

12th Political Science Lesson 11 Notes in English

11. International Organizations

Introduction

- When we think of international organizations, it is often considered as a twentieth century phenomenon that began with the establishment of **the League of Nations** in 1919.
- However, in the late nineteenth century, in order to deal with specific issues, nations had already established international organizations.
- Among them were **the International Telecommunication Union (ITU)**, established in 1865 (originally called the International Telegraph Union), and **the Universal Postal Union** which was established in 1874.
- Both of these systems are today part of **the United Nations system**. **The International Peace Conference** held in
- **The Hague** in 1899 elaborated the instruments for settling crises peacefully preventing wars and codifying rules of warfare.
- It also adopted the Convention for **the Pacific Settlement** of international disputes and established **the Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA)** which began its work in 1902.
- **The PCA** served as the first medium for settling international disputes between countries and is the predecessor of **the United Nations International Court of Justice (ICJ)**.
- The outbreak of **World War I** in **August 1914**, and the destruction that followed, exposed the limitations of these mechanisms.
- It was also followed by the end of an international system called **the Concert of Europe** that had prevented the continent from the scourge of war since the Napoleonic adventures a century earlier.
- Between the years 1914-18, **Europe** witnessed the worst human loss in its history where around twenty million people lost their lives.
- Empires collapsed (the Ottoman, the Austro-Hungarian and temporarily the Russian) and new nations such as Czechoslovakia, Estonia, and Finland were born, radical revolutions took place in Russia and Germany.
- In other words, a new world order emerged.

League of Nations



President Wilson's Fourteen Points (1918)

1. Open diplomacy
 2. Freedom of the Seas
 3. Removal of economic barriers
 4. Reduction of armaments
 5. Adjustment of colonial claims
 6. Conquered territories in Russia
 7. Preservation of Belgian sovereignty
 8. Restoration of French territory
 9. Redrawing of Italian frontiers
 10. Division of Austria- Hungary
 11. Redrawing of Balkan boundaries
 12. Limitations on Turkey
 13. Establishment of an independent Poland
 14. Creation of an Association of Nations, (League of Nations).
- Amidst the carnage, **President Woodrow Wilson in January 1918**, outlined his idea of the League of Nations which received widespread support given the utter devastation caused by **World War I**.
 - For many the idea of an international organization seemed to be the answer for settling disputes before they escalated into military conflicts.
 - Although the United States failed to join **the League of Nations**, **President Woodrow Wilson** chaired **the Versailles Peace Conference's commission** on the establishment of an international organization.

Wilson declared in a joint session of the U.S. Congress that:

- "It is a definite guaranty of peace. It is a definite guaranty by word against aggression.
- It is a definite guaranty against the things which have just come near bringing the whole **structure of civilization** into ruin.
- Its purposes do not for a moment lie vague.
- Its purposes are declared, and its powers are unmistakable.
- It is not in contemplation that this should be merely a league to secure the peace of the world.
- It is a league which can be used for cooperation in any international matter".
- The League after being housed temporarily in London, commenced operation in the year 1920 in Geneva, **Switzerland**.
- Initially it had some success when it settled disputes between Finland and Sweden over Aland Islands, between Germany and Poland over Upper Silesia and between **Iraq** and **Turkey** over the city of Mosul.
- The League with some success alleviated the refugee crisis in Russia and combatted the international opium trade.

- The League acted as an umbrella organization for agencies such as **the International Labor Organization (ILO)** and **the Permanent Court of International Justice** and it later became a model for the future United Nations (UN).
- **The League of Nations** was dominated by **the victors of World War I** that included **France** and **Great Britain** along with Japan and Italy as the other two permanent members of **the League Council**.
- There were twenty eight founding members who were represented in the General Assembly who were mostly from Europe and Latin America.

Control of European Imperial powers

- **The League of Nations** was one that was **Eurocentric**.
- Virtually all of Africa, Asia and the Middle East were controlled by European imperial powers.
- The League also established **the mandate system** to prepare natives of different regions for self-government and independence.
- However, it was short sighted and the mandates exploded only after the League ceased to exist.
- The reasons for **the League of Nations** to fail were multiple.
- The absence of the United States was a significant factor in rendering the League ineffectual.
- Its importance was further minimized when **Germany** and **the Soviet Union** who were briefly members had undermined the significance of the organization.
- **Germany** joined in **1926** and exited after **the Nazis** came to power in **1933**.
- In the year **1933 Soviet Union** entered the League and was expelled following their attack on **Finland in 1939** which also made the USSR the only nation to be expelled from the League.
- Japan left the League in 1933 following criticism by the league of its occupation of **Manchuria** and **Italy** too was equally dismissive of its membership obligations after its occupation of Ethiopia.
- These acts of aggression was not adequately countered by the League and the global economic crisis of 1930s certainly curbed the enthusiasm of others and more particularly **France and Britain** who were not willing to fight distant wars that would not have an immediate effect on their national security.
- They thus turned to the policy of appeasement which also failed.
- In 1938 at **the Munich Conference**, Britain and France agreed to the dismantling of **Czechoslovakia** by agreeing to the addition of **Sudetenland to Hitler's Reich**.
- Finally, **Germany attacked Poland** after concluding pact with the Soviet Union in 1939 which dashed all hopes that were placed on the League of Nations.
- The League of Nations was not capable of applying sufficient pressure on the aggressor nations as it could only impose verbal or economic sanctions against them and these methods failed to intervene militarily.

- The League of Nations did not have authority beyond its member nations and this made it possible for countries suffering from the pressure of economic sanctions to trade with non-members and the economic crisis of 1930s also contributed to such trade practices.
- Additionally, since the League did not have an army of its own, military intervention meant that member states (France and Britain) would have to supply necessary troops.
- However, neither country was interested in engaging in potentially costly conflicts in Africa or Asia.
- The League expelled the Soviet Union in 1939, and it was known widely that the League had failed and did not become what President Woodrow Wilson had hoped as a '**definite guarantee of Peace**'.
- Nevertheless, the onset of the Second World War made it clear there was a definite need for an international organization that would safeguard the world from yet another world war in the future.
- It was also unanimously agreed that a repetition of the League of Nations could not be allowed.

The United Nations



- Although the League of Nations did not succeed in its objectives, it however, ignited **the dream for a universal organization** that would work to preserve peace in the world.
- With the end of the Second World War which witnessed around 72 million casualties, the idea of the United Nations was born.
- World leaders who had collaborated to bring the war to an end felt a strong need for a mechanism that would ensure lasting peace and prevent future wars.
- It was also felt that this was possible only through a global organization where all nations would work together.
- The name '**United Nations**' was coined by the then United States President **Franklin D. Roosevelt** and was first officially used in 1942 when representatives from twenty six nations signed **the Declaration by United Nations** to continue to fight together against the axis powers in order to obtain just peace.

- Thus unlike the League of Nations, it began as an alliance that came into being soon after the United States' entry into the war following the attack on **Pearl Harbour** by Japan and Germany's declaration of war against the United States in December 1941.
- In August 1944, delegates from China, Soviet Union, United Kingdom and the United States, met in Dumbarton Oaks to draw the basic blueprint for the new International Organization and by October the outline of the United Nations Charter was ready.

