INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATION

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INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATION

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UNIT–I

Lesson 1.1 - Nature and Evolution of International Organisations

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Structure

1.1. Introduction

International organisations serve as vital mechanisms for facilitating cooperation among nations. The Central Commission for the Navigation of the Rhine, the first international organisation was formed in 1816 after the Congress of Vienna. Later which the world politics witnessed formation of numerous numbers of international organisations. They started having varied functions including addressing transnational challenges, and promoting peace, security, science and culture, development and economic security. From humanitarian aid to economic regulation, these organisations play diverse roles pervading international life.

Due to the pervasiveness of the international organisations, there are different approaches to studying them. Despite of the multitude studies done in this field, there are still questions regarding their formation, operation, and efficacy. As political science students, you can make attempts on understanding the nature, power, functions and efficiency of international organisations from the various theoretical perspectives such as realism, liberalism, Marxism and constructivist approaches. The

study of international organizations and their evolution is crucial for understanding the complexities of global governance and the dynamics of international relations. In this chapter, we set to explore the nature, scope, and significance of international organizations. Firstly, we would be differentiating between governmental and non-governmental international organisations as well as learn what role they play in shaping the world order.

The purpose of this chapter is to enlighten you on the nature of the international organisations and how the global affairs are conducted in the contemporary world. This unit would also be delving into the evolution of international organisations. Tracing back to the origins from the diplomatic conferences of the Congress of Vienna to the League of Nations. This historical narrative illuminates the gradual progression of international cooperation and the evolving mechanisms designed to maintain peace and stability in an ever-changing world.

This unit would be addressing the key causes for the failure of League of Nations and how it reminds of the challenges inherent in international affairs. Through the example of League of Nations, the chapter aims to give valuable insights into the complexities of international institutions and its limitations.

While the first unit is going to give you a broad overview of international organisations in international politics, as we navigate through the chapters that follow, we will analyse the functions, structure, and challenges faced by specific international organisation. Moreover, we will explore the imperative for international cooperation and the role of multilateralism in addressing pressing global issues, from climate change to a pandemic such as COVID-19.

In essence, this chapter serves as a foundational exploration into the intricate web of international organizations, setting the stage for a deeper understanding of their evolution and significance in shaping the course of human history.

1.2. Nature, Scope and Importance of International Organisations

1.2.1. Defining International Organisations

International organisations, in a narrow way, can be defined as formal institutions having three or more member states and which has

a permanent secretariat. International organisations are multifaceted entities that serve as platforms for cooperation and coordination among its member states along with the other actors in the international arena. At their core, these organizations represent formal structures established through treaties or agreements, with the primary aim of addressing shared challenges and advancing common interests on a global scale.

While there are many definitions of International Organisation, the simplest way to define an international organisation is an organisation formed by treaty among two or more governments for the purpose of cooperation and conducting frequent interactions in the international arena.

The major characteristic of international organisations is that they would have defined structural organisation, constituent instrument, membership and a permanent secretariat. They are associations of multiple countries coming together for the purpose of achieving some common goals and to address common issues. Such institutions are established through formal agreements among the governments. These agreements, in terms of international relations, are known as international treaties or conventions.

What distinguishes an international organisation from a non-governmental or regional organisation is its characteristics; mainly that of permanence and machinery.

According to Bennett, the characteristics of an international organisation are:

➤ defined and voluntary membership comprising of eligible parties
➤ a permanent organisation that carries specific functions
➤ a foundational instrument outlining the objectives, structure, and methods of operations.
➤ a permanent secretariat facilitating administrative, research, and informational duties.

In contemporary terms, international organisations are also, known as International Intergovernmental Organisations (INGOs). INGOs can be either formal or informal. As mentioned before, they would have a defined structure, generally consisting of Secretariat or Executive Office, governing bodies such as a Council and a General Assembly. Each body has

a specific function to play. The memberships could be extended to states, international non-governmental organisations or regional organisations.

A few examples of international organisations include the United Nations (UN), the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the World Health Organisation (WHO), the World Trade Organisation (WTO) and the World Bank. One must understand that these international organisations may vary in terms of their scope of activities, their level of formality, membership systems, along with others. For instance, while an international organisation such as UN has a broad mandate with huge membership, some others such as the International Whaling Commission has a more specific mandate with limited membership. Similarly, international organisations also differ in their level of power. While World Trade Organisation (WTO) has the power to enforce actions and even impose penalties on its member states, other organisations like the International Olympic Committee (IOC), has limited power to make decisions and it depends upon the voluntary compliance of its member states.

1.2.2. Nature of International Organisations

The nature of international organisations is inherently complex as it must consider the diverse interests, values, and perspectives of their member states and stakeholders. As these organisations are involved in functioning within a dynamic and constantly evolving global landscape, they are characterised by interdependence, power asymmetries, and competing agendas.

The nature of international organisations is different from other organisations formed between governments in various ways. Firstly, unlike others, it is mandated to be established under a treaty which gives it the legal recognition. This treaty is also required to safeguard the sovereignty of the states and to ensure that the operations, recommendations, and cooperation is based on the level of consent rather than through enforcement or compulsion. International organizations must be distinguished from mere groupings of states, such as the G-8 and G-77, which lack formal treaty-based foundations and legal recognition. Also, it is important to note the distinguish between treaties and international organisations. While the latter is founded on a treaty, not all treaties establish formal organisational structures. For instance, the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) functions without establishing an international organisation, relying solely on its signatories for administration and

implementation. Thus, the legal framework is what mainly distinguishes international organisations from other forms of interstate cooperations.

International organizations exhibit a dual nature, serving both as mechanisms for cooperation and platforms for competition among states. While they offer forums for dialogue, negotiation, and collective action, they also reflect the realities of power politics and the pursuit of national interests by their member states.

Moreover, international organizations often face inherent tensions between sovereignty and supranational authority, as states seek to balance their autonomy with the imperative for collective action on global issues. This tension is particularly pronounced in the context of regional organizations like the European Union, where member states cede certain powers to supranational institutions while retaining sovereignty in other domains.

Despite these challenges, international organizations play a crucial role in addressing transnational threats, promoting peace and security, and fostering sustainable development. By providing mechanisms for conflict resolution, humanitarian assistance, and normative guidance, these organizations contribute to the maintenance of a rules-based international order founded on principles of cooperation, mutual respect, and shared responsibility.

1.2.3. Scope and Importance of International Organisations

As mentioned above international organisations differ in their scope of functions. International organizations wield a vast scope of influence across diverse spheres of global governance, spanning from addressing pressing humanitarian crises to facilitating economic cooperation and fostering diplomatic relations. Understanding their significance illuminates the interconnectedness of nations and the imperative for collaborative action on the international stage.

Scope

> **Global Security:** International organizations play a pivotal role in promoting peace and security worldwide by mediating conflicts, deploying peacekeeping missions, and facilitating disarmament efforts. Entities like the United Nations Security Council serve as crucial forums for addressing threats to international peace and security.

Humanitarian Assistance: In times of crises, such as natural disasters or armed conflicts, international organizations provide vital humanitarian aid and relief efforts to affected populations. Organizations like the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) work tirelessly to alleviate suffering and protect the rights of vulnerable groups.

Economic Cooperation: Facilitating global economic cooperation and development is another key function of international organizations. Institutions like the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank foster financial stability, promote sustainable development, and provide assistance to countries in need, particularly in times of economic turmoil.

Environmental Conservation: With the growing threat of climate change and environmental degradation, international organizations play an increasingly vital role in coordinating efforts to address these challenges. Initiatives such as the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) aim to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions and promote sustainable environmental practices on a global scale.

Health and Public Health: International organizations are instrumental in combating global health crises and promoting public health initiatives. Entities like the World Health Organization (WHO) coordinate responses to pandemics, facilitate disease surveillance, and promote access to essential healthcare services, especially in developing regions.

Importance:

Promotion of Peace and Stability: By fostering dialogue and cooperation among nations, international organizations contribute to the maintenance of peace and stability, preventing conflicts and promoting collective security.

Global Governance and Rule of Law: International organizations provide a framework for global governance, facilitating the development of international norms, treaties, and agreements that uphold the rule of law and promote respect for human rights.

Addressing Transnational Challenges: In an increasingly interconnected world, transnational issues such as terrorism,

organized crime, and infectious diseases require coordinated international responses. International organizations serve as platforms for cooperation in addressing these complex challenges.

Capacity Building and Development: Through technical assistance, capacity-building programs, and development initiatives, international organizations help build the institutional and human resource capacities of member states, particularly in developing regions, to promote sustainable development and poverty alleviation.

Advancing Multilateralism: International organizations embody the principles of multilateralism, emphasizing the importance of collective action and cooperation among nations in addressing common challenges and achieving shared goals.

In essence, the scope and importance of international organizations underscore their indispensable role in shaping the contemporary global landscape, promoting cooperation, and advancing the collective interests of humanity.

1.3. Kinds and Functions of International Organisation, Governmental and Non-Governmental Organisations

In this section, we would discuss the various kinds of International Organisations and the criteria which determines them to be an international organisation. The modern-world international organisations were formed mostly by the Greek-city states and appeared as a result of various meetings and agreements. The twentieth century International Organisations can be broadly categorised into three main categories: intergovernmental organisations, international non-governmental organisations, and multinational enterprises. Each category, along with their definitions and examples, are explained as below.

1.3.1. Kinds of International Organisations

Intergovernmental Organisation (IGOs)

Before we learn about the Intergovernmental organisations, let us delve into the concept of 'intergovernmentalism'. According to the theories of intergovernmentalism, international organisations rely heavily upon cooperation and coordination from its member state governments and they could also obstruct cooperation by following their own interests. One

of the major examples of intergovernmentalism can be seen within the European Union Institutions of the Council of Ministers and the European Council, wherein the support from each national government is crucial to pass any legislation.

To put it in simple terms, intergovernmental organisations are established on a formal instrument of agreement between the member nation-states. Moreover, the governments of these nation-states promote cooperation in specific areas of mutual interest.

According to the Yearbook of International Organisations, intergovernmental organisations can be defined as bodies which are formed between the government of nation states through an instrument of agreement, which provides membership to three or more member nations, and holds a permanent secretariat to carry out the tasks. United Nations as well as its various agencies are examples for intergovernmental organisations. Similarly, economic cooperation institutions such as International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank are IGOs. There are hundreds of Intergovernmental organisations operating in different parts of the world. The Yearbook of International Organisations identifies and lists all the IGOs. Each IGO serves a specific purpose and hence has different functions. For instance, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) serves to purpose of peaceful use of nuclear energy ensuring that it's not used for military purposes. Whereas there are other IGOs such as the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) and the Southeast Asia Treaty Organisation (SEATO) which are alliances formed for military purposes. While some IGOs have narrow goals like the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), others have broad aims such at World Trade Organisation (WTO).

International Nongovernmental Organisations

A clear, acceptable definition of international nongovernmental organisation is yet to be formulated. The United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), defines non-governmental organisation as:

"*Any international organisation which is not established by inter-governmental agreement shall be considered as a non-governmental organisation...including organisations which accept members designated by government authorities provided that such membership does not interfere with the free expression of views of the organisations.*" (Resolution 1296 (XLIV), June 1968)

However, the above criterion fails to define it in the context of "international organisation". International nongovernmental organisations do not possess the legal status of national governments. International Non-Governmental Organizations (INGOs) are private, non-profit entities comprised of individuals or groups from different countries, operating independently of government control. INGOs play a vital role in advocating for social, environmental, and humanitarian causes, and often collaborate with governments, IGOs, and other stakeholders to address global issues. While INGO refers to transnational agencies, NGOs tend to refer to national actors. Nevertheless, the abbreviations "INGO" and "NGO" are used interchangeably by the academic community.

NGOs can influence the actions of International Organisations through different mechanisms. One way the IOs benefit from NGOs is by receiving information through NGOs, such as regarding the citizens' preferences. Another manner whereby they can change the outcomes of IO is by influencing its design and its decisions. Thus, international organisations, including the United Nations has realised the importance of NGOs as political institutions, thereby collaborating with them in specific areas or issues or to help them regulate.

Examples of INGOs include Amnesty International, Greenpeace, International Committee of the Red Cross, the International Olympic Committee. Let us look at a few in detail: **Amnesty International:** Amnesty International is a global human rights organization that campaigns against human rights abuses and advocates for justice, freedom, and dignity for all individuals worldwide.

Red Cross: Red Cross provides medical humanitarian assistance to people affected by conflict, epidemics, natural disasters, and other emergencies in over 90 countries around the world.

Greenpeace: Greenpeace is an environmental organization that works to promote environmental conservation, combat climate change, and protect biodiversity through advocacy, research, and direct-action campaigns.

Multinational Enterprises

Multinational enterprises (MNEs) are private businesses that operate in multiple countries and engage in various economic activities, including trade, investment, and production. While MNEs are primarily driven by

profit motives, they can have significant influence on global economic dynamics, trade patterns, and development outcomes. Examples of multinational enterprises include:

Coca-Cola Company: Coca-Cola is a multinational beverage corporation that produces, markets, and sells a wide range of non-alcoholic beverages, including soft drinks, juices, and bottled water, in over 200 countries worldwide.

Toyota Motor Corporation: Toyota is a multinational automotive manufacturer that designs, manufactures, and sells vehicles and automotive parts globally, with production facilities and sales networks in numerous countries.

Apple Inc.: Apple is a multinational technology company that develops and sells consumer electronics, software, and digital services worldwide, with a global supply chain and retail presence spanning multiple countries.

In summary, Intergovernmental Organizations (IGOs), International Non-Governmental Organizations (INGOs), and multinational enterprises represent distinct categories of international organizations, each contributing to global governance, cooperation, and development in their own ways. As for the matter of our study, international organisations mainly refer to the Intergovernmental Organisations (IGOs) and the International Non-governmental Organisations (INGOs). Hence, the subsequent section describes further categories of the international organisations.

Based on their functions, membership criteria, global or regional membership, cultural or historical links, IGOs can be again classified into different types.

Types of International Organisation Based on Various Criteria

Global Organisations

The international organisations whose membership criteria is open universally, i.e., they have a geographically well-balanced membership and policy control are called global international organisations.

- ➢ United Nations and its specialised agencies
- ➢ INTERPOL
- ➢ World Trade Organisation

> International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement
> Universal Postal Union
> International Hydrographic Organisation.

