

CONCEPT OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION

Unit Structure

- 1.1 Objectives
- 1.2 Meaning, Nature, and Scope
- 1.3 Evolution and Significance
- 1.4 Structure of United Nations
- 1.5 Summary/Conclusion
- 1.6 Further Readings

1.1 OBJECTIVES

The aim of this unit is to familiarize the student with the concept of International Organization, its nature, scope, evolution, and significance. This unit will also help to understand the structure of United Nations. After studying this unit, the student will be able to:

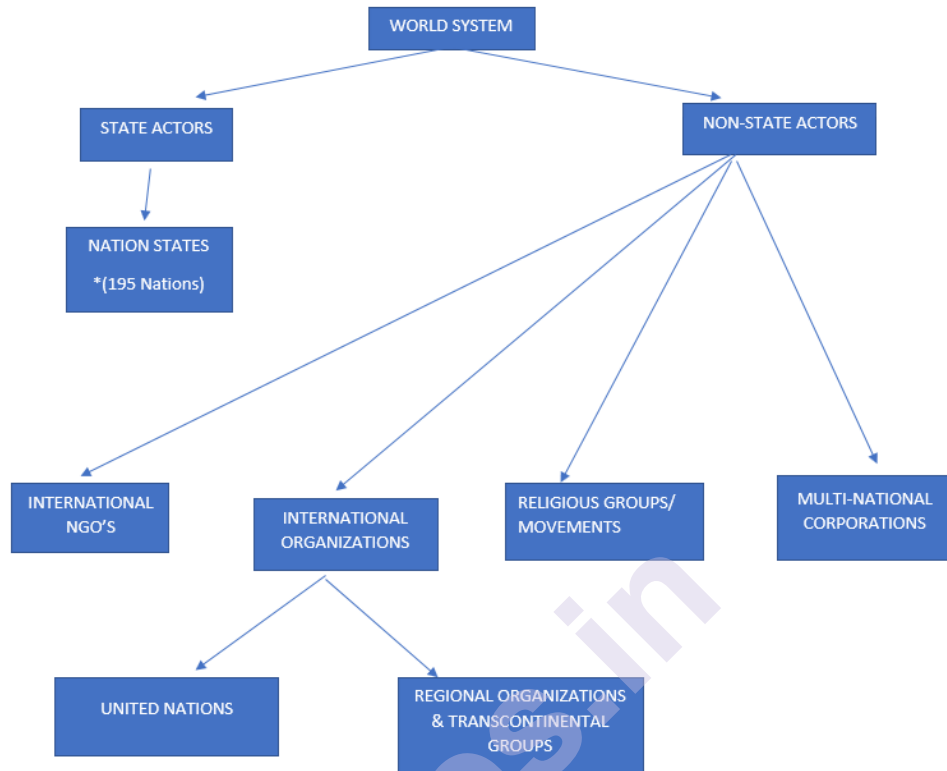
- Explain an international organization and how it is different from regional organizations and trans-continental groups.
- Explain the nature, scope, stages of evolution and significance of international organization.
- Develop first-hand knowledge about the UN (United Nations), its evolution, charter and its structure.

1.2 MEANING, NATURE, AND SCOPE

Introduction:

Since time immemorial, nations have been interdependent on each other. Nations cannot survive in isolation. With the rise in the means of transport and communication, the export and import of goods and services between the nations increased and as they came in close contact with each other. This encouraged economic development, however the threats of war, imperialism, colonialism created a feeling of political insecurity amongst the nations. To deal with this, the nations of the world took support of International Organization for maintaining world peace and security. International Organization is one of the most important non-state actor which brings all the nations of the world under one umbrella.

Let us understand this, with the help of the following diagram:



From the above diagram, we can see that today there is an existence of a proper world system which is based on State Actors and Non-State Actors. The State Actors are all the nations of the world. In fact, there are differences of opinion about the question that how many total nations are there in the world? *According to the United Nations, there are 195 nations in the world.

The Non-State Actors comprises of the International Non-governmental Organizations like Amnesty International, Red Cross or Consumers International. There are many religious groups at the International level which have their own movements that give shape to world politics at their own level. The Multi-National Corporations have definitely made the world a global village in this age of Liberalization, Privatization and Globalization. Hence, they are also included as a Non-State Actors in the world system. Last but not the least, the International Organization comprises of a big world organization-the United Nations and many Regional (SAARC/ASEAN) and Transcontinental Groups (BRICS/IOARC) which provide a platform to the nations of the world to come together and develop mechanisms to protect their national interest and maintain their security.

Now, you must have understood that the International Organization is of one of the Non-State Actors in the world system. One of the striking feature about the international organization is that it came into existence only after war i.e., World War. For example, after the Battle of Waterloo and the fall of Napoleon, in 1815, the Holy Alliance was established by the European

nations. After the end of the First World War (1914-1918), the League of Nations was established in the year 1920 to maintain world peace and security. After the Second World War (1939-1945) the United Nations was established as an International Organization to protect the rights of human beings and maintain international peace and security. The United Nations continues to remain the only International Organization in the World. The first two international organizations, the Holy Alliance and the League of Nations are not in existence today as they had proved to be a failure. The United Nations established on 24th October, 1945 is a platform for all the nations of the world to stay united and live peacefully, minimize conflicts and maximize cooperation. This underscores the importance of the study of International Organization in international politics.

Understanding the difference between International Organization and National Organization:

Apart from international organization, there are also national organizations like the Government and Non-Governmental Organizations within a nation. Let us understand this difference.

The process of an International Organization and the process of Governments within the nation are totally different from each other. The subjects of International Organization are the sovereign nations of the world. Whereas the subjects of a Government within the nation are its citizens, its associations, boards, commissions etc. The citizens have to follow all the orders, policies and programmes of the Government within the nation. For example, as a citizen of India, we follow the rules and regulations of the Government of India.

However, this is not the case with International Organization. It is not compulsory for the subjects of International Organization i.e., its member nations to follow all the rules and regulations of the International Organization compulsorily as all the member nations are sovereign nations which means all the member nations are free nations. Thus, as a member of the United Nations, India is not bound to follow all the rules and regulations of the United Nations. There is no guarantee that whatever orders are given by the International Organization to its member nations will be followed strictly by all the member nations. This means, that International Organization is not rigid but a flexible organization. The members are not duty bound to International Organization as the membership is voluntary and any nation can withdraw its membership whenever it desires to do so.

A Government within the nation makes laws for the protection of its citizens and development of the nation and implements those laws directly. In an International Organization, all the laws or policies made will be implemented indirectly through nations depending on the will or wish of the nation to do so. A Government within the nation is required to frame and implement policies for the entire nation on different subject matters. However, the International Organization will frame policies only on political issues and can provide political, economic, social help and support to the developing and underdeveloped nations of the world.

As there are differences between the International Organizations and the governments within the nations, there are certain points of similarities also. Both, the international organizations and the national governments try and maintain a balance between its unequal elements. The government within the nation controls the relations between its citizens and serves the needs of different individual groups within the nation. In the same way, the United Nations as the International Organization also strives to maintain a balance between its rich and poor, developed, developing and underdeveloped nations, resolves the conflicts between the nations, fulfils the security needs of the nations and protects the national interests of all the member nations.

Meaning of International Organization:

The famous political thinker, Jeremy Bentham coined the term 'International'. International means anything which involves more than one nation or which is generally beyond our national boundaries. Hence, International Organization is an organization which comprises of a group of many nations of the world which have come together with a specific purpose and objective. Today, International Organization has become a permanent feature of world system. International Organizations are also referred as Intergovernmental Organization as many governments form an International Organization. The United Nations is by far the largest IGO as it comprises of 193 member nations and 2 Non-Member Nations. India is a member of United Nations.

International Organization forms a part of regular life. In fact, in our daily life, we are directly or indirectly influenced by the decisions of the International Organization, the United Nations many times. For example, in the past two years you must have heard more about World Health Organization (WHO), in relation to the Covid-19 pandemic. WHO has been working relentlessly for better health and well-being of all the people in the world. In another example, when we have to send letters or call our near and dear ones settled abroad, we have to follow the norms of International Telecommunication Union (ITU). Our national policies are always guided by International Law designed and developed by International Organization.

Definitions of International Organizations

- **National Geographic Society**

“An international organization is one that includes members from more than one nation. Some International Organizations are very large, such as business corporations. Others are small and dedicated to a specific purpose, such as conservation of a species”

- **OECD Glossary of Statistical Terms**

“International Organizations are entities established by formal political agreements between their members that have the status of international treaties, their existence is recognized by law in their

member countries; they are not treated as resident institutional units of the countries in which they are located.”

- **The Year Book of International Organizations**

It states that we can call an organization as an International Organization, if it fulfills the following eight conditions:

1. It should be an organization of at least three states.
2. Its membership must be individual or collective participation, with full voting rights, from at least three states and must be open to any individual or entity appropriately qualified in the organizations area of operations. Voting must be so that no one national group can control the organization.
3. It should have its own constitution and the constitution must provide for a formal structure giving members the right to periodically elect governing bodies and officers. Provision should be made for continuity of operation with permanent headquarters.
4. Its officers should not all be of the same nationality for more than a given period.
5. Its members should contribute to the budget i.e., annual fee should be given by the members. But the members should not attempt to make profits for satisfying their selfish motives.
6. The members of the International Organization can be members of other organizations independently.
7. Evidence of current activities must be available.
8. The size, politics, ideology, fields of activity, location of headquarters, nomenclature is irrelevant criteria in deciding whether a setup is an International Organization.

- **Grigori I. Morozov**

Grigori I. Morozov, widely recognized as the father of the Russian theory of international organizations states, an International Organization is “in its most general form as a stable clearly structured instrument of international cooperation, freely established by its members for the joint solution of common problems and the pooling of efforts within the limits laid down by its statutes. It has as a rule to have at least three member states. These may be governments, official organizations or non-governmental organizations. International organizations have agreed aims, organs with appropriate terms of reference and also specific institutional features such as statutes, rules of procedure, membership etc. The aims and activity of an international organization must be in keeping with the universally accepted principles of international law embodied in the Charter of

the United Nations and must not have a commercial character or pursue profit making aims.”

- **Wallace and Singer:**

Michael Wallace and J. David Singer state that an International Organization should satisfy the following three main criteria:

1. At least two qualifies members subject to a formal agreement between the governments of the nation states.
2. The organization must hold more or less regular plenary sessions at intervals not greater than a decade.
3. A permanent secretariat with a permanent headquarters arrangement and which performs ongoing tasks.

Thus an international organization can be defined as a formal, continuous structure established by agreement between members (governmental and/or non-governmental) form two or more sovereign states with the aim of pursuing the common interest of the membership.

- **Penguin Dictionary of International Relations**

International Organizations are formal institutional structures transcending national boundaries which are created by multilateral agreements among the nation states. Their purpose is to foster international cooperation in areas such as security, law, economic and social matters and diplomacy.

From the above definitions, we understand that an International Organization means an organization which is legally established by two or more than two sovereign states for fulfilment of their common interests. Such an organization has its own constitution or charter, it should have its headquarters, its members should pay annual fees, it should have its own budget, it should have a formal structure and most important of all, its members should have common interests and pursue common goals and objectives.

Nature of International Organization:

Now let us understand the nature of an international organization with the help of the given points:

- **An international organization is like any nation’s parliament with a set of rules and agenda:**

When we use the term ‘International’, we mean the involvement of two or more than two nations. So International Organization is nothing but a group of nations which have come together on a common platform with specific agenda. As mentioned earlier, the term ‘International’ was coined by Jeremy Bentham. He referred to it

in his book titled “Introduction to Principles of Morals and Legislation.” According to Professor Northedge, “It is well known that the expression ‘International’ came into use through the famous mistake made by Jeremy Bentham when he coined it to describe the system of law between sovereign states as a translation of the term *ius gentius*, which the Romans used to refer to the corpus of rules, controlled, of course by Rome itself, between themselves and the tribes of Italy and later various parts of the Roman Empire. The first use of the term ‘International Organization’ was probably made by J. Lorimer of Edinburgh University in 1867. Some writers say that the term ‘Interstate’ or ‘Intergovernmental’ can be used to describe war, trade or any such activity which takes place between two or more nations. However, many writers accepted the term ‘International’ instead. Hence, the word ‘International’ is preferred by all. An International Organization is a kind of an institution which is like any nation’s parliament. As in India, we have our *Sansad*, which has its own rules and regulations. Similarly, any International Organization has its own set of rules and regulations, its meeting place i.e., its headquarters/office and its own members and agenda of work.

- **It could be both formal and informal, in nature:**

An organization can be either formal or informal or both. Michael Hass said that “If ‘organization’ is an arrangement of parts into a unified whole, then there is a non-institutional aspect to the phrase International Organization.”

What is the purpose of organization? Its purpose is to consciously coordinate various activities for achieving a common goal. This coordination could be formal or informal. The formal coordination takes place when there is a set official system or structure with an organizational machinery. The informal co-ordination takes place when there is an unwritten system of practices between the nations.

The formal international organizations like the United Nations have legally binding charters and have permanent secretariats but for global coordination, there are less formal international organizations which may not have their own charters or secretariats. Vabulas and Snidal who have conducted a survey of informal international organizations believe that there are many International Inter-Governmental Organizations like G8 or G20 which lack a proper formal structure of organization but they play a significant role in global coordination.

- **International Organization are institutions which include Ad Hoc arrangements:**

‘Ad Hoc’ is a Latin word which literally means “to this” and is commonly used to denote “for this purpose.” It refers to action taken to address a specific situation.

