



The United Nations

a Historical Overview

The Organization

→ Founded in 1945.

→ Goals: peace, cooperation,
conflict prevention.

→ Today, 193 member states.
+ 2 Observer States

→ Equal rights and responsibilities.



Its predecessor – The League of Nations

→ Founded in 1919.

→ Goals: peace, maintaining international order.

→ Lack of key states like the USA, USSR
(expelled).

→ Inability to act effectively (Ethiopia, Anschluss,
Hitler's violence pre-WW2).

LEAGUE OF NATIONS



SOCIÉTÉ DES NATIONS

Key events for the UN's creation

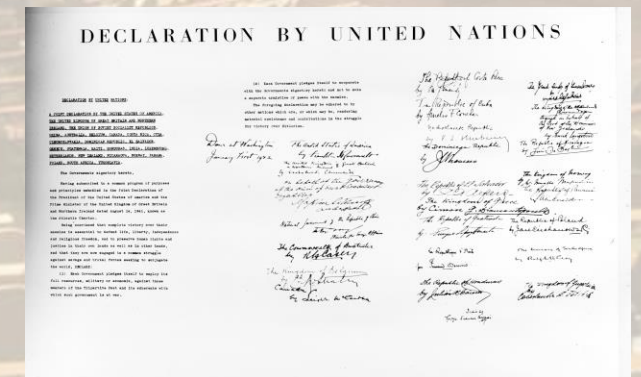
→ The 1941 **St. James Palace Declaration**, the first formal commitment among Allied nations to work together.

→ The 1941 **Atlantic Charter**, that outlined post-war cooperation goals.

→ The 1942 **Declaration of the United Nations**, where 26 nations pledged to fight against Axis powers.

→ The 1943 **Moscow Conference**.

→ The 1944 **Dumbarton Oaks Conference**, which drafted the UN Charter's initial structure.



Key events for the UN's creation

- The **Yalta Conference** (February of 1945), brought together the USA, UK, and USSR.
- Goal: reorganization of Europe post-war, especially Germany and Poland.
- Discussed Eastern Europe's need for free elections and democratic forms of government.
- Agreement to an international organization to maintain peace: the **United Nations**.



Key events for the UN's creation

→ The **San Francisco Conference** (April-June of 1945) officially established the UN.

→ Its **Charter**, signed by representatives from 51 nations, ensured:

- *Peace promotion.*
- *Collective security.*
- *Economic cooperation.*
- *Human Rights.*



The UN's structure

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The organization consists of six main organs:

1. General Assembly.
2. Security Council (crucial for maintaining international peace and security).
3. Economic and Social Council.
4. International Court of Justice (that solves disputes between states).
5. Secretariat.
6. Trusteeship Council.



Future Prospects

The United Nations

a Historical Overview

→ Maintaining Achievements:

- Peacekeeping.
- Human Rights
- Development Programs (SDGs).

→ Future Plans:

- Keep being a cornerstone of global diplomacy.
- Calls for **reform** (particularly regarding the Security Council's veto system).
- Tackling global inequality
- Fighting against climate change.
- Cybersecurity.



The United Nations

a Historical Overview



Thank you for your attention

UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY



Introduction



UNITED NATIONS
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The General Assembly (GA or UNGA) is one of the main bodies of the United Nations. It is the only organ within the UN where every member state has equal voting power.

The GA oversees the UN's budget, receives reports from other bodies, appoints non-permanent members to the Security Council, and makes recommendations as resolutions.

It holds regular yearly sessions from September to December, and additional sessions as needed. The functions, powers, procedures, voting system, and composition are outlined in Chapter 4 of the UN charter.

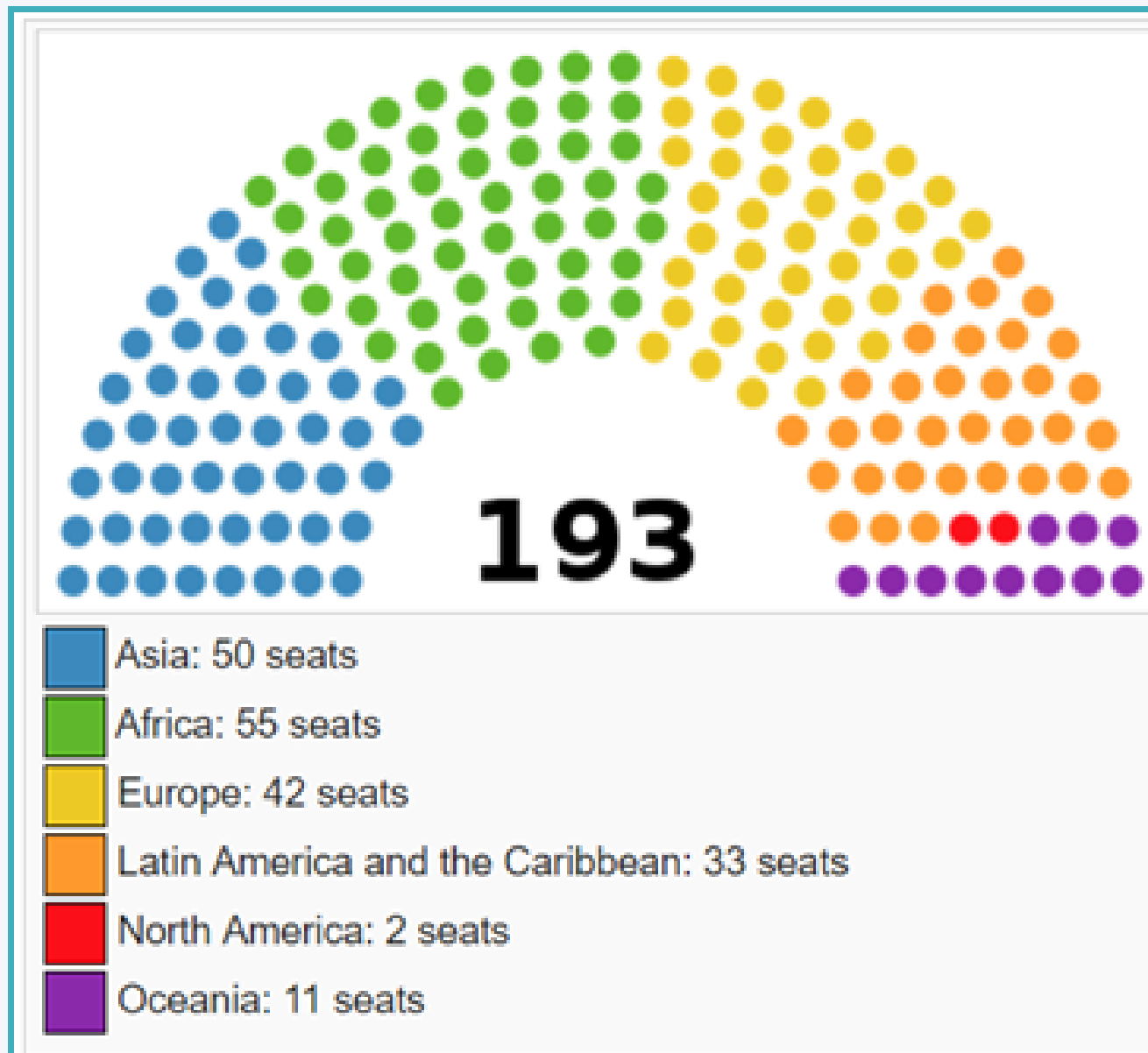
The first session took place on 10th January 1946 in the Westminster Central Hall in London and included representatives from 51 countries. While the GA can make recommendations, it cannot take binding actions.

The General Assembly:

- The United Nations General Assembly holds the central position as the primary deliberative, policy-making, and representative body of the United Nations. It serves as a platform for multilateral discussions on international issues among the 193 Member States of the United Nations.
- In addition to its deliberative function, the General Assembly plays a significant role in establishing standards and codifying international law.
- The Assembly convenes in regular sessions, which are held intensively from September to December each year, and subsequently as needed. These sessions serve as important forums for Member States to address global challenges, engage in diplomatic negotiations, and make decisions on critical international issues.