Regional Organisations

Regional organisations are international organisations whose membership criteria is limited to nation states within or over a particular geographical area. They are formed by regional treaties or conventions. Furthermore, their operations are also confined to a specific region in the world. A few of the regional organisations of various regions is given below:

Asia

> Asian Development Bank (ADB)
> South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC)
> East Asian Summit (EAS)
> Gulf Cooperation Council
> Asian Cooperation Dialogue (ACD)

Africa

> African Union
> Arab Maghreb Union
> Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD)
> Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)
> Conseil de l'Entente

Europe

> European Union
> European Free Trade Association (EFTA)
> European Space Agency (ESA)
> Council of Europe (COE)
> Economic Commission for Europe (ECE)

Eurasia

> Eurasian Economic Community
> Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)

- ➢ Central Asian Cooperation Organisation
- ➢ Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS)
- ➢ Transport Corridor Europe Caucasus Asia (TRACECA)

Transatlantic

- ➢ North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO)
- ➢ Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE)

Pacific

- ➢ Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP)
- ➢ Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC)
- ➢ Pacific Islands Forum
- ➢ Secretariat of the Pacific Community

Western Hemisphere

- ➢ Mercosur
- ➢ North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA)
- ➢ Organisation of American States (OAS)
- ➢ Caribbean Community (CARICOM)
- ➢ Union of South American Nations (UNASUR)

Indian Ocean

- ➢ Indian Ocean Commission (IOC)
- ➢ Indian Ocean Rim Association for Regional Cooperation (IOR-ARC)

Organisations with Membership on Other Criteria

Some international organisations provide membership based on various other factors.

i) One of them is on the basis of cultural or historical links. These include:

- ➢ Commonwealth of Nations
- ➢ La Francophonie
- ➢ Unión Latina

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> The Community of Portuguese

ii) Another criterion is dependent upon the level of economic development or type of economy

> Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)

> Organisation of Petroleum-Exporting Countries (OPEC)

iii) There are other organisations which gives based on the national religion

> Organisation of the Islamic Conference

International Economic Organisations

> International Monetary Fund (IMF)

> International Development Association (IDA)

> International Financial Corporation (IFC)

> World Bank

> World Trade Organisation (WTO)

Check Your Progress

Note: You can use the space below to write your answers. Once done, you can check your answers with the answers given at the end of the Unit.

Multiple Choice Questions (MCQs):

1) What theory emphasizes the role of sovereign nation-states in the functioning of international organizations?

a) Transnationalism

b) Intergovernmentalism

c) Supranationalism

d) Federalism

2) Which of the following is an example of an intergovernmental organization (IGO)?

a) Greenpeace

b) United Nations

c) Amnesty International

d) Doctors Without Borders

3) Commonwealth of Nations is formed based on:

a) Regional membership

b) Economic Development Status

c) Religion

d) Cultural or Historical Links

Fill in the Blanks

4) Regional organizations focus on addressing specific regional concerns and promoting cooperation among member states within a particular _____.

5) INGOs operate independently of _____ control.

Match the following International Organizations with their respective functions:

6) United Nations — a) Economic integration and political cooperation in Europe

7) European Union — b) Promotion of international peace and security

8) World Health Organization — c) International public health issues

True/False:

9) Multinational enterprises (MNEs) primarily operate for non-profit purposes.

10 INGOs possess legal status equivalent to nation-states.

1.4. Evolution of International Organisation: Congress of Vienna to the League of Nations

In order to understand the functions, structures, activities and operations of international organisations, it is vital to be aware of its inception and the efforts as well as key events that led to its formation. To make it easier, the evolution of international organisations can be divided into, mainly, three phases. The first one started with the Congress of Vienna which was the initial cooperation effort that culminated in the

formation of the Concert of Europe. The nineteenth century was the period for the second phase which was characterised by establishment of definite institutions. During this period, the now intergovernmental organisations were popularised by the term 'public international union'(PIU). PIUs later took the form of specialised agencies of the UN system. The third phase indicates the first half of the twentieth century which witnessed the outbreak of World War I. This period can be considered as an exogenous shock to the evolutionary development of international organisations.

1.4.1. Congress of Vienna (1814–1815)

The Congress of Vienna, convened after the Napoleonic Wars, aimed to redraw the map of Europe and establish a new balance of power to maintain peace and stability on the continent. While not a formal international organization in the modern sense, the Congress set a precedent for diplomatic negotiations and multilateral cooperation among European powers. It laid the groundwork for a system of international relations based on diplomacy, alliances, and periodic congresses to address common concerns and resolve disputes.

1.4.2. The Concert of Europe

During the devastating times of the Napoleonic Wars that lasted nearly two decades, there was a growing uprising against a single nation trying to set up an empire over the world. As an aftermath to these wars, representatives form the major powers in the then Europe assembled to conduct the Congress of Vienna. It was held from 1st November, 1814 to 8th June, 1815. The treaty of Vienna created the concert of Europe. The states were united together in a concerted effort to settle the issues of the wars. Through regular diplomatic conferences and agreements, such as the Quadruple and Quintuple Alliances, the Concert sought to uphold the principles of collective security and mutual non-interference in the internal affairs of member states. While the Concert was effective in preventing large-scale wars in Europe for much of the 19th century, it lacked a formal institutional framework and relied heavily on the goodwill and cooperation of its member states.

1.4.3. Hague Conferences (1899 and 1907)

Amidst the growing tensions and arms race leading up to World War I, the Hague Conferences of 1899 and 1907 were convened in an attempt

to codify rules of conduct in warfare and promote peaceful resolution of international disputes. These conferences resulted in the establishment of the Permanent Court of Arbitration, which provided a forum for states to settle disputes through arbitration rather than resorting to military force. While the Hague Conferences demonstrated a nascent willingness among states to engage in multilateral diplomacy and international law, they ultimately proved insufficient to prevent the outbreak of World War I in 1914.

1.4.4. League of Nations (1919-1946)

The devastation of World War I and the desire to prevent future conflicts led to the creation of the League of Nations, the first formal international organization with universal membership. Founded in 1919 under the Treaty of Versailles, the League aimed to promote collective security, disarmament, and the peaceful resolution of disputes through arbitration and diplomacy. Despite its ambitious goals and innovative structures, including the League Assembly and Council, the organization faced challenges in enforcing its decisions and lacked the support of key global powers, such as the United States. The League's failure to prevent the outbreak of World War II ultimately led to its dissolution in 1946, but it laid the groundwork for the establishment of its successor, the United Nations, in 1945.

The period from the Congress of Vienna to the League of Nations witnessed the gradual emergence of international organizations as essential tools for promoting peace, cooperation, and stability in a rapidly changing world. While the early efforts at multilateralism were often tentative and imperfect, they paved the way for the development of more robust and effective institutions in the years to come.

1.5 The League of Nations: Functions and Causes of Failure

The League of Nations, established in the aftermath of World War I, represented the first attempt at creating a global organization dedicated to maintaining peace and resolving international disputes through collective security and diplomacy. While the League embodied lofty ideals and innovative mechanisms, its ultimate failure to prevent the outbreak of World War II has been the subject of extensive scholarly analysis.

1.5.1. Functions of the League of Nations

The League of Nations was endowed with several key functions aimed at promoting international cooperation and preventing conflicts:

1. **Collective Security:** At the heart of the League's mission was the principle of collective security, whereby member states pledged to defend one another against aggression and uphold the territorial integrity and political independence of all nations. Article 10 of the League Covenant articulated this commitment, stating that member states would "respect and preserve as against external aggression the territorial integrity and existing political independence of all Members of the League."

2. **Arbitration and Mediation:** The League provided a forum for member states to resolve disputes through arbitration and mediation, thus preventing conflicts from escalating into full-scale wars. The Permanent Court of International Justice, established in 1920, served as the League's judicial arm, adjudicating disputes between member states and providing legal opinions on matters of international law.

3. Promotion of Disarmament: Recognizing the destructive potential of modern warfare, the League sought to promote disarmament and arms control measures among member states. The League's Disarmament Commission was tasked with developing proposals for the reduction of military expenditures and the limitation of armaments, with the ultimate goal of maintaining a balance of power and preventing future conflicts.

1.5.2. Causes of Failure

Despite its noble aspirations and institutional innovations, the League of Nations ultimately failed to fulfil its mandate and prevent the outbreak of World War II. Several interrelated factors contributed to its demise:

1. **Limited Membership and Resources:** The League's effectiveness was hampered by the absence of key global powers, most notably the United States, which never joined the organization. Without the support of major military and economic powers, the League lacked the resources and political leverage necessary to enforce its decisions and deter acts of aggression.

2. **Weak Enforcement Mechanisms**: While the League possessed mechanisms for collective security and dispute resolution, its enforcement capabilities were limited. The reliance on moral suasion and economic sanctions proved inadequate in deterring aggressive states, particularly those with expansionist ambitions and militaristic regimes.

3. **Rise of Totalitarianism:** The interwar period witnessed the rise of totalitarian regimes in Europe, most notably Nazi Germany and Fascist Italy, which openly defied the principles of international cooperation and territorial integrity championed by the League. The aggressive actions of these regimes, including the annexation of territory and the rearmament of military forces, undermined the credibility and effectiveness of the League as a guarantor of peace and security.

4. **Failure of Collective Will:** Ultimately, the League's failure can be attributed to a collective failure of political will among its member states. Despite the rhetoric of collective security and solidarity, many member states were reluctant to intervene in conflicts or uphold their obligations under the League Covenant, fearing the costs and risks of military confrontation.

The League of Nations, despite its noble aspirations and institutional innovations, ultimately fell short of its goal of maintaining peace and preventing conflicts on a global scale. Its failure to adapt to the changing geopolitical realities of the interwar period, coupled with the rise of totalitarian regimes and the absence of major powers, undermined its credibility and effectiveness as an international organization. However, the League's legacy remains significant, serving as a cautionary tale and laying the groundwork for the establishment of its successor, the United Nations, in 1945.

Check Your Progress

1. What event marked the beginning of formal diplomatic negotiations and multilateral cooperation among European powers, setting a precedent for future international organizations?

    a)   The Treaty of Versailles

    b)   The Congress of Vienna

    c)   The Hague Conferences

    d)   The League of Nations

2. Which of the following statements best describes the primary objective of the Congress of Vienna?

   a) To redraw the map of Europe and establish a new balance of power to maintain peace and stability on the continent.

   b) To promote disarmament and arms control measures among member states.

   c) To establish a global organization dedicated to maintaining peace and resolving international disputes through collective security and diplomacy.

   d) To codify rules of conduct in warfare and promote peaceful resolution of international disputes.

3. What country did not join the League of Nations?

   a) France

   b) Britain

   c) USA

   d) Italy

1.6. Answers to the 'Check Your Progress'

Answers to Check Your Progress 1

1) b) Intergovernmentalism

2) b) United Nations

3) d) Cultural or Historical Links

4) Geographic area

5) Government

6) b) Promotion of international peace and security

7) a) Economic integration and political cooperation in Europe

8) c) International public health issues

9) False

10) False

Answers to Check Your Progress 2

1) b) The Congress of Vienna

2) a) To redraw the map of Europe and establish a new balance of power to maintain peace and stability on the continent.

3) c) USA

1.7. Summary

This Unit introduced the concept of international organisations, their nature, and their relevance in the globalised world. International organisations serve the function of regulating state interactions and provide a space for cooperation within member states. They transcend state boundaries and guide nations to achieve a common goal. With the ever-increasing global concerns such as climate change, food supply, overpopulation, poverty, nuclear warfare, human rights violations and environmental issues, the need for states to communicate and take a consensus action has become more crucial than ever before. Apart from the intergovernmental organisations, the nongovernmental organisations also play a key role in aiding the activities to combat global problems. For instance, during the outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic, it was the combined efforts of IGOs, INGOs, NGOs, and other transnational actors that helped to fight the disease. Therefore, international organisations are an indispensable element in the present world system.

1.8. Key Terms

- **Treaty:** A formal, written agreement between sovereign states, establishing legal recognition for an international organization and outlining its objectives, structure, and methods of operation.

- **Sovereignty:** The principle of supreme authority exercised by a state over its own territory and population, without interference from external actors.

- **Supranational Authority:** Authority or power that transcends national boundaries, often vested in international organizations or bodies and exercised over member states.

- **Global Governance:** The collective management of global affairs and issues, involving international organizations, states, non-state actors, and other stakeholders in decision-making and policy implementation processes.

- **Collective Security:** A system in which states agree to act together to deter or respond to aggression against any member of the group, with the aim of maintaining peace and security.

- **Arbitration:** The settlement of disputes between parties by a neutral third party, whose decision is legally binding.

> ➢ **Disarmament:** The reduction or elimination of military forces and weapons, aimed at reducing the likelihood of war and promoting peace.

> ➢ **Permanent Court of International Justice:** The principal judicial organ of the League of Nations, established to settle disputes between member states and provide advisory opinions on legal questions.

> ➢ **Totalitarianism:** A political system characterized by centralized control by a single party or leader, suppression of political opposition, and the use of propaganda and state violence to maintain power.

> ➢ **League Covenant:** The founding document of the League of Nations, outlining the organization's purposes, structure, and principles, including the commitment to collective security and the peaceful resolution of disputes.

1.9. Self-Assessment Questions and Exercises

Short Answer Questions

1) Explain the role and significance of international non-governmental organizations (INGOs) in global governance. How do INGOs differ from intergovernmental organizations (IGOs), and what impact do they have on shaping international policies and agendas?

2) Discuss the various types of international organizations based on membership criteria and geographical scope. Provide examples of global and regional organizations, highlighting their respective functions and areas of operation.

3) What led to the failure of League of Nations?

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UNIT–II

Lesson 2.1 - The UN: Genesis And Functions

Structure

2.1. Introduction

Unit 2 of this study material embarks on an exploration of the United Nations (UN), a paramount international organization pivotal in shaping the dynamics of global governance. As growing scholars in political science, it is imperative to understand the genesis and functions of the UN, elucidating its historical antecedents and contemporary significance within the realm of international relations.

At its core, the UN represents the collective aspirations of nations to foster cooperation, uphold peace, and mitigate conflicts on a global scale. Tracing its origins requires a retrospective examination of seminal diplomatic milestones, from the foundational principles enshrined in the Atlantic Charter to the landmark agreements forged at the Francisco Conference. These historical junctures serve as the bedrock upon which the edifice of the UN was erected, reflecting the exigencies of a post-World War II world striving for multilateralism and collective security.

Once we cover the history of how the UN started, we will dive into what it does. This Unit is also dedicated to understanding the functioning of the United Nations. It delves into the structural anatomy of the United Nations, delineating its principal organs and their respective mandates. By dissecting the roles and functions of organs such as the General Assembly, the Security Council, the Economic and Social Council, the Trusteeship

Council, and the International Court of Justice, we glean insights into the various mechanisms through which the UN endeavours to address global challenges and promote international cooperation.

Furthermore, you will learn about the pivotal role of the Secretary-General within the UN framework, elucidating their functions as the chief administrative officer and global ambassador of the organization. From mediating diplomatic negotiations to advocating for human rights and sustainable development, the Secretary-General embodies the ethos of international leadership and stewardship in navigating the complexities of contemporary global affairs.

As we move further through this unit, we would be engaging in critical analysis and reflection, cognizant of the enduring significance of the UN's genesis and functions in shaping the contours of international politics. Through self-assessment questions and exercises, you will have a nuanced understanding of the UN's multifaceted role and its implications for contemporary global governance. With intellectual curiosity as our guiding compass, let us embark on a scholarly odyssey to unravel the intricacies of the United Nations, discerning its historical legacies and charting its future trajectory amidst an ever-evolving global landscape.

