects five non-permanent members** out of a total of 10, for a **two-year term**.

■ Distribution of seats:

- These 10 seats are distributed among the regions thus: five for African and Asian countries; one for Eastern European countries; two for Latin American and Caribbean countries; two for Western European and other countries.
- Of the five seats for Africa and Asia, three are for Africa and two for Asia; there is an informal understanding between the two groups to reserve one for an Arab country. The Africa and Asia Pacific group takes turns every two years to put up an Arab candidate.
- Elections for terms beginning in even-numbered years select two African members, and one each within Eastern Europe, Asia-Pacific, and Latin America and the Caribbean.
- Terms beginning in odd-numbered years consist of two Western European Members and Other members, and one each from Asia-Pacific, Africa, and Latin America and the Caribbean.

■ Votes:

- Irrespective of whether a country is a “clean slate” candidate and has been endorsed by its group, it **needs to secure the votes of two-thirds of the members present and voting at the General Assembly session** (a minimum of 129 votes if all 193 member states participate).
- When contested, the elections for non-permanent seats can be fraught and can go on for several rounds.

■ Decision-making

- Draft resolutions are drawn up by one or more members of the council and circulated privately to the others. The drafts can be negotiated or changed in a process called “consultations”. If agreed to by all members, the resolution is formally proposed to the council.
- Each member has one vote. Decisions on what the council calls “substantive” issues need a majority of nine votes before they can be passed, including either votes or abstentions from all five permanent members.

■ Right of veto

- Each of the permanent members has the right of veto; if one of them votes against a resolution, it cannot be passed. But a resolution can be passed if a permanent member abstains from the vote.**
- The Security Council attaches great importance to preventing armed conflict in the first place, but **once a dispute has flared, its first aim is to seek a diplomatic solution.**
- If the conflict persists, the Security Council may work towards a ceasefire and deploy peacekeepers. **It can order UN nations to impose sanctions and, as a last resort, it may authorize military action against an aggressor.**

■ Expansion

- The status quo of the permanent members had not changed since the council's first meeting in 1946, and the make-up of the Security Council has climbed up the UN agenda.

- ▶ **India, Germany, Japan, and Brazil - known as the G4** - and **the African Union** are among those who have long lobbied for coveted permanent-member status.
- ▶ A working group on reform set up under the UN General Assembly in 1993 had made little progress on the matter, with a lack of consensus over potential candidates.

Economic & Social Council

- It is at the heart of the United Nations system to advance the three dimensions of sustainable development – economic, social, and environmental.
- It is the central platform **for fostering debate and innovative thinking, forging consensus on ways forward, and coordinating efforts to achieve internationally agreed goals.**
- It is also responsible for the follow-up to major UN conferences and summits.
- The UN Charter established ECOSOC in 1945 as one of the six main organs of the United Nations.
- It has 54 Members, elected by the General Assembly for overlapping three-year terms.

Functions

- Promoting Sustainable Development
- Advancing policy integration
- Development Cooperation Forum
- Financing for sustainable development
- Coordinating humanitarian action
- Guiding operational activities for development

ECOSOC has the main responsibility for following up on all major past international conferences linked to the **three pillars of sustainable development and will continue to do this alongside the implementation of sustainable development goals.**

ECOSOC's Integration Segment meets annually to help the UN Member States and others map ways to achieve the three pillars of sustainable development—economic, social, and environmental.

ECOSOC is charged with **reviewing the financing for the development follow-up process.** In 2002, the International Conference on Financing for Development, which issued the **Monterrey Consensus**, brought over 50 heads of state and an unprecedented number of finance and other ministers together to agree on the first international framework for financing development. A follow-up process was continued through intergovernmental negotiations to build on and update commitments, including the **Second Global Conference on Financial for Development in Doha** in 2008 and the **Third International Conference on Financing for Development held in Addis Ababa in July 2015.** The subsequent **Addis Ababa Action Agenda** laid out a new global framework for financing sustainable development that aligns all financing flows and policies with economic, social and environmental priorities, and committed countries to a comprehensive set of policy actions towards the means of implementation for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Structure

- ECOSOC membership is based on geographical representation. Out of 54 seats, specific quotas fixed for Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America, Europe, etc.
- They're elected from General Assembly for a **term of three years.**

- Four UNSC members – US, UK, Russia, and France- are re-elected continuously, because they provide the majority of the funding to ECOSOC.
- Decisions by **simple majority vote**.
- Presidency changes annually.
- NGOs also gave “**Consultative status**”

International Court of Justice (ICJ)

- It is the principal judicial organ of the United Nations (UN). It was established in June 1945 by the Charter of the United Nations and began work in April 1946.
- The seat of the Court is at the **Peace Palace in The Hague (Netherlands)**. Of the six principal organs of the United Nations, **it is the only one not located in New York (United States of America)**.
- The Court's role is to settle, as per international law, legal disputes submitted to it by States and to give advisory opinions on legal questions referred to it by authorized United Nations organs and specialized agencies.
- The Court is composed of 15 judges, who are elected for **terms of office of nine years** by the United Nations General Assembly and the Security Council. It is assisted by a Registry, its administrative organ. Its official languages are English and French.