As far as our subject is concerned, Joseph Frankel who has widely written on international relations and foreign policy, states that

International Organizations include such Ad Hoc arrangements as International Conferences to settle a specific matter. But generally, the name of International Organization is given to only those institutions which operate continuously. It is interesting to note that more than 2000 international institutions in the world are Non-Governmental in nature as they are a combination of national associations and individuals and many are also not directly related to the political sphere. There are more than 200 international institutions which are regional and inter-governmental. The first international institution was the Geodetic Union which was established in 1864 followed by many such institutions.

- **An international organization is a reaction to extreme decentralization:**

Thinkers like Rowland Egger say that International Organizations refer to the process by which states establish and develop formal, continuing institutional structures for developing political, social, economic and cultural relations with each other. Thus, the nations of the world come more closer on a global platform and try to solve their problems in a friendly way through the medium of talks, discussions, debates, conferences. Thus, the nations become more and more interdependent on each other and the problem of extreme decentralization is kept at bay.

- **It is idealistic in nature:**

Basically, International Organizations reflect the idealistic view of International Relations. After all what do we expect from the nations of the world? The answer is more cooperation and fewer conflicts. International Organizations aim to reduce conflicts, wars and develop friendly cooperation amongst the nations.

In fact, International Organizations recognize both, conflict and cooperation as basic feature of multi-state system. But ideally speaking, International Organizations treat conflict as bad and to be controlled and cooperation as good and hence to be promoted. International Organizations try to develop peace and harmony amongst the nations of the world.

- **It expresses the awareness of the leaders to preserve world peace and security:**

The political leaders can use international organizations as a mechanism of preserving world peace and security. This is done by striking a balance between national interest and world peace. The leaders know that it is in their national interest if world peace is maintained, and security is provided through international organizations. For example, in the eventuality of war, world peace and security will be disturbed, and everything will come on standstill. Thus the political leaders are likely to make use of the established international organizations to resolve the issues between warring

nations and promote peace and security. The United Nations (1945) and prior to it the League of Nations (1920) were established with the sole purpose of maintaining world peace and security.

- **Scope of International Organizations:**

To determine the scope of International Organizations, we should first try to understand the classification of International Organizations. Broadly, the International Organizations are classified into two types:

1. IGOs- Inter-Governmental Organizations
2. INGOs-International Non-Governmental Organizations.

- The IGOs are public in nature as their members are nations for example, United Nations, World Health Organization, World Trade Organization etc. Whereas the INGOs are private in nature as their members are private or unofficial individuals or groups. For example, Red Cross Society, Consumers International, Amnesty International among others is the International level Non-Governmental Organization.
- The Union of International Associations publishes the Yearbook of International Organizations that profiles both IGOs and INGOs. It states that there are more than 300 Inter Governmental Organizations in the world including United Nations. It is interesting to note that out of 300, the United Nations is the largest IGOs. It also includes a list of 25,000 international Non-governmental Organizations excluding for profit enterprises. Thus, in its scope, the International Organizations includes both IGOs and INGOs.

Apart from this, there are many Regional Organizations which are also included in the scope of International Organizations like SAARC-South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation or ASEAN-Association of South East Asian Nations. There are many international organizations which includes members from different continents. So, we call them Trans-Continental Regional Organizations like BRICS-Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa or Arab League or NATO-North Atlantic Treaty Organization. So, in the scope of International Organizations we include Regional Organizations and Trans-continental Organizations too.

It is to be noted that Clive Archer excludes international business corporations, cartels and transnational and multinational business enterprises or the Multi-National Corporations from the scope of International Organizations.

The modern International Organizations include in its scope, the following subject areas:

- Implementation of Foreign Policy and Diplomacy
- Formulation of Treaties and rules of warfare

- Development and Implementation of International Law
- Regulation of the use of force
- Organization of Conferences and Workshops
- Developing economic cooperation and fostering international trade
- Developing the feeling of Cosmopolitanism, Universalism
- Promoting global human rights and developing HRMs-Human Rights Mechanisms
- Establishing Leagues and Federations
- Developing Collective Security amongst the nations
- Extending cultural ties amongst the nations
- Fostering Global Competencies
- Bridging the communication gaps between the nations
- Promoting World Travel
- Developing Universal Citizenship
- Developing political and social co-operation amongst the nations
- Thus, the scope of International Organizations is very broad, and it is not limited to a particular function but it is of multi-functional in nature.

Check Your Progress Exercise 1

Note: i) Use the space given below for your answer.

1) Define International Organizations.

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2) Examine the meaning and nature of International Organizations.

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3) Discuss the scope of International Organizations.

1.3 EVOLUTION AND SIGNIFICANCE OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Evolution of International Organizations:

- The evolution of International Organizations can be studied in the following stages:
 1. Ancient Age
 2. Middle Age
 3. International Conferences from the year 1648 with special reference to the Concert of Europe
 4. Establishment of Public International Organizations
 5. The Hague Peace Conferences (1899 and 1907)
 6. Establishment of League of Nations (1920)
 7. Establishment of United Nations (1945)
 8. Growth and development of other International Organizations
- Let us briefly examine each stage of evolution of International Organization.
 1. **The Ancient Age**
 - Gerard J. Mangone in *A short history of international organization*, stated that “the treaties of the past were the

first step towards international organizations.” Hence, in the evolution of international organization, we must begin our study from the ancient times.

- The evolution of international organizations is believed to have started from the ancient Greek city states. In older times, the Greek city states were known as Polis and Greece was known as Hellas. The ancient Greeks established the first formal organizations named as “The Amphictyonic League” which was established in the early 6th century BCE. It was primarily established by 12 city states to protect the temple known as ‘Delphi’. But gradually, the scope of league broadened, and the league started to regulate the political and economic relations between the city states as well.
- After this, Confederation, Delos was established to maintain a common navy amongst the city states. Later on, seventy city states formed the Achaean League of the Hellenes which was more or less similar to modern day regional level Intergovernmental Organization.

The Roman Empire covered the Mediterranean area and also the west and central Europe. The Romans contributed much to the evolution of international organizations and international law. Apart from this, there were inter-state contacts between China, India, Mesopotamia and Egypt. Diplomatic practices, trade relations, alliances and treaties, rules of war and peace were developed by these ancient empires.

2. The Middle Age

- The middle age of the international politics was based on religion. The church, through the Pope, the Holy Roman Empire and appeal to the ‘faith’ provided a kind of universal control to check the growth of decentralization amongst the feudal lords. The decline of Roman Empire made the Church more powerful. According to thinker Constance, “the most spectacular international congress of history assembled in 1414 to consider claims to papacy and to try and shape the political as well as the spiritual future of Europe”. Even today, Roman Church is considered as the world most powerful international non-governmental organization.
- During the middle age, there was a growth of several alliances and associations. The Hanseatic League was established to promote trade and political relations. In 1315, treaty amongst eight Swiss cantons was formed which was the main centre of modern Switzerland.

3. **International Conferences from the year 1648 with special reference to the Concert of Europe:**

- The 15th, 16th and 17th century witnessed the growth of western state system. Europe was the epicentre of the growth of international institutions of modern day.
- The political thinkers like Machiavelli, Jean Bodin and Hugo Grotius contributed to the evolution of the international organizations. Machiavelli provided a realistic foundation to the inter-state system. Bodin gave the idea of legal concept of sovereignty. Jeremy Bentham coined the word international and in his book 'Plea for a Universal and Perpetual Peace' (1793) emphasized on the development of international institutions to solve disputes in a peaceful way. Hugo Grotius, known as the father of International Law envisioned the development of "laws of nations" related to war. William Penn's essay "Towards the Present and Future Peace of Europe" (1693) proposed for establishing a Parliament of Europe.
- The concept of Diplomacy became broader and it saw the growth of conferences or gatherings to deal with the problems related to two or more state.
 - I. In 1648, through the treaty of Westphalia, the first three nations of the world came into existence namely England, France and Spain. This treaty was formed in the Congress of Westphalia (1648) which ended the Thirty Years of War because it ended the authority of the Pope by creating sovereign and independent territorial states. However, no international organization was formed by this treaty.
 - II. In 1713, the European nations signed the Treaty of Utrecht. Under this treaty known as 'The Peace of Utrecht', England, France and Spain gave rise to the concept of 'International Cooperation.' It was a step towards establishment of international organizations.
 - III. In 1815, after the Battle of Waterloo and the defeat of Napoleon Bonaparte, the victorious nations organized a conference in Vienna (Austria). This is known as the Congress of Vienna. The Congress of Vienna proved to be a milestone in the growth and development of international organizations. The Vienna Settlement was due to the quadruple alliance of Austria, England, Prussia (Germany) and Russia. It developed the concepts of

Ambassadors (Diplomats) and laws related to the Open Sea. The Congress of Vienna introduced three important landmarks in international politics. Firstly, it agreed to foster peace after every war. Secondly, the nations decided to renew their meetings at fixed intervals. Thirdly, it was agreed that the maintenance of peace depended on this sort of big power collaborations. It was also known as the Holy Alliance or the Grand Alliance. The famous political scientist Hans Morgenthau said that, the Holy Alliance was an international government in the true sense of the term.

IV. In 1856, the European Nations signed a treaty named as 'Peace of Paris'. Under this treaty, the rules of naval warfare were created and also laws were made to protect the rights of the neutral states.

V. In 1874, in Belgium's capital city Brussels, 15 nations of Europe came together for a meeting and established the rules related to war fought from land.

VI. In 1884-85, in Berlin (Germany), the 15 European nations again came together for a conference. Otto Van Bismarck, the Chancellor of Berlin presided over this conference, to discuss the division of territories won from the African Continent. In this conference, Africa's region 'Congo' was declared as a State. Apart from this, in this conference, discussions were also held to abandon the practice of slavery and trade of slaves from Africa.

- One of the prominent thinkers of International Politics, Inis Claude pointed out that the conferences organized by the European nations from 1815 till 1920, are named by historians as 'Concert of Europe.' The Concert of Europe was the first actual step of nations towards the evolution of International Organizations.
- The Concert of Europe was not any International Organization but were separate meetings or conferences organized by the European nations from time to time to develop cooperation with each other and pave the way for peaceful settlement of disputes. The Concert of Europe gave rise to many international laws like the laws of the seas, diplomacy, laws of war etc.

4. Establishment of Public International Organizations:

- The European nations established many International Public Institutions. Some of them are as follows:

- Rhine River Commission (18015)
- Danube River Commission (1856)
- The Geodetic Union (1864)
- International Telegraphic Union (1865)
- Universal Postal Union (1874)
- International Meteorological Organization(1873)
- The Metric Union (1875)
- International Copyright Union (1886)
- Central Office for International Railway Transport (1890)
- United International Bureau for the protection of Intellectual Property (1893)
- These international institutions became models for the establishment of League of Nations and United Nations.

5. The Hague Peace Conferences (1899 and 1907)

- The Hague Peace Conferences of 1899 and 1907 are related to the development of international law as well as to the development of International Organization.
- At the time of the Hague Conferences, there was no war between the European Nations and actual peace prevailed in the European continent. The participation of nations in these conferences was truly international because all the nations were sovereign nations. In these conferences, rules were formed with the aim to have control on the international system. Measures related to limit of war were also formulated. All types of European nations, big and small, rich and poor, participated in these conferences,
- The first Hague Conference was organized in the year 1899, in which 28 nations participated and in the year 1907, the Second Hague Conference was organized in which more than 40 nations participated.
- The Hague Peace Conferences led to the formulation of policies based on laws related to war, laws related to High Seas, laws to limit the military budget, developing foreign policy and diplomacy, rights and duties of the nation etc.
- Most important of all, the First Hague Conference passed the policy to establish an International Court for settlement of disputes between the nations. Hence in the year 1901, in Hague, the capital city of Netherlands, the International Court of Justice was established. Even

today, the International court of Justice is in existence and is fully functional. It was a part of the League of Nations (1920) and now it is a part and an organ of United Nations (1945).

6. Establishment of League of Nations (1920)

- The League of Nations was established after the First World War came to an end and after the Versailles Treaty (1919), in the year 1920. It was the first step towards establishment of a formal international organization with a set of rules and procedures and a proper structure with its own headquarter.
- In the words of Philip Noel-Baker, a Nobel award winner who took part in the international peace conference in the Hague and later worked at the League of Nations says, “The League of Nations is the first attempt in the history to furnish the international society of nations with a permanent and organic system of international political institution.”
- The then American President, Woodrow Wilson, in his famous 14 Points Programme, made a plea for the formation of a “general association of nations” which could guarantee political independence and territorial integrity of big and small nations.
- The victorious nations of the First World War- America, France, and England developed a covenant (Constitution) for the League in 1919. The covenant contained articles related to the maintenance of territorial integrity of the members against an attack. It also stated that violation of the articles of the covenant leading to war would invite economic sanctions on such nation. The League of Nations was formally established in January 1920 with headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland. Initially, it was an organization of 42 member nations.
- In the structure of the League, there were three main organs- the Council, the Assembly and the Secretariat. The Council was the main peacekeeping agency. The Council consisted of 8 to 14 members. It had permanent members like England, Italy, Soviet Russia, France, Japan and Germany which were the most powerful nations. The other Non-Permanent Members were elected for a period of three years. The Council met for three times a year and it was the function of the Council to deal with political disputes between the nations. The Assembly consisted of all the member nations and its functions was to decide the general policy, maintain the budget, elect the Non-

Permanent or temporary Council Members and give membership to nations as well as to amend the Covenant. It met once a year. The Secretariat was the permanent office of the league. It was the administrative organ of the League. It was headed by a Secretary General nominated by the Council and approved by the Assembly. Apart from this, the Permanent Court of Justice also acted as a part of the League of Nations.

- However, in practice, the League of Nations was unsuccessful as an Organization as the period from 1920 till 1930 witnessed many wars in the European Continent. The League was not able to control these wars. Moreover, the nations like England and France interfered in the functioning of the League. The League was not able to keep a check on the growing dictatorship of Germany's Hitler and Italy's Mussolini. The main objective of the League was to prevent war, but it was not able to achieve this as it could not prevent the Second World War which started from 1939 onwards. The League of Nations was not a major success but by its existence, a strong example was set up which directed the establishment of the United Nations later.