2.2. Making of the UN

Though we generally think of United Nations as an institution that was established during the twentieth century, the ideal of an international community fostering peace and security was conceived much earlier. The beginning of the United Nations was conceived out of the dire needs, guilt, fear, and a sense of urgency. There was a common goal after the initial years of the Second World war which developed into a cooperative spirit with a strong purpose as was not experienced ever before.

As we have learnt from the earlier chapter, a series of agreements and conventions led to the emergence of the UN. The failure of the League of Nations, as you may have understood, was the major factor for the genesis of the UN. The creation of the UN was the fruit of four years of political as well as military efforts, various meeting and events, for an organized community of nations, after the downfall of the League of Nations. We will be learning about each significant development that led to the foundation of the United Nations at the noted San Francisco Conference.

2.2.1. Major Developments

During the Second World War, world leaders who participated in the culmination of the war felt it was necessary to bring about a mechanism that could safeguard the nations, bring about peace and to an extent prevent wars in the future. However, the ravages of the conflict along with the failure of the League of Nations underscored for a more effective system of international organisation.

The Inter-Allied Declaration of St. James's Palace

During the enduring months of World War II, London, being the capital of Britain witnessed frequent air-raid sirens and bombings. Gradually, most parts of the Europe were falling to the Axis powers. Nine of the exiled governments were in London in June 1941. On 12th of June, 1941, the representatives from the Nine Governments in Exile – Belgium, France, Czechoslovakia, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, and Yugoslavia along with the ones of the United Kingdom, Australia, New Zealand, The Union of South Africa, and Canada came and met at the old St. James's Palace to pledge not to sign separate peace declarations. The declaration stated that

"*The only true basis of enduring peace is the willing cooperation of free peoples in a world which, relieved of the menace of aggression, all may enjoy economic and social security; It is our intention to work together, and with other free peoples, both in war and peace, to this end.*" (Declaration of St. James's Palace).

It was ten days after this event that Hitler attacked Soviet Union. The after effects of war (World War 1 & World War 2) made people desire for an international organisation to maintain peace and avoid such wars in the future. Thus, the declaration at St. James Palace was to pledge of solidarity in fighting aggression.

Atlantic Charter

Atlantic Charter is considered as one of the milestones in the making of the United Nations. There were further need for a global cooperation and the first strong step towards it was seen in the Atlantic Charter which was signed on 14th of August, 1941. The Charter was proposed by the then President of the United States, Franklin D Roosevelt, and the then Prime Minister of Great Britain, Winston Churchill. The meeting which took

place in secret between the two, led to the discussion of the pending crisis of World War II and outlining of the international system post-war. What was initiated for protection and welfare of the states and its citizens paved way for the organisation of United Nations as we know today. Hence, Atlantic Charter was not a formal treaty but an expression for the peace initiatives post war between the two powers. It was more of a vision for the future, a promise and an affirmation that their respective countries would be based on those national policies for a better peaceful future for the world. The declaration of Atlantic Charter consisted of eight principles, which included the following:

➤ Firstly, both the countries seek no aggrandizement, territorial or of any other form

➤ Secondly, the territorial expansion would rely upon the will of the people concerned and there would be no changes that do not comply with the expressed wishes

➤ Thirdly, people have the right to choose the form of the government under which they wish to live. Further, they seek to restore the sovereign rights and self-government restored to those where it has been deprived of.

➤ Fourthly, they aim, with utmost respect to the existing regulations, to enhance the enjoyment by all States, small or big, of access to the international trade, on equal terms, to the raw materials around the world which is required for their economic development.

➤ Fifthly, they endeavour to bring nations together and have them fully collaborate economic wise with the intention of economic advancement and social security, thereby improving the labour standards.

➤ Sixthly, after the end of the Nazi reign of terror, they wish to establish peace among all the nations which means people will have the safety and security to dwell within their own national boundaries. This assures that any individual from any nation may live their lives in freedom for fear and want.

➤ Seventhly, this peace affords to all citizens to traverse the seas and oceans without impediment, thus, ensuring the freedom of the seas.

➤ Eighthly, they hope that all nations around the world should abandon the use of force, for realistic and spiritual reasons. They hope that the nations do not continue to employ land, air or sea armaments

which may threaten aggression outside of their boundaries. Hence, the disarmament of such nations is essential until there is an establishment of a wider and permanent system of general security. They will also help and bring those measures which will reduce the issue of armament for the peace-loving population.

A few of the clauses of the Atlantic charter bears a direct objective in the creation of United Nations. Moreover, some of them also regards to the institutions found within the United Nations System, such as the seventh clause reflects an entity similar to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. Similarly, the eighth clause refers to a "permanent system of general security" referring to the impetus for the establishment of the United Nations Peacekeeping Operations to ensure peace around the world. Thus, it is rightly said that the Atlantic Charter paved the way for the creation of the United Nations and its Charter. The Atlantic Charter also assured universal human rights.

The Atlantic Charter left a significant impression in the realities of international morality as it was brought by two of the great democratic leaders of the that time. It affirmed a common hope between the peace-loving nations with its promise of an international organisation which is based on moral principles. This culminated in the establishment of the United Nations. The Charter was instrumental and played the role of a blueprint for the later found multilateral institutions.

Declaration by United Nations

The above developments led to the Declaration by the United Nations on 1st January, 1942. Twenty six states signed a short document which later was termed as the 'Declaration by United Nations'. Churchill, Maxim Litvinov of the USSR, Roosevelt, and T.V. Soong of China were among the ones who pledged to follow the common principles as given in the Atlantic Charter. The twenty six nations also agreed not to negotiate a separate peace with the Axis powers. The next day, representatives of twenty to other nations also joined the declaration. The first formal use of the term "United Nations" was marked in this declaration. It was used to refer to the alliance of the Allies.

The initial 26 signatories of the Declaration by United Nations included:

United States	Haiti
United Kingdom	Honduras
Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR)	Poland
China	India
Belgium	Cuba
Canada	Costa Rica
Norway	Union of South Africa
Greece	Honduras
Nicaragua	Luxembourg
Panama	Czechoslovakia
Guatemala	Yugoslavia
El Salvador	Netherlands
Dominican Republic	New Zealand

Moscow Declaration

By the year 1943, the Allied nations abided by the Atlantic Charter and were trying to create a world where people lived out their lives in freedom from fear and want. The Moscow Conference was held on October 18 to November 1, 1943 to work for the idea of creating an international organisation for world peace. During October1943, representatives from the four nations of United States of America, United Kingdom, China and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR) met and signed the **Joint Four-Nation Declaration**. This is also known as the Moscow Declaration. The document stipulated the necessity to establish the following:

➢ A general international organisation

➢ It has based on the principles of sovereign equality of all peace-loving states

➢ Open membership to all such states

➢ The international organisation should be committed for the maintenance of international peace and security.

Tehran Conference

After the Moscow Declaration, these four nations organised national committees to work on the draft charter of the envisioned

international organisation. During the month of December 1943, Roosevelt, Churchill, and Joseph Stalin met in Tehran, the Capital of Iran. The Three Powers (Britain, USA, and Soviet Union) worked out the winning strategy of Allies for the war. The Tehran conference concluded with recognizing the enormous responsibility resting upon these nations (Allies) to bring peace and banish the terrors of war for the upcoming generations.

Dumbarton Oaks

Many nations came to an agreement by 1944 that it was necessary for an international organisation that maintains peace and security. Therefore, after the consensus, the next step was to outline the structure of this organisations. In order to define the structure, representatives of the United Kingdom, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, China, and the United States gathered at Dumbarton Oaks which is situated in Washington D.C. Upon the completion of the discussions on 7th October 1944, a proposal was submitted, by the four nations, for the structure of the new organisation. It was submitted to the governments of all the Allied nations.

As per the Dumbarton Oaks proposal, the organisation would consist of:

➢ A General Assembly consisting of all the members of the UN

➢ A Security Council composed of eleven members, out of which five would be permanent and the rest six would be selected by the General Assembly on two years basis.

➢ A UN Secretariat

➢ An International Court of Justice

➢ An Economic and Social Council working under the General Assembly

The plan stipulated that the Security Council would be bearing the duty to prevent wars. However, the method of voting in the SC was not discussed. Also, the member states should have their armed forced at the disposal of the SC, which would help supress and avoid wars between States. It was pointed out by the nations that the absence of such an authority was the major weakness of the predecessor international organisation, League of Nations leading to its demise. The points within the Dumbarton Oaks proposals were fully discussed among the Allied nations.

Yalta Conference

The 'Big Three'— Churchill, Roosevelt, and Stalin, organised a conference on the proposed United Nations Organisation. The voting procedure of SC was addressed here. On 11th February 1945, the voting procedure in SC had been resolved. The Yalta Conference also decided for a UN conference to prepare the Charter for such an international organisation, aligning with the proposals of Dumbarton Oaks.

San Francisco Conference

The San Francisco Conference of 1945 convened delegates from 50 nations, representing a significant portion of the global population, with a shared determination to establish an organization dedicated to the preservation of peace and the advancement of global welfare. Officially termed the United Nations Conference on International Organization (UNCIO), its primary objective was to draft a charter for this new entity that would garner universal acceptance among member countries.

Taking place from April 25 to June 26, 1945, the conference spanned a two-month period during which the meticulous process of crafting the UN Charter unfolded. Each provision of the charter required approval by a two-thirds majority vote, leading to extensive deliberations and negotiations among the participating nations.

One key issue that sparked prolonged and passionate debate was the prerogative of each permanent member of the Security Council to veto any resolution passed by the council. The permanent members, comprising China, the USSR, the United States, the United Kingdom, and France, staunchly defended their right to veto, arguing that the primary responsibility for upholding global peace rested with them. Despite objections from smaller nations concerned about the potential paralysis of the Security Council in the face of threats to peace, the veto power of the permanent members was ultimately upheld, with smaller powers acquiescing in the interest of establishing the world organization.

To resolve this, the General Assembly, granting each member state one vote, was established as a leading body of the UN. The Security Council, comprising five permanent and six non-permanent members chosen through rotation, was also formed. The five permanent members - China, France, the United States, the Soviet Union, and Great Britain - were granted veto power. All UN member countries were bound to adhere to the

Security Council's decisions, which determined measures for maintaining global peace and security.

Additionally, the Economic and Social Council and the Trusteeship Council were established at the San Francisco conference to oversee colonial territories, address economic and social issues, and integrate prior treaties into the new Charter. Comprising 18 members, these councils played vital roles in the UN's functioning.

The climax of the conference occurred on June 25, 1945, when delegates convened in the San Francisco Opera House for the final session, unanimously adopting the UN Charter. The following day, in a symbolic gesture, delegates assembled in the auditorium of the Veterans' Memorial Hall to sign the charter, with China accorded the honor of signing first as the nation that had suffered aggression by an Axis power.

However, the formal establishment of the UN did not occur immediately upon the signing of the charter. Ratification of the UN Charter by the governments of member states was necessary for its entry into force. Consequently, the UN Charter officially took effect on October 24, 1945, upon fulfilment of the condition requiring ratification by the "Big Five" powers and a majority of other signatory states. The United Nations commenced operations only after October 24, 1945. Hence, October 24 is officially recognized as the United Nations Day.

The culmination of four years of planning and the collective aspirations of many years, the founding of the United Nations marked the realization of an international organization dedicated to the prevention of war and the promotion of peace, justice, and improved living conditions for all humanity.

2.3. Principal Organs of United Nations and Its Functions

2.3.1. Introduction

After being established on 24th October 1945, United Nations is the only universal intergovernmental organisation created until date. Started with fifty-one nations, now the United Nations comprises of One Hundred and Ninety-three (193) member nations. Since its inception, the UN continues its actions towards the broadest range of global governance. It is at the forefront in addressing issues that cannot be resolved by one nation alone. The UN operates through a structured framework of principal organs, each entrusted with specific mandates and responsibilities.

The United Nations' role in maintaining international peace and security has been characterized by its active efforts, particularly during the Cold War era, to mitigate tensions between Super Powers and other major nations. While it may not fully satisfy every individual, the UN has commendably contributed to the establishment of human rights norms, engagement in humanitarian activities, and addressing refugee crises, among other endeavors. It does not function as a world government with unilateral enforcement powers, but rather serves as a platform for resolving international conflicts and formulating policies on matters affecting humanity. The UN provides a forum where nations convene to discuss, develop, and expand international law across various domains such as human rights, international trade, maritime navigation, counter-terrorism, and more.

2.3.2. Objectives

The UN has mainly four purposes as stipulated in its charter.

➢ **Maintaining International Peace and Security**: The UN seeks to prevent conflicts, mitigate their impacts, and resolve disputes peacefully to uphold global peace and security.

➢ **Promoting International Cooperation:** By facilitating dialogue and collaboration among nations, the UN aims to address transnational issues such as climate change, poverty, and terrorism.

➢ **Safeguarding Human Rights:** Upholding the principles enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the UN works to safeguard the rights and dignity of all individuals worldwide.

➢ **Fostering Sustainable Development**: Through its development agenda, the UN endeavours to eradicate poverty, promote economic growth, and ensure environmental sustainability for present and future generations

In essence, the UN is entrusted with the mandate to safeguard peace and security, echoing its commitment "to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war," uphold fundamental human rights, respect international law, and promote social progress and improved living standards. Originally built on four pillars—peace, development, human rights, and sovereign independence—the UN's objectives have evolved to intertwine these elements into a cohesive framework of national and international priorities. However, the notion of sovereign independence, though largely achieved through decolonization in the UN's early years,

is now being reevaluated in light of the call for 'reasonable limits' on state sovereignty.

To pursue its objectives, the United Nations operates in accordance with fundamental principles:

➢ Sovereign equality of all member states.

➢ Good faith fulfillment of Charter obligations by all members.

➢ Peaceful settlement of international disputes without endangering global peace, security, and justice.

➢ Refrain from the threat or use of force against any other state.

➢ Non-interference in the domestic affairs of any state by the UN or its members.

In its pursuit of stated purposes and objectives, the UN is equipped with six main organs. Understanding the roles and functions of these organs is essential to grasp the UN's operational mechanisms and its efforts to address pressing global challenges.

2.3.3. General Assembly

The General Assembly serves as the primary deliberative and policymaking body of the UN, comprising all member states. It convenes annually to address a wide range of global issues and adopt resolutions on matters of international concern. The General Assembly, as the sole body representing all UN members, exercises a range of functions encompassing deliberation, supervision, finance, and elections pertaining to matters outlined in the UN Charter. Its principal role lies in discussions and recommendations, lacking enforcement power or the ability to mandate state actions. Additional responsibilities include the admission of new members, selection of Economic and Social Council and Security Council nonpermanent members, and oversight of other UN organs, which submit reports to the Assembly. Moreover, it participates in the election of International Court of Justice judges and the secretary-general. Decisions are typically made via simple majority vote, with a two-thirds majority required for significant matters such as admitting new members, budgetary issues, and peace and security concerns.

The Assembly meets annually and holds special sessions, electing a new president annually from five regional state groups. A general debate opens each regular session, allowing all members to engage on international concerns. Substantial work is delegated to six primary committees:

> ➤ Disarmament and International Security

> ➤ Economic and Financial

> ➤ Social, Humanitarian, and Cultural

> ➤ Special Political and Decolonization

> ➤ Administrative and Budgetary, and

> ➤ Legal.