Members of the Court

- **ICJ is composed of 15 judges elected to nine-year terms of office by the United Nations General Assembly and the Security Council.** These organs vote simultaneously but separately.
- To be elected, a candidate must receive an absolute majority of the votes in both bodies. This sometimes makes it necessary for a number of rounds of voting to be held.
- **To ensure a degree of continuity, one-third of the Court is elected every three years. Judges are eligible for re-election.** Should a judge die or resign during his or her term of office, a special election is held as soon as possible to choose a judge to fill the unexpired part of the term.
- Elections are held **in New York (United States of America) during the annual autumn session of the General Assembly**. The judges elected at a triennial election commence their term of office on 6 February of the following year, after which the Court holds a secret ballot to elect a President and a **Vice-President to hold office for three years**.
- **All States parties to the Statute of the Court have the right to propose candidates.** Such proposals are made **not by the government of the State concerned, but by a group consisting of the members of the Permanent Court of Arbitration designated by that State**, i.e. by the four jurists who can be called upon to serve as members of an arbitral tribunal under the Hague Conventions of 1899 and 1907.
- In the case of **countries not participating in the Permanent Court of Arbitration**, nominations are made by a **group constituted in the same way**.
- Each group can propose up to four candidates, no more than two of whom may be of its nationality, while the others may be from any country whatsoever, regardless of whether it is a party to the Statute or has declared that it accepts the compulsory jurisdiction of the ICJ.
- The names of candidates must be communicated to the Secretary-General of the United Nations within a time-limit of his/her choosing.
- Judges must be elected from among persons of high moral character, who possess the qualifications required in their respective countries for appointment to the highest judicial offices or are jurisconsults of recognized competence in international law.

- The **Court may not include more than one national of the same State**. Moreover, the Court as a whole must represent the main forms of civilization and the principal legal systems of the world.
- Once elected, **a Member of the Court is a delegate neither of the government of his own country nor of that of any other State**. Unlike most other organs of international organizations, the Court is not composed of representatives of governments.
- **Members of the Court are independent judges whose first task**, before taking up their duties, is to make a solemn declaration in open court that they will exercise their powers impartially and conscientiously.
- To guarantee his or her independence, **no Member of the Court can be dismissed unless, in the unanimous opinion of the other Members, he/she no longer fulfills the required conditions**. This has never happened.

Indian Judges at the ICJ

- Judge Dalveer Bhandari: Member of the Court since 27 April 2012
- Raghunandan Swarup Pathak: 1989-1991
- Nagendra Singh: 1973-1988
- Sir Benegal Rau: 1952-1953

Jurisdiction and Functioning

- ICJ acts as a world court with two-fold jurisdiction i.e. legal disputes between States submitted to it by them (contentious cases) and requests for advisory opinions on legal questions referred to it by United Nations organs and specialized agencies (advisory proceedings).
- Only States which are members of the United Nations and which have become parties to the Statute of the Court or which have accepted its jurisdiction under certain conditions are parties to contentious cases.
- States have **no permanent representatives accredited to the Court**. They normally communicate with the Registrar through their Minister for Foreign Affairs or their ambassador accredited to the Netherlands.
- When they are parties to a case before the Court they are represented by an agent. Since international relations are at stake, the agent is also as it were the head of a special diplomatic mission with powers to commit a sovereign State.
- The judgment is final, binding on the parties to a case and without appeal (at the most it may be subject to interpretation or, upon the discovery of a new fact, revision).
- By signing the Charter, a Member State of the United Nations undertakes to comply with the decision of the Court in any case to which it is a party.
- A State which considers that the other side has failed to perform the obligations incumbent upon it under a judgment rendered by the Court may bring the matter before the Security Council, which is empowered to recommend or decide upon measures to be taken to give effect to the judgment.
- The procedure described above is the normal procedure. However, the course of the proceedings may be modified by incidental proceedings.
- ICJ discharges its duties as a full court but, at the request of the parties, it may also establish ad hoc chambers to examine specific cases.
- Advisory proceedings before the Court are only open to five organs of the United Nations and 16 specialized agencies of the United Nations family or affiliated organizations

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Limitation of ICJ

- International law is both heterogeneous and fragmentary creates a challenge for an international court, whose work in the service of peace was entirely dependent on the application of that law.
- Since the **subjects of international law were both creators and targets of the rules of that law**, it often fell to them to interpret and apply those rules.
- When the Court made a decision in such cases, **it was all the actors on the international stage, not merely the parties to a dispute, who are affected by that decision.**
- The court confronts circumstantial constraints due **to grave material difficulties**. These constraints seriously imperiled the very discharge of the Court's duties at a time of greatly increased activity.
- It has **no jurisdiction to try individuals accused of war crimes or crimes against humanity**. As it is not a criminal court, it does not have a prosecutor able to initiate proceedings.
- It differs from the Courts which deal with allegations of violations of the human rights conventions under which they were set up, as well as applications from States at which courts can entertain applications from individuals that are not possible for the ICJ.
- The jurisdiction of the ICJ is general and thereby differs from that of specialist international tribunals, such as the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS).
- The ICJ **only has jurisdiction based on consent, not compulsory jurisdiction**
- The Court can only hear a dispute when requested to do so by one or more States. It cannot deal with a dispute on its initiative. Neither **is it permitted, under its Statute, to investigate and rule on acts of sovereign States as it chooses.**

Permanent Court of International Justice:

- It is the **predecessor of the ICJ**, was provided for in the Covenant of the League of Nations.
- It held its inaugural sitting in 1922 **and was dissolved in 1946.**
- The work of the PCIJ, the first permanent international tribunal with general jurisdiction, made possible the clarification of a number of aspects of international law, and contributed to its development.