Membership



Article 4 (Chapter 2)

1. Membership in the United Nations is open to all other states that seek for peace and are willing to accept the obligations contained in the present Charter and, in the judgment of the Organization, are able and willing to carry out these obligations.

2. The admission of any such state to membership in the United Nations will be effected by a decision of the General Assembly upon the recommendation of the Security Council

A recommendation for admission from the Security Council requires affirmative votes from at least nine of the council's fifteen members, with none of the five permanent members voting against. The Security Council's recommendation must then be subsequently approved in the General Assembly by a two-thirds majority vote.[4]

All 193 member states of the United Nations are part of the General Assembly. The UN also extends invitations to non-member states, intergovernmental organizations, and others to become observers at the General Assembly, allowing them to participate and speak, but not to vote.

Subsidiary organs: Boards; Commissions; Committees; Assemblies; Councils; Working groups.

Procedure of admission

Rule 134. Any State which desires to become a Member of the United Nations shall submit an application to the Secretary-General. Such application shall contain a declaration, in which the state accepts the obligations contained in the Charter.

Rule 136. If the Security Council recommends the applicant State for membership, the General Assembly shall consider whether the applicant is a peace-loving State and shall decide, by a two-thirds majority of the members present and voting, upon its application for membership.

Rule 138. If the application is approved, membership shall become effective on the date on which the General Assembly takes its decision on the application.

The Committees

1.DISEC (Disarmament & International Security): Focuses on disarmament, global challenges, and threats to peace affecting the international community, seeking solutions to international security challenges.

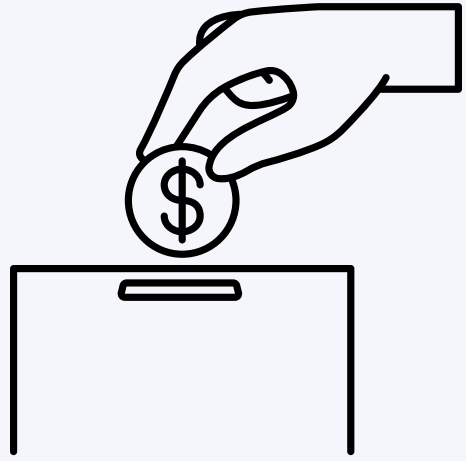
2.ECOFIN (Economic & Financial): Focuses on economic and financial issues related to economic growth and development, including macroeconomic policy questions, international trade, the international financial system, and external debt sustainability.

3.SOCHUM (Social, Cultural & Humanitarian): Focuses on social, humanitarian, and cultural matters, addressing a range of social, humanitarian affairs, and human rights issues affecting people worldwide.

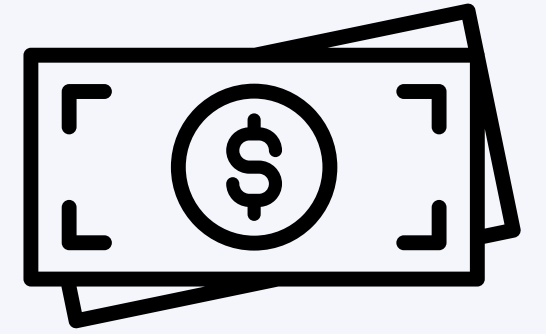
4.SPECPOL (Special Political & Decolonization): Specializes in a variety of subjects including decolonization, Palestinian refugees and human rights, peacekeeping, mine action, outer space, public information, atomic radiation, and the University for Peace.

5.Administrative & Budgetary: Focuses on administrative and budgetary issues.

6.Legal: Serves as the primary forum for considering legal questions in the General Assembly.



Payments & Contributions



Charter of United Nations, Article 17:

“The expenses of the Organization shall be born by the Members as apportioned by the General Assembly.”

=>this committee is responsible of partitioning the expenses each member partakes according to their individual capacity to pay.

Charter of United Nations, Article 19:

“A Member of the United Nations which is in arrears in the payment of its financial contributions to the Organization shall have no vote in the General Assembly if the amount of its arrears equals or exceeds the amount of the contributions due from it for the preceding two full years. The General Assembly may, nevertheless, permit such a Member to vote if it is satisfied that the failure to pay is due to conditions beyond the control of the Member.”

Functions and Powers

The **functions** of the General Assembly may be classified and illustrated as follows:



1. Deliberative
2. Supervisory
3. Financial
4. Elective
5. Constituent



Functions and Powers

Article 10: The General Assembly may discuss any questions or any matters within the scope of the present Charter or relating to the powers and functions of any organs provided for in the present Charter, and, except as provided in Article 12, may make recommendations to the Members of the United Nations or to the Security Council or to both on any such questions or matters.

Article 11: The General Assembly may consider the general principles of co-operation in the maintenance of international peace and security, including the principles governing disarmament and the regulation of armaments. The General Assembly may discuss any questions relating to the maintenance of international peace and security brought before it by any Member of the United Nations, or by the Security Council, or by a state which is not a Member of the United Nations in accordance with Article 35, paragraph 2

Article 12: While the Security Council is exercising in respect of any dispute or situation the functions assigned to it in the present Charter, the General Assembly shall not make any recommendation with regard to that dispute or situation unless the Security Council so requests. The Secretary-General, with the consent of the Security Council, shall notify the General Assembly at each session of any matters relative to the maintenance of international peace and security.

1.DELIBERATIVE

Article 13: makes recommendations to promote:
International co-operation in the political field and
the
development of international law and its
codification;
International co-operation in the economic, social,
educational, cultural and health field; Respect for
Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms.



2. SUPERVISORY

Article 15: shall receive reports from UN organs, such as the annual or special reports of the Security Council.

Article 16: shall perform such functions with respect to the international Trusteeship system.



3. FINANCIAL

Article 17:

1. The General Assembly shall consider and approve the BUDGET of the Organization.
2. The expenses of the Organization shall be borne by the Members as apportioned by the General Assembly.
3. The General Assembly shall consider and approve any financial and budgetary arrangements with specialized agencies referred to in Article 57 and shall examine the administrative budgets of such specialized agencies with a view to making recommendations to the agencies concerned.



4. COLLECTIVE
5. CONSTITUENT

!!!!within the scope of the UN
Charter!!!



The voting system

Approximately 80% of General Assembly resolutions are adopted by consensus, which means that after a draft resolution has been thoroughly discussed, it is agreed upon by all member states and no one requests a vote.

When a vote is necessary, the General Assembly moves into the voting procedures. According to Article 18 of the UN Charter, each member of the General Assembly has one vote, and decisions are generally made by a simple majority (more than half of the members present and voting).

However, "decisions on important questions" require a two-thirds majority of the members present and voting. These important questions usually relate to recommendations on peace and security, the election of members to the UNSC, ECOSOC, and Trusteeship Council, membership issues, any amendments to the UN Charter and budgetary questions.

Article 19 states that a member can lose their right to vote if they have not paid two years of financial contributions to the UN Organization.



Suspension / Expulsion

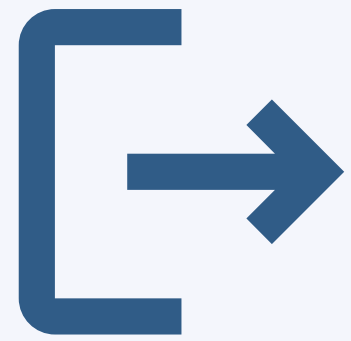


There are two important provisions in the UN Charter regarding the Member States' rights and privileges.



A Member of the United Nations against which the Security Council has taken preventive or enforcement action may be **suspended from exercising the rights and privileges of membership by the General Assembly** upon the recommendation of the Security Council, as a result of **Article 5**. This suspension limits the participation in UN activities, yet the Security Council may restore the exercise of these rights and privileges.

A Member of the United Nations who has **persistently violated the Principles** contained in the present Charter may be **expelled** from the Organization by the General Assembly upon the recommendation of the Security Council, according to **Article 6**. This is the ultimate penalty, permanently removing the member out of the UN.