Over time, the General Assembly has tackled issues bypassed or avoided by other UN organs, including decolonization, Namibian independence, South African apartheid, terrorism, and the AIDS epidemic. Resolution passage rates have surged, surpassing 350 annually, with many resolutions adopted without opposition. Nonetheless, sharp member disagreements persist on topics such as the Cold War, the Arab-Israeli conflict, and human rights. The Assembly has played a crucial role in spotlighting major issues, compelling member governments to take stances and organizing ad hoc bodies and conferences to address global challenges.

The Assembly's vast size and issue diversity have fostered regionally based voting blocs since the 1960s. During the Cold War, cohesive blocs formed around the Soviet Union and Eastern European countries, as well as the United States and its Western allies. The admission of Southern Hemisphere nations in the 1960s and '70s, coupled with waning Cold War tensions post-1989, saw the rise of blocs aligned on "North-South" economic issues, reflecting disparities between industrialized Northern Hemisphere nations and developing Southern Hemisphere nations. These divisions have expanded to encompass issues of Northern economic and political dominance, economic development, nuclear proliferation, and support for Israel.

2.3.4. Security Council

The UN Charter designates the Security Council with the primary responsibility for upholding international peace and security. Initially comprised of 11 members—five permanent and six non-permanent—serving two-year terms elected by the General Assembly, the Security Council faced challenges with representation as membership expanded. An amendment in 1965 expanded the council to 15 members, with the original five permanent members and 10 non-permanent members. Over time, adjustments reflected geopolitical changes, such as the People's Republic of China replacing Taiwan in 1971 and the Russian Federation

succeeding the Soviet Union in 1991. Post-German unification, discussions arose concerning the council's composition, with Germany, India, and Japan seeking permanent seats.

Non permanent members are selected for equitable regional representation, with five from Africa or Asia, one from Eastern Europe, two from Latin America, and two from Western Europe or other areas. Five of the 10 non-permanent members are elected annually by the General Assembly for two-year terms, rotating the presidency monthly among members.

Each member holds one vote. Procedural matters require the affirmative vote of any nine members, while substantive matters, including disputes and sanctions, need nine affirmative votes, including those of the five permanent members wielding veto power. Despite this, a permanent member may abstain without invalidating decisions. Any country, even non-UN members, may bring disputes to the council's attention, with initial focus on peaceful resolutions. If necessary, peacekeeping forces may be authorized to maintain peace during negotiations, with sanctions and, if warranted, military action outlined in the UN Charter's Article 39.

During the Cold War, the Security Council often faced deadlock due to US-Soviet disagreements and veto powers. However, since the late 1980s, its influence has expanded, authorizing numerous peacekeeping operations. While veto use has declined, disputes among permanent members, notably the 2003 Iraq military intervention, have at times hindered effectiveness. Informal meetings among permanent members to reach consensus have drawn criticism from non-permanent members.

In addition to standing and ad hoc committees, the council's work is supported by the Military Staff Committee, sanctions committees for sanctioned countries, peacekeeping forces committees, and an International Tribunals Committee.

2.3.5. Economic and Social Council

Created as the primary platform within the UN for addressing international economic and social matters, the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) oversees and coordinates the economic, social, humanitarian, and cultural endeavors of the UN and its specialized agencies. Established under the UN Charter, ECOSOC is mandated to propose international measures on economic and social issues, advocate for universal human

rights, and foster global collaboration on health, education, culture, and related fields. Its responsibilities include conducting research, drafting resolutions, recommendations, and conventions for General Assembly consideration, and harmonizing the activities of various UN programs and specialized agencies.

ECOSOC's operational framework relies heavily on functional commissions dedicated to areas such as human rights, narcotics, population, social development, statistics, women's status, and science and technology. Additionally, it supervises regional commissions for Europe, Asia and the Pacific, Western Asia, Latin America, and Africa.

The UN Charter empowers ECOSOC to grant consultative status to non-governmental organizations (NGOs), categorizing them into General, Special, and Roster NGOs based on their level of engagement with ECOSOC activities. Consultative status enables NGOs to participate in ECOSOC meetings, publish reports, and occasionally provide testimony. Efforts to expand NGO involvement in ECOSOC and other UN activities have been ongoing since the mid-1990s, leading to increased participation. By the early 21st century, ECOSOC had accredited over 2,500 NGOs.

Initially composed of representatives from 18 nations, ECOSOC's membership expanded to 54 through amendments to the Charter in 1965 and 1974. Members serve three-year terms, elected by the General Assembly. Notably, four of the five permanent Security Council members— United States, United Kingdom, Russia, and France—consistently secure re-election due to their significant contributions to ECOSOC's budget, the largest among all UN subsidiary bodies. Decisions within ECOSOC are made through a simple majority vote.

ECOSOC convenes annual two-month sessions to coordinate the economic and social endeavours of the UN and its specialized agencies, collectively known as the UN Family or UN System. Its directives encompass initiatives to foster economic growth in developing nations, administer development and humanitarian projects, uphold human rights, combat discrimination, promote science and technology, and facilitate global cooperation in areas such as housing, family planning, and crime prevention.

The UN System comprises the UN, its 15 Specialized Agencies, and various programs and funds:

Notable Specialized Agencies within the UN System include:

- International Labour Organisation (ILO)

- Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO)

- United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO)

- World Health Organisation (WHO)

- International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD or also known as the World Bank)

- International Monetary Fund (IMF)

- International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO)

- International Maritime Organisation (IMO)

- International Telecommunication Union (ITU)

- Universal Postal Union (UPU)

- World Meteorological Organisation (WMO)

- World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO)

- International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)

- United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO)

- World Tourism Organisation (WTO)

UN Programs and Funds encompass

- United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)

- International Trade Centre (ITC)

- United Nations Devlopment Programme (UNDP)

- United Nations Captial Development Fund (UNCDF)

- United Nations Volunteer (UNV)

- United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

- United Nations Funds for Population Activities (UNFPA)

- United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT)

- United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

- United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)

- United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)

- United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA)

- United Nations Entity for Gender Equality (UN-Women)

- World Food Programme (WFP)

It's noteworthy that Specialized Agencies and UN Programs and Funds operate under ECOSOC's purview and report to it.

2.3.6. The Trusteeship Council

The creation of the Trusteeship Council aimed to oversee the administration of 11 Trust Territories, ensuring that the governing authorities took necessary steps to prepare them for self-governance and eventual independence. It's noteworthy that by the close of 1994, all these territories had achieved independence, rendering the Council largely inactive. Its establishment mirrored the mandate system of the League of Nations, envisioning that territories seized from defeated nations in war should not be annexed by victorious powers but rather governed by a trustee nation under international supervision until their future status was determined.

Dissimilar to the mandate system, the trusteeship system permitted trust territories to petition for independence and necessitated periodic international visits to these regions. In 1945, only 12 League of Nations mandates remained, most of which transitioned into trust territories except for South West Africa, contested by South Africa's refusal to engage in the trusteeship system.

The Trusteeship Council convened annually, comprising administering states of trust territories, permanent Security Council members without trust territories, and other UN members elected by the General Assembly, each possessing one vote, with decisions made by a simple majority. Following the independence of Palau, the final trust territory in 1994, the council ceased regular operations. Though no longer mandated to meet annually, it retains the ability to convene at the discretion of its president, upon request by a majority of its members, by the General Assembly, or by the Security Council. Post-1994, proposals have emerged for the council to assume new roles such as overseeing global commons like the seabed and outer space and providing a platform for minority and indigenous peoples.

2.3.7. The International Court of Justice

The International Court of Justice, commonly referred to as the World Court, stands as the principal judicial body of the United Nations, with its origins predating the League of Nations. The concept of establishing an

international court to adjudicate global disputes emerged during the 1899 Hague conference. Initially known as the Permanent Court of International Justice (PCIJ) under the League of Nations in 1919, it assumed its current title upon the establishment of the UN in 1945.

The court holds binding authority over its decisions, with a jurisdiction spanning "all cases which the parties refer to it and all matters specially provided for in the Charter of the United Nations or in treaties and conventions in force." Crucially, states cannot be compelled to participate in disputes without their consent, although they may opt for the court's compulsory jurisdiction in designated dispute categories. The court may also issue advisory opinions upon request from the General Assembly, the Security Council, or other authorized UN organs and specialized agencies. Despite arbitrating certain cases successfully, such as the 1992 border dispute between Honduras and El Salvador, reluctance among governments to submit sensitive matters has curtailed the court's effectiveness in resolving threats to international peace and security. Additionally, some countries have refused to acknowledge the court's jurisdiction or rulings, as exemplified by the United States' response to Nicaragua's 1984 lawsuit over harbor mining.

The court comprises 15 judges elected independently by the General Assembly and the Security Council, ensuring no two judges hail from the same nation and aiming for representation across major legal systems worldwide. Judges serve nine-year terms and may be re-elected, with The Hague serving as the seat of the World Court.

2.3.8. The Secretariat

The Secretariat significantly influences UN operations beyond what is outlined in the UN Charter. Its duties extend to generating various reports, studies, and inquiries, alongside pivotal tasks like translation, interpretation, and providing logistical support for numerous meetings. While the Charter emphasizes recruitment based on merit, efforts have been made to ensure geographic diversity among staff members. While some are on permanent contracts, others serve on temporary assignments from their national governments, both pledging allegiance to the UN and refraining from taking instructions from member states. With approximately 9,000 permanent staff, the Secretariat comprises seasoned experts and international civil servants rather than political appointees, contributing to its substantial influence.

Headquartered in New York, with additional offices in Geneva, Vienna, Nairobi, and other locations, the Secretariat has faced recurrent criticism for administrative inefficiencies, though ongoing endeavours aim to enhance operational effectiveness. Despite these efforts, criticisms persist regarding perceived biases or lack of neutrality.

2.4. The Secretary General: Functions and Roles

The Secretary-general serves as the chief prime administrative officer of the United Nations. They are appointed for a five-year term by a two-thirds majority vote of the General Assembly, with the recommendation of the Security Council and the approval of its permanent members. Traditionally, Secretaries-General have originated from small, neutral countries. Their responsibilities encompass various domains, including administrative oversight, political mediation, and global advocacy. The secretary-general is charged with the political functions of the organisation.

The significance of the Secretary-General's role is underscored by the Nobel Prize for Peace awarded to two incumbents: Dag Hammarskjöld in 1961 and Kofi Annan, jointly with the UN, in 2001. This recognition highlights their contributions to promoting international peace and cooperation. The Secretariat, comprising approximately 41,000 staff members worldwide, services the UN's principal organs and implements their programs and policies. Staff members, drawn from the UN's 193 member states, pledge allegiance to the organization as international civil servants, refraining from seeking or accepting instructions from any government or external authority.

Since its establishment, the office of the Secretary-General has been occupied by nine individuals. They are:

Trygve Lie (Norway) - 1946-1952

Dag Hammarskjöld (Sweden) - 1953-1961

U Thant (Myanmar) - 1961-1971

Kurt Waldheim (Austria) - 1972-1981

Javier Pérez de Cuéllar (Peru) - 1982-1991

Boutros Boutros-Ghali (Egypt) - 1992-1996

Kofi Annan (Ghana) - 1997-2006

Ban Ki-moon (Republic of Korea) - 2007-2016

António Guterres (Portugal) - 2017-present

Each Secretary-General has left a unique mark on the organization's history and operations, shaping its trajectory in global affairs.

1. **Administrative Leadership:** At the forefront of the UN's administrative functions, the Secretary-General presides over meetings and executes tasks entrusted by UN organs. They serve as the chief administrative officer, overseeing the Secretariat's operations and managing the organization's budgetary preparations.

2. **Political Mediation and Advocacy:** The Secretary-General assumes important political functions, tasked with addressing issues that threaten international peace and security. They bring such matters before the organization and often engage in high-level negotiations to resolve conflicts and promote diplomatic solutions.

3. **Global Representation and Spokesperson:** As the chief spokesperson for the UN, the Secretary-General represents the organization on the global stage, articulating its positions on critical issues. They serve as the most visible and authoritative figure in world affairs, advocating for UN principles and initiatives to advance peace, development, and human rights.

2.4.1. Role of the UN Secretary-General:

The role of the UN Secretary-General encompasses various responsibilities aimed at promoting international peace, cooperation, and development. Key aspects of this role include:

Chief Administrative Officer:

The Secretary-General serves as the principal administrative officer of the United Nations, overseeing its day-to-day operations and ensuring the efficient functioning of the organization.

Global Diplomat:

Acting as a global diplomat, the Secretary-General engages in diplomatic efforts to resolve conflicts, mediate disputes, and promote dialogue among member states. As given on the website of the United Nations, a secretary-general's role can be described as "*equal parts diplomat and advocate, civil servant and CEO.*"

Advocate for Human Rights:

The Secretary-General advocates for the protection and promotion of human rights worldwide, highlighting violations and urging member states to uphold their human rights obligations. For example, Secretary-General Kofi Annan said that "*no government has the right to hide behind national sovereignty in order to violate human rights*", during the tensions between the Serbs and the ethnic Albanians in Kosovo.

Peacekeeper:

The Secretary-General plays a crucial role in overseeing UN peacekeeping operations, working to prevent and resolve conflicts, protect civilians, and support peacebuilding efforts in conflict-affected regions.

Example: Boutros Boutros-Ghali provided leadership in managing complex peacekeeping missions, notably in Somalia and Bosnia, where UN peacekeepers were deployed to mitigate violence and facilitate peace negotiations.

Promoter of Sustainable Development:

The Secretary-General works to advance the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and promote sustainable development worldwide, addressing issues such as poverty, inequality, climate change, and environmental degradation.

Example: Ban Ki-moon played a pivotal role in advocating for global action on climate change, culminating in the landmark Paris Agreement in 2015, which saw nations commit to reducing greenhouse gas emissions and mitigating climate risks.

Global Spokesperson:

Serving as the primary spokesperson for the United Nations, the Secretary-General communicates the organization's positions, initiatives, and priorities to the international community, rallying support for collective action to address pressing global challenges. For instance, António Guterres has utilized his platform to raise awareness and mobilize responses to various global crises, including conflicts in Syria and Yemen, and the Rohingya refugee crisis, amplifying the UN's voice on critical humanitarian issues.

Leader of the UN Secretariat:

As the head of the UN Secretariat, the Secretary-General provides strategic leadership and direction to the administrative arm of the organization, ensuring the effective implementation of UN mandates and decisions.

Example: Dag Hammarskjöld prioritized the professionalization and integrity of the UN Secretariat during his tenure, coming up with measures to strengthen organizational efficiency and uphold ethical standards within the UN bureaucracy.

2.4.2. Responsibilities of the UN Secretary-General

Conflict Mediation and Prevention: The Secretary-General is responsible for engaging in diplomatic efforts to prevent and resolve conflicts, mediate disputes between member states, and promote peaceful solutions to international crises.