7. Establishment of United Nations, 1945

- The efforts to establish the United Nations as an international organization began when the Second World War (1939-1945) was going on. On 12th June, 1941, the representatives of five Commonwealth and eight European governments-in-exile decided to establish an organization to make the world a better place to live and signed the Inter-Allied Declaration. After this, the Atlantic Charter was signed by America, England and Soviet Russia on 14th August, 1941 which aimed to establish world peace and security. This was followed by the signing of the Declaration by the United Nations on 1st January, 1942 in Washington D.C, America on behalf of 26 nations who subscribed to the principles of the Atlantic Charter. For the first time, the name United Nations was first used in this declaration. The term United Nations was coined by the American President, Franklin D. Roosevelt.
- On 30th December, 1943, the Moscow Declaration on General Security was signed by the representatives of England, China, Soviet Russia and America which approved the idea of establishing an international organization named as United Nations for maintaining world peace and security.
- The Tehran Conference took place between the American President Franklin D. Roosevelt and the Soviet Russia

Premier Joseph Stalin, in November-December 1943 to plan the establishment of the United Nations. After this, the Dumbarton Oaks Conference was organized from August to October 1944 by the representatives of China, Soviet Russia, England and America in the Dumbarton Oaks Estate in Washington, USA. In this conference, the basic plan of establishing the United Nations was developed. They published the proposed framework of the United Nations on 7th October, 1944. In February 1945, the Yalta Conference was organized wherein the leaders from USA and Soviet Russia met and discussed the further course of action.

- Finally, the UN Conference on International Organization was organized in San Francisco, USA which is referred as 'the conference to end all the conferences', on 25th April, 1945. 50 delegates of the world attended the conference. It formulated the official UN Charter. On 26th June, 1945, all the 50 nations signed the charter. Later on Poland also signed the charter as it was not present during the meeting. So, originally 51 member nations signed the UN Charter. It should be noted that, India is one of the founder member of the United Nations as it is a signatory to the UN Charter
- The Charter came into effect from 24th October, 1945. Hence, we say that the United Nations was established on 24th October, 1945. The day is celebrated every year as the United Nations Day.

8. Growth and development of other International Organizations:

- It is not that after the establishment of United Nations, no other international organization was established. In fact, many regional and transcontinental as well as many International Non-Governmental Organizations were established. The International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, the World Trade Organizations are the international economic organizations or Institutions established in 1944. In the UN itself, there are many specialized agencies which are international organizations like the UNDP, FAO, WHO etc.
 - Thus, we find that the International Organizations evolved gradually with the changes in time and situation.
- **Significance of International Organizations:**
- International organizations can help maintain peace at the international level.
 - They provide a platform to the nations of the world to come together and discuss their issues and find solutions to them.

- The international organizations play an important role in developing the international agenda and act as a catalyst for joining the nations together.
- The international organizations facilitate the cooperation and coordination amongst the member nations.
- Due to International relations, the nations can satisfy their national interest, maintain regional peace and security, and avoid war or warlike situation.
- The international organizations set the tone of a truly cosmopolitan world where multiculturalism prevails and there is a respect for each other's diverse culture, traditions and belief systems.
- The international organizations collect information, formulate databases and monitor trends related to global poverty or economic standards or wellbeing and happiness of all the people. They generate a universal pool of information related to all the issues like environment, society, culture, politics etc. related to the mankind.

Check Your Progress Exercise 2

Note: i) Use the space given below for your answer.

1) Describe the evolution of International Organizations.

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2) Write about the significance of International Organizations.

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1.4 STRUCTURE OF THE UNITED NATIONS:

- Before learning the structure of the United Nations, let us first understand the Objectives, Purpose and Principles of the United Nations as enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations.

- As every nation has its own constitution, similarly the United Nations has its own Constitution which is known as the Charter. The UN Charter consists of 111 articles which are divided into 19 chapters. All these articles deal with the operation of United Nations and also tell us about the objectives, purpose and principles of United Nations which are mentioned in the Preamble of the Charter.
- The first draft of the Preamble to the UN Charter was made by General Jan Christian Smuts of South Africa. The preamble is the guiding spirit of the United Nations.
- **There are four main objectives of the UN:**
 1. To save the succeeding generations from the scourge of war;
 2. To reaffirm faith in the fundamental human rights, in the work and dignity of human person and equal rights of men, women and nations large and small;
 3. To establish conditions under which justice and respect for the obligations arising from treaties and other sources of international law can be maintained;
 4. To promote social progress and better standard of life in larger freedom.

Article 1 of the UN Charter, gives the following purpose of the UN:

1. To maintain international peace and security;
2. To develop friendly relations among nations;
3. To seek international cooperation in solving the problems of economic, social, cultural and humanitarian nature, promotion and encouragement of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms; and
4. To be a centre of harmonising the actions of nations to achieve the above ends.

Article 2 of the UN Charter, mentions about the following principles to fulfil the above purpose of the United Nations:

1. The principle of sovereign equality of all members will be followed.
2. All members shall fulfil in good faith the obligations they have assumed under the Charter.
3. The members shall settle their international disputes by peaceful means.
4. The members shall refrain from using any threat or force in any manner inconsistent with the purpose of the United Nations

5. The members will provide assistance in any action taken by the United Nations in accordance with the Charter and shall refrain from giving assistance to any state against which the United Nations is taking preventive or enforcement actions.
6. The United Nations shall ensure that the Non-members act in accordance with these principles so far as it is necessary for maintaining international peace and security.
7. The United Nations shall not interfere in the internal matters of the member nations. However, there will be enforcement of action by the United Nations in case there is breach of peace or threats to peace and acts of aggression.

PREAMBLE OF THE CHARTER OF THE UNITED NATIONS

"We the people of United Nations determined

to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war, which twice in our lifetime has brought untold sorrow to mankind, and

to reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person, in the equal rights of men and women and of nations large and small, and

to establish conditions under which justice and respect for the obligations arising from treaties and other sources of international law can be maintained,

and,

to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom,

and for these ends to practise tolerance and live together in peace with one another as good neighbours,

and

to unite our strength to maintain international peace and security, and

to ensure, by the acceptance of principles and the institution of methods, that armed force shall not be used, save in the common interest,

and

to employ international machinery for the promotion of the economic and social advancements of all peoples,

HAVE RESOLVED TO COMBINE OUR EFFORTS TO ACCOMPLISH THESE AIMS.

Accordingly, our respective governments, through representatives assembled in the city of San Francisco, who have exhibited their full powers found to be in good and due form, have agreed to present the Charter of the United Nations and do hereby establish an international organisation to be known as the United Nations."

Membership of the United Nations:

An applicant must fulfil the following five conditions to be admitted to membership in the United Nations:

- 1) Be a State;
- 2) Be peace-loving State;

- 3) Accept the obligations of the Charter;
- 4) Be able to carry out these obligations; and
- 5) Be willing to do so.

It is to be noted that the membership of the principal organs of the United Nations is determined by the Charter of the United Nations and the Statute of the International Court of Justice.

Currently, there are 193 Member States in the United Nations. Thus, the UN Membership has grown from the original 51 Member States in 1945 to the current 193 Member States. The most recent state to join the United Nations is South Sudan which was recognized as an independent nation in 2011.

Non-Member States:

Non-Member states are those states which receive standing invitation from the United Nations to participate as Observers in the sessions and the work of the General Assembly and maintaining Permanent Observer Missions at Headquarters.

There are two Non-Member States of the United Nations. They are:

- 1) Holy See- Permanent Observer of Mission of the Holy See to the United Nations
- 2) State of Palestine- Permanent Observer Mission of Palestine to the United Nations.

The Structure of the United Nations:

There are six main organs of the United Nations, these are:

1. General Assembly
2. Security Council
3. Economic and Social Council
4. Trusteeship Council
5. International Court of Justice
6. Secretariat

Of the above, the General Assembly, the Security Council, the Economic and Social Council, Trusteeship Council and Secretariat are in the UN Headquarters in New York, USA. Only the International Court of Justice is in Hague, Netherlands.

Now, let us take a review of each organ of the United Nations:

1. General Assembly

In the General Assembly, all the 193 members of the United Nations are represented. Hence it is also known as the “town meeting of the world” According to Article 9 of the UN Charter, The General Assembly shall consist of all the Members of the United Nations:

- Each Member State can send five representatives but has a single vote.
- The General Assembly elects a President, 21 Vice-Presidents and Chairmen of 7 main Committees of the Assembly at the beginning of each annual session.
- The presidency of the Assembly rotates each year among the five geographical groups of states- African, Asian, Eastern Europe, Latin American and Western Europe. This ensures equal geographical representation.
- The main function of the President of the General Assembly is to direct the work of the assembly and preside over the discussions.
- The assembly meets once a year. If there is a need and urgency, then the Assembly can meet in special sessions as requested by the Security Council or by the members or by any member state.
- The voting in the General Assembly is done by a simple majority. The important issues like elections of new members, issues of peace and security require two third majority.
- All the member states are represented in the Six Main Committees of the Assembly:

First Committee – Disarmament and International Security

Second Committee- Economic and Financial Committee

Third Committee-Social, Humanitarian and Cultural Committee

Fourth Committee-Special Political and Decolonization Committee

Fifth Committee-Administrative and Budgetary Committee

Sixth Committee-Legal Committee

Each committee will study the problems assigned to it and make recommendations to the General Assembly.

- The 28 member General Committee coordinates the proceedings of the Assembly and its committees.
- There are two standing committees:

1. Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions
 2. Committee on Contributions, which recommends the scale of members payments to the UN.
- **Subsidiary Organs:** The subsidiary organs of the General Assembly comprises of Committees, Commissions, boards, Councils and Panels and Working Groups and others. Amongst the Commissions, there is the UN Peace Building Commission, International Law Commission etc. Amongst the Committees, there is a Committee on the UN Populations Award and Committee against torture. Amongst the Council, there are the Human Rights Council and the Council of the UN Universities.
 - **Functions of the General Assembly:**
 1. It elects the members of the other major organs such as the 10 Non-Permanent Members of the Security Council, ECOSOC (Economic and Social Council), Trusteeship Council and Judges of the International Court of Justice.
 2. It appoints the Secretary General of the UN Secretariat on the recommendation of the Security Council.
 3. It approves the UN Budget.
 4. It receives and considers report from the other organizations.
 5. It may discuss any question related to the work of the United Nations.
 6. If for any reason whatsoever, the Security Council cannot make decisions than General Assembly can consider the issue and make suggestion to restore world peace and security.

2. The Security Council

If the General Assembly is called as the UN Parliament, then the Security Council is the UN Executive. The primary responsibility of the maintenance of world peace and security is with the Security Council.

1. Originally, there were 11 members in the Security Council but gradually it expanded to 15 in 1965.
2. Out of the 15 members of the Security Council, 5 members are the permanent members viz., America, England, France, Russia and China. The 10 members are the Non-Permanent Members. The non-permanent members are elected for a two-year term by

a two-third majority of the General Assembly. Five non-permanent members retire every year.

3. In the year 2022, the non-permanent members are Albania, Brazil, Gabon, Ghana, India, Ireland, Kenya, Mexico, Norway and United Arab Emirates (UAE).
4. The Council members are permanently represented at the UN Headquarters.
5. Each member of the Council has One Vote. Decisions on procedural matter are taken by affirmative vote of at least nine members, while decisions on substantive matters are taken by votes of nine members which must also contain the concurring votes of all permanent members.
6. The Permanent members have a special right to use 'Veto Power'. Out of five permanent members, if any member uses veto i.e., a No vote, then it will defeat the question which came up for decision. For example, Russia has used veto power to support India over the Kashmir issue. Many criticize the use of veto power by saying that it has prevented the United Nations from taking decisions on many issues.
7. The Security Council may set up as many committees as it needs. The Charter created a Military Staff Committee, with Military Representatives of all Five Permanent Members, to advise on and assist the Council's military requirements for the maintenance of peace, regulation of armaments and disarmaments.
8. Currently, the Security Council has three standing committees- the Committee on Admission of New Members, the Committee of Experts on Rules of Procedure and the Committee on Council Meetings.

- **Functions of the Security Council:**

1. The Security Council has the power to discuss, investigate and make recommendations about any question brought on its panel.
2. It is responsible for framing plans for the establishment of a system for the control of armaments.
3. It is empowered to decide what measures should be adopted in order to maintain international peace and security when the peaceful settlement among the disputing parties fails. It includes measures like complete or partial interruption of economic relations and of rail, sea, air, postal, radio and other means of communication and the severance of diplomatic relations. Actions may include blockades, demonstrations and other operations

by air, sea or land forces of Members of the United Nations.

4. New member states to the UN are admitted by a decision of the General Assembly on the recommendations of the Security Council.
5. The Security Council also participates in the election of the Judges of the International Court of Justice.
6. Its recommendations are also necessary for the appointment of the Secretary General.

It is often said that, the Security Council has not been able to play the role which was envisaged to it under the charter. The balance is tilted more towards General Assembly because of admission of huge number of Afro-Asian Countries to the General Assembly.

3. Economic and Social Council

The Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) under the authority of the General Assembly is the organ which is responsible to function as a co-ordinator of the economic and the social work of the United Nations and the specialised agencies and institutions known as the 'United Nations Family.'