Four main purposes of the United Nations

1. **Military security**
 2. **Economic and social progress**
 3. **Upholding of human rights**
 4. **International justice.**
- Following the surrender of Germany in the year 1945, representatives from fifty countries met in San Francisco on June 26, 1945 and signed the Charter.
 - With the conclusion of the Pacific war in October 24, 1945, the United Nations officially came into existence.
 - While making **the UN Charter**, the drafters faced the same issue that the League of Nations faced which was to lay the foundation of an international organisation that would guarantee peace.
 - The basic dilemma remained unchanged – how to balance national sovereignty and international idealism?
 - How could one draft a **Charter** that would effectively deal with the fact that some countries were more equal than others?
 - How could one make sure that one country could not simply walk out when it did not like the decisions of the UN, as Japan had done earlier in the 1930s.
 - The simple solution that the drafters came up with was the veto power.

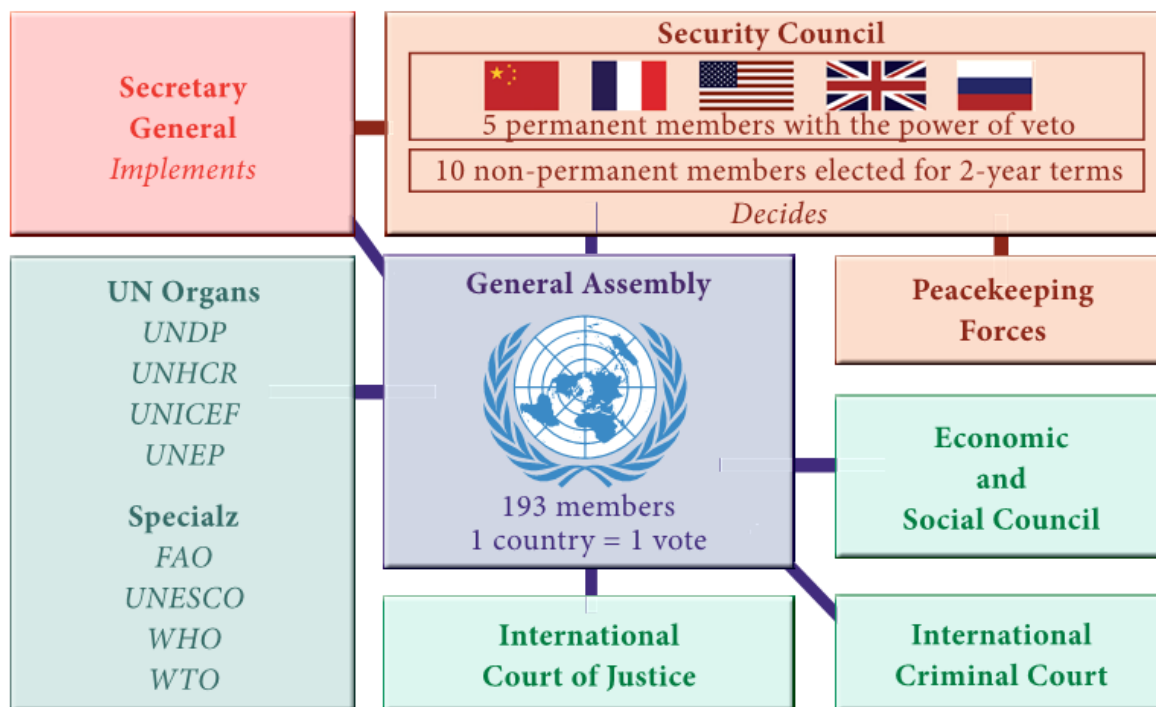
VETO POWER

- **Veto power** was granted to the **five founding members** of the UN – China, France, Great Britain, the United States and the Soviet Union who are also known as the **Permanent Five (P-5)**.
- Although the founders of the UN were keenly aware of the failures of the League of nations, most of its ideals constituted the core element of the UN Charter.
- Most evidently, **the UN Charter** and **the League of Nations Covenant** had promotion of international security and the peaceful settlement of disputes as its key goals, however, **the Charter** included two more elements that were also given importance.
- Although it was reflected briefly in **article 23** of the League of Nations Covenant, the UN Charter included social and economic progress into its key goals.
- The emphasis laid on social and economic progress was rooted in the inter-war years.

- Many saw the global economic crisis of the 1920s to the 1930s as the root cause of political upheavals that led to the rise of ultra nationalism and acts of aggression that resulted in **the Second World War**.
- Thus the UN was created to be an active participant in world affairs such as
 - Military security,**
 - Economic and social progress**
 - Upholding of human rights and**
 - International justice.**

Structure of the United Nations

- In 1945, the six major organs of the UN were
 - The General Assembly,**
 - The Security Council,**
 - Economic and Social Council**
 - Trusteeship Council,**
 - International Court of Justice and**
 - The Secretariat.**



- The Trusteeship Council** became obsolete following the completion of the decolonization process which it oversaw.
- However, these organs constitute **the basic superstructure of the UN**.
- All organs of the UN meet regularly and members vote to make decisions, issue declarations and discuss issues that are of prime importance.
- Yet the functions of the organs differ significantly vis-à-vis each other.

- While the General Assembly is **the Parliament of the UN**, the Security Council is its **executive committee**, the **secretariat** is the operational body or the bureaucracy that runs the UN.

The General Assembly

- The General Assembly is the main deliberative organ of the UN which is comprised of Member States and each one has a vote no matter its influence or size.
- Discussions often include issues arising under the UN Charter, decisions on international peace and security, admitting new member states and **the UN budget** is decided by **two-thirds majority**.
- It is based on the principle of one nation one vote.
- Resolutions taken by the General Assembly are only recommendations to the member states, but since they represent the views of majority of the world, it carries with it a heavy moral weight and oft en leads countries to join international agreements called **treaties, conventions, protocols**, etc., that ultimately has an impact on the world.



- **The General Assembly's sessions** begin in **September** every and most resolutions are made between **September and December**.
- Requests for **special sessions** may be initiated by the Security Council or if a majority of its members make a request.
- At the beginning of each regular session, the General Assembly has a two-week general debate in which heads of State present their views on a wide range of issues such as terrorism, war, poverty, hunger and disease.

The work of the General Assembly is carried out by six committees:

- Six Main Committees of the General Assembly
 1. **First Committee (Disarmament and International Security)**
 2. **Second Committee (Economic and Financial)**
 3. **Third Committee (Social, Humanitarian and Cultural)**
 4. **Fourth Committee (Special Political and Decolonization)**

5. Fifth Committee (Administrative and Budgetary)

6. Sixth Committee (Legal).

List of United Nations Peacekeeping Operation					
S.No	Continent	Name of Operation	Location	Conflict	Year
1	Africa	United National Operations in the Congo (ONUC)	Democratic Republic of the Congo	Congo Crisis	1960-1964
2	Asia	United Nations India- Pakistan Observation Mission (UNIPOM)	India Pakistan	Indo- Pakistan War of 1965	1965-1966
3	Europe	United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF)	Israel Syria Lebanon	Agreed withdrawal by Syrian and Israeli forces following the Yom Kippur War	1974
4	Africa	United Nations Operation in Somalia I (UNOSOM I)	Somalia	Somali Civil War	1992-1993
5	Africa	United Nations Mission for Rwanda (UNAMIR)	Rwanda	Rwandan Civil War	1993-1996
6	America	United Nations Mission in Haiti (UNMIH)	Haiti 1991	Coup and military rule in Haiti	1993-1996
7	America	United Nations Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina (UNMIBH)	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Bosnia War	1995-2002
8	Europe	United Nations Interim Administration	Kosovo	Kosovo War	1999

		Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK)			
9	Africa	United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL)	Sierra Leone	Sierra Leone Civil War	1999-2006
10	Africa	United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea (UNMEE)	Eritrea Ethiopia	Eritrean-Ethiopian War	2000-2008
11	Africa	United Nations Mission in the Sudan (UNMIS)	Sudan	Second Sudanese Civil War 12	2005-2011
12	Asia	United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste (UNMIT) Crisis	East Timor 2006	East Timor	2006-2012
13	Europe	United Nations Supervision Mission in Syria (UNSMIS)	Syria	Syrian Civil War	2012
14	America	United Nations Mission for Justice Support in Haiti (MINUJUSTH)	Haiti 2004	Haiti rebellion	2017

India' Aspirations to Become a Permanent Member of UNSC:

- Indian strategic interest in the Council seat has also been shaped by its history of interacting with **the Security Council**.
- In the early years of its independence during its armed conflict with **Pakistan** on Kashmir, India paid the price for being "**idealistic**" to take the **Kashmir issue** to the UN wherein it had to battle hard real politic of **Cold war years** leading to UN interventions over **the Kashmir dispute**.
- To prevent this negative outcome ever again, the Indian presence at the Security Council, it is hoped will ensure Indian interests are not sacrificed at the altar of great power politics.
- Most importantly, it will stall any possible intervention by China, a permanent member at the behest of its ally Pakistan.
- Indian interests in the Security Council also flow from the larger, many foreign policy debates in India on whether it will be a status quo power that accepts liberal norms and positions itself

as a **“responsible stakeholder”** in the international system or a revisionist power that seeks to redefine the norms of international engagement.

- Many pundits agree that India would be moderately revisionist that seeks to adjust international norms and frameworks that suits its global vision, without seeking to overthrow **the current international system**.
- India has always seen itself as a champion, a **‘moralistic force’** of the so called **Third World**, the developing states.
- **Former Secretary General Kofi Annan** has been quoted as saying that India has been one of the most significant votaries of shaping the UN agenda on behalf of the developing world.

At his speech in New Delhi, Annan stated:

- “Indians have better understood than many other peoples that the goals of the **‘larger freedom’** that which include development, security and human rights are not alternatives.
- They have been single-mindedly pursuing larger freedom through pluralist democracy.”

Criticism of Veto Power in UNSC

- **The veto power** has been criticized for its undemocratic nature.
- A single country can prevent a majority of the Security Council from taking any action.
- For example, the United States routinely casts lone vetoes of resolutions criticizing Israel.
- The permanent members also veto resolutions that criticize their own actions.
- In 2014, **Russia** vetoed a resolution condemning its annexation of **Crimea**.
- **Amnesty International** claimed that the five permanent members had used their veto to **“promote their political self interest or geopolitical interest above the interest of protecting civilians.”**
- Some critics see the fact that veto power exclusive to the permanent five as being anachronistic, unjust, or counterproductive.
- **Peter Nadin** writes that “The veto is an anachronism. In the twenty-first century, the veto has come to be almost universally seen as a disproportionate power and an impediment to credible international action to crises.”
- The **“enormous influence of the veto power”** has been cited as a cause of the UN’s ineffectiveness in preventing and responding to genocide, violence, and human rights violations.
- Various countries outside **the P5**, such as **the Non-Aligned Movement and African Union** have proposed limitations on the veto power.
- **Reform of the veto power** is often included in proposals for reforming the Security Council.
- It has been argued that with the adoption of the **“Uniting for Peace”** resolution by the General Assembly, and given the interpretations of the Assembly’s powers that became customary international law as a result, that the Security Council **“power of veto”** problem could be surmounted.

- By adopting **A/RES/377 A**, on 3 November 1950, over two-thirds of UN Member states declared that, according to the UN Charter,
- The permanent members of the **UNSC** cannot and should not prevent the **UNGA** from taking any and all action necessary to restore international peace and security, in cases where the UNSC has failed to exercise its “**primary responsibility**” for maintaining peace.
- Such an interpretation sees the UNGA as being awarded “**final responsibility**”—rather than “**secondary responsibility**”—for matters of international peace and security, by the **UN Charter**.
- Various official and semi-official UN reports make explicit reference to the **Uniting for Peace resolution** as providing a mechanism for the UNGA to overrule any UNSC vetoes; thus rendering them little more than delays in UN action, should two-thirds of the Assembly subsequently agree that action is necessary.

The Security Council



- Under the **UN Charter** the **Security Council** has the responsibility to maintain international peace and security.
- Unlike the General Assembly which has regular meetings, the Security Council does not have such meetings and can be convened at any time whenever there is a threat to international peace.
- Member States are obligated to carry out the decision of the Security Council which are legally binding.
- When a threat to peace is brought to the Council, it generally asks the conflicting parties to reach an agreement by peaceful means and if fighting breaks out, the council tries to secure a ceasefire through negotiations, economic sanctions or by authorizing the use of force which will be carried out by a willing member of the UN.
- The Council would also decide on peacekeeping operations to build lasting peace.
- The Security Council has fifteen members which includes **five permanent members (P-5)**.
- The other ten members are elected by the General Assembly on rotation basis for a period of two years.
- In order to pass a resolution in the Security Council nine out of fifteen votes is required.

- However, if any one of the **P-5 Members** votes 'No', often referred as Veto, the resolution does not pass.
- There are at present, proposals to include more permanent members into the Council and these proposals are under discussion by the **Member States of the UN**.

The Economic and Social Council

- **The Economic and Social Council of the UN** which has fifty-four members who are chosen for equal geographical representation and serve a three-year term is the central body of the **UN** for coordinating the economic and social work of the UN and the UN system.



- Over seventy percent of the UN System is devoted to promoting higher standards of living, alleviating poverty through full employment; economic and social progress; and development.
- It promotes, economic growth in developing countries, supports human rights, and fosters world cooperation to alleviate **poverty** and **under-development**.
- In order to address specific needs of the council, it has established a number of specialized agencies such as the **Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)**, **The World Health Organization (WHO)**, the **UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)**, **UN Development Programme (UNDP)**, **UN Children's Fund (UNICEF)**, and the **UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)**.

The Trusteeship Council



- Under the UN Charter, the Trusteeship Council was assigned to monitor the administration of eleven **Trust Territories** – **former colonies**.
- At the end of the **Second World War**, this system was created for the advancement of the inhabitants of those dependant territories for their progressive development towards self-governance or independence.
- **Eleven Trust Territories** and more than seventy colonial territories achieved independence with the help of the United Nations.
- In 1994, **Palau** became the last Trust Territory to become independent and subsequently the council decided to suspend operations and meet when occasion might require.
- **China, France, United Kingdom, the Russian Federation and the United States** who are permanent members of the **UN Security Council** comprise the **Trusteeship Council**.
- All Members of the Council have one vote and decisions are made by a simple majority.
- Since the process of decolonisation has been completed the Trusteeship Council is no longer relevant in present scenario.

