United Nations Organisation (UNO)

The United Nations (UN) is a world organisation formed on 24th October, 1945. It came into existence after World War II, when the leaders of the world, including American President Roosevelt and British Prime Minister Churchill, decided to create a world organisation that would help to ensure peace.

The original membership of 51 nations has grown to 193 members. The 193rd member being the newly created South Sudan. The United Nations Headquarters is in New York City. The UN also has offices in Nairobi (Kenya), Geneva (Switzerland) and Vienna (Austria).

The General Assembly is the main place for discussions and policy making in the United Nations.

The Security Council has primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security. The Security Council is made up of 15 members.

There are five permanent members of the Security Council-China, France, Russia, United Kingdom and USA and 10 non-permanent members elected for 2 year terms starting on 1st January.

Economic and Social Council is the principal body for coordination, policy review, policy dialogue and recommendations on economic, social and environmental issues. The secretariat comprises the Secretary-General and other staff who carry out day-to-day work of the U.N.

The International Court of Justice (ICJ), located in the Hague, Netherlands, is the primary judicial organ of the United Nations, established in 1945 by the United Nations Charter, the Court began work in 1946, as the successor to the Permanent Court of International Justice.

Trygve Lie of Norway (1946-52) was the first Secretary-General of the UN.

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Antonio Guterres is the new SecretaryGeneral of the UN. He succeeded Ban ki-Moon.

Some Important UN Agencies

Name	Estd in	Headquarter	Purpose
International Telecommunication Union (ITU)	1865	Geneva	Sets international regulations for radio telegraph, telephone and space radio communications.
International Labour Organisation (ILO)	1919	Geneva	To improve conditions and living standards of workers.
International Monetary Fund (IMF)	1945	Washington DC	Promotes international monetary cooperation.
United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF)	1945	New York	To promote children's welfare all over the world.
Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO)	1945	Rome	To improve living conditions of the rural population.
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO)	1946	Paris	To promote collaboration among nations through education, science and culture.
World Health Organisation (WHO)	1948	Geneva	Attainment of the highest possible level of health by all people.
International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)	1957	Vienna	To promote peaceful uses of atomic energy.
International Development Association (IDA)	1960	Washington DC	An affiliate of the World Bank, aims to help under-developed countries raise living standards.
United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)	1965	New York	Helps developing countries increase the wealth producing capabilities of their natural and human resources.
United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP)	1972	Nairobi (Kenya)	Promotes international cooperation in the human environment.
World Trade	1995	Geneva	Setting rules for world trade to

Organisation (WTO)			reduce tariffs.
United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)	1997	Vienna (Kenya)	To prevent illicit trafficking and abuse of drug, crime prevention
UN Women	2010	New York City (USA)	To enable member states to achieve gen den equality and women empowerment.
World Food Programme	1961	Rome	To eradicate hunger and malnutrition.
Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)	1961	Paris (France)	To stimulate economic progress and world trade.

Other International Organisations and Groups

Name	Estd	Headquarter	Objective
The Commonwealth	1926	London	It was originally known as 'The British Commonwealth of Nations'. It is an association of sovereign and independent states which formally made up the British empire.
Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC)	1989	Singapore	To promote trade and investment in the Pacific basin.
Asian Development Bank (ADB)	1966	Manila	To promote regional economic cooperation
Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN)	1967	Jakarta	Regional, economic, social and cultural cooperation among the non-communist countries of South-East Asia.
Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS)	1991	Minsk (Belarus)	To coordinate inter-common wealth relations and to provide a mechanism for the orderly dissolution of the USSR
Group of 7 (G-7)	1975	—	To promote cooperation among major non-communist economic powers.
Group of 15 (G-15)	1989	Geneva (Switzerland)	To promote economic cooperation among developing nations.

International Olympic Committee (IOC)	1894	Lausanne (Switzerland)	To promote the olympic ideals and administer olympic games
International Organisation for Standardisation (ISO)	1947	Geneva (Switzerland)	To promote the development of international standards.
Non-Aligned Movement (NAM)	1961	—	Political cooperation and separate itself from both USA and USSR (in the cold-war era)
European Union	1993	Brussels (Belgium)	To create a united Europe in which member countries would have such strong economic and political bonds that war would cease to be a recurring fact.
North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO)	1949	Brussels (Belgium)	Mutual defence and cooperation.
Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC)	1960	Vienna (Austria)	Attempts to set world prices by controlling oil production and also pursues member interest in trade and development.
South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC)	1985	Kathmandu (Nepal)	To promote economic, social and cultural cooperation.
Amnesty International (AI)	1961	London (UK)	To keep a watch over human rights violations worldwide. Got Nobel Prize in 1977 for Peace
World Wildlife Fund (WWF) for Nature	1961	Gland, (Switzerland)	To save the wildlife from extinction
Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (Previously Shanghai Five)	1996	Beijing (China)	Strengthen relation and cooperation among members in diverse fields like Security, Economic, culture etc.
Gulf Cooperation Council	1981	Riyadh (Saudi Arabia)	Cooperation among states bordering the Persian Gulf is located near the Arabian Peninsula.
Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation	1997	Dhaka (Bangladesh)	Multi-sectoral cooperation among members of Bay of Bengal region.