Trusteeship Council

The **Trusteeship Council suspended its operations on 1 November 1994, a month after the independence of Palau, the last remaining United Nations trust territory.** By a resolution adopted on 25 May 1994, the Council amended its rules of procedure to drop the obligation to meet annually and agreed to meet as occasion required -- by its decision or the decision of its President, or at the request of a majority of its members or the General Assembly or the Security Council.

Background

- In setting up an International Trusteeship System, the Charter established the Trusteeship Council as one of the main organs of the United Nations and assigned to it the task of supervising the administration of Trust Territories placed under the Trusteeship System.
- **The main goals of the System were to promote the advancement of the inhabitants of Trust Territories and their progressive development towards self-government or independence.**

- The Trusteeship Council is made up of the five permanent members of the Security Council -- China, France, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom, and the United States.
- **The aims of the Trusteeship System have been fulfilled to the extent that all Trust Territories have attained self-government or independence, either as separate States or by joining neighboring independent countries.**

Functions and powers

- Under the Charter, the Trusteeship Council is authorized to **examine and discuss reports from the Administering Authority on the political, economic, social and educational advancement of the peoples of Trust Territories and**, in consultation with the Administering Authority, to examine petitions from and undertake periodic and other special missions to Trust Territories.

Secretariat

- The Secretariat is one of the main organs of the UN, **is organized along departmental lines, with each department or office having a distinct area of action and responsibility.** Offices and departments coordinate with each other to ensure cohesion as they carry out the day to day work of the Organization in offices and duty stations around the world.
- The Secretariat comprises the Secretary-General and tens of thousands of international UN staff members who carry out the day-to-day work of the UN as mandated by the General Assembly and the Organization's other principal organs.
- The Secretary-General is the chief administrative officer of the Organization, appointed by the General Assembly on the recommendation of the Security Council for a **five-year, renewable term.**
- UN staff members are recruited internationally and locally, and work in duty stations and on peacekeeping missions all around the world.
- But serving the cause of peace in a violent world is a dangerous occupation. Since the founding of the United Nations, hundreds of brave men and women have given their lives in its service.

Funds, Programmes, Specialized Agencies, and Others

- The UN system, **also known unofficially as the 'UN family', is made up of the UN itself and many programmes, funds, and specialized agencies, all with their leadership and budget.**
- The programmes and funds are financed through voluntary rather than assessed contributions.
- The Specialized Agencies are independent international organizations funded by both voluntary and assessed contributions.

Funds and Programmes

■ United Nations Development Programme (UNDP):

- ▶ It works in nearly 170 countries and territories, helping to eradicate poverty, reduce inequalities, and build resilience so countries can sustain progress.
- ▶ As the UN's development agency, UNDP plays a critical role in helping countries achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

- ▶ It provides expert advice, training, and grants support to developing countries, with an increasing emphasis on assistance to the least developed countries.
- ▶ The UNDP Executive Board is made up of representatives from 36 countries around the world who serve on a rotating basis.
- ▶ It is **funded entirely by voluntary contributions from member nations**.
- ▶ **UNDP is central to the United Nations Sustainable Development Group (UNSDG)**, a network that spans 165 countries and unites the 40 UN funds, programmes, specialized agencies and other bodies working to advance the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

■ United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF):

- ▶ UNICEF works in over 190 countries and territories to save children's lives, to defend their rights, and to help them fulfill their potential, from early childhood through adolescence.
- ▶ In 1953, it **became a permanent part of the United Nations System, and the words "international" and "emergency" were dropped from the organization's name, though it retained the original acronym, "UNICEF"**.
- ▶ A 36-member board establishes policies, approves programs, and oversees administrative and financial plans.
- ▶ **The members are government representatives who are elected by the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), usually for three-year terms.**
- ▶ UNICEF relies on contributions from governments and private donors. It focuses on:
 - **Child protection and inclusion:** UNICEF works with partners around the world to promote policies and expand access to services that protect all children.
 - **Child survival:** UNICEF has helped reduce child mortality all over the world by working to reach the most vulnerable children, everywhere.
 - **Education:** UNICEF works around the world to support quality learning for every girl and boy, especially those in the greatest danger of being left behind.
 - **Social policy:** UNICEF works around the world to reduce child poverty and shield girls and boys from their lifelong consequences.
 - **UNICEF in emergencies:** UNICEF is on the ground before, during, and after emergencies, working to reach children and families with lifesaving aid and long-term assistance.
 - **Gender:** UNICEF works all over the world to empower girls and women, and to ensure their full participation in political, social, and economic systems.
- **Supply and logistics:** UNICEF delivers sustainable access to lifesaving supplies where they are most needed, accelerating results for the most vulnerable children.
- **Research and analysis:** UNICEF's global programmes and initiatives are grounded in rigorous research and thoughtful analysis of the situation of children.