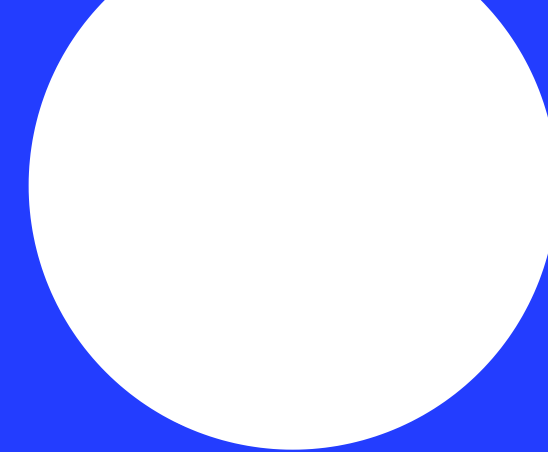
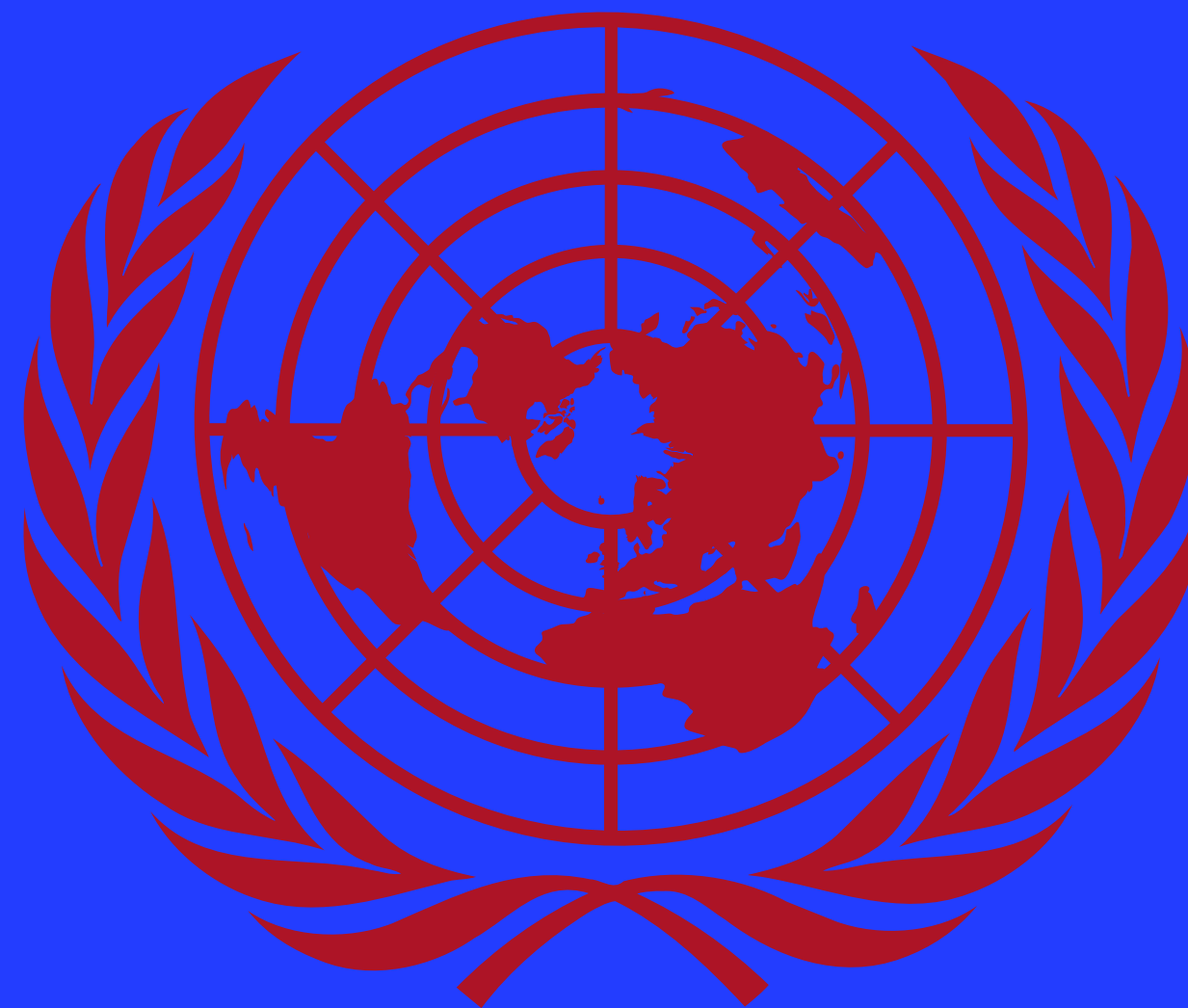


Withdrawal from the UNGA



1. **No Formal Withdrawal Procedure:** The **UN Charter**, which serves as the foundational document of the United Nations, **does not explicitly provide a formal procedure for the withdrawal of a member state.**
 2. **Implications of Withdrawing from the General Assembly:** Since all member states of the UN are automatically part of the General Assembly, withdrawing from the General Assembly would effectively mean **leaving the UN entirely.**
 3. **Rejoining the UN:** If a state withdraws, rejoining would require the reapplication for membership under Article 4 of the UN Charter, which involves approval by the Security Council and a two-thirds majority vote in the General Assembly.
- While a state cannot directly withdraw from just the General Assembly without leaving the UN altogether, it can choose to disengage or reduce participation.**

**Thanks for the
attention**



UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL



INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY



INTRODUCTION

The United Nations Security Council is one of the six main organs of the United Nations , responsible for maintaining international peace and security. It was established on October 24, 1945, following the end of World War II.It ensures peace through diplomacy, sanctions, and military interventions.Oversees peacekeeping operations.

It has **15 members**, divided into two categories:

Permanent Members (P5):

China

France

Russia

United Kingdom

United States

These five hold veto power over substantive resolutions.

Non-Permanent Members:

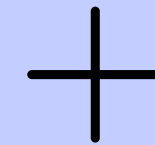
10 members elected for two-year terms, The non-permanent members rotate to ensure global representation.