- ECOSOC comprises of 54 members, 18 (one-third) of whom are elected every year by the General Assembly of the UN for a term of three years. Members are elected according to a system based on geographical distribution. The President is elected annually. The retiring members as well as the President are eligible for immediate re-election.
- The Council meets twice a year and can also hold special sessions.
- The day-to-day working of the Council is carried on by its Commissions and Committees which meet at regular intervals and report back to the council.
- Each member has one vote and decisions are made by simple majority.
- **Functions of ECOSOC:**
 1. It takes initiative studies and prepares reports on international economic, social, cultural, educational, health and other matters.
 2. It makes recommendations with regards to the international economic, social, cultural, educational, health and related matters to the General Assembly.

3. It undertakes the preparation of draft convention for submission to the General Assembly regarding all matters falling within its jurisdiction.
4. It calls international convention on socio-economic, cultural and human rights related issues.
5. It is the co-ordinator of the work of specialized agencies of the United Nations.
6. It can consult Non-Governmental international organisations on matters with which they are concerned and which fall within the competence of the Council. The organizations may send observers to public meeting of the Council and its subsidiary bodies and may submit written statements relevant to the work of the Council. Over 600 NGOs have been granted Consultative status within the Council.

4. Trusteeship Council

- The United Nations Trusteeship Council was established to help ensure that trust territories were administered keeping in mind the benefit and welfare of the concerned people and also to see that world peace and security is maintained.
- It consisted of the administering states, the five permanent members, equivalent to the administering states.
- It acts under the authority of the General Assembly, or in case of 'strategic means' under the authority of the Security Council.
- Originally, there were eleven trust territories. The Council was to help these territories become self-governing or independent. By 31st October, 1994, all the trust territories had achieved independence either as a separate state or by joining neighbouring independent states. The last such territory which became independent was the Pacific Islands (or Palau Islands), which was being administered by America.
- From 1st November, 1994, the Trusteeship Council formally suspended its operations. The Council, however, was not dissolved, it remained in existence with the provision that it would meet as and when a need of extraordinary nature arose. It is proposed to the United Nations that the Trusteeship Council should be used as a trustee of the "global commons, environment and resource systems."

5. International Court of Justice

The international Court of Justice is the Judiciary of the United Nations and it deals with all the legal problems of the United Nations.

- Its headquarters are located in Hague, Netherlands.
- It was established as a statute signed as an Integral Part of the UN Charter at San Francisco on 26th June, 1945. All the UN members signed the statute and are a party to it.
- The purpose of the ICJ is to adjudicate disputes referred to it by the member states and to provide advisory opinion on any legal question raised brought before it by the General Assembly or the Security Council or any other organ of the United Nations and the Specialized agencies of the United Nations.
- Any member who was a signatory to the Statute of the ICJ may bring a case before the court, though no nation can be forced to bring its disputes before the Court.
- Other Countries who had not signed on the ICJ Statute can refer cases to the Court under the conditions laid down by the Security Council.
- Individuals cannot be a party to a dispute. Only member nations can bring a case before the ICJ.
- It consists of a total number of 15 Judges who are elected by the UN General Assembly and Security Council, which vote independently, for a renewable term of nine years.
- The Judges belong to different nationalities and are nominated by “national groups” in the Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA), established by the Hague Conventions of 1899 and 1907.
- No Judge is allowed to exercise any political or administrative function. He/she cannot be dismissed unless He/she has ceased to fulfil the required conditions of service.
- The ICJ elects its president and vice-president for a three years term.
- **ICJ Jurisdiction**

The jurisdiction to ICJ can be conferred through any of the following methods:

1. Two or more states may confer jurisdiction upon the court through special agreements.
2. It may be provided in a multilateral treaty that the matters relating to the interpretation of the treaty shall be entrusted to the court.
3. Jurisdiction in respect of any specific matter may also be conferred upon the court by a bilateral treaty.

4. Jurisdiction may also be conferred upon the Court in an informal way after the proceedings have commenced in the Court.

- **Functions of ICJ:**

1. To decide the cases in accordance with international law, international custom, the general principles of law recognized by civilized nations; and judicial decisions and the teachings of the most highly qualified publicists as subsidiary means for the determination of the rules of the law.
2. To decide the cases on the principles of equity if the parties concerned agree.
3. It provides advisory opinions on legal questions to the General Assembly, Security Council and other Specialized Agencies.
 - It is important to note that the advice of the International Court of Justice is not binding on the agency soliciting it. There exists no specific machinery to enforce or implement the decisions of the International Court of Justice.

6. **The Secretariat**

The Secretariat is the headquarters or administrative office of the United Nations. It is in New York, USA. The Secretariat is headed by the Secretary General of the United Nations. Equal parts diplomat and advocate, civil servant and CEO, the Secretary General is a symbol of United Nations ideals and a spokesperson for the interests of the world's peoples, in particular the poor and vulnerable among them.

- The day-to-day business of the UN is managed by the Secretariat.
- It is headed by a Secretary General who is assisted by several Under Secretary Generals, Assistant Secretary Generals and Deputy Secretary Generals. There is also a staff of over 8,000 people to support the Secretary General.
- The Secretary General is appointed by the General Assembly with the recommendation of the Security Council, for a period of five years. Any of the five permanent members of the council can veto a nomination.
- The Secretary General reports to the General Assembly each year on the organizational accomplishments, activities, problems and challenges.
- Powers and functions of the Secretary General:

1. Article 99 of the Charter gives the Secretary General the power to bring to the attention of the Security Council any matter which, in his opinion, may threaten the peace and security of any region.
2. The Secretary General oversees the entire administration of the United Nations.
3. The Secretary General attends sessions with United Nations specialized agencies and other affiliated institutions.
4. The Secretary General publishes annual report on the work of the United Nations which includes an assessment of its activities and an outline of future priorities.
5. The Secretary General is also the Chairman of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board of Coordination which comprises of the heads of all UN funded programmes and specialized agencies.

The following table provides a chronological list of Secretary Generals of the UN:

List of Secretary Generals of the United Nations			
Sr.No	Name	Country	Period
1.	Trygve Lie	Norway	1946-1953
2.	Dag Hammarskjold	Sweden	1953-1961
3.	U.Thant	Myanmar	1961-1971
4.	Kurt Waldheim	Austria	1972-1982
5.	Javier Perez de Cuellar	Peru	1982-1992
6.	Boutros Boutros Ghali	Egypt	1992-1997
7.	Kofi Annan	Ghana	1997-2006
8.	Ban Ki-Moon	South Korea	2007-2016
9.	Antonio Guterres	Portugal	2017-till today

Specialized Agencies of the United Nations:

The UN works jointly with 15 international organizations which are known as the 'Specialized Agencies'. However, they are independent legal entities.

The following table provides a list of these 15 specialized agencies of the UN:

List of Specialized Agencies of the United Nations			
Sr. No	Name of the Specialized Agency	Headquarter	Brief Description of Functions performed
1.	Food & Agriculture Organization (FAO)	Rome	To fight hunger and provide food security.
2.	International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)	Montreal	To facilitate safe, reliable international air travel.
3.	International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)	Rome	To work directly with rural poor in developing nations.
4.	International Labour Organization (ILO)	Geneva	It was the first specialized agency of the UN in 1946. Its work is to promote and develop safe workplace practices.
5.	International Monetary Fund (IMF)	Washington , DC	To maintain stability of the international monetary system.
6.	International Maritime Organization (IMO)	London	To maintain a framework to govern the shipping industry and provide maritime security.
7.	International Telecommunications Union (ITU)	Geneva	To promote international cooperation in the emerging telegraphic industry.

8.	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organizations (UNESCO)	Paris	To promote international cooperation in the field of Education, science and culture.
9.	United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)	Vienna	To promote industrial development.
10.	United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO)	Madrid	To promote tourism for economic growth.
11.	Universal Postal Union (UPU)	Bern, Switzerland	To set rules for international mail and promote postal services.
12.	World Health Organization (WHO)	Geneva	To provide global healthcare services.
13.	World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)	Geneva	To establish rules and norms for intellectual property rights.
14.	World Meteorological Organization (WMO)	Geneva	To monitor weather and climatic conditions and exchange data.
15.	World Bank (WB)	Washington DC, USA	To provide finance and technical assistance to developing economies

Check Your Progress Exercise 3

Note: i) Use the space given below for your answer.

1) Evaluate the objectives, purpose and principles of the United Nations.

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2) Explain the structure of the United Nations.

1.5 LET US SUM UP:

International Organizations are the Non-State Actors in the World System. Hence, their rules, norms, code of conduct are not binding on the sovereign nations. International organization as the United Nations is often criticized for being a weak organization. Many have also questioned the very relevance of the United Nations. Yet there are many others who support the existence of the United Nations and also other international organizations which may be regional or transcontinental or an International Non-Governmental Organization.

The success or failure of any international organization depends on the member nations. If the member nations abide by the rules of the organizations and carry out their duties towards the organization, then the organization will definite become powerful and also successful. The international organizations provide a platform to the inter-state cooperation.

1.6 FURTHER READINGS

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CONCEPT OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION

Unit Structure

- 2.1 Objectives
- 2.2 Pacific Settlements of International Disputes and Peace Keeping Operations
- 2.3 Regulation and Control of Nuclear Technology: Role of International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)
- 2.4 Summary/Conclusion
- 2.5 Further readings

2.1 OBJECTIVES:

The aim of this unit is to make you understand the importance of peace in the world and realize the efforts put in by the United Nations, as a general international organization to maintain world peace. This unit will familiarize you with the ways implemented by the United Nations to solve international disputes peacefully. Moreover, you will also know about the army maintained by the United Nations known as United Nations Peace Keeping Forces (UNPKF) to ensure peace in war zones. After studying this unit, you should be able to:

- Explain the ways adopted by the United Nations for solving the international disputes in a peaceful manner.
- Describe the working of the United Nations Peace Keeping Forces.
- Evaluate the Pacific Settlements of International disputes and Peace-Keeping Operations.
- Explain the role of International Atomic Energy Agency.

2.2 PACIFIC SETTLEMENT OF INTERNATIONAL DISPUTES AND PEACE KEEPING OPERATIONS:

Conflict Management and Disputes Settlement are the core issues and challenges in international politics. Over many centuries, the nations have been trying to minimize conflicts such as War and maximize cooperation between the nations by establishing institutions for pacific settlement of disputes between the nations.

The political history of the world is the evidence to the fact that until and unless the nations do not become selfless and learn to develop mutual respect, in a true sense, till that time complete peace cannot be achieved. We find that even United Nations is helpless as even after establishing the United Nations we find that wars have occurred in the world, though not on a large scale like a Third World War. However, the ongoing Russia-Ukraine Conflict (2022) is a clear indication of this.

Let us take a brief historical review of how nations used to settle their disputes peacefully prior to the establishment of the United Nations.

The first ever effort to develop international peace was the establishment of the 'Congress System' by the European nations. Why was it known as Congress System? It is known so because regular congresses or meetings were organized to discuss the ways of resolving disputes between the nations. Hence, it is known as the Congress System. It was established after the French Revolution of 1789 and Fall of Napoleon Bonaparte in 1815.

The Congress System is also known as the Vienna System (Congress of Vienna, 1815) was the system developed by Five Great Powers of Europe namely, Austria, France, Prussia (Germany), Russia and England to resolve potential political disputes and prevent wars and conflicts between the nations. Till 1848, the Congress System was able to maintain peace as occasional meetings were organized during crisis. However, the Congress System received a major setback due to the 1848 Revolutions which were based on ideas like democracy, independence and national unity. These revolutions were controlled by the Congress but due to the growing tendencies of imperialism, finally, the Congress System came to an end. There was Unification of Germany under Otto Van Bismarck and Unification of Italy under Count Cavour and Garibaldi in 1870. This increased the competition amongst the European Powers and efforts to develop peace between the European nations became impossible.

After the First World War (1914 to 1918), the League of Nations was established in 1920 to maintain peace and security. But the League of Nations also failed to prevent conflicts as it could not control the Japan's aggression on China in 1931 and 1937 as well as Italy's invasion in Abyssinia (Ethiopia) in 1935. Moreover, it could not check the growth of dictatorship in Germany under Hitler and in Italy under Mussolini. Then the Second World War occurred from 1939 to 1945 and eventually, we find that the United Nations was established to maintain world peace and security.

Now let us examine the concept of Pacific Settlements of Disputes and then find out how United Nations settles disputes between the nations as an International Organization.

What is the meaning of Pacific Settlement of Disputes?

Disputes are a part and parcel of our daily life. This can be seen through the huge number of cases in our judicial system. What role is our Judiciary performing? Naturally, the answer is that judiciary is providing a platform and is a mediator in solving the disputes of general public in the nation and

giving justice to the people. Similarly, at the international level, there are disputes between two or more nations on many issues such as cross border terrorism or disputed boundary lines or arms race or imperialism etc. If within the nation, we have judiciary and administrative tribunals to solve our disputes then certainly at the international level also, there should be a mechanism to solve disputes amongst the nations as wars and armed conflict will never make the world a better place to live.

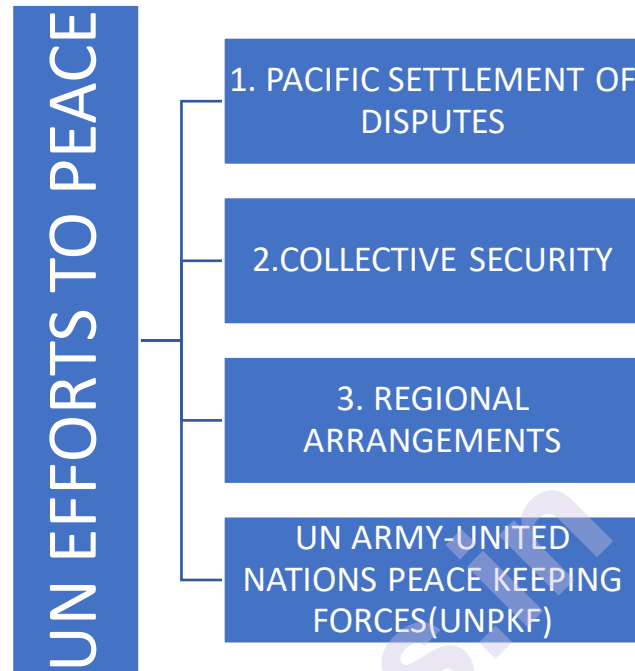
Pacific Settlements of Disputes means resolving the disputes amicably, in a friendly way rather than fights or waging wars. The term Pacifism was coined by French Peace campaigner Emile Arnaud in 190, in his treatise named as “Code de la Paix” which gave broad outline about how to carry a movement in a peaceful manner and what are the goals of a peaceful movement. He said that we can achieve peace through mutual consent, tolerance, and non-violence. Any person who believes and follows the idea of settling disputes peacefully, is known as a Pacifist.