■ United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA):

- ▶ UNFPA is the United Nations sexual and reproductive health agency.
- ▶ Its mission is to deliver a world where every pregnancy is wanted, every childbirth is safe and every young person's potential is fulfilled.
- ▶ The organization **was created in 1969, the same year the United Nations General Assembly declared "parents have the exclusive right to determine freely and responsibly the number and spacing of their children."**

► **UNFPA Supports:**

- Reproductive health care for women and youth in more than 150 countries – which are home to more than 80 percent of the world's population
- The health of pregnant women, especially the 1 million who face life-threatening complications each month
- Reliable access to modern contraceptives sufficient to benefit 20 million women a year
- Training of thousands of health workers to help ensure at least 90 percent of all childbirths are supervised by skilled attendants
- Prevention of gender-based violence, which affects 1 in 3 women
- Abandonment of female genital mutilation, which harms 3 million girls annually
- Prevention of teen pregnancies, complications of which are the leading cause of death for girls 15-19 years old
- Efforts to end child marriage, which could affect an estimated 70 million girls over the next 5 years
- Delivery of safe birth supplies, dignity kits, and other life-saving materials to survivors of conflict and natural disaster
- Censuses, data collection, and analyses, which are essential for development planning

► **The Executive Board provides intergovernmental support and supervision for the activities of UNDP, UNFPA, and UNOPS in accordance with the policy guidance of the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council, and the United Nations Charter.**

- The Executive Board ensures that UNDP, UNFPA, and UNOPS remain responsive to the evolving needs of programme countries, and supports the work of UNFPA in delivering a world where every pregnancy is wanted, every birth is safe, and every young person's potential is fulfilled.

NOTE:

General Assembly resolution 48/162 of 20 December 1993 created the Executive Board, which consists of representatives from 36 countries who serve on a rotating basis. The Executive Board superseded the 48-member Governing Council on 1 January 1994. The Governing Council previously served as the governing body for UNFPA from 1973 to 1993.

■ **United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP):**

- It is the leading global environmental authority that sets the global environmental agenda, promotes the coherent implementation of the environmental dimension of sustainable development within the United Nations system, and serves as an authoritative advocate for the global environment.
- Its work is categorized **into seven broad thematic areas**: climate change, disasters and conflicts, ecosystem management, environmental governance, chemicals and waste, resource efficiency, and the environment under review.
- UNEP and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) established the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) in 1988 to assess climate change based on the latest science.
- Since its founding, the UNEP has played a key role in the development of multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs). The secretariats for the following nine MEAs are currently hosted by UNEP:
 - Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)
 - Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)

- Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS)
- Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer
- Minamata Convention on Mercury
- Basel Convention on the Control of Trans-boundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal
- Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants
- Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade

■ UN-Habitat

- ▶ UN-Habitat works for a better urban future. Based in over 90 countries, it promotes the development of socially and environmentally sustainable cities, towns & communities. UN-Habitat strives for adequate shelter with better living standards for all.
- ▶ UN-Habitat, the United Nations Programme for Human Settlements, **was mandated by the UN General Assembly in 1978 to address issues of urban growth.** It collaborates with governments and local partners to define the urban vision of tomorrow.
- ▶ The 2nd United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) **in Istanbul, Turkey, in 1996**, set the twin goals of the Habitat Agenda:
 - Adequate shelter for all
 - Development of sustainable human settlements in an urbanizing world.
- ▶ The 3rd United Nations Conference on Housing and **Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III)** was **held in 2016 in Quito, Ecuador.** It elaborated on Goal-11 of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG): "Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable."

UN Specialized Agencies

UN specialized agencies are international organizations working with the UN, in accordance with relationship agreements between each organization and the UN. Specialized Agencies each have a process for admitting members and appointing their administrative head.

Article 58 of the Charter states that the UN will make "recommendations for the co-ordination of the policies and activities of the specialized agencies". Coordination is facilitated through ECOSOC and the Chief Executives Board (CEB).

Food & Agriculture Organization (FAO)

- It is a specialized agency of the United Nations that leads international efforts to defeat hunger.
- Its goal is to **achieve food security for all and make sure that people have regular access to enough high-quality food to lead active healthy lives.**
- With over 194 member states, FAO works in over 130 countries worldwide. It believes that everyone can play a part in ending hunger.

Governing body of FAO



International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)

- It is a UN specialized agency, established by States in 1944 to manage the administration and governance **of the Convention on International Civil Aviation (Chicago Convention)**.
- ICAO works with the **Convention's 193 Member States and industry groups to reach consensus on international civil aviation Standards and Recommended Practices (SARPs)** and policies in support of a safe, efficient, secure, economically sustainable, and environmentally responsible civil aviation sector.
- These SARPs and policies are used by the ICAO Member States to ensure that their local civil aviation operations and regulations conform to global norms, which in turn permits more than 100,000 daily flights in aviation's global network to operate safely and reliably in every region of the world.
- In addition to its core work resolving consensus-driven international SARPs and policies among its Member States and industry, and among many other priorities and programmes, **ICAO also does:**
 - ▶ Coordinates assistance and capacity building for States in support of numerous aviation development objectives;
 - ▶ Produces global plans to coordinate multilateral strategic progress for safety and air navigation;
 - ▶ Monitors and reports on numerous air transport sector performance metrics;
 - ▶ Audits States' civil aviation oversight capabilities in the areas of safety and security.