THE STRUCTURE OF THE UNSC

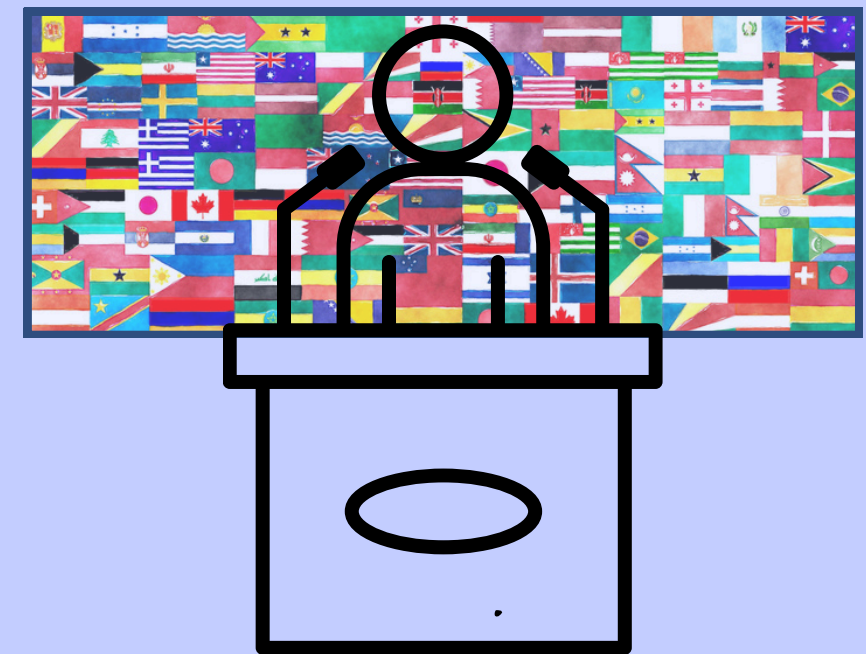
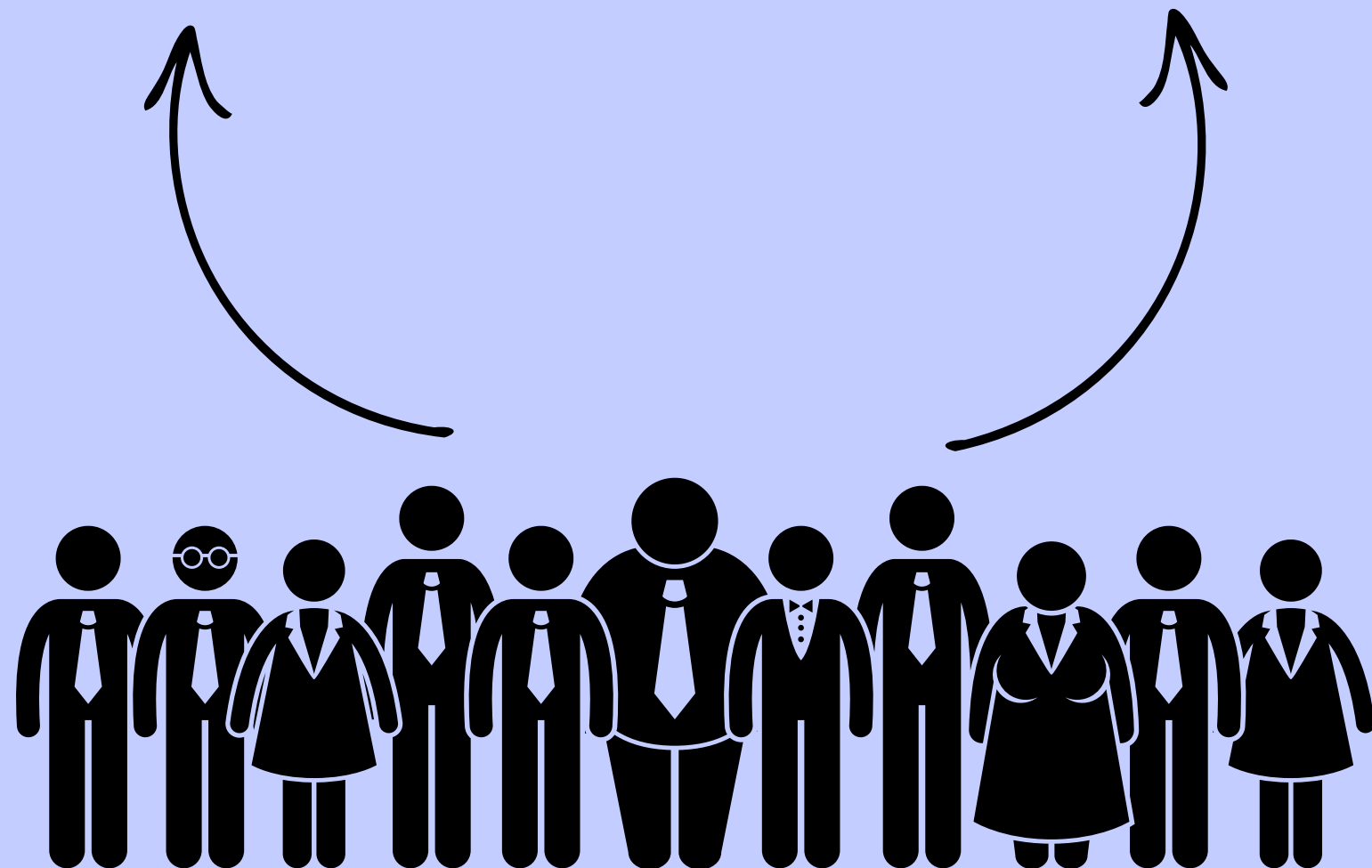
5 Permanent Members

10 Non-Permanent Members

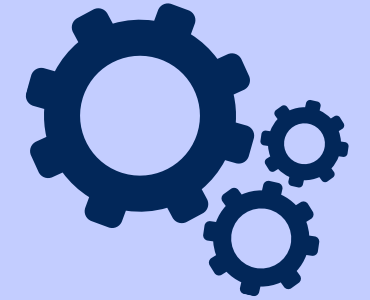


A presidency:

One different each month



SECURITY COUNCIL'S FUNCTIONS



- Peacekeeping
- Economic sanctions
- Military action against an aggressor
- Election monitors
- Recommending new Members
- Managing strategic areas
- Appointing leaders: to recommend to the General Assembly, the appointment of the Secretary-General and, together with the Assembly, to elect the Judges of the International Court of Justice



The Security Council aims to peacefully resolve international disputes in accordance with Chapter VI of the UN Charter

- In 2024, the Security Council is managing 11 peacekeeping operations across 3 continents, involving over 97,000 uniformed personnel.
- The Council is allowed to “determine the existence of any threat to the peace, breach of the peace, or act of aggression” and to make recommendations or to resort to non-military and military action to “maintain or restore international peace and security”

VETO POWER



- to defend their national interests
- to uphold a tenet of their foreign policy
- to promote a single issue of particular importance to a state

ELEVENTH EMERGENCY SPECIAL SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

United Nations Security Council Resolution 2623 called for the **eleventh emergency special session of the United Nations General Assembly** on the subject of the **2022 Russian invasion of Ukraine**, ongoing since 28 February 2022.

Approved (11)	Abstained (3)	Opposed (1)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">•  Albania•  Brazil•  France•  Gabon•  Ghana•  Ireland•  Kenya•  Mexico•  Norway•  United Kingdom•  United States	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•  China•  India•  United Arab Emirates	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•  Russia

- As a permanent member of the Security Council, **Russia** has **veto power**, which allows it to block any resolution that goes against its interests. Russia used this veto to stop resolutions condemning its invasion of Ukraine or imposing measures against it.
- When the Security Council is blocked by a veto, the **General Assembly** can step in through a process called “Uniting for Peace.” This happened with the 12th emergency special session, where the General Assembly took over since the Security Council was deadlocked by Russia’s veto. In these special sessions, veto power doesn’t apply, but the resolutions passed by the General Assembly are **not legally binding**, so they cannot force Russia to take specific actions.



POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS

- **Voluntary restraint**, meaning the responsibility for the P5 not to use the veto in case of mass atrocities are committed.
- **Enlarge the power to other members**, the lack of permanent *representation* from regions such as Africa, Latin America, Middle East and Asia. While UK and France are opened to the expansion, Russia, USA and China tend not to be or oppose.