Peacekeeping Operations:

The Secretary-General oversees UN peacekeeping operations deployed to conflict zones around the world. They ensure the safety and effectiveness of peacekeepers. The undersecretary appointed by the Secretary-General support efforts to stabilize and rebuild conflict-affected areas. The operational control of initiating peacekeeping activities lies within the Secretariat.

Human Resources:

The undersecretaries for around fifty positions is appointed by the Secretary-General. One critical aspect of these appointments include the member states lobbying to fill positions with their nationals. Thus, the secretary-general plays a crucial role in UN leadership to ensure a broad representation from the member states. The heads of the specialised agencies such as the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) and UN Development Program (UNDP) is also appointed by the Secretary-general.

Setting Global Development Agenda:

The Secretary-General works to advance the global development agenda, including the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), by mobilizing political will, resources, and partnerships

to address poverty, inequality, and other development challenges. For instance, Antonnio Guterres, released the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Report of 2021 titled *Our Common Agenda*, which outlined the current global challenges and the strategies that can be used to mitigate them. Climate Change was one of those issues.

Crisis Management:

In times of humanitarian crises, natural disasters, or other emergencies, the Secretary-General coordinates international response efforts, mobilizing humanitarian assistance, coordinating relief operations, and advocating for the protection of civilians.

International Advocacy:

The Secretary-General represents the United Nations on the global stage, engaging with world leaders, international organizations, and civil society actors to promote UN priorities, initiatives, and values.

Leadership of the UN Secretariat:

As the head of the UN Secretariat, the Secretary-General provides leadership and direction to the organization's administrative staff, ensuring the effective functioning of the Secretariat and the implementation of UN mandates and decisions.

Check Your Progress

Multiple Choice Questions (MCQs)

1. The Secretary-General of the United Nations is appointed for how many years?

    A. 3 years

    B. 4 years

    C. 5 years

    D. 6 years

2. Which of the following Secretaries-General was awarded the Nobel Prize for Peace?

    A. Ban Ki-moon

    B. Dag Hammarskjöld

    C. António Guterres

    D. Boutros Boutros-Ghali

3. The recommendation for the appointment of the Secretary-General is made by:

   A. The General Assembly

   B. The Security Council

   C. The Economic and Social Council

   D. The International Court of Justice

4. Traditionally, Secretaries-General have been chosen from:

   A. Large, influential countries

   B. Small, neutral countries

   C. Developed countries

   D. Developing countries

5. Who was the first Secretary-General of the United Nations?

   A. Kurt Waldheim

   B. Trygve Lie

   C. U Thant

   D. Javier Pérez de Cuéllar

Fill in the Blanks

6. The current Secretary-General, as of 2021, is _____ from Portugal.

7. The Secretary-General serves as the _____ administrative officer of the United Nations.

8. The Secretariat, comprising approximately _____ staff members worldwide, services the UN's principal organs.

9. The Nobel Prize for Peace was awarded to Kofi Annan in _____.

10. The Secretary-General is appointed by a _____ majority vote of the General Assembly.

True or False

11. The Secretary-General is appointed by the Security Council alone. (True/False)

12. The staff of the Secretariat are drawn from the UN's 193 member states. (True/False

13. Boutros Boutros-Ghali served as Secretary-General from 1997 to 2006. (True/False)

14. The Secretary-General's responsibilities include administrative oversight, political mediation, and global advocacy. (True/False)

Short Answer Questions

15. What are the primary responsibilities of the UN Secretary-General?

16. How is the Secretary-General of the United Nations elected?

Long Answer Questions

17. Discuss the role and impact of the UN Secretary-General in promoting international peace and security. Provide examples of past Secretaries-General who have significantly contributed to this mission.

18. Describe the structure and functions of the UN Secretariat. How does the Secretary-General influence its operations?

2.5. Answers to 'Check Your Progress'

MCQs

1. C. 5 years
2. B. Dag Hammarskjöld
3. B. The Security Council
4. B. Small, neutral countries
5. B. Trygve Lie

Fill in the Blanks

6. António Guterres
7. Chief
8. 41,000
9. 2001
10. Two-thirds

True or False

11. False
12. True
13. False
14. True

Tips for Answering Short and Long Questions

Short Answer Questions:

15. Focus on key areas such as administrative oversight, political mediation, global advocacy, and preparation of the UN budget.

16. Explain the election process involving a two-thirds majority vote of the General Assembly, the recommendation of the Security Council, and the approval of its permanent members.

Long Answer Questions:

17) Provide an in-depth discussion on the role of the Secretary-General in peacekeeping, conflict resolution, and diplomatic engagement. Use examples such as Dag Hammarskjöld's efforts during the Congo Crisis and Kofi Annan's initiatives in the Middle East.

18) Describe the UN Secretariat's functions, including its role in servicing the UN's principal organs and implementing their policies. Discuss how the Secretary-General influences its operations through leadership, oversight, and international representation.

2.6 Summary

The formation of the United Nations was a process influenced by the devastation of World War II and the desire for a new system to maintain peace and security. The initial step towards creating the UN was the signing of the Atlantic Charter in 1941 by President Franklin D. Roosevelt and Prime Minister Winston Churchill, outlining principles for international collaboration. This was followed by the Declaration by United Nations in 1942, where 26 nations pledged to uphold the Charter's principles. The pivotal moment came with the Dumbarton Oaks Conference in 1944, where key elements of the UN structure were proposed. The Yalta Conference in 1945 further refined these proposals, leading to the San Francisco Conference, where the UN Charter was officially drafted and signed by 50 nations, marking the formal establishment of the United Nations on October 24, 1945.

The United Nations comprises six principal organs, each serving distinct functions:

1. **The General Assembly:** A deliberative body where all member states are represented, tasked with discussing and making recommendations on international issues.

2. **The Security Council:** Responsible for maintaining international peace and security, it can impose sanctions and authorize the use of force. It has 15 members, including five permanent members with veto power.

3. **The Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC):** Coordinates the economic, social, and related work of 15 UN specialized agencies, functional commissions, and regional commissions.

4. **The International Court of Justice (ICJ):** The principal judicial organ, it settles legal disputes between states and gives advisory opinions.

5. **The Secretariat:** Carries out the day-to-day work of the UN, headed by the Secretary-General.

6. **The Trusteeship Council:** Established to oversee the administration of trust territories and ensure they are prepared for self-governance. It has suspended its operations since the last trust territory gained independence in 1994.

The Secretary-General is the chief administrative officer of the United Nations, appointed for a renewable five-year term. This position involves overseeing the UN's administrative functions, preparing the budget, and serving as the chief spokesperson and most visible representative of the UN in world affairs. The Secretary-General also plays a crucial role in political mediation, bringing to the organization's attention any matters that threaten international peace and security. Secretaries-General often come from small, neutral countries and have significant influence on global diplomacy. Notable Secretaries-General include Dag Hammarskjöld, who received the Nobel Prize posthumously in 1961, and Kofi Annan, who received it in 2001. The Secretariat supports the work of the UN's organs and employs around 41,000 staff members from 193 member states, all of whom pledge allegiance to the UN and operate independently of national governments.

This chapter provides a comprehensive overview of the origins, structure, and key functions of the United Nations and its Secretary-General, highlighting their roles in fostering international cooperation and maintaining global peace and security.

2.7 Key Terms

- ➤ UN Charter: The founding document of the United Nations, outlining its purposes, principles, and structure.

- ➤ Atlantic Charter: A pivotal policy statement issued in 1941 that set out Allied goals for the post-war world and laid the foundation for the establishment of the UN.

- ➤ Declaration by United Nations: A 1942 agreement where 26 nations pledged to uphold the principles of the Atlantic Charter.

- ➤ General Assembly: The main deliberative body of the UN where all member states are represented.

- ➤ Security Council: Responsible for maintaining international peace and security, consisting of 15 members, including five permanent members with veto power.

- ➤ Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC): A principal organ responsible for coordinating the economic, social, and related work of the UN and its specialized agencies.

- ➤ International Court of Justice (ICJ): The principal judicial organ of the UN, settling legal disputes between states and providing advisory opinions.

- ➤ Secretariat: The administrative arm of the UN, headed by the Secretary-General, responsible for carrying out the day-to-day work of the organization.

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Lesson 3.1 - UN And Security Affairs

Structure

3.1. Introduction

The Chapter 3 is an exploration into the United Nations and its vital role in maintaining global peace and security. As we delve deeper into this chapter, we embark on a journey to understand the intricate mechanisms and functions of the UN in addressing security challenges around the world.

At the heart of the UN's mission lies the fundamental goal of preserving international peace and security. From its inception, the UN Charter enshrined this principle, outlining the responsibilities of its member states to collectively work towards preventing conflicts and fostering stability on a global scale. Throughout this chapter, we will uncover the various strategies and initiatives employed by the UN to fulfill this paramount objective.

One of the key components of the UN's security architecture is the General Assembly. While often overshadowed by the Security Council, the General Assembly plays a crucial role in addressing security issues. Despite its lack of binding decision-making authority, the General Assembly serves as a forum for all member states to voice their concerns, propose solutions, and collectively advocate for peaceful resolutions to conflicts. Through case studies and analyses, we will examine the General Assembly's contributions to the maintenance of international peace and security, as well as the limitations it faces in fulfilling its mandate.

Moving forward, we turn our attention to the Security Council, the principal organ tasked with the primary responsibility for maintaining peace and security. Endowed with the authority to take enforcement actions, including the use of military force if necessary, the Security Council stands as a beacon of collective security in the international arena. Through the exploration of historical precedents and contemporary challenges, we will gain insights into the Security Council's decision-making processes, its role in conflict prevention and resolution, and the complexities inherent in balancing the interests of its diverse member states.

A cornerstone of the UN's efforts in upholding peace and security is its peacekeeping operations. From the iconic missions in the Suez Canal Crisis and the Congo Crisis to contemporary deployments in conflict zones worldwide, UN peacekeeping has evolved to become a cornerstone of international conflict management. Through detailed analyses of specific missions, we will uncover the principles, challenges, and successes of UN peacekeeping, shedding light on the courageous efforts of peacekeepers in promoting stability and protecting civilians in volatile environments.

Furthermore, we will delve into the concept of collective security and its application in addressing major crises such as the Korean Crisis and the Iraq-Kuwait Crisis. By examining the responses of the international community to these pivotal events, we will assess the effectiveness of collective security mechanisms in deterring aggression, resolving conflicts, and maintaining peace.

As we navigate through the complexities of UN security affairs, we will confront the challenges and controversies that have shaped the organization's efforts. From the constraints imposed by geopolitical rivalries during the Cold War to the complexities of contemporary conflicts in a rapidly changing world, we will explore the dilemmas and opportunities facing the UN in its quest for global peace and security.

In conclusion, this chapter offers a comprehensive examination of the UN's role in addressing security challenges and advancing the cause of peace on a global scale. By delving into the intricacies of UN security affairs, we aim to deepen our understanding of the complexities, successes, and ongoing efforts of the international community in promoting peace and security for all nations and peoples.

3.2. Role of General Assembly in Maintaining International Peace and Security

The fundamental role of the United Nations is to maintain international peace and security. As a primary organ of the organisation, the General Assembly carries a huge responsibility in the financing of peace operations. The 193 member states of the General Assembly enable to provide a forum for multilateral dialogues of international problems mainly concerning peace and security.

3.2.1. Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations

The General Assembly is the body of UN that monitors the performance of the peacekeeping operations. It is done majorly by the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations which was established in 1965. The Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations conducts a review of all the peacekeeping issues and reports it back to the General Assembly. Its work is reported through the Fourth Committee which is known as the Special Political and Decolonization.

The Fourth Committee

The Special Political and Decolonization has the responsibility of covering broad range of issues. It primarily monitors a group of five decolonization-related agenda aspects. This includes:

➢ Review of special political missions

➢ Consequences of atomic radiation

➢ Israeli practices that affect the self-determination of the Palestinian people

➢ United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees

➢ International cooperation in using outer space

3.2.2. Financing of UN System

The Secretary-General is responsible for submitting a biennial budget to the General Assembly for approval. According to the UN Charter, the organization's expenses are covered by its member states, with the General Assembly determining the apportionment. The Committee on Contributions creates an assessment scale for all members based on their overall economic status and capacity, which is then presented to the General Assembly for approval. Historically, the United States has been

the largest contributor, though its share has decreased over time, from about 40% at the UN's inception to 25% in 1975 and roughly 20% in 2000. Despite the U.S. contributing the most in absolute terms, some countries, such as San Marino, make higher per capita contributions.

In the 1990s, the U.S. contribution became contentious as the country refused to fully pay its dues and criticized the required funding level. In response, the U.S. Congress passed a UN reform bill in 1999, leading to negotiations that resulted in a reduced U.S. budget share and increased contributions from other countries to balance the budget.

The overall cost of the United Nations system significantly increases when considering the expenses of special programs, specialized agencies, and peacekeeping operations, which have their own budgets and are funded through voluntary contributions from member states. The UN has faced ongoing financial challenges due to the surge in peacekeeping and other assistance requests post-Cold War, combined with some member states' delays in payments.

3.3. Role of Security Council in Maintaining Peace and Security

The primary purpose of the United Nations is to maintain international peace and security. Chapter 6 of the UN Charter outlines the methods for the peaceful resolution of disputes, involving the Security Council through mechanisms such as negotiation, mediation, arbitration, and judicial decisions. The Security Council is authorized to investigate any dispute or situation that may threaten international peace and security and can recommend appropriate procedures or methods for adjustment. If the parties involved fail to resolve the dispute peacefully, the council may suggest terms of settlement.

Chapter 7 of the Charter is centered on the concept of collective security, where an attack on one member is met with a collective response. This chapter grants the Security Council the authority to impose coercive measures, including diplomatic, economic, and military sanctions, and, if necessary, the use of armed force, when peaceful settlements are unsuccessful. During the Cold War, such measures were rarely implemented due to the inability of the Security Council to reach consensus because of the rivalry between the United States and the Soviet Union. Consequently, efforts to maintain peace and security often involved preventive diplomacy and peacekeeping. After the Cold War, there was a significant increase in requests for UN

peacekeeping and related activities, addressing new threats to international peace and security such as AIDS and international terrorism.

Although the Security Council holds the primary responsibility for maintaining international peace and security, the UN Charter allows for the involvement of the General Assembly and nonmember states in security matters. Any state, whether a UN member or not, can bring a dispute or situation that threatens international peace and security to the attention of the Security Council or the General Assembly. The Charter permits the General Assembly to "discuss any questions relating to the maintenance of international peace and security" and to "make recommendations with regard to any such questions to the state or states concerned or to the Security Council or to both." However, the General Assembly is restricted from making recommendations on disputes or situations currently being addressed by the Security Council unless requested by the Council. The "Uniting for Peace" resolution of November 1950, however, empowers the General Assembly to address threats to peace if the Security Council fails to act due to a veto by a permanent member. While these provisions give the General Assembly a significant secondary role, only the Security Council can make decisions that are binding on all member states, whereas the General Assembly can only issue recommendations.