The ICAO Council

- It is a permanent body of the Organization responsible for the Assembly. It is composed of **36 Member States elected by the Assembly for a three-year term**.

■ Functions of Council

- ▶ To submit annual reports to the Assembly; carry out the directions of the Assembly; and discharge the duties and obligations which are laid on it by the Convention on International Civil Aviation (Chicago, 1944).
- ▶ It also administers the finances of ICAO; appoints and defines the duties of the Air Transport Committee, as well as the Committee on Joint Support of Air Navigation Services, the Finance Committee, the Committee on Unlawful Interference, the Technical Co-operation Committee and the Human Resources Committee.
- ▶ It appoints the members of the Air Navigation Commission and it elects the members of the Edward Warner Award Committee.

Assembly

- The **Assembly, comprised of all Member States of ICAO**, meets not less than once in three years and is convened by the Council at a suitable time and place.
- An extraordinary meeting of the Assembly may be held at any time upon the call of the Council or the request of not less than one-fifth of the total number of Member States.
- The Assembly has numerous powers and duties, among them to: elect the Member States to be represented on the Council; examine and take appropriate action on the reports of the Council and decide any matter reported to it by the Council, and approve the budgets of the Organization.

International Labour Organization (ILO)

- It is devoted to promoting social justice and internationally recognized human and labor rights, pursuing its founding mission that social justice is essential to universal and lasting peace.
- **Only tripartite U.N. agency**, the ILO brings together governments, employers and workers representatives of 187 member States, to set labor standards, develop policies and devise programmes promoting decent work for all women and men.
- It emphasized that the future of work is not predetermined: Decent work for all is possible but societies have to make it happen. It is precise with this imperative that the ILO established its Global Commission on the Future of Work as part of its initiative to mark its centenary in 2019.
- Its job is to undertake an in-depth examination of the future of work that can provide the analytical basis for the delivery of social justice in the 21st century.

Main bodies

The ILO accomplishes its work through three main bodies which comprise governments', employers' and workers' representatives:

- **The International Labor Conference** sets the International labor standards and the broad policies of the ILO. It **meets annually in Geneva**. Often called an international parliament of labor, the Conference is also a forum for discussion of key social and labor questions.
- **The Governing body** is the executive council of the ILO. It meets **three times a year in Geneva**. It takes decisions on ILO policy and establishes the programme and the budget, which it then submits to the Conference for adoption.

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- **The International Labour Office** is the **permanent secretariat** of the ILO. It is the focal point for the International Labour Organization's overall activities, which it prepares under the scrutiny of the Governing Body and the leadership of the Director-General.

The **work of the Governing Body and the Office is aided by tripartite committees covering major industries**. It is also supported by committees of experts on such matters as vocational training, management development, occupational safety and health, industrial relations, workers' education, and special problems of women and young workers.

- **Regional meetings** of the ILO member States are held periodically to examine matters of special interest to the regions concerned

Objectives of the ILO

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

The eight-core conventions of the ILO

- Forced Labour Convention
- Abolition of Forced Labour Convention
- Equal Remuneration Convention
- Discrimination (Employment Occupation) Convention
- Minimum Age Convention
- Worst forms of Child Labour Convention
- Freedom of Association and Protection of Right to Organised Convention
- Right to Organise and Collective Bargaining Convention

Flagship programmes

- International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour and Forced Labour (IPEC+)
- Safety + Health for All
- Jobs for Peace and Resilience
- Building Social Protection Floors for All

International Maritime Organization (IMO)

- It is the United Nations specialized agency with responsibility for the safety and security of shipping and the **prevention of marine and atmospheric pollution by ships**. IMO's work supports UN SDGs.
- Its role is to create a level playing-field so that ship operators cannot address their financial issues by simply cutting corners and compromising on safety, security, and environmental performance. This approach also encourages innovation and efficiency.

- IMO measures cover **all aspects of international shipping** – including ship design, construction, equipment, manning, operation, and disposal – to ensure that this vital sector remains safe, environmentally sound, energy-efficient, and secure.
- As part of the United Nations family, IMO **is actively working towards the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the associated SDGs**. Indeed, most of the elements of the 2030 Agenda will only be realized with a sustainable transport sector supporting world trade and facilitating the global economy.
- IMO's Technical Cooperation Committee has formally **approved linkages between the Organization's technical assistance work and the SDGs**. While the ocean's goal, SDG 14, is central to IMO, aspects of the Organization's work can be linked to all individual SDGs.