BALANCING LEGITIMACY AND EFFECTIVENESS

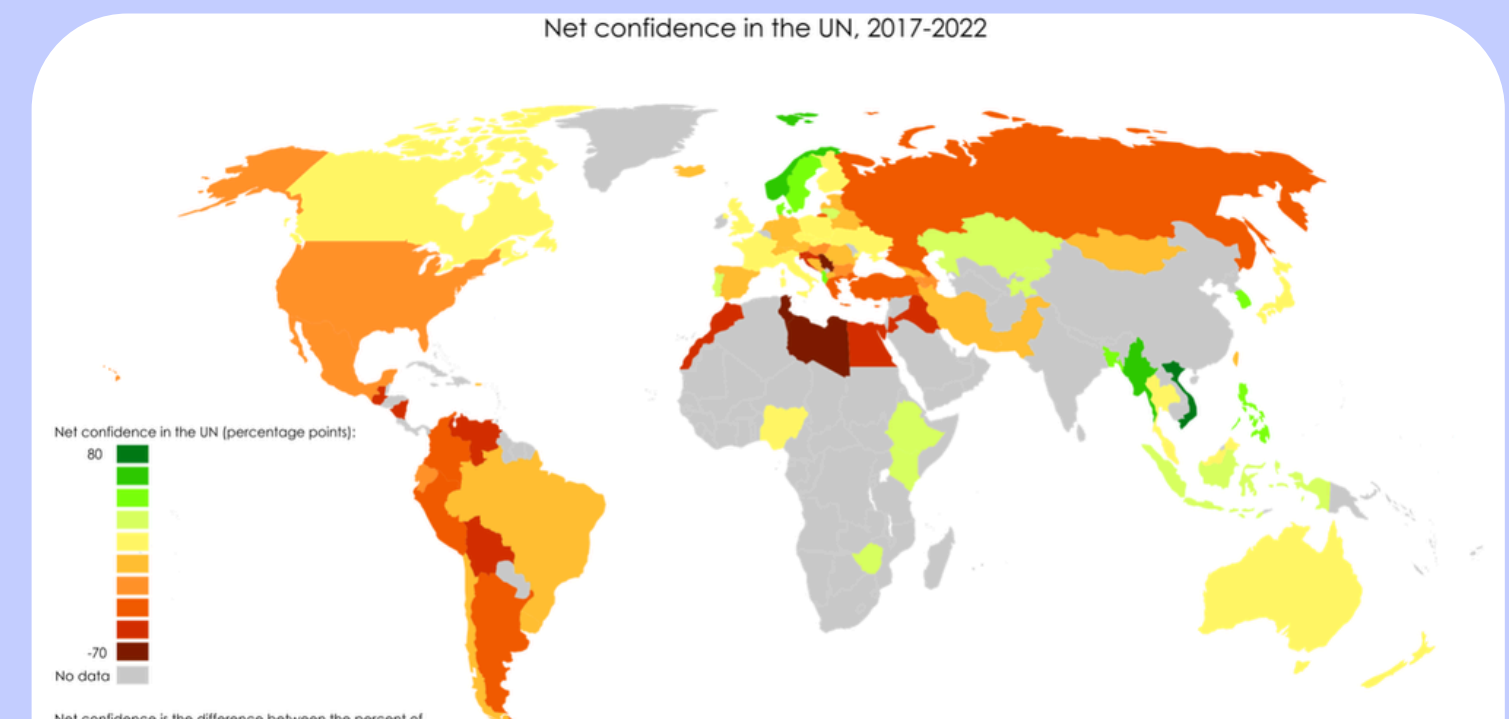
The council's performance and legitimacy have declined in the recent years.

Most governments **aim** for a Security Council that is **more representative and capable**, these objectives can conflict.

Social science research shows **international legitimacy** depends more on **inclusivity** and **fairness** than on **performance**.

Granting permanent membership to key regional powers could enhance their **long-term commitment** and improve the council's **effectiveness**.

Most people believe that the council's performance and legitimacy have declined in the recent years. The balance between representation and effectiveness is both real and complex.

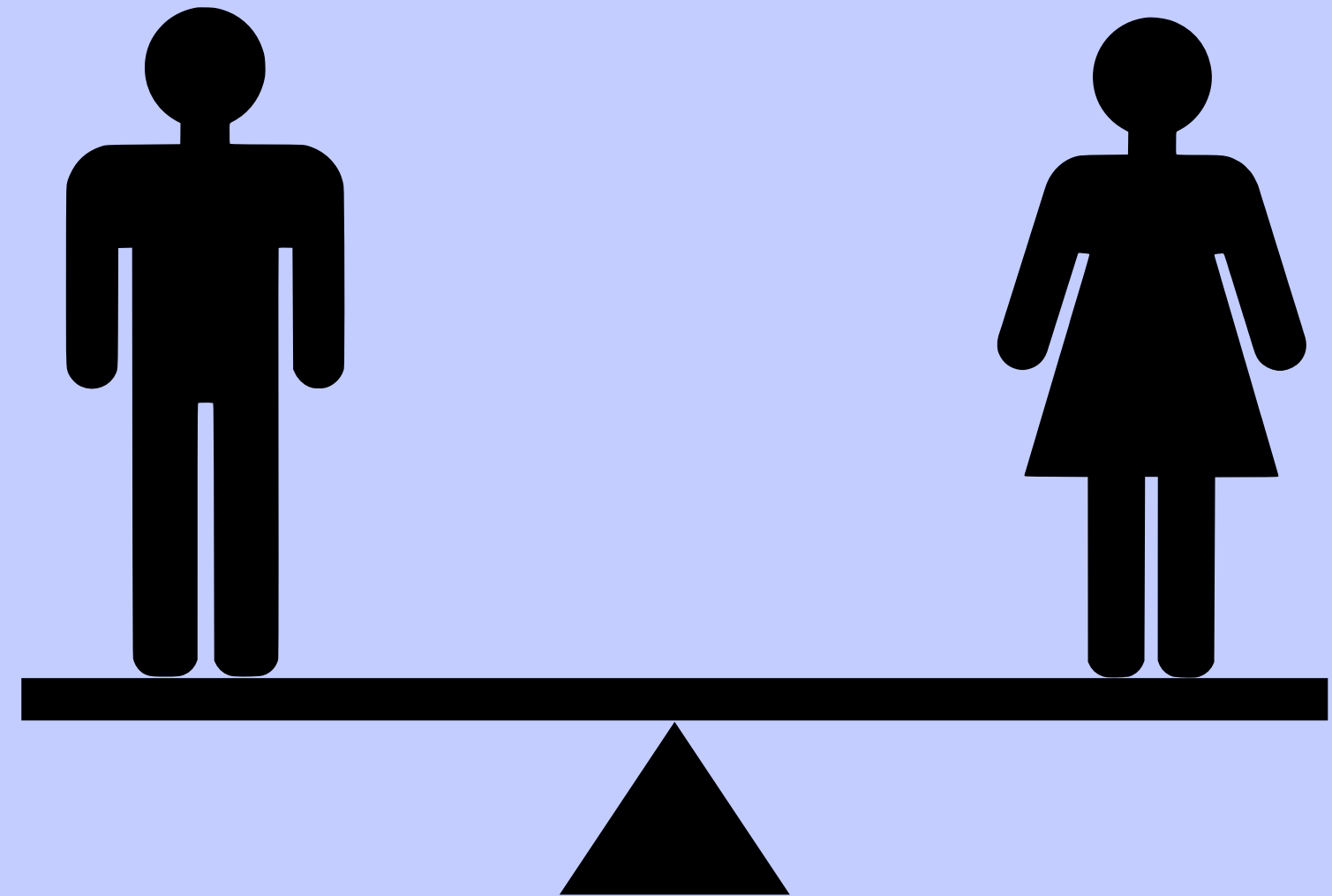


GENDER INEQUALITY

- Not only a problem of the UNSC: in Italy being a **female diplomatic** was not allowed until 1963
- From 1990 to 2022 only the 8% of the UN **Permanent Representatives** were women
- Between 1995 and 2019 women constituted only 13% of **negotiators**, 6% of **mediators** and 6% of **signatories** in *major peace processes*



- Several UNSC member **states still lack of national legislations** granting gender equality
- **Prejudices** related to the idea that UNSC's role to solve conflicts and military intervention is **better handled by men**



BUDGET

Funding Mechanism: The UNSC relies on the broader UN budget, which is funded by member states based on their economic capacity. A small number of countries (like the **USA, China, and Japan**) contribute the majority of the funding. This creates **financial dependency** and potential influence by large contributors.

Peacekeeping Costs: A major portion of the UNSC's budget is directed towards peacekeeping missions. These **operations are expensive**, with budgets running into billions of dollars annually. Some countries argue that the financial burden is unevenly shared, with developing nations bearing a significant share of troop contributions while wealthier countries foot the bill.



BUDGET

Delays in Payments: Many member states delay or fail to make their contributions, leading to budget shortfalls and delays in funding critical missions. This hampers the Council's ability to respond quickly to emerging crises.

Budget Prioritization: There are debates within the UNSC over **how funds should be allocated**, with some countries advocating for more resources for conflict prevention, while others focus on peacekeeping and post-conflict reconstruction. These disagreements can slow decision-making and affect the efficiency of the UNSC.

SOLUTIONS

Establish an Independent UNSC Budget: A dedicated budget for the UNSC could be created to allow more autonomy in managing peace and security operations without depending on the broader UN budget.

Increase Contributions from Emerging Economies: Adjust the funding formula to better reflect the growth of emerging economies, allowing them to contribute more and reduce dependency on a small number of major powers.