If we look at the political history of the world, we find that attempts were made since ancient times to solve disputes between the nations peacefully. Whether in the Buddhists or Jain traditions or in ancient Chinese traditions war was renounced completely and peace was promoted on the large scale. The Quakers and Religious Friends Society of the ancient European Christian traditions also supported peace more than war. Jean Jacques Rousseau, Emmanuel Kant, Jeremy Bentham, all advocated peace. To understand the importance of peace, one must read, Leo Tolstoy’s book “The Kingdom of God is Within You”, which is a treatise on peace. The Hague Conventions and International Court of Justice served the purpose of establishing peace amongst the warring nations. The League of Nations and the United Nations symbolized the sincere attempts by the nations of the world towards establishing permanent world peace.

United Nations and Pacific Settlements of International Disputes:

United Nations as an international organization from past 77 years (1945 till today) is relentlessly carrying out the work of maintaining world peace and order within its structural limitations. We cannot say that after establishment of United Nations, the nations stopped going on war completely. In fact, immediately after United Nations was established Cold War started between the two Super Powers- USA and USSR which lasted for about 45 years. In between all these 45 years, the world witnessed many wars and war like situations such as the Korean War of 1950 or the Cuban Missile Crisis of 1962. India’s wars with Pakistan, Iran and Iraq war, Falklands War, the Vietnam War speaks volumes about the spread of war even after the establishment of United Nations. In 1991, there was fall of Soviet Russia, Gulf War, and Kargil War wherein the concept of peace was questioned vis-à-vis the role of United Nations. The United Nations was not a silent spectator in all these wars. In the Korean War of 1950 and in the Gulf War of 1991, the United Nations intervention was highly successful. But the intervention was not so successful in other wars. So now let us examine exactly how the United Nations maintains peace in the world?

If we go through the UN Charter, we find that it mentions three ways and also talks about the UN Army-UNPKF, through which the UN tries to maintain peace in this anarchical world.



Let's examine the above-mentioned ways in detail, as follows:

1. Peaceful Settlement of Disputes:

The UN Charter explains the way peaceful settlement of disputes will be carried out by the United Nations.

The following articles of the UN Charter deals with provisions related to the Pacific Settlement of Disputes:

1. **Article 11-** It states that the General Assembly may consider the general principles of cooperation in the maintenance of international peace and security, including the principles governing disarmament and the regulation of armaments and make recommendations regarding such principles to the Members or to the Security Council or to both.
2. **Article 33-** It states that any dispute that is likely to endanger the maintenance of international peace and security should first be addressed through negotiation, mediation or other peaceful means, and states that the Council can call on the parties to use such means to settle their dispute.
3. **Article 34-** It empowers the Security Council to investigate any dispute, or any situation that is likely to endanger international peace and security.
4. **Article 35-** It grants both Member and Non-Member States the power to bring any dispute, or any situation that is likely to

endanger international peace and security, to the attention of the Security Council. It covers instances where disputes or situations have been brought by States to the attention of the Security Council, according to the provisions of Article 35.

5. **Article 36-** The Security Council may, at any stage of dispute of the nature referred to in Article 33 or of a situation of like nature, recommend appropriate procedure or methods for adjustment. This article also states that the Security Council should also consider the legal disputes referred by the parties to the International Court of Justice in accordance with the provisions of the Statute of the Court.
6. **Article 37-** It states that, if the parties to a dispute of the nature referred in Art.33 fail to settle the disputes, then the Security Council will decide whether to take action under Article 36 or to recommend such terms of settlement as it may consider appropriate.
7. **Article 38-** It states that without prejudice to the provisions of Article 33 to 37, the Security Council y, if all the parties to any dispute so request, make recommendations to the parties with a view to a pacific settlement of the dispute.

In simple terms, we can say that in order to settle the disputes between the nations pacifically, the United Nations uses the following ways:

1. If there is any dispute between two or more nations, then such nations are brought together on a common platform by the United Nations. The representatives of such nations have discussions with each other and try to find out solutions related to the issues between them. In this, there is no interference of any third party.
2. In certain disputes, the United Nations invites a third party who is not related to the nations or who is not concerned with the dispute and will act only as a mediator. So through mediation of a third party, disputes between the nations will be solved. The third party i.e., the mediator nation co-ordinates the talks and discussions between the nations who have disputes with each other. The mediator nation also suggests measures to solve the disputes between the nations and tries to control the war-like situation, if any, between the nations. It is the ultimate right of the United Nations to decide who will be the mediator nation.
3. The United Nations can appoint special enquiry committees or commissions to solve the disputes amongst the nations amicably. It will be a fact-finding committee and will suggest measures to the United Nations to find out peaceful solutions to the disputes.
4. Certain disputes between the nations are referred by the United Nations to the International Court of Justice which is located in Hague, Netherlands. The International Court of Justice applies

International Law to solve the disputes between the nations peacefully. If the nations are not interested in taking their disputes to the International Court of Justice, then the United Nations will try to find out an out of court settlement of disputes between the nations.

Thus, we find that the United Nations, in all possible ways, tries to bring an ultimate solution to the disputes between the nations

2. Collective Security:

Collective Security means “All for One and One for all.” Basically, it assumes that an attack on one nation will be considered as an attack on all the nations and collectively security will be maintained by all. The United Nations also believes in the principle of Collective Security.

The Article 48 and Article 49 of the United Nations Charter speak about the principle of collective security.

1. **Article 48** – The action required to carry out the decisions of the Security Council for the maintenance of international peace and security shall be taken by all the Members of the United Nations or by some of them, as the Security Council, may determine. It also states that such decisions shall be carried out by the Members of the United Nations directly and through their action in the appropriate international agencies of which they are members.
2. **Article 49** – The members of the United Nations shall join in affording mutual assistance in carrying out the measures decided upon by the Security Council.

The United Nations believes that to establish peace, the most important way is to follow the principle of Collective Security. For the implementation of the principle of Collective Security, the United Nations has focussed on the following:

- All the member nations should have common goal of Collective Security. Their national interest should be of less importance than collective security.
- The member nations should unanimously believe that there is a threat to their security.
- The member nations should unanimously agree that a particular nation is the arrogant nation or a belligerent nation who has attacked the victim nation.
- Once it is decided that a particular nation is belligerent then all the member nations should unanimously decide the course of action to be followed. There should be no differences of opinion amongst the member nations about this.

3. Regional Arrangements:

The Articles 52-54 of Chapter VIII of the UN charter provides the constitutional basis for the involvement of Regional Organizations in the maintenance of international peace and security.

1. Art 52- It provides for the involvement of regional arrangements or agencies in the peaceful settlement of disputes.
2. Art 53- It allows such arrangements to take enforcement action, but only with explicit authorization by the Security Council. In other words, this article creates a way through which Security Council is allowed to utilize regional arrangements to implement its enforcement actions.
3. Art 54- It states that the regional arrangements or agencies shall inform the Council of their activities for the maintenance of international peace and security.

In the decades since the UN Charter, regional arrangements have flourished around the world from the European Union to ASEAN (Association of South East Asian Nations). The UN may be an international organization but it has always recognized the importance of regional affiliations and arrangements.

Why Regional Arrangements?

The United Nations had seen many successes like the Gulf War, Cambodia, Haiti and many failures like Somalia, Bosnia, Rwanda, in its attempt to maintain peace and order in the world. As the years passed, there was an increase in financial and operational problems of the United Nations. Hence the United Nations decided to take help of Regional Organizations, Intergovernmental Organizations, Non-Governmental Organization, and many regional agencies in the world. The former UN Secretary General, Boutros Boutros-Ghali also stated that “Regional arrangements or agencies in many cases possess a potential that should be utilized.”

The General Assembly in its Resolution 49/57 of December 9, 1994, approved the Declaration on the Enhancement of Cooperation between the United Nations and Regional Arrangements or Agencies in the maintenance of international peace and security. Thus, we find that with the help and support from the Regional Organizations like SAARC, APEC, African Union, BRICS, BIMSTEC, and many such others, the United Nations is able to take a first-hand account of issues that hamper global peace and security and find grass root regional solutions to them.

UNPKF (UNITED NATIONS PEACE KEEPING FORCES) AND PEACE KEEPING OPERATIONS

In 1948, the UN Security Council authorized the deployment of UN Military /observers to West Asia and commenced the UN Peacekeeping Operations. In other words, it means that the UN also has an army of its own which is known as the UNPKF which helps the nations to maintain peace during conflicts like war. The UN Charter gives the Security Council the responsibility to maintain international peace. Hence all the peacekeeping operations are authorized by the Security Council as per the rules of Chapter VII authorizations of the UN Charter. The UN peacekeepers are often referred to as Blue Berets or Blue Helmets because of their light blue colour helmets.

Let us examine the functions of the UN Peacekeepers:

1. To provide security and peace building support enough to help the nations transform smoothly from conflict to peace.
2. To protect the civilians during war.
3. To actively prevent conflict and reduce violence in the war prone zones.
4. To strengthen security and empower national authorities to assume the responsibility of maintaining peace.
5. To help the host countries to become more resilient to conflict and laydown the blueprint for long term and sustainable peace.
6. To use modern technology as well as innovations in the work of peace building.
7. To promote human rights during war.
8. To empower women who are affected in the war torn areas.

The UN Peacekeeping is guided by the following three basic principles:

1. Consent of the parties
2. Impartiality
3. Non-use of force except in self-defence of the mandate.

Let's see the strength of the UN Military i.e., UNPKF and other facts related to it:

The soldiers in the UNPKF comes from over 120 nations and according to the current statistics provided by the UN, there are more than 97,000 uniformed soldiers in the UN Military. They come from nations which are either large or small and rich or poor.

As per the latest report of the U.S State Department Archives, currently there are 12 Peacekeeping Missions deployed in three different regions:

seven in Africa, three in the Middle East, two in Europe and one in Asia. The largest UN Peacekeeping Mission globally was the UN Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) with more than 15,000 military personnel. It was established in July 2011 to support the recently independent South Sudan. The UN Peacekeeping operations are collectively financed by all the member nations of the UN. It is interesting to note that for any peacekeeping operation, the authorization of America is required. As per the UN Charter, no UN Peacekeeping operation can be authorized, deployed or withdrawn without America's support.

The deadliest UN Peacekeeping Mission till date was in the Republic of Mali in West Africa. In this mission out of a force of about 15,200, nearly 209 peacekeepers were killed.

In the year 1988, the UNPKF was awarded the Noble Prize for Peace. The Noble Prize was awarded in recognition of the services rendered by the Peacekeepers in extremely difficult conditions which contributed in reducing tensions between the conflicting nations. The International Day of the United Nations Peacekeepers is observed every year on 29th May. On this day, the UN pays tribute to the uniformed and civilian personnel who had contributed in the work of the UN and to honour nearly 4,200 peacekeepers who had become martyrs while serving under the UN Flag since 1948.

Check Your Progress Exercise 1

Note: i) Use the space given below for your answer.

- 1) Examine the ways through which the United Nations maintains peace in the world.

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- 2) Discuss Collective Security and Regional arrangements of the United Nations with reference to peace building.

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3) Write a note on the United Nations Peace Keeping Forces.

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2.3 REGULATION AND CONTROL OF NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY: ROLE OF INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY (IAEA)

The subject of Political Science is inter-disciplinary in nature. As a student of Political Science, we should also try to gain knowledge about science, its core topics like Nuclear Energy and Nuclear Technology and its impact on mankind. The United Nations shoulders the responsibility of maintaining world peace and security and hence it becomes important for the UN to monitor the use of Nuclear Technology by the nations. Now, let us first understand what exactly is Nuclear Energy and Nuclear Technology and why the UN wants to control the use of Nuclear Technology?

Nuclear Energy and Nuclear Technology:

The energy which is in the core of an atom and which is discharged by the reactions of nuclear fission and nuclear fusion is known as the Nuclear Energy. The application of nuclear energy is known as Nuclear Technology.

Use of Nuclear Technology:

The Nuclear Technology is used for both peaceful and violent purposes. Its peaceful uses are in many industries like food and agriculture, industry, medicine, power generation, transport, water supplies and many more.

The biggest drawback of nuclear technology is the production of atomic bombs and hydrogen bombs. The atomic bombs are a WMD (Weapons of Mass Destruction) which is made through nuclear fission. It was used for

the first time by the USA on the two Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, in August 1945 which put an end to the Second World War. The hydrogen bomb is also a WMD which is made through nuclear fusion which has higher destructive power and greater efficiency than the atomic bombs. The hydrogen bombs were made and tested by both the USA and Russia (erstwhile USSR). These bombs can generate high amount of heat wherein human body can literally vaporize and those who survive have to face the effects of nuclear radiations.

The nuclear technology not only affects the very existence of mankind but also harms the environment. The use of hazardous chemicals like uranium in nuclear power plants is responsible for the pollution of the environment. It produces a radioactive waste and also causes accidents like the Chernobyl disaster in Russia or the Fukushima disaster in Japan and the Bhopal Gas tragedy in India, which had affected millions of people.