The International Court of Justice



- The UN's main judicial organ is the International Court of Justice (ICJ) and is located in **The Hague, Netherlands**.
- The ICJ or **World Court** was established in 1945 and began its functions in 1946.
- Its predecessor was **the Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA)**.
- The Court settles disputes between nations and does not take up individual cases according to international law.
- Unless required by **special treaty provisions**, a country does not need to take part in a proceeding if it does not wish to.
- If any country accepts the jurisdiction of the court, then it must comply with its decisions.
- Since 1946, the ICJ has examined over **150 cases** and issued numerous judgements pertaining to economic rights, environmental protection, rights of passage, the non-use of force, non-interference in the internal affairs of states, diplomatic relations, hostage-taking, the right of asylum and nationality.
- The court is presided by fifteen judges elected for nine year terms, each belonging to a different nation.
- The judges are selected by both the General Assembly and the Security Council.
- **The seat of the Court** is at The Hague in Netherlands and its offices occupy the '**Peace Palace**' which was constructed by **the Carnegie Foundation** which is a non-profit organization to serve as the headquarters of **the Permanent Court of International Justice** under the League of Nations.
- The UN makes an annual contribution to the Foundation for the use of the building.
- UNSC refers cases to the ICJ.

The Secretariat

- **The UN Secretariat administers** the programs and the policies laid out by the other principal organs of the UN.
- **The Secretary General** heads the Secretariat and is appointed by the General Assembly on the recommendations of the Security Council.
- The Secretary General is appointed for a **five-year term** which is renewable.
- As the chief administrative officer of the UN the Secretary General directs the work of other staff in the organization who are known as international civil servants.

List of Secretary Generals

1. Trygve Lie (Norway), 1946- 1952
2. Dag Hammarskjöld (Sweden), 1953-1961
3. U Thant (Burma, now Myanmar), 1961-1971
4. Kurt Waldheim (Austria), 1972-1981
5. Javier Pérez de Cuéllar (Peru), 1982-1991
6. Boutros Boutros-Ghali (Egypt), 1992-1996;
7. Kofi Annan (Ghana), 1997-2006

8. **Ban Ki-moon (Republic of Korea), 2007- 2016**
9. **Antonio Guterres (Portugal) 2017 – continuing**

- Unlike diplomats who represent a particular country, these international civil servants work for all **193 Member States** and take orders from the Secretary General and not from governments.
- The Secretariat is headquartered at **New York** and has its offices at Geneva, Vienna, Nairobi, Addis Ababa, Beirut, Santiago and Bangkok.
- Comprising of over 16,000 staff drawn from member states, the Secretariat administers to the day-to-day work of the organization.

Role of the Secretariat

- These **duties are varied** and range from peacekeeping operations, mediating international disputes, surveying social and economic trends to laying the groundwork for international agreements and organizing international conferences.
- The role of the Secretariat which is **multi-faceted** is under constant pressure from **the dyad of nation- state** imperatives and universal goals.
- The Secretary-General may bring to the attention of the Security Council matters that may in his opinion disturb **international peace and security**.
- He can also use his good offices to prevent conflicts or **promote peaceful settlements** of disputes between nations.
- The Secretary General can also act upon his own discretion to deal with humanitarian or any other problem that might require special importance.
- **The UN family** though is much larger, is encompassed by fifteen agencies and several programs and bodies.
- Some of these organizations were founded during the era of the League of Nations such as **the International Labor Organization (ILO)**.
- Many more were created since 1945 to address and solve specific issues and problems since 1945 for which the UN was established.

New temporary bodies were added

- This has resulted in much **complexity of the UN** and in the following decades since the founding of the organization contribute to **the escalation of tasks** that the UN had been charged to undertake.
- As a result, new bodies were added on a regular basis while some were made to be temporary bodies such as **the UNHCR**, they have nevertheless become permanent organs.
- The UN also has a hybrid set of subsidiaries and partners and throughout its history it has been associated with almost **three thousand non-governmental organizations**.
- Envisioned in 1945 in article 77 of the UN Charter, it states explicitly that the UN '**may make suitable arrangements for consultation with nongovernmental organizations which are concerned with matters within its competence**'.

- This made it possible for the UN to work with **hundreds of NGOs** to undertake humanitarian work in conflict zones, for example, **the UN Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina (UNMIBH)** between **1995- 2002**.
- In 2007, **thirty-two NGOs** issued an open letter to the Secretary General to pressurize **Sudan's government** to permit a **Joint African Union/United Nations Peacekeeping force** to enter the conflict-ridden **Darfur region**.
- In the following sections, some of the important organs of the United Nations such as **the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank** and international organizations such as **Asian Development Bank, Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch** would be examined.
- **The ECOSOC** under the UN mandate coordinates the economic and social work of the UN and the UN family of organizations.
- It therefore plays a key role in fostering international cooperation for development.
- While the Security Council was charged with weighty **issues of military security**, the ECOSOC was left to deal with questions of economic security.
- However, these were not to be taken lightly as many who were involved in the **drafting of the UN Charter** considered the great economic depression during the 1930s as the root cause for the Second World War.
- **The ECOSOC** although a relatively powerless body of the UN structure, oversees a number of functional and regional commissions.
- **The Commission on Human Rights** monitors the observance of human rights across the world.
- Other bodies focus on social development, the status of women, environmental protection, crime prevention and narcotic drugs.
- However, the ECOSOC's mission continues to remain amorphous.
- The true global economic power infact lies with the so called **three sisters**

(i) The World Bank

(ii) The International Monetary Fund and

(iii) The World Trade Organization.

The World Bank



- The World Bank which is based in **Washington**, was originally known as the **International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD)**.
- The World Bank or oft en referred to as the Bank Group was founded in **1945** and serves as the largest source of **funding** and **knowledge** for developing countries in the world.
- The term “**world bank**” was first used in reference to IBRD in an article in the Economist on July 22, 1944, in a report on the **Bretton Woods Conference**.
- **The primary focus of the Bank** is to work with **the poorest people and the poorest countries** through its **five institutions** to reduce poverty, increase economic growth and increase the quality of life by using its financial resources and its extensive experience.
- The World Bank is managed by its **member countries** who are **either lenders, borrowers or donors**.
- **Many developing countries** in the world **use the World Bank’s assistance** ranging from loans and grants to technical assistance and policy advice.
- The Bank works with a wide range of actors that includes government agencies, civil society organizations, other aid agencies and the private sector.
- Although **the fundamental mission** of the World Bank is reducing poverty and improving the quality of life has not changed, in recent times it is adjusting its approaches and policies to the needs of developing countries in the new economic context.
- **Challenges to development** now requires institutions that are not only close to the people but are also capable of mobilizing key actors whether the government, private sector or the civil society to address global threats.
- In order to address these challenges, the Bank has sharpened its focus on strategic priorities, reforming its business model and improving its governance.
- These reforms include inclusiveness, innovation, efficiency, effectiveness and accountability and fall into five areas:

Reforming the Lending model:

- By modernizing its financial services and lending model, the Bank seeks to provide more tailored responses to the borrowers' needs.
- Calling for closer attention, the approach seeks to establish substantial results and for streamlined processes, improved supervision and higher risk investment.

Increasing Voice and Participation:

- With an additional seat in **the Board of Directors for Sub-Saharan Africa** and an increase in voting power of developing countries, the Bank seeks to elevate the representation and influence of developing and transition countries that are in **the Bank Group**.