SOLUTIONS

Penalties for Late Payments: Introduce financial penalties or limitations on certain privileges for countries that repeatedly delay payments.

Early Payment Incentives: Offer financial or diplomatic incentives for member states that consistently pay on time or make early payments.

Establish Clear Funding Guidelines: Create a consensus-based, predefined framework that allocates a specific percentage of the budget to conflict prevention, peacekeeping, and post-conflict efforts, to minimize disputes.

Strengthen Coordination: Form a specialized financial task force within the UNSC to oversee budget prioritization and ensure that all areas receive appropriate attention based on current global security needs.

RELATIONSHIP WITH THE OTHER ORGANS



UN Security Council holds a unique position of authority but works in tandem with other organs to fulfill the UN's broader mission.

- It holds primary responsibility for maintaining peace and security but depends on collaboration with other UN organs like the General Assembly, International Court of Justice, Economic and Social Council, and the Secretariat.
- Each organ has distinct functions, but cooperation is vital for addressing complex global challenges.

CONCLUSION

The Security Council, despite its imperfections, has demonstrated a certain capacity to adapt to successive crises. It has evolved and adjusted to new threats such as international terrorism, cyberattacks, and also the Covid-19 pandemic. However, the war in Ukraine has highlighted the weaknesses of the Security Council in the face of aggression by a permanent member. The use of the veto has paralyzed the organization and undermined the collective security system.



Therefore, to ensure its longevity, it must continue to reform and strengthen its partnerships with other international and regional organizations, as its reform, both in terms of composition and procedures, appears necessary to enable it to better address the challenges of the 21st century.



ECOSOC
United Nations

The Economic and Social Council

The United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) is one of the six principal organs of the United Nations.

It was established in 1945 under the UN Charter and the first meeting was held in 1946 with Sir Ramaswami Mudaliar from India serving as its first President.

The Economic and Social Council



goal:

- facilitate international cooperation on economic and social issue
- formulate policy recommendations, and coordinate the efforts of specialized agencies and commissions



Composition and Membership

 **54** members

The icon consists of a grid of 54 small black dots arranged in a pattern that roughly forms the shape of the number 54.

Seats on the Council are allotted based on **geographical representation**: According to the **art. 67** each member of the ECOSOC has **one vote**.

The President of the ECOSOC is elected for **one year term**.

The presidency rotates among the **five regional groups** of the United Nations to ensure equitable geographic representation.

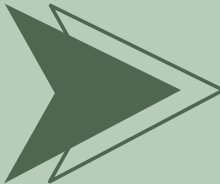
Composition and Membership



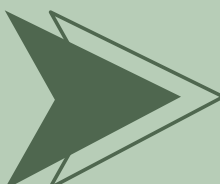
The **Bureau** of the ECOSOC is elected by the council at large in July. Its main functions are:

- to propose the agenda
- to draw up a programme of work
- to organize the session with the support of the Un Secretariat.

Voting procedures and Decision-Making



Voting in ECOSOC is typically conducted by **simple majority**: more than half of the members present and voting must agree for a resolution or decision to pass.



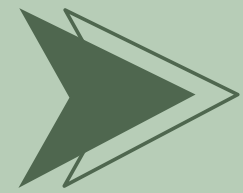
The key aspect of this process is the **efficiency** with which the decisions are taken:

- each country have an equal say
- votes turn into concrete action

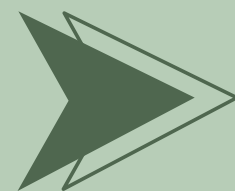
Role of ECOSOC in Sustainable Development



Some examples:



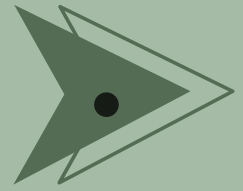
On the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development:
the establishment of frameworks to monitor
countries' progress on the Sustainable Development
Goals.



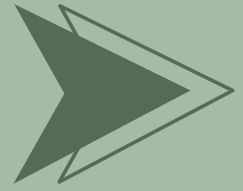
ECOSOC' s role in addressing the global digital divide:
initiatives aimed at improving digital infrastructure in
developing nations.



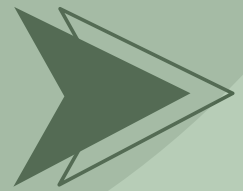
Interaction with UN General Assembly



ECOSOC's mandate shaped by General Assembly resolutions.



Annual reports to GA, focusing on sustainable development, human rights, financial systems.



Joint meetings and collaboration with GA's Second Committee.

Interaction with UN Security Council

- Cooperation in peacebuilding, conflict resolution.
- Socioeconomic factors influencing Security Council decisions.
- Data from ECOSOC agencies supports peacekeeping and rebuilding strategies.

ECOSOC's Role and Interaction with NGOs



- ECOSOC is a platform for global discussions on **social, cultural, and economic** issues.
- NGOs cannot directly participate but can **gain consultative status** with ECOSOC (over 5,000 NGOs have this status).

Criteria for NGO

consultative status include:

1. ***Recognized*** standing in their field.
2. ***Established*** headquarters and transparent ***funding***.
3. A democratic ***constitution*** and policy ***organs***.
4. NGOs in consultative status can ***attend ECOSOC meetings*** and ***propose agenda items***, though this is rarely practiced.

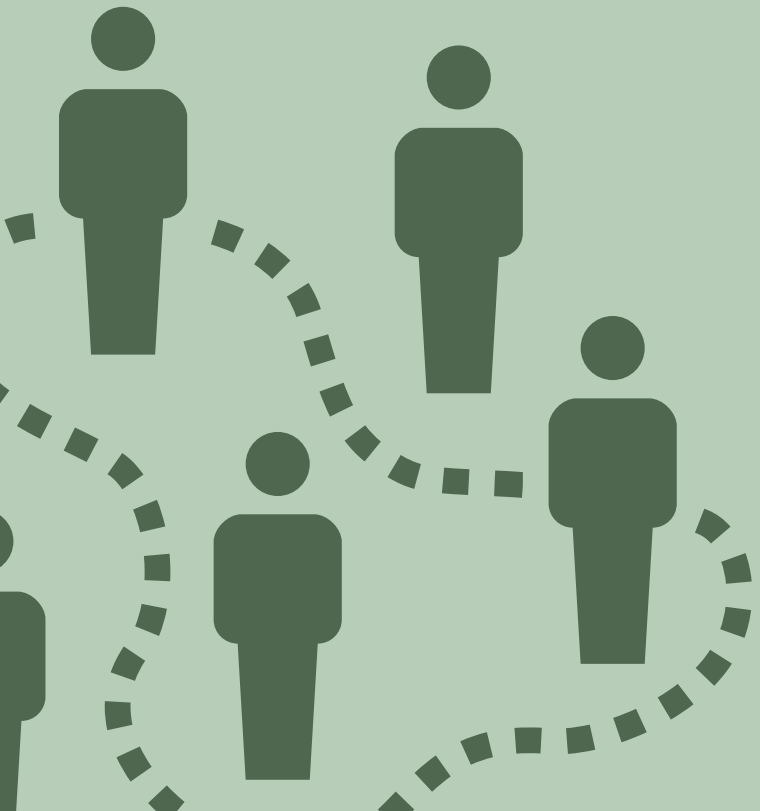
Specialized Agencies and ECOSOC



- ECOSOC has relationship agreements with specialized agencies like UNESCO, FAO, and IMF.
- These agencies are independent but coordinate policies with ECOSOC.

Participation Rights for specialized agencies:

- Attend meetings, speak, submit proposals (but cannot vote).
- Agencies are independent of the UN Secretariat and General Assembly but collaborate under ECOSOC's coordination role.
- Proposals from specialized agencies are rare in recent years.



The role of EcoSoC in the UN system

Promotes policy coherence by aligning the work of special agencies

- tracking progress through HLPF

Allows the formal relation between the UN and non-state actors

- EcoSoC as the only UN body allowing it

Pivotal role in coordinating response to crises

- together with **OCHA**

Advises the UN General Assembly

- manages a wide range of issues;
- helps shaping the UN's global agenda

Supports countries in implementing sustainable developing projects

- especially developing nations;
- leverages resources from across the UN system



**United
Nations**





**United
Nations**

Trusteeship Council



1.