International Telecommunication Union (ITU)

- It is the United Nations specialized agency for information and communication technologies – ICTs.
- Founded in 1865 to facilitate international connectivity in communications networks, we allocate global radio spectrum and satellite orbits, develop the technical standards that ensure networks and technologies seamlessly interconnect, and strive to improve access to ICTs to underserved communities worldwide.
- ITU is committed to **connecting the entire world's people** – wherever they live and whatever their means. Through our work, we protect and support **everyone's right to communicate**.
- It **allocates global radio spectrum and satellite orbits**, develops the technical standards that ensure networks and technologies seamlessly interconnect, and strive to improve access to ICTs to underserved communities worldwide.

General Secretariat of ITU

- The mission of the General Secretariat is to **provide high-quality and efficient services to the membership of the Union**.
- The General Secretariat **manages the administrative and financial aspects of the Union's activities**, including the provision of conference services, planning, and organization of major meetings, information services, security, strategic planning, and corporate functions such as communications, legal advice, finance, personnel, procurement, internal audit, etc.

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

- It was founded in 1945 to develop the "intellectual and moral solidarity of mankind" as a means of building lasting peace. It is located in Paris (France).
- In this spirit, UNESCO develops educational tools to help people live as global citizens free of hate and intolerance.
- By promoting cultural heritage and the equal dignity of all cultures, UNESCO strengthens bonds among nations.

Members

- The Organization has 193 Members and 11 Associate Members.
- Membership of UNESCO is governed by Articles II and XV of the Constitution and by rules 98 to 101 of the Rules of Procedure of the General Conference. Membership of the United Nations carries with it the right to membership of UNESCO.
- **States that are not members of the United Nations may be admitted to UNESCO**, upon recommendation of the Executive Board, by a two-thirds majority vote of the General Conference.

Expertise

- Education
- Culture
- Natural Sciences
- Social and Human Sciences
- Communication & Information

International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)

- It invests in rural people, empowering them to increase their food security, improve the nutrition of their families, and increase their incomes. It helps them build resilience, expand their businesses, and take charge of their development.
- IFAD is an international financial institution and **specialized United Nations agency based in Rome**, the UN's food and agriculture hub. Since 1978, it has provided over US\$21 billion in grants and low-interest loans to projects that have reached about 491 million people.
- IFAD's Strategic Framework **2016-2025** sets out how it will work over the coming decade to play a crucial role in the inclusive and sustainable transformation of rural areas. It articulates its contribution to the 2030 Agenda, including the larger role IFAD will play in supporting countries to fulfill their priorities relative to the Agenda.
- **The Framework sets three strategic objectives:**
 - ▶ increasing the productive capacity of poor rural people
 - ▶ increasing their benefits from market participation
 - ▶ strengthening the environmental sustainability and climate resilience of their economic activities

World Health Organization (WHO)

- WHO, as the directing and coordinating authority on international health within the United Nations system, adheres to the UN values of integrity, professionalism, and respect for diversity.
- The values of the WHO workforce furthermore reflect the principles of human rights, universality, and equity established in WHO's Constitution as well as the ethical standards of the Organization.

- These values are inspired by the WHO vision of a world in which all peoples attain the highest possible level of health, and our mission to promote health, keep the world safe, and serve the vulnerable, with measurable impact for people at the country level.
- It began functioning on April 7, 1948 – a date now being celebrated every year as World Health Day.
- It is an **inter-governmental organization and works in collaboration with its Member States usually through the Ministries of Health.**
- **The World Health Organization (WHO) is responsible for**
 - ▶ Providing leadership on global health matters,
 - ▶ Shaping the health research agenda,
 - ▶ Setting norms and standards,
 - ▶ Providing evidence-based policy options,
 - ▶ Providing technical support to countries,
 - ▶ Monitoring and assessing health trends.

Governance of WHO

■ World Health Assembly

- ▶ The Health Assembly is composed of delegates representing Members.
- ▶ Each Member is represented by not more than three delegates, one of whom is designated by the Member as chief delegate.
- ▶ These delegates are chosen from among persons most qualified by their technical competence in the field of health, preferably representing the national health administration of the Member.
- ▶ The Health Assembly meets in regular annual session and sometimes in special sessions as well
- ▶ The Executive Board
 - It is composed of 34 technically qualified members elected for three-year terms. The annual Board meeting is held in January when the members agree upon the agenda for the World Health Assembly and the resolutions to be considered by the Health Assembly.
 - A second shorter meeting takes place in May, as a follow-up to the Health Assembly. The main functions of the Board are to implement the decisions and policies of the Health Assembly and advise and generally to facilitate its work

World Meteorological Organisation (WMO)

- As a specialized agency of the United Nations, WMO is dedicated to international cooperation and coordination on the state and behavior of the Earth's atmosphere, its interaction with the land and oceans, the weather and climate it produces, and the resulting distribution of water resources.
- WMO has 187 Member States and 6 Member Territories. Members are **divided into six regions**:
 - ▶ Region I: Africa
 - ▶ Region II: Asia
 - ▶ Region III: South America

- ▶ Region IV: North America, Central America, and the Caribbean
- ▶ Region V: South-West Pacific
- ▶ Region VI: Europe
- Established by the ratification of the WMO Convention on 23 March 1950, WMO became the specialized agency of the United Nations for meteorology (weather and climate), operational hydrology and related geophysical sciences a year later.
- The Secretariat, headquartered in Geneva, is headed by the Secretary-General. Its supreme body is the **World Meteorological Congress**.

