

The Organization of the UN



Basics of the United Nations

- Established in October 1945
 - Goals to promote world peace and prevent conflict
- Operations overseen by Secretary-General
- UN provides forum for countries to voice opinions
- The UN can not makes laws for countries
 - Establishes International Law, which individual states must then put in place
- Mission of UN outlined the Three Pillars of its mission in its Charter
 - Peace and Security
 - Development
 - Human Rights



The Three Pillars of the UN: Peace and Security

- The United Nations works to resolve conflicts between states in a peaceful manner and works against the forces that create instability
 - Economic and social threats, including poverty, infectious diseases and environmental degradation
 - Inter-State conflict
 - Internal conflict, including civil war, genocide and other large -scale atrocities
 - Nuclear, radiological, chemical and biological weapons
 - Terrorism
 - Transnational organized crime
- UN also makes sure states uphold obligations from treaties and other international agreements



The Three Pillars of the UN: Development

- The UN helps countries achieve Sustainable Development
 - Development that promotes prosperity and economic opportunity, greater social well-being, and protection of the environment
 - Regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, language, religion, or sexual identity
 - Recognizes that all must have equal access to resources and rights in order to promote growth



The Three Pillars of the UN: Human Rights

- The UN Charter affirms the **“faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person, in the equal rights of men and women and of nations large and small.”**
 - Accepted in 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights
 - Acknowledges the unalienable rights of all individuals as the foundations of freedom
 - Promotes development of economic, social and cultural rights



Membership to the United Nations

- Currently there are 193 members in the UN
- Membership Requirements
 - “is open to all peace-loving States that accept the obligations contained in the United Nations Charter and, in the judgment of the Organization, are able to carry out these obligations”
- Membership Process
 - Submit an Application and a Letter to the Secretary-General
 - Security Council considers application
 - Must be approved by 9 or 15 members (including all 5 permanent members)
 - Vote is passed on to General Assembly who must vote 2/3 in favor of admission
 - Membership date accepted the day the resolution passes the General Assembly
- Possible to have non-member observing states
 - Holy See and Palestine

The General Assembly

- Comprised of 193 members
 - Each member gets one vote
- Operates on a majority vote for most issues
 - 2/3 vote needed for budget, peacekeeping, and membership issues
- Powers of General Assembly
 - Makes recommendations to Security Council
 - Over see international collaboration in the economic, social, humanitarian, cultural, and educational and health fields
 - Develops international laws
 - Receives and considers decisions on issues



The Security Council

- 15 member council
 - 5 permanent members
- Primarily responsible for maintaining peace and security
 - Attempts to secure peace through:
 - Negotiating Ceasefires
 - Sending Peacekeepers
 - Imposing Sanctions or Embargos
- Also makes recommendations for new Secretary General and new member states



Organizations of the UN

- Economic and Social Council
 - ECOSOC sets UN development goals and crafts UN policy on economic, social, and environmental topics
- The International Court of Justice
 - The ICJ decides questions of international law and adjudicates disputes between member states. The Court has 15 judges, elected to nine-year terms, and sits in The Hague