Definition and Historical Function

The Trusteeship Council:

- was established in 1945 under Chapter XII of the UN Charter
- inactive since 1994, when Palau became independent
- supervised the eleven Trust Territories in their way to self-government

11 Trust Territories?

Under Article 77 of the Charter, the International Trusteeship System applied to:

- **territories held under mandates** established by the League of Nations after the First World War;
- **territories detached from "enemy States"** as a result of the Second World War; and
- **territories voluntarily placed under the System** by States responsible for their administration.

Located especially in Africa and in the Pacific

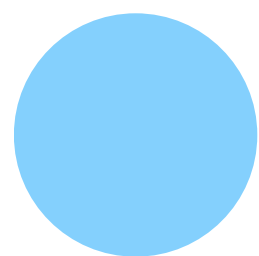


United
Nations

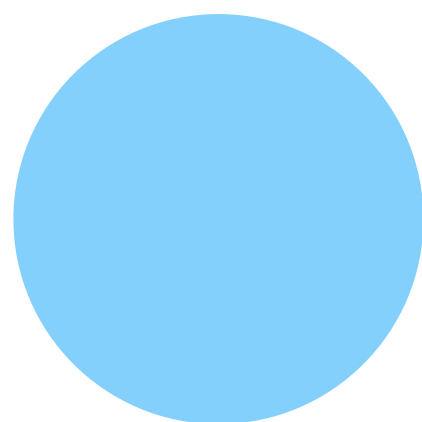
Trusteeship
Council

2. Objectives:

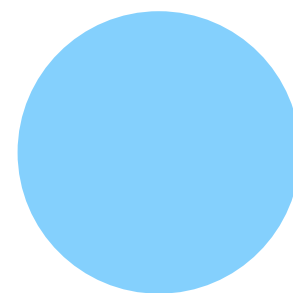
According to Art. 76



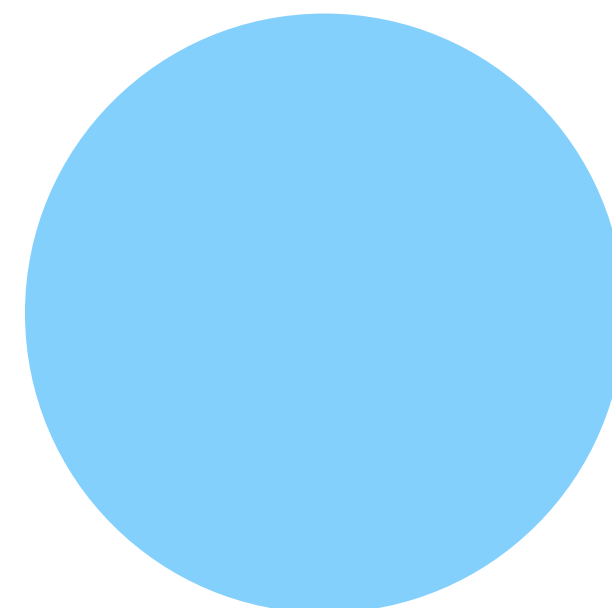
Peace and
Security



Advancement
and
Development



Indiscriminate
respect for
human rights
and freedom



Equal
treatment



3. Functions and Powers

Article 87:

- ***Review reports*** from the administering authority.
- ***Accept and examine petitions*** in consultation with the administering authority.
- ***Arrange periodic visits*** to trust territories with agreement from the administering authority.
- ***Take actions*** as per the trusteeship agreements.

Article 88:

- ***Trusteeship Council*** creates a questionnaire on each trust territory's progress.
- ***Administering authorities*** submit annual reports to the General Assembly based on it.



4. Composition



Members
administering trust
territories



Members named in
Article 23
not administering
trust territories



Additional members
elected by the
General Assembly



Each member
appoints one
qualified
representative



5. VOTING

Article 89

1. **Each member** of the Trusteeship Council **has one vote**.
2. Decisions of the Trusteeship Council shall be made by a **majority** of the members present and voting

6. PROCEDURE

Article 90

1. The Trusteeship Council shall adopt **its own rules of procedure**, including the method of selecting its president.
 2. The Trusteeship Council shall meet as required in accordance with its rules, which shall include provision for the convening of meetings on the request of a majority of its members.
-



**United
Nations**

**Trusteeship
Council**

FUTURE PROSPECTS

**QN. Will this council continue to exist?
What will be its functions in the present?**



United Nations

The International Court of Justice

September 23, 2024



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Introduction



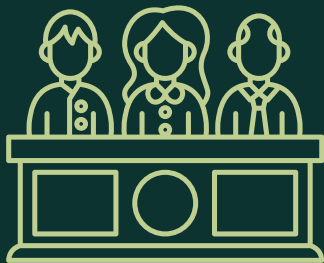
History and Establishment



Structure and Composition



Jurisdiction



Key Cases



Challenges and Limits

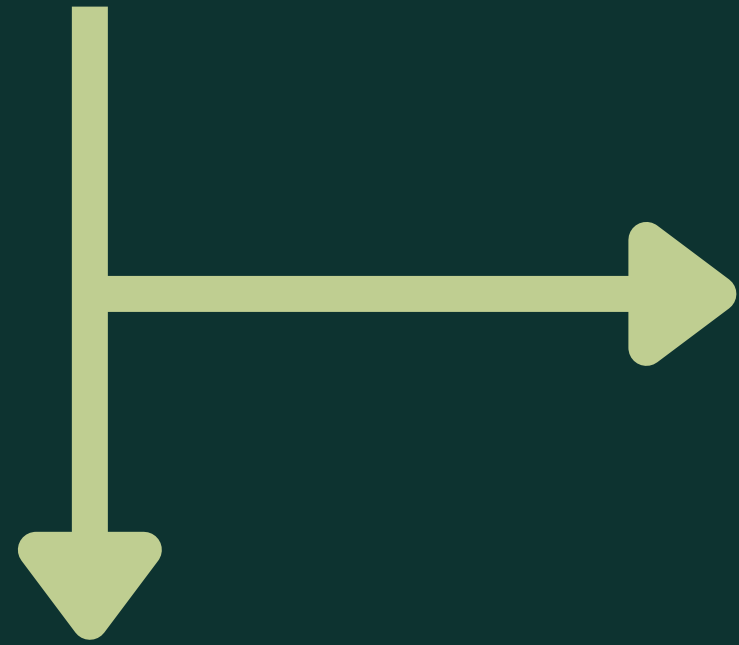




INTRODUCTION

A brief overview:

The International Court of Justice is one of the main UN organs and it is located in The Hague, Netherlands.



It is the United Nations' chief judicial body also known as the World Court.

- Resolves legal disputes between states and provides advisory opinions to numerous international entities.
- Its official languages are English and French.





HISTORY AND ESTABLISHMENT


When was it established?

The ICJ was established at the San Francisco Conference in 1945, and it started functioning in 1946.

By joining the UN, each country binds itself, in the words of the Charter, "to comply with the decision of the International Court of Justice in any case to which it is a party".

Was there another International Court before the ICJ?

Before the ICJ, the Permanent Court of Arbitration was established in 1899. Later, the League of Nations founded the Permanent Court of International Justice (PCIJ) in 1921, which was active until 1939.



STRUCTURE AND COMPOSITION

1. Structure

- Plenary Court
- Ad hoc chambers (Art. 26, paragraph 1)
- Chambers of Summary Procedures
- Chambers (Art. 26, paragraph 2)

2. Composition and Election

- **15 judges** elected to nine-year terms by the United Nation General Assembly and the Security Council.
- Candidates are proposed by group of the members of the Permanent Court of Arbitration



separate votation (necessary
absolute majority in both bodies)
 $\frac{1}{3}$ of the Court is elected every three
years.