WMO programmes facilitate and promote the:

- Establishment of networks of observational stations to provide weather, climate, and water-related data;
- Establishment and maintenance of data management centres and telecommunication systems for the provision and rapid exchange of weather, climate, and water-related data;
- Creation of standards for observation and monitoring to ensure adequate uniformity in the practices and procedures employed worldwide and, thereby, ascertain the homogeneity of data and statistics;
- Application of science and technology in operational meteorology and hydrology to aviation, transport (air, land and maritime), water resource management, agriculture, and other focus areas;
- Activities in operational hydrology as well as closer cooperation between National Meteorological and Hydrological Services in states and territories where they are separate;
- Coordination of research and training in meteorology and related fields.

World Meteorological Congress: World Meteorological Congress assembles delegates of Members **once every four years to:**

- Determine general policies for the fulfillment of the purposes of the Organization
- Consider membership of the Organization
- Determine the General, Technical, Financial and Staff Regulations
- Establish and coordinate the activities of constituent bodies of the Organization
- Approve long-term plans and budget for the following financial period
- Elect the President and Vice-Presidents of the Organization and members of the Executive Council
- Appoint the Secretary-General

WIPO

- WIPO is the global forum for intellectual property (IP) services, policy, information, and cooperation.
- It is a self-funding agency of the United Nations, with 193 member states.
- Its mandate, governing bodies, and procedures are set out in the WIPO Convention, which established WIPO in 1967.
- The **main policy and decision-making bodies of WIPO are the General Assembly and the Coordination**

Committee. Twenty-one Assemblies, and other bodies of the member states of WIPO and of the Unions administered by WIPO, traditionally meet in ordinary or extraordinary session in autumn.

Members

- WIPO currently has 193 member states.
- All member states of the UN are entitled, though not obliged, to become members of the specialized agencies like WIPO.
- 188 of UN member states, as well as the Cook Islands, Holy See and Niue, are members of WIPO.
- Palestine has permanent observer status.
- Some 250 non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and intergovernmental organizations (IGOs) have official observer status at WIPO meetings.
- **India joined WIPO in 1975**

Functions

- Policy forum to shape balanced international IP rules for a changing world.
- Global services to protect IP across borders and to resolve disputes.
- Technical infrastructure to connect IP systems and share knowledge.
- Cooperation and capacity-building programs to enable all countries to use IP for economic, social, and cultural development.
- A world reference source for IP information.

World Bank

World Bank group

■ World Bank Group consists of five bodies

- ▶ IBRD, IFC and IDA are Specialized Agencies of the UN
- ▶ ICSID and MIGA are not Specialized Agencies

◦ The International Bank for Reconstruction and Development

- The International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) lends to governments of middle-income and creditworthy low-income countries.

◦ The International Development Association

- The International Development Association (IDA) provides interest-free loans — called credits — and grants to governments of the poorest countries.
- Together, IBRD and IDA make up the World Bank.

◉ The International Finance Corporation

- ◉ The International Finance Corporation (IFC) is the largest global development institution focused exclusively on the private sector.
- ◉ We help developing countries achieve sustainable growth by financing investment, mobilizing capital in international financial markets, and providing advisory services to businesses and governments.

◉ The Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency

- ◉ The Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA) was created in 1988 to promote foreign direct investment into developing countries to support economic growth, reduce poverty, and improve people's lives. MIGA fulfills this mandate by offering political risk insurance (guarantees) to investors and lenders.

◉ The International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes

- ◉ The International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID) provides international facilities for conciliation and arbitration of investment disputes.

About World Bank

- ◉ The World Bank is like a cooperative, made up of 189 member countries. These member countries, or shareholders, are represented by a Board of Governors, who are the ultimate policymakers at the World Bank. Generally, the governors are member countries' ministers of finance or ministers of development. They meet once a year at the Annual Meetings of the Boards of Governors of the World Bank Group and the International Monetary Fund.
- ◉ The governors delegate specific duties to 25 Executive Directors, who work on-site at the Bank. The five largest shareholders appoint an executive director, while other member countries are represented by elected executive directors.
- ◉ The World Bank Group President chairs meetings of the Boards of Directors and is responsible for overall management of the Bank. The President is selected by the Board of Executive Directors for a five-year, renewable term.
- ◉ The Executive Directors make up the Boards of Directors of the World Bank. They normally meet at least twice a week to oversee the Bank's business, including approval of loans and guarantees, new policies, the administrative budget, country assistance strategies and borrowing and financial decisions.
- ◉ The World Bank operates day-to-day under the leadership and direction of the president, management and senior staff, and the vice presidents in charge of Global Practices, Cross-Cutting Solutions Areas, regions, and functions.

International Monetary Fund

The International Monetary Fund, or IMF, promotes international financial stability and monetary cooperation. It also facilitates international trade, promotes employment and sustainable economic growth, and helps to reduce global poverty. The IMF is governed by and accountable to its 190 member countries.

Founding of IMF

- ◉ The IMF was established in 1944 in the aftermath of the Great Depression of the 1930s. 44 founding member countries sought to build a framework for international economic cooperation.
- ◉ Headquarters: Washington, D.C.