Promoting Accountability and Good Governance:

- Among its key concerns, the Bank has **governance** and **anticorruption** across sectors and countries.
- This is based on the mandate to **reduce poverty** – a capable and accountable state creates opportunities for all to develop.

Increasing Transparency, Accountability and Access to Information:

- The Bank's ability to **access information policy** provides opportunities for the Bank to share its knowledge and experience with a wide audience in order to enhance its quality of operations by providing more information about projects and programs than ever before.

Modernizing the Organization:

- To make it a **better development partner**, the Bank is undergoing a series of reforms.
- There are three main areas in which these reforms are taking place
 1. it is modernizing its lending and knowledge products and services to **better serve its clients** and to serve their efforts to **reduce poverty better**,
 2. **improvements in sharing and access** to knowledge and expertise both from within and outside is being undertaken and
 3. it is modernizing the processes and systems that **underpin the Bank's work**.
- Since the **beginning of operations in 1946 with thirty-eight members**, there has been a dramatic change in the number of members and the conditions in the world.
- As many nations became independent from colonial rule, they gradually joined the institution and subsequently the bank and the development needs of member states expanded.
- There are five institutions that constitute the World Bank
 1. **the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development**,
 2. **International Development Association**
 3. **International Finance Cooperation**,
 4. **The Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency and**

5. The International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes.

The International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD):

- The main objective of the **IBRD** is to reduce poverty in middle-income countries and credit worthy low income by promoting sustainable development through loans, guarantees and analytical and advisory services.
- It was established in **1945** and has **184 members**.
- Its **net income and allocable income** for the fiscal year in June 2018 amounted to \$698 billion.

The International Development Association:

- It supports **country-led initiatives** for **poverty reduction** in the poorest countries with interest-free credits and grants with money received from contributions made by members.
- It was established in the year 1960 and its total commitment amounted to \$24 billion in **the fiscal year June 2018**.

The International Finance Corporation:

- It provides **loans** to the private sector to **promote economic development in developing countries**.
- It was established in 1956 with 176 members and its investments in the year 2018 amounted to \$23.3 billion.

The Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency:

- This agency **encourages private companies** to invest in developing countries by providing guarantees against such risks as breach of contract, conflict, war and currency inconvertibility.
- It was established in the year 1988 with 164 members with net business reaching a **record high of \$5.3 billion**.

The International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes:

- It encourages foreign investment in developing countries by providing facilities for arbitration of investment disputes.
- It was established in 1966 with **140 members**.

The International Monetary Fund (IMF)



- **The International Monetary fund** or the Fund is the world's largest premier international financial institution.
- It was conceived at **the Bretton Woods conference in 1944** as a global response to the great economic depression of the 1930s.
- The fundamental idea for setting up an international financial institution was to help avoid the **'beggar thy neighbour'** policies that characterized that period.
- It was established to provide short term and medium term finance to member countries facing balance of payments difficulties so that they could pursue policies of economic adjustment that did not rely on competitive devaluation and protectionist trade policies.

The Mandate of the International Monetary Fund

- **The International Monetary Fund (IMF)** is an independent international organization with 185 member countries with the objective to promote economic stability and growth.
- The member countries are the shareholders in the cooperative and provide capital for the **International Monetary Fund** through quota subscription.
- The IMF in return provides its members with **macroeconomic policy** advice, financial aid in times of balance payments need and technical assistance and training to improve national economic management.
- The IMF is one of the several autonomous organizations of the UN with the designation of specialized agency and is also a permanent observer of the UN.

Article 1 of the IMF mandate sets out the following objectives:

- To promote international monetary cooperation through a permanent institution which provides **the machinery for consultation and collaboration** on international monetary problems.
- To facilitate the expansion and balanced growth of **international trade**, and to contribute thereby to the promotion and maintenance of high levels of employment and real income and to the development of the productive resources of all members as primary objectives of economic policy.

- To promote **exchange stability**, to maintain orderly exchange arrangements among members, and to **avoid competitive exchange depreciation**.
- To assist in the establishment of a **multilateral system of payments** in respect of current transactions between members and in the elimination of foreign exchange restrictions which hamper **the growth of world trade**.
- To give confidence to members by making the general resources of the IMF temporarily available to them under adequate safeguards, thus providing them with opportunity to correct maladjustments in their balance of payments without resorting to measures destructive of national or international prosperity.
- To shorten the duration and lessen the degree of disequilibrium in the international balances of payments of members.
- The mandate of the IMF gives it a unique character as an international monetary institution having broad oversight responsibilities for **the proper functioning and development of the international and monetary financial system**.

Functions of the International Monetary Fund:

- The IMF pursues a wide range of functions in accordance with its mandate.
- It is as follows:

Surveillance of Members' Economic Policies:

- Nations who are members agree to pursue **economic policies** that are consistent with the **objectives of the IMF** and
- The articles of agreement confer on the IMF the legal authority to oversee compliance with this obligation which makes the IMF the only organization that has the mandate to examine regularly the economic conditions of virtually all countries in the world.

Financing Temporary Balance of Payment Needs:

- In order to enable countries to make orderly corrective measures and avoid disorderly **adjustment of the external imbalance**, the IMF lends to its member countries to provide a temporary respite from balance of payments.
- In addition to providing **direct funding to member countries**, the IMF also plays a catalytic role in mobilizing external financing for countries' balance of payment needs.

Combating Poverty in Low Income Countries:

- The IMF provides low-income member countries with concessional loans to help these countries in their efforts to eradicate poverty.
- In this endeavour, the IMF works closely with the World Bank and other development partners.
- In addition, the IMF participates in two international initiatives to provide debt relief
 1. **Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) and**

2. Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative (MDRI).

Mobilizing External Financing:

- The IMF's endorsement of a country's policies serve as an important catalyst in **mobilizing external funding** from **bilateral** and **multilateral lenders** and **donors**.
- Policy assessments and recommendations of the IMF also provide important signals to investors and financial markets regarding a country's economic future and the impact on investor and market confidence in the economy.

Strengthening the International Monetary System:

- Being the central institution in **the international monetary system**, the IMF serves as a forum for consultation and collaboration by members on international and monetary matters.
- It works with other multilateral institutions to devise international rules that would help prevent and promote an orderly resolution of international economic problems.

Increasing the Global Supply of International Reserves:

- If there is a global need to supplement existing reserves, the IMF has the authority to issue an international asset called **the Special Drawing Right (SDR)**.
- These SDRs belong to the **net international reserves of members** and can be exchanged for **convertible currencies**.

Building Capacity through Technical Assistance and Training:

- The IMF with its expertise provides **training** and **technical assistance** for member countries to design economic policies and improve economic management capabilities.
- This helps in **reduction of policy failures** and **resilience to shocks** and facilitates program design and implementation.
- These activities are important particularly for developing countries where resources are scarce and institutions are often weak.

Dissemination of Information and Research:

- The IMF is a premier source for Economic analysis of its member countries' **economic policies** and **statistical information**.
- The IMF disseminates information through **numerous reports, research studies** and **specialized statistical publications**.
- It also conducts research in areas that are in accordance with its mandate and operations mainly to improve its economic analysis and its advice to member countries.
- These publications often appear in books, articles in journal, working papers, occasional papers and the internet.