ICJ'S JURISDICTION

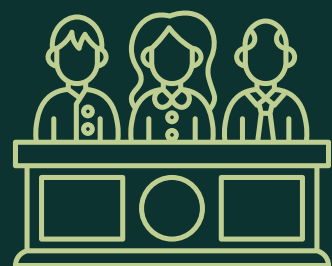
*The International Court of Justice's jurisdiction is **twofold**:*

Jurisdiction in contentious cases

- An international legal dispute can be defined as a **disagreement on a question of law** or fact, a conflict, or a clash of legal views or interests.
- **Only States** may apply to and appear before the ICJ (art. 35 of the Statute defines in which conditions).
- The Court can only deal with a dispute when the States concerned **have recognized its jurisdiction**.

Advisory jurisdiction

- The advisory procedure, is available to international organizations and **to them alone**.
- The Court's advisory opinions are not binding. The requesting organ, agency or organization remains free to decide, as it sees fit, what effect to give to these opinions.
- The Court's advisory opinions nevertheless carry great legal weight and moral authority.



ICJ'S JURISDICTION - KEY CASES

Key case 1: Contentious case

Nicaragua v. United States (1986)

- Nicaragua accused the U.S. of unlawful intervention.
- ICJ ruled against the U.S., reinforcing non-intervention principles.

Key case 2: Advisory opinion

Legal Consequences Arising from Israel's Policies and Practices in the Occupied Palestinian Territories, including East Jerusalem (2024)

- It is one of the most recent and significant issued by the ICJ.



CHALLENGES AND LIMITS OF THE ICJ

Jurisdictional Limitations

The Court can only hear cases when both parties have explicitly agreed to its jurisdiction: states may choose not to submit to its authority

State Sovereignty

States are often reluctant to cede authority to international bodies,

Perception of Bias

ICJ may be influenced by the geopolitical interests of powerful states, particularly the permanent members of the UN Security Council.

Enforcement of Judgments

Limited Scope of Jurisdiction

Complexity of Multilateral Disputes

We know the problem, we have a solution, why not just fix it?

SOURCES

- <https://news.un.org/en/story/2024/01/145392%C2%A0>
- <https://www.icj-cij.org/history%C2%A0>
- <https://www.britannica.com/topic/International-Court-of-Justice%C2%A0>
- <https://www.icj-cij.org/index.php/chambers-and-committees>
- <https://www.icj-cij.org/basis-of-jurisdiction>


The background of the slide features a photograph of the United Nations Secretariat building in New York City. A series of flags from various member states are flying in front of the building. A large, light blue diagonal graphic element covers the left side of the image, serving as a backdrop for the title text.

THE UNITED NATION SECRETARIAT

Ensuring Global Peace and Coordination Since 1945

INTRODUCTION TO THE UN SECRETARIAT

- The UN Secretariat is the administrative organ of the United Nations, responsible for carrying out the day-to-day work of the organization.
- It serves all other principal organs of the UN, including the General Assembly, Security Council, Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), and others.
- The Secretariat is headed by the Secretary-General, who is appointed by the General Assembly upon the recommendation of the Security Council.

- 
- The UN Secretariat was established in 1945 with the adoption of the United Nations Charter.
 - It was created to provide the necessary administrative and logistical support to the UN's work, ensuring the efficient functioning of all its operations.

**WHEN AND
WHY WAS IT
CREATED?**

- **Article 7 of the UN Charter:** The Secretariat is one of the six principal organs of the United Nations.
- **Chapter XV of the UN Charter (Articles 97-101):** Specifically outlines the functions and structure of the Secretariat, emphasizing its role in promoting international peace and security, cooperation, and human rights.

ROLE AND FUNCTIONS

Key Role: The Secretariat implements the policies and decisions made by the UN's principal organs and supports UN missions worldwide.

- **Functions:**
 - Administrative coordination of UN peacekeeping missions, humanitarian work, international conferences, and specialized agencies.
 - Preparing reports, studies, and policy suggestions for the General Assembly and Security Council.
 - Handling communications between member states and providing information to the global public on UN initiatives.

COMPOSITION



SECRETARY GENERAL



**DEPARTMENTS AND
OFFICES**



STAFF

SECRETARY GENERAL



The highest official of the UN, responsible for overseeing the Secretariat's operations, and acting as the spokesperson and leader of the UN. The current Secretary-General is António Guterres (since 2017).

The role involves administrative duties, diplomacy, and facilitating dialogue among member states.

OFFICIES AND DEPARTMENTS



DEPARTMENT OF GLOBAL
COMMUNICATIONS



DEPARTMENT OF
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL
AFFAIRS



DEPARTMENT OF
PEACE
OPERATIONS



OFFICE FOR THE
COORDINATION OF
HUMANITARIAN
AFFAIRS



OFFICE OF THE HIGH
COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN
RIGHTS



OFFICE OF LEGAL
AFFAIRS



DEPARTMENT OF PEACE
OPERATIONS



INTERACTIONS BETWEEN UN BODIES

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The Secretary-General reports on key issues, implement General Assembly resolutions, and presents reports requested by the GA

SECURITY COUNCIL

The Secretariat provides reports, insights, and logistical support for missions authorized by the Security Council.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

The Secretariat provides expertise, data, and administrative support for ECOSOC's work on sustainable development, economic cooperation, and human rights.

INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE

The Secretary-General may bring matters to the ICJ for advisory opinions or coordinate compliance with ICJ rulings among member states.

INTERACTION WITH THE OTHER UN BODIES

The **UN Secretariat** acts as the backbone of the UN, providing logistical, operational, and technical support to all the other UN bodies.

It ensures that decisions taken by those bodies are implemented on the ground and supports diplomacy, peacekeeping, and international cooperation efforts.

VOTING PROCEDURES IN THE UN SECRETARIAT

PRIMARY FOCUS:

Mainly **administrative** and **budgetary decisions**.

ROLE:

The Secretariat does not vote like the General Assembly or Security Council but **supports** their operations.

INTERNAL VOTING:

- **Scope:** Appointments, operational matters.
- **Method:** Internal administrative processes rather than member state voting.

VOTING IN THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY & SECURITY COUNCIL

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

- 193 Member States: Each has one vote.
- Voting Systems:
 - Simple majority for most decisions.
 - Two-thirds majority for important issues (e.g., peace and security).

SECURITY COUNCIL

- More complex voting structure.
- Veto Powers: Held by the 5 permanent members.

[illegible]

P A C T F O R T H E F U T U R E

- Proposed by UN Secretary-General António Guterres - “We recognize that the multilateral system and its institutions, with the
- United Nations and its Charter at the centre, must be strengthened to keep pace with a changing world”

5 main areas of focus:

1. Sustainable development and financing for development

- ACTION 4. We will close the Sustainable Development Goal financing gap in developing countries.

2. International peace and security -

- ACTION 13. We will redouble our efforts to build and sustain peaceful, inclusive and just societies and address the root causes of conflicts. We will Protect all civilians in armed conflicts.
- ACTION 17. We will fulfil our obligation to comply with the decisions and uphold the mandate of the International Court of Justice in any case to which our State is a party.

3. Science, technology and innovation and digital cooperation (in particular A.I. regulation)

- ACTION 28. We will seize the opportunities presented by science, technology and innovation for the benefit of people and planet.
- ACTION 32. We will protect, build on and complement Indigenous, traditional and local knowledge.

4. Youth and future generations

- ACTION 35. We will promote, protect and respect the human rights of all young people and foster social inclusion and integration.

5. Transforming global governance (in particular the UN **Security Council Reforms**)

- ACTION 39. We will reform the Security Council, recognizing the urgent need to make it more representative, inclusive, transparent, efficient, effective, democratic and accountable.
 - *(a) Redress the historical injustice against Africa as a priority and, while treating Africa as a special case, improve the representation of the underrepresented and unrepresented regions and groups, such as Asia Pacific and Latin America and the Caribbean;*
 - *(f) The working methods should ensure the inclusive, transparent, efficient, effective, democratic and accountable functioning of an enlarged Council;*
 - *(g) The question of the veto is a key element of Security Council reform. We will intensify efforts to reach an agreement on the future of the veto, including discussions on limiting its scope and use;*