Peacekeeping, Peacebuilding and Peacemaking

International armed forces were first deployed in 1948 to monitor cease-fires in Kashmir and Palestine. While not explicitly mentioned in the UN Charter, the practice of using such forces as a buffer between warring parties—known as peacekeeping—was formalized in 1956 during the Suez Crisis involving Egypt, Israel, France, and the United Kingdom. Peacekeeping missions are characterized by their peaceful intent, the involvement of military troops from multiple countries, and the troops' service under the authority of the UN Security Council. In recognition of their efforts, the UN Peacekeeping Forces were awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1988.

During the Cold War, first-generation or "classic" peacekeeping was utilized in the Middle East, Africa, and conflicts resulting from decolonization in Asia. Between 1948 and 1988, the UN conducted 13 peacekeeping missions with lightly armed troops from neutral countries, typically excluding the permanent members of the Security Council. Nations like Canada, Sweden, Norway, Finland, India, Ireland, and Italy

frequently contributed troops. These "Blue Helmets" were permitted to use force only in self-defense and operated with the consent of the conflict parties and the support of the Security Council and troop-contributing countries.

With the Cold War's conclusion, peacekeeping challenges grew more complex. Second-generation peacekeeping was developed to address situations where internal order had collapsed, causing civilian suffering. These missions involved both military personnel and civilian experts and relief specialists. Unlike first-generation peacekeeping, second-generation missions sometimes authorized the use of force beyond self-defense. The broader and sometimes ambiguous goals of second-generation peacekeeping have led to considerable controversy.

In the 1990s, second-generation peacekeeping missions were launched in Cambodia (1991–93), the former Yugoslavia (1992–95), Somalia (1992–95), and other regions. These missions included troops from permanent Security Council members and countries from both the developed and developing world, such as Australia, Pakistan, Ghana, Nigeria, Fiji, and India. In Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Security Council established "safe areas" to protect the Bosniak population from Serbian attacks, authorizing UN troops to defend these areas with force. These interventions, often in internal conflicts, sometimes compromised the UN's neutrality. Between 1988 and 2000, over 30 peacekeeping efforts were initiated, and by 1993, more than 80,000 peacekeepers from 77 countries were deployed globally. In the early 21st century, annual UN peacekeeping expenditures surpassed $2 billion.

In the post-Cold War era, the roles of UN forces expanded to include peacemaking and peacebuilding, as described by former UN Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali in his reports "An Agenda for Peace" (1992) and "Supplement to an Agenda for Peace" (1995). Since 1990, UN forces have supervised elections in regions such as Nicaragua, Eritrea, and Cambodia; facilitated peace negotiations in El Salvador, Angola, and Western Sahara; and distributed food in Somalia. The involvement of UN troops in Yugoslavia during its violent breakup reignited discussions about their role in refugee resettlement. In 1992, the UN established the Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) to provide administrative and technical support for political and humanitarian missions and to coordinate all mine-clearing activities under UN auspices.

Despite these efforts, UN peacekeeping, peacemaking, and peacebuilding activities have faced significant logistical and financial challenges. The increasing number of missions has led to higher costs and more controversies. Although the UN reimburses countries for the use of equipment, these payments have been limited due to many member states failing to pay their UN dues.

3.4 UN and the Concept of Collective Security

By subscribing to the UN Charter, all member states commit to providing the Security Council with armed forces and facilities for military sanctions against aggressors or peace disturbers. However, during the Cold War, no agreements to implement this measure were concluded. After the Cold War, discussions about creating permanent UN forces were revived.

Throughout the Cold War, Chapter 7 provisions of the UN Charter were invoked only twice with unanimous support from all five permanent Security Council members—against Southern Rhodesia in 1966 and against South Africa in 1977. In June 1950, when conflict erupted between North and South Korea, the United States secured a Security Council resolution authorizing the use of force to assist South Korea against North Korean forces. The Soviet Union's boycott of the Security Council over the exclusion of the People's Republic of China meant there was no veto, allowing a U.S.-led multinational force to operate under the UN banner until a cease-fire was reached on July 27, 1953.

The Security Council again authorized the use of UN armed forces following Iraq's invasion of Kuwait in August 1990. The Council condemned the aggression, imposed economic sanctions on Iraq, and authorized member states to use "all necessary means" to restore peace and security to Kuwait. The resulting Persian Gulf War lasted six weeks, ending with Iraq's agreement to comply with UN resolutions and withdraw from Kuwait. The UN continued to monitor Iraq's compliance with these resolutions, which included the elimination of its weapons of mass destruction. To oversee this, the Security Council established the UN Special Commission (UNSCOM) to inspect and verify Iraq's implementation of the cease-fire terms. Despite this, the United States continued to bomb Iraqi military installations intermittently, citing violations of "no-fly" zones, radar targeting of U.S. aircraft, and obstruction of UNSCOM's inspection efforts.

The dominant role of the United States in initiating and leading UN actions in Korea in 1950 and the Persian Gulf in 1990-91 sparked debate over the feasibility of collective security independent of the interests of powerful nations and without U.S. control. Ongoing U.S. bombing in Iraq post-Gulf War further fueled controversy about the legitimacy of these actions under previous UN Security Council resolutions and whether the U.S. was justified in undertaking military operations in the name of collective security without explicit UN approval. Some U.S. military personnel and Congress members opposed U.S. troops serving under UN command, arguing it infringed on national sovereignty. Meanwhile, voices in the U.S. and Western Europe called for closer integration of U.S. and allied command structures in UN military operations.

To evaluate the UN's expanded role in international peace and security, including dispute settlement, peacekeeping, peacebuilding, and enforcement, a comprehensive review of UN Peace Operations was conducted. The Brahimi Report (Report of the Panel on United Nations Peace Operations), issued in 2000, recommended strengthening the UN's capacity to undertake diverse missions. Key recommendations included maintaining brigade-sized forces of 5,000 troops ready to deploy within 30 to 90 days and staffing UN headquarters with trained military professionals capable of using advanced information technologies and planning operations with a multidisciplinary UN team, including political, development, and human rights experts.

3.5 Summary

Chapter 3 of the exploration into the United Nations and its crucial role in global security affairs provides a comprehensive examination of the General Assembly's functions, the financing of the UN system, the authority of the Security Council, and the evolution of peacekeeping, peacebuilding, and peacemaking operations.

The General Assembly, comprising 193 member states, serves as a vital forum for multilateral dialogue on issues concerning peace and security. Within this body, the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations, established in 1965, plays a pivotal role in monitoring peacekeeping missions, reporting its findings to the General Assembly through the Fourth Committee, also known as the Special Political and Decolonization Committee. The Fourth Committee addresses various issues, including

the review of special political missions, consequences of atomic radiation, and international cooperation in outer space exploration.

Additionally, the chapter delves into the financing of the UN system, revealing the Secretary-General's responsibility for submitting a biennial budget to the General Assembly for approval. Member states cover the organization's expenses, with the Committee on Contributions devising an assessment scale based on economic status and capacity. While the United States historically held the largest contribution share, controversies arose in the 1990s over its refusal to fully pay dues, leading to negotiations and eventual reforms.

Transitioning to the Security Council's role, the chapter outlines its authority in maintaining peace and security as detailed in the UN Charter. Chapter 6 delineates methods for peaceful dispute resolution, while Chapter 7 introduces the concept of collective security, granting the Security Council authority to impose coercive measures, including military force if peaceful settlements fail. However, Cold War dynamics often hindered the implementation of such measures, leading to reliance on preventive diplomacy and peacekeeping. Post-Cold War, increased requests for UN peace operations addressed new threats like AIDS and international terrorism.

Examining the interaction between the General Assembly and Security Council, the chapter elucidates that while the Security Council holds primary responsibility for peace and security, the General Assembly and non-member states may address security matters. The General Assembly's role, while significant, remains secondary, as only the Security Council can make decisions binding on all member states.

Lastly, the chapter explores peacekeeping, peacemaking, and peacebuilding operations. From the deployment of international armed forces in 1948 to monitor ceasefires to the formalization of peacekeeping during the Suez Crisis in 1956, UN operations evolved to address complex conflicts with both civilian and military personnel. Despite successes, logistical and financial challenges persist, prompting comprehensive reviews and recommendations, such as those outlined in the Brahimi Report in 2000.

In conclusion, Chapter 3 provides a nuanced understanding of the UN's indispensable role in maintaining international peace and security,

offering insights into its mechanisms, challenges, and ongoing efforts to promote global stability and prosperity.

Check Your Progress

Self-Assessment Questions

Multiple Choice Questions (MCQs):

1. Which body of the UN plays a key role in conflict resolution and peace enforcement?
   a) General Assembly
   b) International Court of Justice
   c) Security Council
   d) Economic and Social Council

2. What is the primary objective of UN peacekeeping operations?
   a) Promoting economic growth
   b) Enforcing peace and security
   c) Encouraging disarmament
   d) Monitoring health crises

3. What was one of the first major peacekeeping missions of the UN?
   a) Korean Crisis
   b) Suez Canal Crisis
   c) Iraq-Kuwait Crisis
   d) Vietnam War

Fill in the Blanks:

4. The _____ has the authority to impose sanctions and use military force if peaceful solutions fail.

5. One of the significant challenges in peacekeeping operations is _____, due to logistical and financial constraints.

True/False:

6. The General Assembly has binding authority to make decisions on international security matters. (True/False)

7. The Brahimi Report was published in 2000 to improve the efficiency of UN peacekeeping operations. (True/False)

Short Answer Questions

8. Explain the role of the Security Council in maintaining global peace and security.
9. Discuss the significance of the Brahimi Report in strengthening UN peacekeeping efforts.

Answers

1. c) Security Council
2. b) Enforcing peace and security
3. b) Suez Canal Crisis
4. Security Council
5. Financial constraints
6. False
7. True

Lesson 4.1 - Socio Political And Economic Issues

Structure

4.1. Introduction

In the complex landscape of global affairs, the role of international organizations stands as a cornerstone in addressing socio-political and economic issues. This unit delves into the multifaceted dynamics of international organizations, focusing on the United Nations (UN) and its endeavors in disarmament, socio-economic development, and human rights advocacy. As the preeminent global forum for diplomacy and cooperation, the UN plays a pivotal role in navigating the challenges of the modern world.

The unit begins by elucidating the intricacies of disarmament, an essential component of global security and stability. From negotiating treaties to implementing verification mechanisms, the process of disarmament involves intricate diplomatic maneuvers and technical expertise. Through insightful analysis and illustrative examples, learners will grasp the significance of disarmament efforts in fostering socio-economic progress and mitigating the threats posed by weapons of mass destruction.

Transitioning to the realm of socio-economic development, the unit explores the UN's concerted efforts to promote prosperity and inclusivity worldwide. By examining the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the pivotal role of UN agencies and programs, learners will gain a comprehensive understanding of the interconnected issues encompassing poverty reduction, healthcare access, education equity, and environmental sustainability. Through real-world case studies and critical evaluation,

learners will discern the transformative impact of UN initiatives in advancing socio-economic progress and uplifting vulnerable communities.

Lastly, the unit delves into the realm of human rights, elucidating the foundational principles enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) and international covenants. From civil and political rights to economic, social, and cultural rights, the discourse navigates the universal applicability of human rights and the mechanisms for their protection and enforcement. Through an exploration of international human rights law and the obligations of states, learners will comprehend the imperative of upholding human dignity and equality in the global arena.

Through a nuanced exploration of these themes, this unit invites learners to navigate the intricate tapestry of international organizations and their profound impact on shaping the world we inhabit. From fostering peace and prosperity to championing human rights and dignity, the endeavors of international organizations underscore the collective aspirations for a more just, equitable, and harmonious global community.

4.2. The UN and the Process Disarmament

Disarmament refers to the reduction, limitation, or abolition of weapons, particularly weapons of mass destruction such as nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons. The process of disarmament is complex and multifaceted, involving negotiations, treaties, verification, and enforcement mechanisms.

4.2.1. Key Aspects of Disarmament

- ➤ International cooperation and technical assistance are often necessary to help countries implement disarmament measures, especially in cases where they lack the necessary resources or expertise.
- ➤ Transparency and confidence-building measures are essential to build trust among states. These measures can include information sharing, mutual inspections, and open communication channels.
- ➤ Disarmament efforts are closely linked to non-proliferation, which aims to prevent the spread of weapons, particularly nuclear weapons, to additional states or non-state actors.

> Actual disarmament involves the physical dismantling and destruction of weapons. This process can be technically complex and requires stringent security measures to prevent diversion.

Once treaties are signed, their implementation requires comprehensive verification mechanisms to ensure compliance. Organizations like the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) play crucial roles in monitoring and verification. Disarmament often begins with negotiations among countries to reach agreements on reducing or eliminating specific types of weapons. Examples include the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC), and the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC).

4.2.2. Process of Disarmament

Negotiation: Countries engage in diplomatic negotiations to draft and agree on disarmament treaties. The CD and the UN General Assembly play key roles in facilitating these negotiations.

Ratification and Implementation: Once treaties are negotiated, they must be ratified by the participating states. Implementation often involves legislative and administrative measures within states to comply with treaty obligations.

Verification and Compliance: Effective verification mechanisms are crucial to ensure that states adhere to their disarmament commitments. Organizations like the IAEA for nuclear disarmament and the OPCW for chemical weapons are essential in this regard.

Disarmament Assistance: The UN and its member states provide technical and financial assistance to help countries comply with disarmament treaties. This can include support for dismantling weapons, securing materials, and training personnel.

Confidence-Building Measures: Transparency and communication are vital to build trust among states. These measures can include mutual inspections, data exchanges, and regular consultations.

4.2.3. Challenges to Disarmament

> **Verification and Compliance:** Ensuring that countries comply with disarmament agreements can be difficult, requiring sophisticated verification technologies and robust international cooperation.

> **Political Will:** Disarmament efforts often stall due to lack of political will among key states, influenced by national security concerns and geopolitical dynamics.

> **Technological Advances:** Emerging technologies can complicate disarmament efforts, as new types of weapons and delivery systems are developed.

> **Regional Conflicts:** Ongoing regional conflicts and rivalries can hinder progress on disarmament, as states prioritize security over disarmament commitments.

The Role of United Nations in Disarmament

UN Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA)

Established in 1998, UNODA supports disarmament efforts by providing substantive and organizational support for norm-setting in the field of disarmament. It promotes nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, strengthens disarmament regimes in other WMD areas, and works to control conventional arms.

Conference on Disarmament (CD)

The CD is the world's single multilateral disarmament negotiating forum. It negotiates major disarmament treaties and agreements, including the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) and the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT).

UN General Assembly First Committee (Disarmament and International Security Committee)

This committee addresses disarmament, global challenges, and threats to peace that affect the international community and seeks solutions to the challenges in the international security regime. It considers all disarmament and international security matters within the scope of the Charter or relating to the powers and functions of any other organ of the United Nations.

Security Council:

The Security Council addresses disarmament issues primarily related to maintaining international peace and security. It can impose

arms embargoes and take enforcement actions against states that violate disarmament agreements.

Disarmament plays a crucial role in socio-economic development by redirecting resources from military expenditures to areas that foster economic growth and improve social welfare.