- However there prevails a general criticism that the MIF, at present, function as an institution to promote corporate interests, through commercialisation of the services, including education and health, and by subordinating peoples' welfare and development to profiteering business interest, and the sovereign states are compelled to be subservient to international corporate business.

Asian Development Bank

- Unlike the IMF which is largely **self- financing**, **Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs)** are highly dependent on **shareholder contributions** particularly in terms of financing their operations of their soft loan windows, that provide grants and low interest loans to very poor countries.
- MDBs belong to a complex set of public institutions that can be categorized as



1. global,
 2. regional and
 3. Sub-regional.
- Categorizations of all MDBs are done by taking into consideration their regional coverage.
 - This facilitates the process of clearly understanding the similarities and differences among them by using common denominators rather than extensive individual assessments.
 - Most MDBs fall in the above mentioned **three categories** and directly target a particular continent such as the Asian Development Bank, the African Development Bank, Asian Infrastructure and Investment Bank, New Development Bank, Inter-American Development Bank, Islamic Development Bank, European Investment Bank, etc.
 - During the late **1930s** and early **1940s**, **the concept of economic development** began to emerge in the contemporary sense.
 - The prominent British economist **John Maynard Keynes** addressed economic and social needs that emerged in the post-war period.

- **Harry Dexter White- an American economist** was a key figure in envisioning the set of institutions that were to be created as envisioned by John Maynard Keynes.
- White, in the year 1942 paved the path towards the fundamentals of a development policy when he prepared a proposal for a **United Nations Stabilization Fund and Bank for Reconstruction and Development of the United and Associated Nations**, that would provide the basis for a **post-war international monetary reform**.
- The proposal called for the creation of two related institutions with the powers, resources and structure adequate to address major issues in the post-war period.
- MDBs such as the World Bank and the **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** are publicly financed institutions that are responsible for setting the development agenda of their member countries.
- Almost all countries in the world with the exception of **Cuba and North Korea** are members of MDBs.

Large Scale Development Projects

- All countries with membership in MDBs contribute to the institution since they are affiliated to and avail loans from them.
- MDBs emphasize that **large scale development projects** such as hydroelectric dams, irrigation projects, transportation development, oil and gas projects have the **potential to reduce poverty and increase economic activities** that would be aimed at development.
- However, on the contrary, there are others who oppose such development projects since they have terrible consequences to the environment and their lives, negates the Banks' claim.
- Many argue that the damage done through these projects not only affect their welfare, but have negative social, economic and environmental results that are irreversible.
- **The Asian proverb – 'Fire cooks but it could also burn a house'**, is overwhelmingly true if compared in terms of the loans provided for development projects by the ADB to its **Developing Member Countries (DMCs)** show so far that there are more charred houses that cooked food.
- The Asian Development Bank is a **regional multilateral finance institution** that is dedicated to the realization and reduction of poverty in Asia and the Pacific.
- The ADB was founded in **1966** and has **62 member countries** and most of them belong to the region.
- The ADB has an equity capital of \$44 billion and reserves of \$7.9 billion.
- Since its beginning in 1966 to the year 2002 the Bank has approved loans to both the public and private sectors amounting to \$98.831 billion and disburses \$5 billion in loans and projects across the region and earns from it an annual return of \$500 million.
- The ADB's **Poverty Reduction Strategy (PRS)** is the central component of its **Long-Term Strategic Framework (LTSF 2001 - 2015)**.
- This fifteen-year agenda of the ADB subscribed to the **United Nations Millennium Development Goals** to achieve the target of halving the number of people living in poverty worldwide.

- According to the Bank's claim, its **development agenda** is to improve the welfare of the people living in Asia and the Pacific, more particularly about 900 million Asians who are living in poverty and earn less than a dollar a day.
- Among the priorities of the ADB are economic growth, human development, gender and development, good governance, environmental protection, private sector development and regional co-operation.
- The ADB now operates through **five geographically contiguous areas** which addresses country and sector themes.
- The groupings are

(i) East and central Asia,

(ii) the Mekong,

(iii) the Pacific,

(iv) south Asia and

(v) southeast Asia.

- Each of the regional departments under take country **planning** and **programming of sub-regional and country-specific assistance**.
- Similar to any other bank, the ADB receives resources from its shareholders.
- **Japan and the United States** have the largest shares among the 62 country members that amounts to 15.9 percent of shares.

Shanghai Cooperation Organization

- Key takeaways of the **meet/Qingdao declaration**
- India refused to endorse the ambitious **Chinese Belt and Road Initiative (BRI)**.
- India coined **SECURE** strategy for comprehensive security in the SCO region.

Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO)

- It is an Eurasian political, economic, and security organization formed in 2001 and headquartered in Beijing.
- It owes its origin to its predecessor Shanghai Five (a multilateral forum founded by 5 countries China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan in Shanghai in 1996).
- Its driving philosophy is known as the "**Shanghai Spirit**" which emphasizes harmony, working by consensus, respect for other cultures, non-interference in the internal affairs of others, and non-alignment.
- **SCO comprises eight-member states**, India, Kazakhstan, China, Kyrgyz Republic, Pakistan, Russian, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.
- 2018 year meet is India's first participation in the summit as a full-time member.

- India, along with Pakistan, became **full-time members** during **the Astana summit** in **Kazakhstan** in June 2017.
- Besides it has 4 observer states and 6 dialogue partners.

Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC)

Asian Premium

- It is the extra charge being collected by **OPEC countries** from Asian countries when selling oil.
- It has roots in **the establishment of market** oriented crude pricing in 1986.
- There are 3 important benchmarks in global market, representing the cost of oil produced in respective geographies.

Brent:

- Light sweet oil representative of European market **West Texas Intermediate (WTI)**:
- **US market Dubai/Oman: Middle East and Asian Market.**
- However, **US and Europe** had an advantage because their markets and prices were based on future trading and reflected every trend in the crude market.
- On the other hand, **Asia** represented by **Dubai/Oman** do not have any derivative trading, doesn't have that edge.
- Hence, price charged from Asian countries remained \$1-\$2 dollar higher than that from Europe and the US.
- This price differential is termed as '**Asian Premium**'.

About OPEC

- It is an intergovernmental organisation whose stated objective is to "co-ordinate and unify petroleum policies among Member Countries, in order to secure fair and stable prices for petroleum producers; an efficient, economic and regular supply of petroleum to consuming nations; and a fair return on capital to those investing in the industry."
- It is headquartered at **Vienna, Austria**.
- It was set up at the 1960 **Baghdad Conference** with **Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia** and **Venezuela** as founding members.
- It accounts for an estimated 44 percent of global oil production and 81.5 percent of the world's "**proven**" oil reserves.

International Atomic Energy Agency

- It is the world's central intergovernmental forum for scientific and technical cooperation in **the nuclear field**.
- It is an autonomous international organization within the United Nations system set up in July 1957 through its own international treaty, the IAEA Statute.