The Nuclear plants are a serious threat to our national security. The Uranium used to produce the power can be turned into nuclear weapons by the terrorists and hence there is a need to continuously monitor the nuclear plants and keep an eye on the use of nuclear materials like Uranium. Another fact to keep in mind is that the raw materials required for nuclear energy like Uranium and thorium are limited and hence it is expected that the nations use these resources in a judicious way and only for peaceful purposes.

UN and Nuclear Technology:

On 26th April, 2022, the United Nations marked the 36th Anniversary of the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant accident (26th April, 1986) which was one of the most serious nuclear accidents in history. This shows that the United Nations, as an International Organization has taken the complete responsibility of promoting safe, secure and peaceful use of nuclear technology.

It is interesting to note that the Nuclear Age (1945) and the United Nations (1945) were born almost simultaneously. The tremendous horror of Hiroshima and Nagasaki made the United Nations to address the nuclear issue first. In its first resolution, the UN General Assembly established the UN Atomic Energy Commission to deal with the problems raised by the discovery of Atomic energy and after this, the US President Dwight D. Eisenhower in 1953 gave his landmark address titled as “Atoms for Peace” which culminated in the establishment of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

Now let’s study about the IAEA and its functions as an UN agency.

IAEA: International Atomic Energy Agency



The IAEA is the world's centre for cooperation in the nuclear field and seeks to promote the safe, secure and peaceful use of nuclear technologies.

IAEA is an autonomous international organization related to the UN in the field of nuclear technology which reports to both the General Assembly and the Security Council of the UN. It is also known as the World's 'Atoms for Peace and Development'. It is the greatest international centre for cooperation in the nuclear field.

History of IAEA:

"I feel impelled to speak today in a language that in a sense is new- one which I, who have spent so much of my life in the military profession, would have preferred never to use. That new language is the language of atomic warfare."(Excerpt from the famous speech of the US President Eisenhower titled as Atoms for Peace delivered on December 8, 1953) This speech was an attempt by America to warn the world about the reality, possible risks and dangers of nuclear warfare. The "Atoms For Peace" is considered as a landmark in world's political history because it called for transparency in the production and use of nuclear technology rather than the age old practice of maintaining strict secrecy in atomic development. The Atoms for Peace Program of the USA opened the debate on use of nuclear research for peace or destruction. This background of Atoms for Peace Program led to the establishment of IAEA.

While addressing the UN General Assembly in 1953, the American President Eisenhower called for the establishment of an international organization which would be entirely dedicated to the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. Accordingly, in 1954, the proposal for the establishment of IAEA was drafted by the USA and presented to the General Assembly. The UN organized an International Conference on the Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy in New York, in 1956. In this conference, the statute of the IAEA was signed by 70 nations. The agency became effective from 29th July, 1957.

Members in IAEA:

There are 175 Member nations in IAEA. Its headquarters are located in Vienna, Austria. IAEA has regional offices in Geneva, New York, Toronto and Tokyo. It has Research Laboratories in Austria, Italy and Monaco.

Mr. Rafael Mariano Grossi is currently, the Director General of IAEA. The IAEA and its former Director General Mohamed El Baradei were jointly awarded the Nobel Prize for Peace in the year 2005.

Objectives of IAEA:

1. To seek to accelerate and enlarge the contribution of atomic energy to peace, health and prosperity throughout the world
2. To ensure that such assistance is not used in such a way as to further any military purpose.
3. To establish health and safety standards.
4. To administer safeguards programme to ensure that atomic minerals are not diverted from peaceful to military uses
5. To provide technical assistance
6. To aid in nuclear research and development.

Structure of IAEA:

The main organs of the IAEA are General Conference, the Board of Governors and the Secretariat. The General Conference consists of all the 175 member nations who meet once in a year to give final approval to Agency's programme and budget. The Board of Governors meets five times a year for carrying out the activities of IAEA. It consists of 35 members. Out of these, 22 members are elected by the General Conference on the basis of the equitable representation while 13 members are designated by the Board as leaders in nuclear technology and production of atomic source material.

The Secretariat is headed by the Director General appointed by the Board of Governor for a term of four years. The Director General appoints the staff and is responsible for the organization and functioning of the IAEA.

Apart from this, there is a Scientific Advisory Committee and an International Advisory Group on Nuclear Explosives for peaceful purposes in the IAEA.

Role of IAEA:

The IAEA plays a major role in preventing the proliferation of nuclear weapons. The major safeguards applied by the IAEA involve monitoring, inspecting and analysing information about the production and use of nuclear power. IAEA implements the safeguards mentioned in the Non-Proliferation Treaty of 1970. The IAEA is not a party to the Treaty but is entrusted with key roles and responsibilities under it. Under the NPT, the IAEA has specific roles as the international safeguards inspectorate and as

a multilateral channel for transferring peaceful applications of nuclear technology.

IAEA administers international safeguards to verify that non-nuclear weapon States party to the NPT fulfil the non-proliferation commitment they have made, "with a view to preventing diversion of nuclear energy from peaceful uses to nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices."

2.0 IAEA facilitates and provides a channel for endeavours aimed at "the further development of the applications of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes, especially in the territories of non-nuclear-weapon States Party to the Treaty, with due consideration for the needs of the developing areas of the world."

3.0 In practical terms, the IAEA also plays the roles in connection with verification of nuclear-weapon-free zones and in the context of verifying ex-nuclear weapon material.

During the Gulf War of 1991, the world learned about the Iraq's production of Weapons of Mass Destruction. In order to strengthen IAEA and its ability to detect the nuclear activities of the nations, IAEA adopted the Model Additional Protocol to strengthen its safeguards system. This Additional Protocol requires states to provide broader declarations to the Agency about their nuclear programmes and activities and extend access rights of their nuclear plants to the agency.

The IAEA plays a key role in the prevention of Nuclear Terrorism. It provides a variety of advisory and support services to help the nations to strengthen their nuclear security including the security of vulnerable and radioactive materials. It enhances national, regional and international cooperation in the case of any nuclear and radiological incidents.

It works to extend the benefits of nuclear technology to fulfil the goals of sustainable Development. Its programmes in cancer therapy, prevention of malaria, agricultural pest control, safe and clean drinking water, food safety and such others have contributed in improving human health and wellbeing.

Check Your Progress Exercise 2

Note: i) Use the space given below for your answer.

1) Explain the role and functions of the IAEA.

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- 2) Comment on the regulation and control of the Nuclear Technology by the United Nations.
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2.4 LET US SUM UP

Over the decades, the United Nations has laid down the foundations of Peace and Development. Let us end with quote of the current Secretary General of the United Nations, Antonio Guterres “UN Peacekeeping is an investment in global peace, security and prosperity. The Blue Helmets are a concrete expression of the Charter’s determination to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war.”

2.5 FURTHER READINGS

1. The Role of United Nations Peacekeeping Operations in Addressing Local conflicts, United Nations Dept. of Peacekeeping Operations and Field Support Policy, Evaluation and Training Division, United Nations, 2017.
2. The Oxford Handbook of United Nations Peacekeeping Operations (Oxford Handbooks), 2017.
3. Powels Anna, Partrow Negar, Nelson Nick, (ed) (2015), *United Nations Peacekeeping Challenges*, Ashgate Publishing.
4. Kondoch Boris, Basu Rumaki (2019), *The United Nations-Structure and functions of an International Organisation*, Sterling Publications.

UN AND CONTEMPORARY SOCIO-ECONOMIC ISSUES

Unit Structure

- 3.1 Objectives
- 3.2 Introduction-Contemporary Socio-Economic Issues
- 3.3 Sustainable Development Goals
- 3.4 Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)
- 3.5 World Health Organization (WHO)
- 3.6 United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
- 3.7 United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
- 3.8 UN Sustainable Development Group (UNSDG)
- 3.9 Further readings

3.1 OBJECTIVES

This unit aims at acquainting students with the various global socio-economic issues, and measures of their solution. After studying this unit students will be able to:

- Analyse the concepts of socio-economic development.
- Understand the causes of contemporary socio-economic issues and UN concerns about them to resolve.
- Expound the role and programs of UN and its associations to resolve these global issues.
- Examine the objectives of Sustainable Development Goals targeting various socio- economic issues.

3.2 INTRODUCTION-CONTEMPORARY SOCIO-ECONOMIC ISSUES

In the socio-economic context, development means the improvement of lifestyles of public through improved education, income and employment availability. It is the process of economic and social transformation grounded upon cultural and environmental aspects. Socio-economic development, therefore, is the process of vital development in a society

without which no developed system can be imagined. It can be measured with specific indicators, such as percent of literacy, gross domestic product (GDP), life expectancy and employment.

Socio-economic development is prerequisite of an overall progress of a state and the world at large achieved in a balanced manner. There have been various concerns of unbalanced patterns of socio-economic developmental behaviours since the humans got anxious about their power, prosperity and unlimited development when they overlooked sustainability and sense of equilibrium. These unbalanced patterns could have beheld in the gender bias, unemployment, population explosion, poverty, high mortality rate.

Socio-economic issues resulted from certain phases and traits in the society and economy having an adverse impact on both community and economy. These issues not only obstruct the cumulative growth of individuals but also of the state at large. Such issues like poverty, health, food security, environmental degradation, lack of education, cultural and religious discrimination, overpopulation, unemployment and corruption has negative impact on the lives of humans throughout the world.

Social development is a process that results in the remodelling of social institutions improving the capacity of the whole community to fulfil its basic desires and advanced growth. It implies a qualitative change in the community shaping itself and carrying out its activities, through more progressive attitudes and behaviour by the population, the adopting more effective processes or more advanced technology.

Economic development is the progress in the level of economic well-being of the inhabitants and overall wealth of countries or regions. The term “economic growth” refers to the increase (or growth) of a specific measure such as real national income, gross domestic product, or per capita income. The term economic development on the other hand, implies much more. It is the process by which a nation improves the economic, political, and social wellbeing of its people.

For a comprehensive development of a state, socio-economic wellbeing predominantly requires collective efforts of communities without any divide or differences. It is evident through the Covid-19 pandemic phases that these issues are no more left to be the concern of developing states only, but has negative imprint on developed international societies also. In state politics, during elections in particular, these issues are discussed by political leaders, political parties, electorates and media. But when it comes to international scenario, it becomes a concern more of developing countries. Whenever there are discussions over development and particularly on socio-economic development, the issue of empowerment of disadvantaged groups is referred to. These all issues are interconnected, hence, if developing countries with less growth and more challenges will surely increase hard tests for developed countries. Economic institutions of society need to work with the government to address these problems.

UN with its initial goals of safeguarding peace, protecting human rights, establishing the framework for international justice promoted economic and

social progress. In the seven decades since its creation the United Nations has been the witness of various socio-economic issues throughout the globe and brought several methods to resolve them along with its associations like UNDP, UNEP, FAO, WHO, UNSDGs, UNDS etc.

3.3 SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

In 2015 all United Nations Member States adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development providing as a comprehensive response to the unprecedented public health, humanitarian and development emergency for peace and prosperity for people and the planet, now and into the future. At its heart are the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which are an urgent call for action by all countries - developed and developing - in a global partnership. They recognize that ending poverty and other deprivations must go hand-in-hand with strategies that improve health and education, reduce inequality, and offshoot economic growth – all while tackling climate change and working to preserve our ecosystem.

Looking into the chronological implementation of sustainable development in June 1992, at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, more than 178 countries adopted Agenda 21, a comprehensive plan of action to build a global partnership for sustainable development to improve human lives and protect the environment.

At the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in June 2012, member states adopted the outcome document "The Future We Want" in which they decided, inter alia, to launch a process to develop a set of SDGs to build upon the MDGs and to establish the UN High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development. The Rio+20 outcome also contained other measures for implementing sustainable development, including mandates for future programmes of work in development financing, small island developing states and more.

In 2013, the General Assembly set up a 30-member Open Working Group to develop a proposal on the SDGs. In January 2015, the General Assembly began the negotiation process on the post-2015 development agenda. The process culminated in the subsequent adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, with 17 SDGs at its core, at the UN Sustainable Development Summit in September 2015.

Member States unanimously adopted the Millennium Declaration at the Millennium Summit in September 2000 at UN Headquarters in New York. The Summit led to the elaboration of eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) to reduce extreme poverty by 2015. The SDGs build on decades of work by countries and the UN, including the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs

2030 Agenda is a plan of action for people, planet and prosperity as adopted by UN to ascertain a better tomorrow. It seeks to reinforce universal peace in larger freedom in the times of conflicts and fear. SDGs recognise that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme

poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development during the new age of international conflicts and pandemic after 2019.

SDGs are resolved to free the human race from the tyranny of poverty and to heal and secure the planet with hand in hand support of all the stakeholders of universe. SDGs are determined to take the bold and transformative steps along with the stake holders which are urgently needed to shift the world onto a sustainable and resilient path that no one is left behind.

The 17 Sustainable Development Goals and 169 targets which we are announcing today demonstrate the scale and ambition of this new universal Agenda. They seek to build on the Millennium Development Goals and complete what these did not achieve. They seek to realize the human rights of all and to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls. They are integrated and indivisible and balance the three dimensions of sustainable development: the economic, social and environmental.

Check Your Progress Exercise 1

Note: i) Use the space given below for your answer.

- 1) Mention the Sustainable Development Goals addressing the issue of Poverty.

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- 2) Examine the role played by SDGs in achieving the Agenda 2030.

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3.4 FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION (FAO)

FAO is a specialized agency of the United Nations. The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) is a dedicated organization of the United Nations that leads international efforts to defeat hunger.