Examples for illustrating how the United Nations (UN) facilitates disarmament processes that contribute to socio-economic development:

Example 1: Landmine Clearance and Socio-Economic Development in Cambodia

Background: Cambodia is one of the most heavily landmine-contaminated countries in the world, a legacy of decades of conflict. Landmines and unexploded ordnance (UXO) have posed significant barriers to socio-economic development, affecting agriculture, infrastructure development, and the safety of communities.

UN Involvement: The UN, through its Mine Action Service (UNMAS) and partnerships with various organizations, has been actively involved in landmine clearance in Cambodia. The UN supported the implementation of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (Ottawa Treaty) and helped establish the Cambodian Mine Action and Victim Assistance Authority (CMAA).

Process and Impact:

Landmine Clearance: Systematic landmine and UXO clearance operations have been conducted, making land safe for agricultural use and habitation.

Community Education: Mine risk education programs were implemented to inform local communities about the dangers of landmines and UXO.

Victim Assistance: Programs were established to support landmine survivors with medical care, rehabilitation, and vocational training.

Socio-Economic Benefits:

Agricultural Development: Cleared land has been returned to agricultural production, boosting local economies and food security.

Infrastructure Development: Safe land has facilitated the construction of roads, schools, and health centers, improving access to services.

Economic Oppurtunities: Landmine clearance has created jobs, both directly in demining operations and indirectly through increased economic activities in cleared areas.

Example 2: Nuclear Disarmament and Economic Diversification in Kazakhstan

Background: Kazakhstan inherited a significant nuclear arsenal and numerous nuclear test sites after the dissolution of the Soviet Union. The Semipalatinsk Test Site, in particular, had severe health and environmental impacts on the local population.

UN Involvement: The UN, through the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and various UN programs, supported Kazakhstan's efforts to denuclearize and repurpose its nuclear sites.

Process and Impact:

Nuclear Disarmament: Kazakhstan voluntarily renounced its nuclear arsenal and joined the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT).

Site Rehabilitation: The UN and IAEA assisted in the safe decommissioning and rehabilitation of the Semipalatinsk Test Site.

Economic Diversification: Efforts were made to diversify the local economy away from its dependence on nuclear-related activities.

Socio-Economic Benefits:

Health Improvements: Reduction in radiation exposure has led to improved health outcomes for the local population.

Environmental Restoration: Rehabilitation of contaminated land has allowed for its safe use in agriculture and other economic activities.

Economic Opportunities: Investments in alternative industries, such as agriculture, mining, and manufacturing, have provided new economic opportunities and increased employment.

These examples illustrate how the UN's disarmament efforts can have profound socio-economic benefits. By reducing the burden of military expenditures, improving security, and facilitating the safe reuse of land

and resources, disarmament contributes to sustainable development and improved quality of life. The UN's multifaceted approach, involving treaty negotiations, on-the-ground operations, and regional cooperation, is crucial in translating disarmament into tangible socio-economic progress.

Disarmament is a critical aspect of global security and stability. It involves a comprehensive process that includes negotiation, treaty implementation, verification, and the physical dismantling of weapons. Despite significant challenges, the UN and its member states continue to work towards a safer world through various disarmament initiatives and treaties. Achieving effective disarmament requires sustained international cooperation, political will, and robust verification mechanisms.

The UN's role in disarmament is integral to maintaining international peace and security. Through its various bodies, treaties, and initiatives, the UN works to reduce the threat posed by weapons of mass destruction and conventional arms. Despite significant challenges, the continued effort towards disarmament remains crucial for global stability and safety.

4.3. Socio-Economic Development

Socio-economic development is a broad concept that encompasses the improvement of both economic and social conditions in a society. It aims to create a more prosperous, and sustainable community by addressing various factors such as education, healthcare, infrastructure, employment, and income distribution. Socio-economic development is a continuous process that requires coordinated efforts from governments, private sector, and civil society to create a thriving and inclusive society. International organizations play a crucial role in socio-economic development by providing resources and platforms for cooperation among countries.

The United Nations (UN) plays a vital role in socio-economic development across the globe through its various programs, agencies, and initiatives aimed at promoting sustainable development, reducing poverty, and improving the quality of life for all people.

In 2015, the UN adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which includes 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). These goals address a wide range of socio-economic issues such as poverty, hunger, health, education, gender equality, clean water and sanitation,

affordable and clean energy, decent work and economic growth, and reduced inequalities. The SDGs provide a comprehensive framework for member states to work towards sustainable socio-economic development.

UN specialized agencies, programs and their roles

The UN system includes a variety of specialized agencies and programs focused on specific areas:

World Health Organization (WHO)

The WHO is concerned with international public health. It addresses global health issues, supports health systems, and coordinates responses to health emergencies.

United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)

UNICEF focuses on the rights and well-being of children. It promotes health, education, equality, and protection. Programs include immunization campaigns, education initiatives, nutrition support, and efforts to reduce child mortality.

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

Promotes education, science, culture, and communication. UNESCO aims to build peace through international cooperation in education, the sciences, and culture.

It promotes education for all, supports cultural heritage preservation, and fosters scientific research and collaboration.

International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank: Provide financial assistance and support for economic development.

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

The UNDP works in nearly 170 countries and territories to eradicate poverty, reduce inequalities, and build resilience so that countries can sustain progress.

It supports countries in developing policies, leadership skills, partnering abilities, and institutional capabilities. Programs include job creation, social safety nets, and inclusive economic growth.

World Food Programme (WFP):

The WFP is the leading humanitarian organization saving lives and changing lives, delivering food assistance in emergencies, and working with communities to improve nutrition and build resilience.

It provides food aid, supports food security, and works on sustainable agricultural practices.

Socio-Economic Development Initiatives

Poverty Reduction: Through various programs and partnerships, the UN works to lift people out of poverty by providing access to resources, education, and employment opportunities.

Health and Well Being: Initiatives aimed at improving health outcomes include combating infectious diseases, improving maternal and child health, and enhancing health systems.

Education: The UN promotes access to quality education for all, with a particular focus on gender equality and education in emergency situations.

Gender Equality: UN Women and other agencies work to empower women and girls, promote gender equality, and address gender-based violence.

Economic Growth: The UN supports inclusive and sustainable economic growth by promoting decent work, entrepreneurship, and innovation.

Environmental Sustainability: Efforts include combating climate change, promoting sustainable agriculture, and protecting natural resources.

Impact of UN in Socio-Economic Development

The impact of the UN's socio-economic development efforts can be seen in various success stories worldwide. For instance, significant progress has been made in reducing extreme poverty, improving health outcomes, and increasing access to education. However, much work

remains to be done to achieve the ambitious targets set by the SDGs by 2030. The UN's comprehensive approach to socio-economic development underscores its commitment to creating a more equitable, inclusive, and sustainable world for all.

Let us discuss how the North-South system, the World Trade Organization (WTO), and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) contribute to socio-economic development:

North-South System

The term "North-South system" refers to the dynamic between developed countries (the North) and developing countries (the South). International organizations that operate within this framework aim to address global disparities and promote equitable development.

The main Key contributions of North-South System in Socio-Economic development:

Technology Transfer: Facilitating the transfer of technology and knowledge from developed to developing countries to boost industrialization and innovation.

> **Trade Agreements:** Promoting fair trade practices to ensure developing countries can access global markets on equitable terms.
>
> **Development Aid:** Organizations like the World Bank and International Monetary Fund (IMF) provide financial assistance and technical expertise to developing countries to foster economic growth and reduce poverty.
>
> **Capacity Building:** Providing training and resources to strengthen the institutional capacities of developing countries, enhancing their ability to implement effective development policies.

The North-South system plays a critical role in addressing global inequalities and promoting socio-economic development. Through financial assistance, trade facilitation, technology transfer, and policy dialogue, international organizations and developed countries contribute to the growth and development of the Global South. However, challenges such as unequal power dynamics, dependency, and implementation effectiveness need to be addressed to ensure that these efforts lead to sustainable and inclusive development.

World Trade Organization (WTO)

The WTO is a global organization that deals with the rules of trade between nations. Its primary objective is to ensure that trade flows smoothly, predictably, and freely as possible.

The main Key contributions of World Trade Organization (WTO) in Socio-Economic development:

Trade Facilitation: Assisting in the simplification, modernization, and harmonization of export and import processes, reducing costs and improving efficiency.

Capacity Building: Offering training and support to developing countries to help them understand and implement international trade agreements.

Dispute Resolution: Providing a platform for resolving trade disputes between countries, ensuring that trade practices are fair and legal.

Trade Liberalization: Promoting the reduction of trade barriers (tariffs and quotas), which can lead to increased market access for developing countries, fostering economic growth.

The WTO plays a crucial role in fostering socio-economic development by promoting free and fair trade, providing a platform for dispute resolution, and offering capacity-building support to developing countries. Despite facing challenges, its efforts to integrate developing countries into the global trading system contribute significantly to their economic growth and development.

United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)

The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) is a key player in promoting socio-economic development, particularly in the realms of child health, education, and protection. Founded in 1946 to provide emergency food and healthcare to children in countries that had been devastated by World War II, UNICEF has since evolved to address a wide range of issues affecting children and their families worldwide.

The main Key contributions of United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) in Socio-Economic development

Advocacy: Working with governments and other stakeholders to develop policies that promote the well-being and rights of children.

Emergency Response: Providing rapid assistance during emergencies, including conflicts and natural disasters, ensuring that children's needs are prioritized.

Protection: Protecting children from violence, exploitation, and abuse, and supporting legal and social systems that safeguard children's rights.

Education: Promoting access to quality education for all children, with a focus on girls and marginalized groups.

Child Health and Nutrition: Implementing programs to reduce child mortality, combat malnutrition, and ensure access to clean water and sanitation.

UNICEF plays a vital role in socio-economic development by focusing on the needs and rights of children. Through its comprehensive programs in health, education, protection, and advocacy, UNICEF helps create a foundation for a healthier, more educated, and more secure future generation. Despite facing various challenges, its impact on improving the lives of children around the world remains profound and far-reaching.

The North-South System, WTO, UNICEF plays a vital role in Socio-Economic Development. International organizations mobilize financial and technical resources to support development initiatives. They offer policy advice and frameworks to help countries design and implement effective development strategies. Providing training and resources to enhance the capabilities of governments and institutions in developing countries. Establishing international standards and norms in areas like trade, health, and education to ensure consistency and fairness. Raising awareness about global issues and advocating for the rights and needs of vulnerable populations.

By the help of their resources, expertise and global reach, these organizations play a pivotal role in driving socio-economic development and fostering a more equitable and prosperous world.

4.3. Human Rights : The Universal Declaration and the International Covenants

4.3.1. Universal Declaration Of Human Rights (Udhr)

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights is agreed to be the support of International human rights law. It was adopted in 1948, the UDHR has inspired a legally binding international human rights. It continues to be an inspiration to us all whether in addressing injustices, in times of conflicts, in societies suffering repression, and in our efforts towards achieving universal enjoyment of human rights.

It represents the universal recognition that basic rights and fundamental freedoms are Inherent to all human beings, inalienable and equally applicable to everyone, and that every one of us is born free and equal in dignity and rights. Whatever our nationality, place of residence, gender, national or ethnic origin, color, religion, language, or any other status, the international community on December 10, 1948 made a commitment to upholding dignity and justice for all of us.

Principles Of Human Rights

The core principles of human rights first set out in the UDHR, such as universality, interdependence and indivisibility, equality and non-discrimination, and that human rights simultaneously entail both rights and obligations from duty bearers and rights owners, have been reiterated in numerous international human rights conventions, declarations, and resolutions. Today, all United Nations member States have ratified at least one of the nine core international human rights treaties, and 80 percent have ratified four or more, giving concrete expression to the universality of the UDHR and international human rights.

Importance of Human Rights and International Convenants

1. Human rights plays a fundamental role in every individual life irrespective of their gender, nationality, religion, race, status in society, economic background. Every person in society need to fight for their rights to make the present and future of our country better.

2. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) and the International Convenants takes place a major role in human rights. The UDHR, adopted by the United Nations General Assembly

in 1948. It provides the basic principles of human rights that are inherent to every individual and sets out a common standard of rights for all people irrespective of their nationality, religion or any other status.

3. The UDHR consists of nearly 30 articles in which it gives the information of the human rights including economic, political, social, civil and cultural rights. Some of the rights includes in the mentioned sectors are right to life, right to liberty, right to freedom, right to education, right to health. According to the principles in UDHR, the international community has developed many binding treaties as International Bill of Human Rights. This includes the International Convenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), both are adopted by UN General Assembly in 1966 and entered into force in 1976.

4. The ICCPR focuses on civil and political rights, such as the rights to freedom of speech, assembly, and religion, as well as the right to a fair trial and the prohibition of torture and arbitrary detention. The ICESCR, on the other hand, emphasizes economic, social, and cultural rights, including the right to work, social security, health, education, and an adequate standard of living.

Together the UDHR and the International Convenants of International human rights law, are trying to protect the rights and dignity of every single individual. They have been putting a lot of effort to shape the national laws, policies and institutions upholding the human rights across the world.

Human Rights are Protected by International Laws? Why ?

International human rights law lays down obligations which States are bound to respect. By becoming parties to international treaties, States assume obligations and duties under international law to respect, to protect and to fulfil human rights. The obligation to respect means that States must refrain from interfering with or curtailing the enjoyment of human rights. The obligation to protect requires States to protect individuals and groups against human rights abuses. The obligation to fulfil means that States must take positive action to facilitate the enjoyment of basic human rights.

Through ratification of international human rights treaties, Governments undertake to put into place domestic measures and legislation

compatible with their treaty obligations and duties. The domestic legal system, therefore, provides the principal legal protection of human rights guaranteed under international law. Where domestic legal proceedings fail to address human rights abuses, mechanisms and procedures for individual and group complaints are available at the regional and international levels to help ensure that international human rights standards are indeed respected, implemented, and enforced at the local level.

Human Rights are Universal, Indivisible and Interdependent

All human rights are equally important for every individual in the country, and all governments must treat human rights in a fair and equal manner. Every state have a duty, regardless of their political, economic and cultural systems, to promote and protect all human rights for everyone without any discrimination.

So no matter what thoughts people have, there is one basic principle that underlies all the rights outlined in the UDHR: that every human being has the same inalienable rights. This means human rights are the same for every man, woman and child across the world, no matter what their situations.

There can be no distinction of any kind: including race, colour, sex, sexual orientation or gender identity, language, religion, political or any other opinion, national or social origin, of fortune, of birth or any other situation. The UDHR also shows us that human rights are interdependent and indivisible. All of the 30 articles in the Declaration are equally important. Nobody can decide that some are more important than others.

4.5. Summary

Unit 4 delves into the multifaceted realm of socio-political and economic issues, focusing on the pivotal role of international organizations, particularly the United Nations (UN), in addressing these complex challenges. The unit traverses three main thematic areas: disarmament, socio-economic development, and human rights advocacy.

In the exploration of disarmament, learners navigate the intricate process of reducing weapons proliferation, from diplomatic negotiations to treaty implementation and verification mechanisms. Through case studies such as landmine clearance in Cambodia and nuclear disarmament in Kazakhstan, learners grasp the profound socio-economic

benefits of disarmament efforts, including enhanced security, economic diversification, and environmental restoration.