Organizational structure

- At the top of its organizational structure is the Board of Governors. The day-to-day work of the IMF is overseen by its 24-member Executive Board, which represents the entire membership and supported by IMF staff.
- The Managing Director is the head of the IMF staff and Chair of the Executive Board. S/he is assisted by four Deputy Managing Directors.

Primary aims:

- Promote international monetary cooperation;
 - Facilitate the expansion and balanced growth of international trade;
 - Promote exchange stability;
 - Assist in the establishment of a multilateral system of payments; and
- Make resources available (with adequate safeguards) to members experiencing balance-of-payments difficulties.

Finance

- The IMF's resources mainly come from the money that countries pay as their capital subscription (quotas) when they become members.
- Each member of the IMF is assigned a quota, based broadly on its relative position in the world economy. Countries can then borrow from this pool when they fall into financial difficulty.
- The IMF's current total resources amounting to about SDR 973 billion translate into a capacity for lending of about SDR 707 billion (around US\$1 trillion), after setting aside a liquidity buffer and considering that only resources of members with strong external position are used for lending.
- The New Arrangements to Borrow (NAB) constitutes a second line of defense to supplement IMF resources to forestall or cope with an impairment of the international monetary system.
- Bilateral Borrowing Agreements serve as a third line of defense after quotas and the NAB. Since the onset of the global financing crisis, the IMF has entered into several rounds of bilateral borrowing agreements (BBAs) to ensure that it can meet the financing needs of its members.

Surveillance

- In order to maintain stability and prevent crises in the international monetary system, the IMF monitors member country policies as well as national, regional, and global economic and financial developments through a formal system known as surveillance.
- The IMF provides advice to member countries and promotes policies designed to foster economic stability, reduce vulnerability to economic and financial crises, and raise living standards. It also provides periodic assessments of global prospects in its World Economic Outlook, of financial markets in its Global Financial Stability Report, of public finance developments in its Fiscal Monitor, and of external positions of the largest economies in its External Sector Report, in addition to a series of regional economic outlooks.

SDRs

- The IMF issues an international reserve asset known as Special Drawing Rights, or SDRs, that can supplement the official reserves of member countries participating in the SDR Department (currently all members of the IMF).
- A general allocation of SDRs must be consistent with the objective of meeting the long-term global need for reserve assets and requires Board of Governors approval by an 85 percent majority of the total voting power. Once agreed, the allocation is distributed to member countries in proportion to their quota shares at the Fund.
- IMF members can voluntarily exchange SDRs for currencies among themselves.



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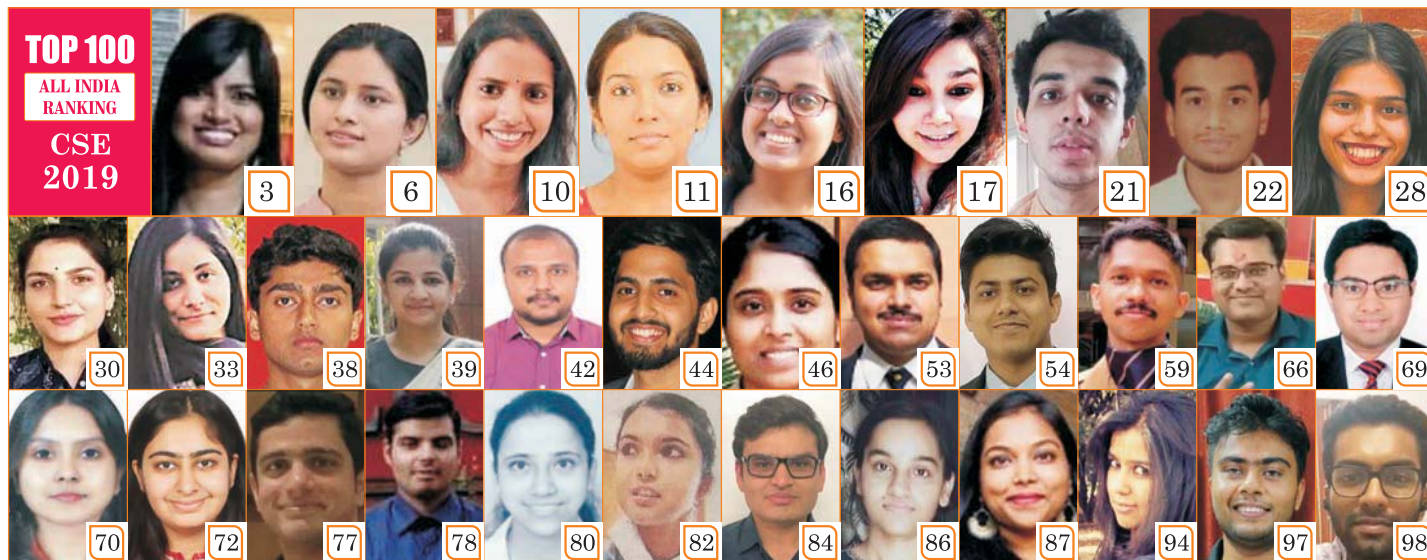
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