- The IAEA reports to both **the United Nations General Assembly** and **Security Council**.
- It works for the safe, secure and peaceful uses of nuclear science and technology.
- Contributing to international peace and security and **the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals**.
- It is headquartered in Vienna, **Austria**.
- India is a member of **IAEA**.
- The objective of IAEA Safeguards is to deter the spread of nuclear weapons by the early detection of the misuse of nuclear material or technology.
- In 2009, an Agreement between the Government of India and the IAEA for the **Application of Safeguards to Civilian Nuclear Facilities** was signed.
- Then in 2014, India ratified an **Additional Protocol** (as part of its commitments under US-India nuclear deal) to its safeguards agreements with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).
- The AP is an important tool of the IAEA, over and above the provisions of the safeguard agreement, to verify the exclusively peaceful nature of a country's nuclear programme.

BIMSTEC

- **BIMSTEC** is a regional organization comprising **seven Member States** lying in the littoral and adjacent areas of **the Bay of Bengal** including Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Myanmar and Thailand.
- This **sub-regional organization** came into being on 6 June 1997 through the Bangkok Declaration.
- Its **Secretariat** has been established at **Dhaka**.

About South-South Cooperation (SSC)

- **South South Cooperation (SSC)** is defined as the exchange and sharing of developmental solutions among countries in the global south.
- The formation of SSC can be traced to the 1955 **Bandung Conference**.

IBSA

- It is an international tripartite grouping for promoting international cooperation of **India, Brazil and South Africa**.
- It was formally established by **the Brasilia Declaration** of 6 June 2003 by external affairs ministers of India, Brazil and South Africa.
- It represents three important poles for galvanizing South-South cooperation and greater understanding between three important continents of the developing world.
- **IBSA Mechanism for Development Cooperation** - IBSA Fund for the Alleviation of Poverty and Hunger
- It was set up with the objective of facilitating the execution of human development projects to advance the fight against poverty and hunger in developing countries.

- Each member country contributes \$1 Million annually to this fund.
- The IBSA Fund is managed by the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC).

North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), 1949



Signing of the NATO Treaty

- **The North Atlantic Treaty Organization** was created in 1949 by the United States, Canada, and several Western European nations to provide collective security against **the Soviet Union**.
- **NATO** was the first peacetime military alliance the United States entered into outside of the **Western Hemisphere**.
- **The nations of Western Europe** wanted assurances that **the United States** would intervene automatically in the event of an attack.
- As a result of tense negotiations **the North Atlantic Treaty** was signed in **1949**.
- In this agreement, the United States, Canada, Belgium, Denmark, France, Iceland, Italy, Luxemburg, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, and the United Kingdom agreed to consider attack against one an attack against all, along with consultations about threats and defense matters.
- The collective defense arrangements in NATO served to place the whole of Western Europe under the American “**nuclear umbrella**.”
- Although formed in response to the exigencies of the developing Cold War, NATO has lasted beyond the end of that conflict, with membership even expanding to include some former Soviet states.
- It remains **the largest peacetime military alliance** in the world.

About UN Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact

- It is an agreement between the UN chief, 36 organizational entities, **the International Criminal Police Organisation (INTERPOL)** and **the World Customs Organisation**, to better serve the needs of Member States when it comes to tackling international terrorism.

Objective

- To ensure that the United Nations system provides coordinated capacity- building support to Member States, at their request, in implementing the UN Global Counter-Terrorism

Strategy and other relevant resolutions.

- To foster close collaboration between **the Security Council** mandated bodies and the rest of **the United Nations system**.
- **The UN Global Counter-Terrorism Compact** Coordination Committee will oversee and monitor the implementation of the Compact which will be chaired by **UN Under-Secretary-General** for counterterrorism.
- It will replace **the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force**, which was established in 2005.

International Treaties

Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty

What is CTBT?

- It is a **multilateral treaty banning** all nuclear explosions for both military and civilian purposes.
- It was negotiated at **the Conference** on Disarmament in Geneva and adopted by the **United Nations General Assembly**.
- It was opened for signature on 24 September 1996.
- The CTBT with its 183 signatories and 163 ratifications is one of the most widely supported arms-control treaties.
- It can only enter into force after it is ratified by eight countries with nuclear technology capacity, namely China, Egypt, India, Iran, Israel, North Korea, Pakistan and the United States.
- **The Treaty establishes a CTBT Organization (CTBTO)**, located in Vienna, to ensure the implementation of its provisions, including provisions for international verification measures.

India's stand on CTBT

- India did not support **the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty in 1996** and still does not due to following reasons:
- CTBT does not address complete disarmament (**supported by India**), discriminatory in nature with **permanent UNSC members**.
- Another major concern was **the Entry- Into Force (EIF)** clause, which India considered a violation of its right to voluntarily withhold participation in an international treaty.
- The treaty initially made ratification by states that were to be a part of **the CTBT's International Monitoring System (IMS)** mandatory for the treaty's EIF.
- Because of this, India withdrew its participation from the IMS.

Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) 1968

- Its objective is to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons and weapons technology, to promote cooperation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and to further the goal of achieving nuclear disarmament and general and complete disarmament.
- India, Israel, North Korea, Pakistan and South Sudan are not parties to this treaty.

International Non- Governmental Organizations

- **International Non-Governmental Organizations (INGOs)** have been growing both in number and influence around the world.
- INGOs range widely in scope, size, membership and home location.
- Some examples of INGOs are **Amnesty International**, **Human Rights Watch** and **Medecins Sans Frontiers** (MSF; also known as Doctors Without Borders).
- INGOs have been increasingly engaged in policy making and policy processes.
- Domestically INGOs have access to policy makers and work to influence policy through lobbying efforts and information campaigns.
- At the international scenario, INGOs often work with intergovernmental organizations and donor agencies and can have tremendous sway in certain policy domains.
- Recently the work of INGOs have been linked with their efforts to changes in trade and investment patterns and decisions in terms of humanitarian intervention, economic sanctions and aid allocation.
- Until the adoption of **the UN Charter in 1945**, the term non-governmental organization did not exist.
- In the **year 1910**, a **group of 132 organizations** came together to form **the Union of International Organizations**.
- In **1929** a group of organizations that regularly attended the League meetings and formed the **Federation of Private and Semi-Official International Organizations** established in **Geneva**.
- When **the UN Charter** was finalized, **the San Francisco Conference** agreed to make provision for both intergovernmental organizations and private organizations to have formal relations with **the ECOSOC**.
- In terms of according status for both types of organizations, members were unwilling to give same status to the two types of international organizations.
- Under **Article 57**, a new term Specialized Agencies was introduced to define inter-governmental organizations.
- Under **Article 71**, a new second term was introduced – non-governmental organizations.
- The UN is an organisation of governments of the world while the non- governmental organization represents the people of all nations of the world.

Amnesty International

- **Amnesty international** is one of the **largest international non-governmental organization** that works for the rights of humans across the globe.

- Its work is a worldwide campaign movement that seeks to promote all human rights that are established in **the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR)** and other international human rights instruments.
- It has more than 2.2 million people as members, signatories and supporters spread across 150 countries in the world.
- Amnesty International was formed in **London in 1961** by its founder **Peter Benson**.
- In the year 1977, the Amnesty International was awarded **the Nobel Peace Prize** for its campaign against torture.
- Some of the important objectives of the Amnesty International are as follows:
 1. **Protection of women**
 2. **Protection of children**
 3. **Ending torture and execution (barring illegal torture of people)**
 4. **Protection of prisoners of conscience (freedom of conscience, expression and the release of all prisoners of conscience)**
 5. **Protection of refugees**
 6. **Protection and overcoming the phenomenon of human rights violations that are related to his physical and psychological integrity**
 7. **Abolishing the death penalty, torture and other cruel treatment has held prisoners**
 8. **Fair (fair and fast) trials for political prisoners**
- **Overcoming the phenomenon of discrimination on any grounds:** gender, race, religion, language, political opinion, national or social origin, and others Regulation of the global arms trade.
- In addition to the above mentioned activities of the Amnesty International it also stands for the **protections of people in zones** of armed conflict, ending political killings, extra-judicial killings, disappearances, ensuring prison conditions in accordance with international human rights standards, and working against recruitment of child soldiers among others.