It aims at succeeding in food security for all and make sure that people have regular access to enough high-quality food to lead active, healthy lives. With 195 members - 194 countries and the European Union, FAO works in over 130 countries worldwide to protect the basic right of humanity to attain food. It helps national governments and development agencies coordinate their activities to improve and develop agriculture, forestry, fisheries, and land and water resources. It also conducts research, provides technical assistance to projects, operates educational and training programs, and collects data on agricultural output, production, and development. FAO assists the international community in eliminating hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition – contributes to the eradication of hunger by facilitating policies and political commitments to support food security and by making sure that up-to-date information about hunger and nutrition challenges and solutions is available and accessible.

It makes agriculture, forestry and fisheries more productive and sustainable by promoting evidence-based policies and practices to support highly productive agricultural sectors (crops, livestock, forestry and fisheries). While strengthening agricultural production it ensures that the basic natural resource does not suffer which guarantees sustainable development.

FAO focuses upon reduction of rural poverty as prerequisite of growth and benefits the rural poor gain access to the resources and services they need including rural employment and social protection to forge a path out of poverty.

This UN agency enables inclusive and efficient agricultural food systems. It helps to build safe and efficient food systems that support small agriculture holders and reduce poverty and hunger in rural areas.

It increases the resilience of livelihoods to threats and crises – helping countries to prepare for natural and human-caused disasters by reducing their risk and enhancing the resilience of their food and agricultural systems. Its accountability reaches on top to provide food for everyone when the world communities struggle for food security.

According to the United Nations' Committee on World Food Security, food security is defined as all the people, at all times, have physical, social, and economic access to sufficient, safe, and nutritious food that meets their food preferences and dietary needs for an active and healthy life. Food security can be identified through the levels of availability, access utilisation and stability. Availability or existence of food within a community depends upon the efficacy of food production on the availability of resources. Unapproachable food pricing, household proximity to suppliers and infrastructure are the common grounds of less access to food for communities in various countries. There are innumerable threats to food stability including natural disasters, climate change, conflict and economic factors such as volatile price fluctuations that needs to be minimised to the stability of food security.

Food security is a multi-faceted concept pointing out the accessibility and stability of food along with its causes i.e. conflicts, climate change,

population explosion, pandemics etc. Conflict forces people to flee from their homes, often leaving behind their only means to a livelihood. Conflict also divides communities and can cause farmers to abandon any long-term agricultural strategies for fear that they will never reap the benefits if they are forced to flee. These uncertainties can also be observed in border area farm lands also. After years of stagnation, the number of hungry people in the world rose between 2015 and 2018 by nearly 40 million people, with the greatest rise coming in drought-affected countries in Sub-Saharan Africa. An increase in the frequency and severity of natural disasters has devastated some regions, destroying crop yields and limiting the quantity and quality of food available to communities.

Population explosion is also the main cause of severe food insecurity that brings out a large gap in food accessibility and malnutrition. According to the UN, the global population will be nearly 10 billion people by 2050. As the population continues to grow, it is necessary that food production and food accessibility grow to match it. Unfortunately, we have already seen in countries that have experienced population booms that resources needed for food production (water supply, croplands) can become scarce when divided, causing food insecurity.

Over the past decades, a changing climate, growing global population, rising food prices, and environmental stressors have made significant yet uncertain impacts on food security and women, small scale farmers, urban labours have to survive under reduced health care, education or food consumption. In past few years it was found that food availability to everyone became a challenge because of various climatic and human lifestyle reasons. To meet the requirements of equal reach to food specific adaptation strategies and policy responses to global change, including options for handling water allocation, land use patterns, food trade, postharvest food processing, and food prices and safety are urgently needed.

According to the FAO, the number of food-insecure people categorised as crisis level or worse has potentially nearly doubled in 2020. The economic fallout of Covid-19 affects food production at all levels. We have seen disruptions to the financial liquidity of food producers, inflation of basic food items and consumers with reduced incomes unable to meet the rise in prices. It is essential at this time that we work to protect those most at risk while laying the groundwork for a more stable and sustainable future. The devastating COVID-19 virus wreaked havoc across the world, on health and the economy alike, severely affecting every aspect of human life.

Check Your Progress Exercise 2

Note: i) Use the space given below for your answer.

1) Discuss the functions of FAO.

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- 2) How can FAO succeed in providing food for all after the pandemic driven crisis?

3.5 WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION (WHO)

Health is very substantial socio-economic issue for the entire world that restricts the free flow of development of the nations and the whole world is fighting with as evident through the Covid-19. It didn't even spare the developed countries though they have best resources and technique to cope up with. Health is the paramount reason of socio-economic decline in a state and world at large that withdraws the resources from the developmental measures. A country with equally healthy population can only grow hard in the competing international scenario.

It can be observed in the developed nations' growth with extensive health guarantee but in developing global south it is evident through various examples of countries struggling with venerable diseases and deaths are lagging behind the growth map. Health security is the prerequisite of a sustainable world. As global temperatures slowly rise, global health becomes vulnerable. The mosquito, along with other disease-carrying and crop-destroying pests, is thriving in a warming world. The result is a rise in diseases both familiar and unknown like malaria, West Nile virus, Zika virus, chikungunya, dengue fever. Every time it brings a new challenge to science and technology to find out the solution of these new diseases, by then it spreads its web in the developing countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America.

Women around the world also face many of the challenges regarding health like proper health care during pregnancy, safe childbirth, anaemia, less nutrition and moreover HIV Aids in Africa as a pandemic. They are still fighting for the right to an education which is essential for health education, gaining equality at work and home to avail proper healthcare, and getting access to family planning, safe childbirth, and other types of health care. Because of the roles women play in their families and communities, their health and well-being affect more than just themselves which is mostly ignored by the rest half gender of the globe. Their poor health could sway

the fortunes of our global economy. Increasing maternal and child mortality rates reveal the reality of health on stake.

Since beginning, the United Nations has been vigorously involved in eradicating various health challenges and promoting and protecting health worldwide. Leading that effort within the UN system is the World Health Organization (WHO) which since 1948 has been dynamically working against the conventional poor health trends like malaria, women's and children's poor health, tuberculosis, nutrition and environmental pollution. After so many years, many of those remain on WHO's agenda today, in addition to such relatively new diseases as HIV/AIDS, diabetes, cancer and emerging diseases such as SARS (Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome), Ebola and Zika virus and the contemporary popular pandemic Covid-19. WHO is spearheading the international response to the Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic with all its efforts.

In 1948, WHO took the responsibility for the International Classification of Diseases, which has become the international standard for defining and reporting diseases and health conditions. Since its creation WHO has contributed to many historic achievements in global public health. Some of them are: The COVID-19 pandemic is far more than a health crisis: it is affecting societies and economies at their core.

The United Nations, since its inception, has been actively involved in promoting and protecting good health worldwide. Leading that effort within the UN system is the World Health Organization (WHO) that came into force on 7 April 1948. WHO contributes in socio-economic well-being of people in every corner of the world by promoting global efforts to expand universal health coverage. It directs and coordinates the world's response to health emergencies and promotes healthier lives. WHO outlines ambitious plans for the world to achieve good health for all, using science-based policies and programmes. It focuses on primary health care to improve access to quality essential services and works towards sustainable financing and financial protection. WHO's role is to improve access to essential medicines and health products. It trains the health workforce and advise on labour policies and supports people's participation in national health policies. It assures improvement in monitoring, data and information.

At the time of health emergencies its role accelerates in preparing for emergencies by identifying, mitigating and managing risks. Through the active take up of task it prevents emergencies and supports development of tools necessary during outbreaks. The detection and timely response to acute health emergencies is the spinal role of WHO that also supports delivery of essential health services in fragile settings.

Access to antibiotics, clean water and improved sanitation as powerful weapons in preventing infectious disease is another role that WHO performs for the community to ensure sustainability of growth in real. WHO has to protect the effectiveness of antibiotics, through a global programme to fight antimicrobial resistance, and to ensure that the entire world benefits from safe water and sanitation to prevent infections occurring in the first place.

By promoting healthy eating, physical exercise and regular health checks it focused upon prevention of diabetes, cancer and high blood pressure and other non-communicable diseases. It also works for increasing mental health and psychosocial support for people affected by natural disasters and conflict.

WHO works in conjunction with other roles a host of health and development partners to achieve the health-related targets laid out in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The SDGs underscore the key role health plays in assuring the world's future, with SDG3 calling on all stakeholders to ensure healthy lives and promote wellbeing for all at all ages.

In 2020, the COVID-19 outbreak was declared a public health emergency by the WHO in January and characterized as a global pandemic in March. The United Nations launched a comprehensive response to the unprecedented public health, humanitarian and development emergency. World Health Organisation addresses human capital across the life-course for non-communicable diseases prevention and mental health promotion. It focuses upon climate change in small island developing states to improve the health of populations. It is accountable for antimicrobial resistance and elimination and eradication of high-impact communicable diseases which is the priority of health. It is committed to prioritise health in the policy making.

WHO is to further increase its impact on global health, it must step up its work with the highest levels of government to ensure that health is placed firmly on political agendas. It must strengthen leadership in the areas where it adds most value, and streamline the way it does business to work smarter, for quicker results.

Check Your Progress Exercise 3

Note: i) Use the space given below for your answer.

- 1) Discuss the role of WHO in assuring healthy life on the planet in pandemic era.

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3.6 UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME (UNEP)

Climate change has measuredly caused socio-economic damage to the ecosphere. Climate change usually projects drought, famine, floods triggering poverty and unemployment. Climate change also pushes population to migrate towards urban areas or cross-border. In a 2018 UN report, thousands of scientists and government reviewers agreed that limiting global temperature rise to no more than 1.5°C would help us avoid the worst climate impacts and maintain a liveable climate. Yet based on current national climate plans, global warming is projected to reach 2.7°C by the end of the century.

The emissions that cause climate change come from every part of the world and affect everyone, but some countries produce much more than others. The 100 least-emitting countries generate 3 per cent of total emissions. The 10 countries with the largest emissions contribute 68 per cent. Everyone must take climate action, but people and countries creating more of the problem have a greater responsibility to act first. United Nations has introduced several global frameworks and agreements i.e. Sustainable Development Goals, the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Paris Agreement aiming at the broad categories of action like cutting emissions, adapting to climate impacts and financing required adjustments. UN special agency UNEP takes account of resolving this issue

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) has been the global expert agency that arranges the environmental agenda, promotes the rational implementation of the environmental dimension of sustainable development within the United Nations system and serves as an authoritative advocate for the global environment.

UNEP's aims at providing leadership and encouraging partnership in taking care of the environment by inspiring, informing, and enabling nations and peoples to improve their quality of life without compromising that of future generations.

UNEP works on delivering transformational change for people and nature by drilling down on the root causes of the three planetary crises of climate change, nature and biodiversity loss, and pollution and waste. UNEP employs seven interlinked sub-programmes for action: Climate Action, Chemicals and Pollutions Action, Nature Action, Science Policy, Environmental Governance, Finance and Economic Transformations and Digital Transformations. Through the campaigns of this agency, chiefly World Environment Day (5th June), it advances awareness and advocates for effective environmental action. It has its regional, liaison and out-posted offices and a growing network of collaborating centres of excellence which help it executing its functions smooth in every corner of the world.

UNEP works closely with its 193 Member States and representatives from civil society, businesses, and other major groups and stakeholders to address environmental challenges through the UN Environment Assembly, the world's highest-level decision-making body on the environment. The organization hosts the secretariats of many critical multilateral environmental agreements and research bodies.

UNEP supports Member States to ensure that environmental sustainability is reflected in development and investment planning and provides countries with the necessary tools and technologies to protect and restore the environment.

Check Your Progress Exercise 4

Note: i) Use the space given below for your answer.

- 1) Explain the causes and impacts of climate change as socio-economic issue for the world. How does UNEP act to protect the climate change?

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3.7 UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

UNDP works in about 170 countries and territories, helping to eradicate poverty, reduce inequalities and exclusion, 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.

The United Nations Organisation (UN) extends the connotation regarding poverty that entails more than the lack of income and productive resources to ensure sustainable livelihoods. Its manifestations include hunger and malnutrition, limited access to education and other basic services, social discrimination and exclusion, marking the lack of participation in decision-making. Here comes the role of UNDP to control poverty and to identify the possibilities of development. It provides assistance to countries eliminate poverty and achieve sustainable economic growth and human development.

The UNDP emphasizes developing local capacity towards long-term self-sufficiency and prosperity. It administers projects to attract investment, technical training, and technological development, and provides experts to help build legal and political institutions and expand the private sector. UNDP helps countries develop strategies to combat poverty by expanding access to economic opportunities and resources, linking poverty programmes with countries' larger goals and policies, and ensuring a greater voice for the poor. It also works at the macro level to reform trade, encourage debt relief and foreign investment, and ensure the poorest of the poor benefit from globalisation.

On the ground, UNDP sponsors developmental pilot projects, promotes the role of women in development, and coordinates efforts between governments, NGOs, and outside donors. In this way, UNDP works with local leaders and governments to provide opportunities for impoverished people to create businesses and improve their economic condition.

UNDP works to reduce the risk of armed conflicts or disasters, and promote early recovery after crisis. UNDP took responsibility for funding most essential health services in Afghanistan after taking over by Taliban when foreign aid was suspended. As the poor are disproportionately affected by environmental degradation and lack of access to clean, affordable water, sanitation, and energy services, UNDP seeks to address environmental issues in order to improve developing countries' abilities to develop sustainably, increase human development and reduce poverty.

UNDP works with countries to strengthen their capacity to address global environmental issues by providing innovative policy advice and linking partners through environmentally sensitive development projects that help poor people build sustainable livelihoods. UNDP's environmental strategy focuses on effective water governance including access to water supply and sanitation, access to sustainable energy services, Sustainable land management to combat desertification and land degradation, conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, and policies to control emissions of harmful pollutants and ozone-depleting substances.

Check Your Progress Exercise 5

Note: i) Use the space given below for your answer.

