UN

“It’s Your World”

MMSC
“In an age of global inequities...and multiple security threats, the United Nations is the only universal institution that can deal with the twin imperatives for peace and development in an integrated manner.”

~ Necla Tschirgi
Overview

- Purpose
- Perspective
- History
- Locations
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- Funding
- Structure
UN Purpose

- Forum for constructive dialogue among nations:
  - to maintain international peace and security;
  - to develop friendly relations among nations;
  - to cooperate in solving international economic, social, cultural and humanitarian problems and in promoting respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms; and
  - to be a center for harmonizing the actions of nations in attaining these ends.
UN Perspective

- The analytic approach that specific events that occur can be described and explained according to three levels:
  - Individual – explanations are derived from the personality, perceptions, choices, and activities of individual decision-makers;
  - State – explanations are derived from the characteristics of the governmental system, economic conditions, interest group, or national interests; and
  - International – explanations are derived from alliances made, intergovernmental organizations, multinational corporations, or international norms or rules.
UN History

- Coined by Winston Churchill and Franklin Roosevelt in the 1942 Declaration by United Nations during the Allied versus Axis Powers wartime
- Successor to League of Nations, which had been considered ineffective as an international governing body
- Charter signed June 26, 1945 by 50 representative nations
- Charter ratified October 24, 1945 by 5 leading and permanent nations
UN Locations

- Manhattan, New York City, New York, United States, is the main headquarters (considered international territory) for the Secretariat, Economic and Social Council, Trusteeship Council, and the Security Council.

- Hague, Netherlands, is the headquarters for the International Court of Justice.

- Geneva, Vienna, and Nairobi are the bases for other related agencies and offices.
UN Membership

- Consists of 192 member states:
  - 1945 – Members 1 to 51
  - 1946 to 1960 – Members 52 to 99
  - 1961 to 1970 – Members 100 to 127
  - 1971 to 1980 – Members 128 to 154
  - 1981 to 1990 – Members 155 to 159
  - 1991 to 2000 – Members 160 to 189
  - 2001 to Present – Members 190 to 192
UN Funding

- Bi-annual budget
- Current operating budget is estimated at $4.19 billion
- Special programs and missions are not included as part of regular budget
- Financed from assessed and voluntary contributions from member states
- Ceiling rate maximum of 22% (used to be 25%)
- Major contributors include:
  - United States 22.00%
  - Japan, 16.624%
  - Germany, 8.577%
  - United Kingdom 6.642%
  - France 6.301%
  - Italy 5.079%
  - Canada 2.977%
  - China 2.667%
  - Spain 2.968%
  - Mexico 2.257%
  - All others 23.908%
UN Structure

The UN consists of 6 administrative bodies:

- Secretariat
- General Assembly
- Economic and Social Council
- Trusteeship Council
- International Court of Justice
- Security Council
UN Structure

- Secretariat – Chapter XV
  - Services and administers the programs and policies laid down by other organs
  - Administers peacekeeping operations, mediates international disputes, surveys economic and social trends and problems, and prepares studies on human rights and sustainable development
  - Comprised of a secretary-general and civil servants
    - Elected by the General Assembly for a five-year term
UN Structure

Secretariat – Chapter XV

- Secretary General serves as a world moderator and chief administrative officer
- Selection typically comes from compromise-candidates from member states that are middle powers and with little prior fame
- Nominated by the Security Council and approved by the General Assembly
- Selection is subject to the veto of any of the five permanent members of the Security Council.
UN Structure

- Secretariat – Chapter XV
  - Listing of Secretary Generals
    - 1946-1952: Trygve Lie (Norway)
    - 1953-1961: Dag Hammarskjold (Sweden)
    - 1961-1972: U Thant (Burma)
    - 1972-1982: Kurt Waldheim (Austria)
    - 1982-1992: Javier Perez de Cuellar (Peru)
    - 1997-2007: Kofi Annan (Ghana)
    - 2007-Present: Ban Ki-moon (South Korea)
UN Structure

- General Assembly – Chapter IV
  - Occupies central position as the chief deliberative, policy-making, and representative organ
  - Oversees the budget, appoints non-permanent members to the Security Council, receives reports from other organs, and makes recommendations for resolutions
  - Comprised of 192 member states
    - Equal representation by all
UN Structure

- Economic and Social Council – Chapter X
  - Provides policy coherence and coordinates the overlapping functions of subsidiary bodies
  - Coordinates economic, social, and related work of the specialized agencies, functional commissions, and regional commission, and receives reports from other related funds and programs
  - Comprised of 54 members states
    - Elected by the General Assembly for a three-year term
UN Structure

- Trusteeship Council – Chapter XIII
  - Established to ensure that non-self-governing territories were administered in the best interests of the inhabitants and of international peace and security
  - Most of them former mandates or territories taken from nations defeated have all now attained self-government or independence
  - With its mission fulfilled, it suspended its operation in 1994 although it continues to exist on paper, its future role and even existence remains uncertain
UN Structure

- International Court of Justice – Chapter XIV
  - Serves as primary judicial organ
  - Adjudicates disputes among nations
  - Cases typically revolve around war crimes, illegal state interference, and ethnic cleansing
  - Settles legal disputes submitted to it by member states and gives advisory opinions on legal questions submitted to it by duly authorized international organs, agencies, and organs
  - Comprised of 15 judges
    - Elected by General Assembly for nine-year terms
UN Structure

- Security Council – Chapters V, VI, VII, and VIII
  - Charged with “the maintenance of international peace and security”
  - Decides on “the fate of governments, establish peacekeeping missions, create tribunals to try persons accused of war crimes, and in extreme cases declare a nation to be fare game for corrective action by other member states”
  - Exercises legislative powers from existing international law or by creating binding resolutions from
  - Mandates actions which may include peace talks, summit meetings, mediations, and negotiations
UN Structure

Security Council – Chapter V

Comprised of 15 member states:

- **P-5**: permanent seats (major powers)
- **E-10**: elected rotational seats (geographically represented – 3 African, 2 Latin American, 1 Arab, 1 Asian, 1 Eastern European and 2 Western European)

- Elected by the General Assembly for a two-year term