Human Rights Watch

- The Human Rights Watch was founded in 1978 with the founding of its **Europe and Central Asia Division** then known as **the Helsinki Watch**.
- It is a non-profit non- governmental organization.
- Its staff consists of **human rights professionals** including country experts, lawyers, journalists and academics belonging to diverse backgrounds and nationalities.
- The Human Rights Watch is known for its accurate findings, impartial reporting, effective usage of media and targeted advocacy often in partnership with local human rights groups.
- Human Rights Watch publishes more than 100 reports on human rights practices in 90 countries across the world.

- **The mission statement of the Human Rights** watch states that “Human Rights Watch defends the rights of people worldwide.
- We scrupulously investigate abuses, expose the facts widely, and pressure those with power to respect rights and secure justice”.
- Human Rights Watch is an independent, international organization that works as part of a vibrant movement to uphold human dignity and advance the cause of human rights for all”.
- It's core values are that it is guided by **principles of International human rights and humanitarian law** and **respect for the dignity** of the human individual.
- Human Rights Watch in order to maintain its independence claims that it does not accept government funds directly or indirectly or support from any private funder that could compromise its objectivity and independence.
- It also does not embrace any political cause and is non-partisan and strives to maintain neutrality in situations of armed conflict.

United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC)

- It is a specialized agency of United Nations to protect and promote human rights across the world set up in 2006.
- **The Council** consists of **47 members**, elected yearly by the General Assembly through **direct and secret ballot** for three-year terms.
- Recently India was elected with highest number of votes by **General Assembly** to the **United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC)**.
- Members are selected via the basis of equitable geographic rotation using **the United Nations regional grouping system**.
- Members are barred from occupying a seat for more than **two consecutive three-year terms**.
- Human Rights Watch is committed to maintaining high standards of accuracy and fairness that includes seeking out **multiple perspectives** to develop and in- depth analytical understanding of events.
- It recognizes the particular responsibility for victims and witnesses who share their experiences with them.
- The Human Rights Watch is actively focussed on impact.
- The Human Rights Watch now has **thematic divisions** or **programs on arms**; business and human rights; children's rights; disability rights; the environment and human rights; health and human rights; international justice; lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender rights; refugees; terrorism and counterterrorism; women's rights; and emergencies.

Greenpeace

- **Greenpeace** is a **non-governmental environmental organization** with offices in over 39 countries and an international coordinating body in **Amsterdam, the Netherlands** Greenpeace

was founded in 1971 by **Irving Stowe** and **Dorothy Stowe**, **Canadian** and US ex-pat environmental activists.

- Greenpeace states its goal is to “**ensure the ability of the Earth to nurture life in all its diversity**” and focuses its campaigning on worldwide issues such as climate change, deforestation, overfishing, commercial whaling, genetic engineering, and anti-nuclear issues.
- It uses direct action, lobbying, research, and ecotage to achieve its goals.
- The global organization does not accept funding from governments, corporations, or political parties, relying on three million individual supporters and foundation grants.
- Greenpeace has a general consultative status with **the United Nations Economic and Social Council** and is a founding member of the INGO Accountability Charter, an international non-governmental organization that intends to foster accountability and transparency of non-governmental organizations.
- Greenpeace is known for its direct actions and has been described as the most visible environmental organization in the world.

Conclusion

- **International Organizations** have become an increasingly common phenomenon in international life.
- The proliferation of international organizations and **treaty arrangements** among states represents the formal expression of the extent to which international politics is becoming more and more institutionalized.
- In addition to **the burgeoned scholarship** on international organizations, in the past decade, theories have been devoted to understanding why institutions exist, how they function, what are the effects they have on world politics have become increasingly refined and the empirical methods employed for analysis more sophisticated.
- These and other emerging forms of analysis would help frame a new research agenda for the study on international organizations.
- In the coming years students will need to pay close attention to the changing patterns of international organizations’ **norms** and **practices** and **the broader ability of international organizations** to keep step with the changes in the world and the challenges it would face.

MORE TO KNOW:

New Directions for the United Nations

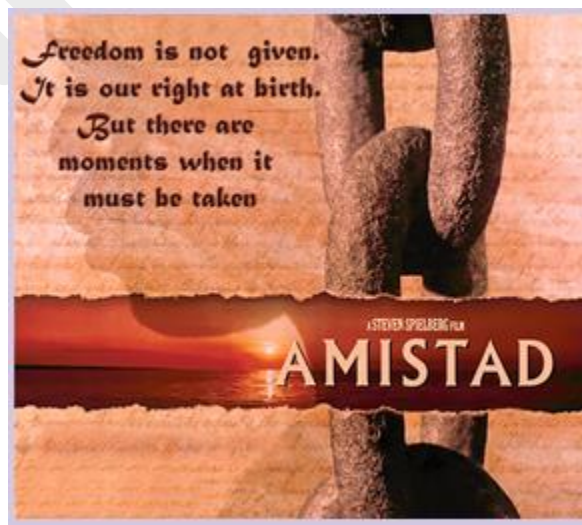


- These are testing times for everyone.
- People everywhere live in growing anxiety and fear.
- There is near – universal loss of trust in institutions and leaders.
- Amid such uncertainty, our future depends on a United Nations that brings together the countries of the world not only to talk and debate, but also to agree and to act; that mobilizes civil society, business, philanthropists, and ordinary citizens to help the world governments solve current problems; and that delivers peace, development, human rights, global public good and hope to people around the world every day.
- Courtesy : New Directions for the UN, article by Former Secretary General of the United Nations.

Five Institutions of the World Bank

1. The International Bank for Reconstruction and Development
2. The International Development Association
3. International Finance Corporation
4. The Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency
5. The International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes

Must watch Documentary film



- Amistad is a 1997 American historical drama film directed by **Steven Spielberg**, based on the true story of the events in 1839 aboard the slave ship La Amistad, during which **Mende tribesmen** abducted for the slave trade managed to gain control of their captors' ship off the coast of Cuba, and the international legal battle that followed their capture by the Washington, a U.S. revenue cutter.
- The case was ultimately resolved by the U.S. Supreme Court in 1841.

Article 71

- "The Economic and Social Council may make suitable arrangements for consultation with non-governmental organizations which are concerned with matters within its competence.
- Such arrangements may be made with international organizations and, where appropriate, with national organizations after consultation with **the Member of the United Nations concerned.**"

Achievements of Human Rights watch

- Human Rights watch wins United Nations prize (New York)- Human Rights Watch has won the 2008 United Nations Prize for Human Rights, in recognition of the vital role played by the Human Rights movement in trying to end abuses over the past 60 years.
- The award given every five years, was bestowed in New York on December 10, 2008, the 60th anniversary of **the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.**