1) Discuss the actions of UNDP against global issues? How does UNDP contribute in assuring sustainable development?

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3.8 UN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GROUP (UNSDG)

After the 8 Millennium Development Goals that UN Member States had agreed to try to achieve by the year 2015 and later superseded by 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), to combat poverty, hunger, disease, illiteracy, environmental degradation, and discrimination against women in all forms around the world. Annually the SDC concerned global indexes i.e. Global multidimensional poverty index, Global Health Security Index, Global Gender Gap Index etc. provide a comprehensive and in-depth

picture of global issues in all dimensions and monitor progress towards Sustainable Development Goals– to end the gaps of development in all its forms. It also provides policymakers with the data to respond to the call of Targets, to ‘reduce at least by half the proportion of men, women, and children of all ages living in poverty, food insecurity, health challenges, unemployment, fear of war etc.

UN Sustainable Development Group (UNSDG) serves as a high-level forum for joint policy formation and decision-making with regard to achievement of the goals. It guides, supports, tracks and oversees the implementation of development activities in numerous countries and territories. socio-economic response framework consists of five streams of work – an integrated support package offered by the United Nations Development System (UNDS) to protect the needs and rights of people living under the constraints of the pandemic COVID-19, with particular focus on the most vulnerable countries, groups, and people who risk being left behind. The five streams of work that constitute this package include: 1. ensuring that essential health services are still available and protecting health systems; 2. helping people cope with adversity, through social protection and basic services; 3. protecting jobs, supporting small and medium-sized enterprises, and informal sector workers through economic response and recovery programmes; 4. guiding the necessary surge in fiscal and financial stimulus to make macroeconomic policies work for the most vulnerable and strengthening multilateral and regional responses; and 5. promoting social cohesion and investing in community-led resilience and response systems. These five streams are connected by a strong environmental sustainability and gender equality imperative to build back better.

The SDGs underscore the key role health plays in assuring the world’s future, calling on all stakeholders to ensure healthy, peaceful and dignified lives and promote wellbeing for all at all ages. When in 2020, the COVID-19 outbreak was declared a public health emergency, in 2021 Afghanistan was captured by Taliban, 2022 Russia- Ukraine conflict, it was imperative to take over the charge to resolve these issues that UN and its agencies do. The United Nations launched a comprehensive response to the unprecedented public health, humanitarian and development emergency during Covid-19 and initiatives taken by UN.

UNSDGs addressed the need of development and humanitarian support, COVID response, and prevent large scale displacement and vulnerabilities, alarming at the trajectory of conflict, uncertainty, drought. COVID-19 pandemic could endanger fragile development gains, including the rights of women and girls in different countries of the world. UN is working on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs); which UN agencies, funds and programmes are working on which SDGs, where, source of funding, implementing partners and more to bring out the change in future on development for the 2030 Agenda, addressing key challenges that transcend country borders such as health and environment.

Check Your Progress Exercise 6

Note: i) Use the space given below for your answer.

- 1) What are the role and responsibilities of UNSDG to address the contemporary challenges of the world?

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3.9. FURTHER READINGS

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INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC / FINANCIAL ORGANIZATIONS

Unit Structure

- 4.1 Objectives
- 4.2 Introduction
- 4.3 Organization for Economic Co-Operation & Development (OECD)
- 4.4 Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC)
- 4.5 Summary / Conclusion
- 4.6 Further readings

4.1 OBJECTIVES

The aim of this unit is to get you acquainted with the two prominent International Economic Organizations: the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC).

After completing this unit you should be able to:

- Explain the meaning of an international economic / financial organization.
- Understand the organization, role, functions and importance of the OECD and the OPEC.

4.2 INTRODUCTION: WHAT IS AN INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC / FINANCIAL ORGANIZATION?

Modern day studies of International Politics are not restricted to the relations between nation-states only. The study of international organizations is also included within the sphere of International Politics. S.J.R. Belgrami defines International Organizations as "...the process by which states establish and develop formal, continuing institutional structures for the conduct of certain aspects of their relationship with each other." Therefore, it can safely be concluded that international economic / financial organizations deal with the economic aspect of inter state relationship. For this purpose, they establish institutions and structures and lay down rules, which are voluntarily accepted by the member states.

We shall now examine in detail the following two international economic / financial organizations:-

- The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)
- The Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC)

4.3 THE ORGANIZATION FOR ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT (OECD)

The Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) is an international economic organization comprising of 38 countries. It is a unique inter-governmental panel wherein both the member states and around 70 non-member states work with the aim of promoting economic growth, prosperity, and sustainable development.

Most OECD member states are high-income economics which also rank at elevated levels in Human Development Index (HDI). They are counted as developed countries, with democratic systems which are supportive of free-market economics.

Evolution of the OECD

OECD started off in 1948 in the name of the Organization for European Economic Co-operation (OEEC). The major purpose for the formation of OEEC was to govern the Marshall Plan. The Marshall Plan was set up for the reconstruction of the European economies after World War II. It was heavily funded by the USA.

The OEEC provided a great boost to the European Economic Community (EEC) which eventually evolved into the European Union (EU). A European Free Trade Area was also established under the EU. With the joining of USA and Canada in 1961, OEEC was renamed to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).

Objectives of OECD

The OECD aims at advancing economic development and cooperation to combat poverty and encouraging economic stability. As a result, OECD was able to elevate the standards of living in numerous countries. OECD has contributed significantly in expanding the world trade. OECD also ensures that the impact of growth is positive on environment and social development.

Functions of OECD

The OECD is known to play a crucial role in fostering economic stability, globally. It has published a model tax convention that works as an arrangement for the allocation taxation rights among countries. Its notable functions can be listed as:-

- The OECD publishes economic reports, statistical databases, analyzes and makes predictions on the outlook for economic growth worldwide.
- It makes an analysis of the effect of social issues on economic growth. OECD has the responsibility to make recommendations for accelerating global economic growth. These recommendations seek to balance the environmental issues along with economic advancements.
- OECD seeks to abolish, bribery and other kinds of financial crimes from world.
- The OECD also maintains "blacklist" of countries which are viewed as uncooperative tax havens.
- It also strives to remove tax avoidance by profitable corporations and by the G-20 countries. It pushes for tax reforms in G 20 countries.

Composition of OECD

- OECD is comprised of 38 member states, along with Substantive Committees and a Secretariat.
- The OECD Secretariat has been placed under the control of a Secretary General. It is organized into Directorates. The OECD Secretariat is housed at Chateau de la Muette in Paris, France. Its main function is to provide support to the standing and substantive committees of the OECD.
- The member countries of the OECD are: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, South Korea, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, the United Kingdom, and the United States. All the member countries are represented by a delegation, led by their respective ambassadors.
- Along with the EU member states, the European Commission also participates in the proceedings of the OECD.
- Colombia has been invited to join as a member by the OECD. The Candidatures of six other countries, Argentina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Croatia, Peru and Romania is under consideration for the grant of membership.
- Brazil, China, India, Indonesia and South Africa are the key partners of the OECD. These countries participate in the regular OECD surveys, daily chores and even in policy discussions within OECD bodies.

Secretariat

- The OECD Secretariat provides information, analysis and other reports for the benefit of the member countries.
- It is responsible for the collection of data, monitoring of trends and making analysis and predictions of economic development.
- As directed and guided by the governments of the member states. The OECD Secretariat carries out researches in the following areas: social changes, evolving patterns in trade, environment, education, agriculture, technology, taxation and the like.

Committees

The OECD has specialized committees on specific policy areas as economics, trade, science, employment, education, financial market and soon. There are a total 200 committees, working groups and expert groups, working under the aegis of OECD. They comprise of the representatives of member and observer countries. These committees discuss policy measures and review their progress in their respective areas.

Specialized Bodies

Following are the specialized bodies that function under the umbrella of OECD:

1. Africa Partnership Forum (APF)
2. Business and Industry Advisory Committees (BIAC)
3. Development Assistance Committees (DAC).
4. OECD Development Centre.
5. International Transport Forum (ITF) (Formally known as the European Conference of Ministers of Transport)
6. International Energy Agency (IEA)
7. Nuclear Energy Agency (NEA)
8. Multilateral Organization Performance Assessment Network (MOPAN)
9. Partnership for Democratic Governance (PDG)
10. Sahel and West Africa Club
11. Trade Union Advisory Committee (TUAC)

Significance of OECD

The OECD endeavours to better the global economy and give a boost to the world trade. It serves as a common stage for its member nations to compare policy measures, find solutions to identical problems, exchange of know how and establish co-ordination between the domestic and international policies. Being a permanent observer, the UN considers it a think tank and a monitoring group.

The OECD member states collectively comprised 62.2% of global nominal GDP (US\$ 49.6 billion) and 42.8% of global GDP (Int. \$54.2 billion) at purchasing power parity in 2017.

The OECD has devised a hypothetical unit of currency: the Geary –Khamis dollar. It has the same purchasing power party (PPP) as the US dollar at a given point in time. Based on the two-fold concept of PPP of currencies and the international average prices of commodities, it is widely used in economic and financial statistics.

Check Your Progress Exercise 1

Note: i) Use the space given below for your answer

1. What do you understand by an International Economic Organization?

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2. Discuss the composition of OECD. Also explain its major functions.

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3. What is the significance of OECD in contemporary international system?

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4.4 ORGANIZATION OF THE PETROLEUM EXPORTING COUNTRIES (OPEC)

The Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries is a group of 13 of the world's prominent oil exporting countries. This organization controls petroleum production, supplies and prices in the international market. OPEC was founded in 1960 to coordinate the petroleum policies amongst its members and to provide them with necessary technical and economic aid. Being a cartel, OPEC aims to manage the supply of oil at set rates, to avoid fluctuations which may prove harmful to the economies of both the producing and purchasing nations.

Evolution of OPEC

In 1960, representatives of governments of Iraq, Iran, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and Venezuela undertook a meeting in Baghdad. They discussed possible ways to increase the price of crude oil and possible course of action to counter the unilateral measures taken by multinational, oil companies. The outcome of this meeting was the formation of OPEC, a move thoroughly opposed by the USA.

Initially the Arab nations wanted the headquarters of OPEC to be established at Beirut or Baghdad. But under strong opposition from Venezuela, the city of Geneva, Switzerland was selected. But Switzerland was reluctant to extend diplomatic assurances; therefore, its headquarters was shifted to Vienna, Austria on Sept 1, 1965. The organization grew rapidly and by the early 1970s, it comprised of more than half of world oil producing countries.

Objectives of OPEC

The major objective of the OPEC is to regulate the supply and the price of crude oil in the global market.

- OPEC works for coordinating and unifying the petroleum policies of its member countries, to determine just and stable prices for the producers.
- It endeavours to sustain efficient, economic and un-interrupted supply of crude oil to the consuming countries and an appropriate return of investment.

Functions of OPEC

The major functions of OPEC can be enlisted as:

- The OPEC countries constantly keep adjusting their oil producing activities to ensure stability in the petroleum market. They help the producers in getting adequate return for their investments. They constantly strive to assure the stable supply of oil to the consumer nations.

- The ministry of energy and hydrocarbon affairs conducts bi-annual meetings to review the status of the global oil market. On the basis of such analysis, they formulate policy measures to ensure security in oil markets.
- The member countries also meet at various points of time to discuss concerns raised by experts and specialized bodies.

Composition of OPEC

The five founding members of OPEC were Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and Venezuela. They were later joined by Qatar, Indonesia, Socialist Peoples Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, United Arab Emirates and Gabon. However, later on Ecuador and Qatar left the organization while Indonesia suspended its membership. Therefore, the current members of OPEC are:-

1. Algeria
2. Angola
3. UAE
4. Venezuela
5. Saudi Arabia
6. Republic of Congo
7. Libya
8. Nigeria
9. Kuwait
10. Iran
11. Iraq
12. Gabon
13. Equatorial Guinea

OPEC's founding members are considered its full members. Any willing country whose application of joining is accepted by the organization is also granted full membership. To be a member, a country must have significant share in crude oil export. Membership is granted to a nation, only if at least three quarters of its members vote in favour. Associate membership can also be granted under special circumstances.

Institution of OPEC

OPEC is essentially considered as an inter-governmental organization, whose headquarters are in Vienna, Austria. OPEC's Secretariat is situated here, which is its executive organ.

The Secretariat functions under a Secretary General. H.E. Mohammad Sanusi Barkindo, is the current holder of this post.

Significance of OPEC

OPEC has entrusted itself with the task of coordinating and consolidating the policies of petroleum production and output, amongst its members states. It also seeks to maintain stability in oil market.

However, it must be noted that Russia, China and the USA, which are among the world's largest oil producers are not the members of OPEC. Besides, OPEC faces significant challenges from novel innovations in green technology. Also, the nations' quest into alternative sources of energy may exert pressure on the organization.

However, OPEC has served many advantages since its inception. It fosters cooperation among member nations, which plays a role in differing political politics among them. As the organization aims to stabilize oil production and oil prices, it has exerted considerable influence on other oil producing countries also.

1. Check Your Progress Exercise 2

Note: i) Use the space given below for your answer.

1) Explain the objectives of OPEC.

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2) Enumerate the functions of OPEC.

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3) Elucidate the composition of OPEC.

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4) Throw light on the significant of OPEC.

4.5 LET US SUM UP

In this module we discussed the meaning of an International Economic / Financial Organization. We also examined in detail about two international economic organizations – the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC). The OECD is a group of 38 high income European countries. They have democratic systems and they are great advocates of free-market economics. Its major aim is to promote economic growth and prosperity while maintaining sustainable development. On the other hand OPEC is an association of oil producing countries. Its 13 members come majorly from Asia, Africa and Latin America. The OPEC aims to protect the interest of both oil producing and consuming countries, while ensuring a steady supply of oil in the global market.

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