Transitioning to socio-economic development, the unit examines the UN's comprehensive initiatives aimed at fostering prosperity and inclusivity worldwide. Learners delve into the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the pivotal role of UN agencies in addressing poverty, healthcare access, education equity, and environmental sustainability. Through an analysis of success stories and progress towards the SDGs, learners discern the transformative impact of UN endeavors in advancing socio-economic progress and uplifting marginalized communities.

Lastly, the unit explores human rights advocacy, elucidating the foundational principles enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) and international covenants. Learners navigate the universal applicability of human rights, including civil and political rights, economic, social, and cultural rights, and the mechanisms for their protection and enforcement. Through an examination of international human rights law and state obligations, learners grasp the imperative of upholding human dignity and equality on the global stage.

Unit 4 invites learners to navigate the intricate landscape of global affairs, showcasing the indispensable role of international organizations in addressing pressing socio-political and economic challenges. From fostering peace and security through disarmament to championing human rights and promoting inclusive development, the endeavors of international organizations underscore humanity's collective aspirations for a more just, equitable, and harmonious world.

Self-Assessment Questions

Multiple Choice Questions (MCQs):

4. Which of the following is a core focus of the United Nations' socio-economic development efforts?

   a) Arms proliferation

   b) Poverty reduction

   c) Space exploration

   d) Military alliances

5. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) emphasizes the _____ of human rights.

    a) Division

    b) Universality and indivisibility

    c) Regionalization

    d) Cultural relativity

6. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are initiatives driven by which UN entity?

    a) Security Council
    b) UNDP (United Nations Development Programme)
    c) UNESCO
    d) ILO

Fill in the Blanks:

4. The UN works on promoting _____ as part of its socio-economic development goals to ensure equality in education and healthcare.

5. One of the primary mechanisms for enforcing human rights under international law is _____.

True/False:

6. The Sustainable Development Goals aim to achieve global sustainability by 2030. (True/False)

7. Human rights are optional depending on a country's cultural and economic context. (True/False)

Short Answer Questions:

8. What role does the United Nations play in advancing human rights on a global scale?

9. How do the Sustainable Development Goals address poverty and education?

Answers

1. a) Poverty reduction

2. b) Universality and indivisibility

3. c) UNDP

4. Inclusivity

5. International human rights law

6. True

7. False

UNIT–V

Lesson 5.1 - Special Agencies And Regional Systems

Structure

5.1.   **Introduction**

5.2.   **UNESCO**

5.3.   **ILO and IMF**

5.4.   **IBRD and IMF**

5.5.   **Importance and Role of Regional Organisations**

5.6.   **Summary**

5.1. Introduction

Unit V delves into the realm of special agencies and regional systems within the international arena. In this unit, we explore specialized organizations and regional groupings that play pivotal roles in addressing global challenges, promoting cooperation, and advancing shared objectives within specific geographical contexts.

Special agencies, such as UNESCO, the International Labour Organization (ILO), and the International Monetary Fund (IMF), are instrumental in tackling diverse issues ranging from education and cultural preservation to labor rights and economic stability. Through their unique mandates and functions, these organizations contribute to fostering international collaboration, advancing social justice, and promoting sustainable development on a global scale.

Additionally, this unit delves into the significance and role of regional organizations in shaping regional dynamics, enhancing cooperation, and addressing common challenges within specific geographical areas. Regional groupings like the European Union (EU), ASEAN, and the Organization of American States (OAS) serve as platforms for political dialogue, economic integration, and security cooperation among neighboring countries. By fostering regional solidarity and collective action, these organizations play crucial roles in promoting peace, stability, and prosperity within their respective regions.

Throughout this unit, learners will explore the objectives, functions, structures, and impacts of special agencies and regional systems, gaining insights into their contributions to global governance and the pursuit of shared goals. By understanding the roles and dynamics of these organizations, learners will develop a nuanced understanding of the complexities of international relations and the interconnectedness of global challenges in today's world.

5.2. UNESCO

The United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) is one of the specialized agencies of the United Nations system. Established on November 16, 1945, its primary objective is to contribute to peace and security by promoting international collaboration through education, science, culture, and communication.

5.2.1. Objectives of UNESCO

UNESCO's core objectives encompass:

Education: UNESCO aims to provide quality education for all, with a focus on access, equity, and lifelong learning opportunities. It works to strengthen education systems, promote literacy, and foster global citizenship.

Science: Through its programs, UNESCO supports scientific research, innovation, and knowledge-sharing to address global challenges such as climate change, biodiversity loss, and public health crises. It facilitates international cooperation in science and technology to achieve sustainable development goals.

Culture: UNESCO strives to safeguard cultural heritage and promote cultural diversity. It protects World Heritage sites, intangible cultural heritage, and cultural expressions, fostering dialogue and mutual understanding among cultures.

Communication and Information: UNESCO promotes freedom of expression, access to information, and media literacy. It supports the development of inclusive and pluralistic media systems, enhancing communication capacities worldwide.

5.2.2. Functions of UNESCO:

Normative Action: UNESCO develops international standards and

guidelines in its fields of competence, facilitating policy dialogue and cooperation among member states.

Capacity-building: Through technical assistance and capacity-building programs, UNESCO strengthens national institutions and human resources, enabling countries to address challenges effectively.

Advocacy and Awareness: UNESCO raises awareness about global issues and promotes public engagement in its areas of work, mobilizing support for sustainable development and cultural preservation.

Partnerships: UNESCO collaborates with governments, civil society organizations, academia, and the private sector to implement its programs and initiatives, leveraging diverse expertise and resources.

5.2.3. Structure:

UNESCO's governing bodies include the General Conference, which meets every two years and sets the organization's policies and budget, and the Executive Board, responsible for program implementation and coordination between sessions of the General Conference.

The organization is divided into sectors, each focusing on specific thematic areas such as education, natural sciences, social and human sciences, culture, and communication/information. UNESCO also has field offices worldwide, facilitating decentralized implementation and tailored support to countries and regions.

5.2.4. Impact and Challenges:

Over the years, UNESCO has made significant contributions to global development, promoting education, scientific research, cultural preservation, and media freedom. However, it faces various challenges, including funding constraints, political tensions, and the need to adapt to evolving global priorities and technologies.

UNESCO plays a vital role in advancing international cooperation and dialogue in education, science, culture, and communication. By promoting mutual understanding and collaboration, it contributes to building a more peaceful, inclusive, and sustainable world.

5.3. ILO

The International Labour Organization (ILO), established in 1919, represents a quintessential institution within the framework of international governance, dedicated to the promotion of social justice and the pursuit of decent work conditions worldwide. Rooted in the aftermath of the First World War and enshrined in the Treaty of Versailles, the ILO has since played a pivotal role in shaping international labor standards and advocating for the rights of workers across diverse socio-economic landscapes.

5.3.2. Objectives

At the core of the ILO's mission lie four seminal objectives:

➢ Promotion of Rights at Work: The ILO aims to eradicate forced labor, abolish child labor, eliminate discrimination in employment, and uphold freedom of association and collective bargaining.

➢ Facilitation of Decent Employment Opportunities: The ILO endeavors to create sustainable and productive employment, improve working conditions, and enhance social protection for workers and their families.

➢ Fostering Social Dialogue: The ILO emphasizes inclusive engagement between governments, employers, and workers' organizations to address labor market challenges and resolve disputes.

➢ Advancement of Social Justice: Through advocacy for equitable remuneration, comprehensive social protection, and opportunities for upward mobility, the ILO seeks to mitigate inequalities and promote inclusive development.

5.3.2. Functions of ILO:

The operational framework of the ILO is underpinned by a multifaceted array of functions:

Normative Standardization: The ILO serves as a global forum for the establishment and dissemination of international labor standards. These standards, enshrined in conventions and recommendations, furnish member states with a normative framework for the development and implementation of national labor laws and policies, thereby facilitating the promotion of decent work and the protection of workers' rights.

Technical Assistance: Through its technical cooperation program, the ILO extends tailored support to member states, offering guidance in the implementation and enforcement of labor standards, institutional capacity-building, and the promotion of inclusive and sustainable development trajectories.

Research and Advocacy: The ILO is actively engaged in research and analysis on emergent labor market trends and challenges, disseminating knowledge and advocating for evidence-informed policy interventions. Its research outputs and publications serve as invaluable resources for policymakers, practitioners, and scholars alike, fostering informed decision-making and progressive policy formulation.

Monitoring and Oversight: The ILO undertakes the crucial task of monitoring compliance with international labor standards through a robust system of periodic reporting and review. By assessing member states' adherence to ratified conventions and offering recommendations for enhancement, the ILO contributes to fostering a culture of accountability and transparency in labor governance.

5.3.3. Structure of ILO

Central to the governance architecture of the ILO is the convening of the International Labour Conference—an annual gathering of representatives from governments, employers, and workers—to deliberate on salient labor issues and adopt international labor standards. This conference is complemented by the oversight function of the Governing Body, which provides stewardship and guidance to the organization's activities between sessions.

Operational activities within the ILO are structured around thematic departments and regional offices, ensuring a coordinated and contextually responsive approach to addressing labor market challenges. Through its decentralized organizational structure, the ILO fosters direct engagement with stakeholders at the national and regional levels, tailoring interventions to local contexts and exigencies.

5.3.4. Impact and Challenges:

The ILO has made significant progress in improving labor conditions but faces ongoing challenges such as labor rights violations, informal

work, gender disparities, and the impact of technology. The COVID-19 pandemic has further highlighted these challenges, emphasizing the need for global cooperation to build a fairer and more inclusive labor market.

In summary, the ILO plays a crucial role in promoting social justice and decent work worldwide. Understanding its history, objectives, functions, and challenges provides insight into the complexities of the global labor landscape and the importance of collective action for positive change.

5.4. IBRD and IMF

The International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) stand as pillars of the international financial system, playing distinct yet complementary roles in promoting global economic stability, development, and financial cooperation.

5.4.1. International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD)

Established in 1944, alongside its sister institution, the IMF, the IBRD, often referred to as the World Bank, focuses on providing financial and technical assistance to middle-income and creditworthy low-income countries for development projects. It operates as part of the World Bank Group, which includes other entities like the International Development Association (IDA), the International Finance Corporation (IFC), and the Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA).

Objectives:

The primary objectives of the IBRD are:

> **Promotion of Sustainable Development:** The IBRD aims to foster sustainable economic development in member countries through the provision of financial and technical assistance. It supports projects and initiatives that contribute to poverty reduction, infrastructure development, and economic growth.
>
> **Facilitation of Investment:** By mobilizing financial resources from capital markets and member countries, the IBRD facilitates investment in key sectors such as transportation, energy, agriculture, and education. It provides long-term financing and risk management solutions to support investment projects.

Promotion of Good Governance: The IBRD promotes good governance practices and institutional capacity-building in member countries. It works to strengthen public sector management, improve transparency and accountability, and enhance the effectiveness of public institutions.

Mitigation of Economic Shocks: During times of economic crisis or natural disasters, the IBRD provides financial support to member countries to help mitigate the impact of shocks and facilitate recovery efforts. It offers flexible financing instruments and policy advice to address emerging challenges.

Functions

Financial Assistance: The IBRD provides loans and credits to member countries for a wide range of development projects, including infrastructure, education, healthcare, and environmental sustainability.

Technical Assistance: In addition to financial support, the IBRD offers technical expertise and knowledge-sharing to help countries design and implement effective development strategies.

Policy Advice: The IBRD provides policy advice to member countries on issues related to economic development, governance, and institutional reform, drawing on its experience and expertise.

Global Advocacy: The IBRD advocates for policies and initiatives that promote sustainable development, poverty reduction, and inclusive growth on the global stage.\

Structure

The governance structure of the IBRD includes a Board of Governors, which consists of representatives from member countries and meets annually to provide strategic guidance and oversight. The day-to-day operations are managed by a Board of Executive Directors, responsible for approving projects, policies, and budgets.

The IBRD operates through regional offices and country offices located around the world, ensuring proximity to client countries and facilitating effective project implementation. It collaborates closely with other institutions within the World Bank Group and partners with multilateral organizations, bilateral donors, and the private sector to leverage resources and expertise.

5.4.2. International Monetary Fund (IMF)

Founded in 1944, the IMF serves as a forum for international monetary cooperation and exchange rate stability. It provides financial assistance to member countries facing balance of payments problems and offers policy advice on macroeconomic and financial stability issues.

Functions of IMF:

Financial Assistance: The IMF provides short-term financial assistance to member countries experiencing balance of payments crises, helping them stabilize their economies and restore confidence.

Surveillance: The IMF conducts regular assessments of member countries' economic and financial policies, offering advice and recommendations to promote macroeconomic stability and sustainable growth.

Capacity Development: The IMF provides technical assistance and training to member countries to strengthen their capacity in areas such as fiscal policy, monetary policy, and financial regulation and supervision.

Research and Analysis: The IMF conducts research and analysis on global economic and financial issues, contributing to the understanding of economic trends and policy challenges.

Structure:

The governance structure of the IMF comprises the Board of Governors, representing member countries, and the Executive Board, responsible for day-to-day operations and decision-making. The IMF's management and staff work across functional departments and regional offices, facilitating coordinated support to member countries.

Complementary Roles:

While the IBRD focuses on long-term development financing and technical assistance, the IMF's mandate is more centered on short-term crisis management and macroeconomic stability. Despite their distinct roles, the two institutions often collaborate closely to address overlapping challenges and promote sustainable development and economic growth worldwide.

The IBRD and IMF play vital roles in the international financial architecture, working towards the common goals of promoting economic stability, development, and cooperation. Understanding their functions and collaboration enhances comprehension of global economic governance and the challenges and opportunities it presents.

5.5. Importance and Role of Regional Organisations

Regional organizations play a crucial role in shaping the geopolitical landscape, fostering cooperation, and addressing shared challenges within specific geographical regions. These organizations serve as platforms for dialogue, coordination, and collective action among member states, contributing to regional stability, economic integration, and sustainable development.

5.5.1. Importance of Regional Organisations

Promotion of Peace and Security: Regional organizations play a vital role in conflict prevention, management, and resolution within their respective regions. By facilitating dialogue and mediation efforts, they contribute to the maintenance of peace and stability, reducing the likelihood of armed conflicts.

Economic Integration and Development: Regional organizations promote economic cooperation and integration among member states through trade agreements, infrastructure development projects, and investment initiatives. By reducing trade barriers and promoting intra-regional trade, they stimulate economic growth, create employment opportunities, and foster development.

Enhancement of Political Cooperation: Regional organizations provide platforms for political dialogue and cooperation, enabling member states to address common challenges such as climate change, migration, and transnational crime. Through joint initiatives and diplomatic efforts, they strengthen regional governance mechanisms and promote democratic values and human rights.

Cultural and Social Exchange: Regional organizations facilitate cultural and social exchange among member states, promoting understanding, tolerance, and mutual respect. By celebrating cultural diversity and promoting cultural heritage preservation, they contribute to social cohesion and solidarity within the region.

5.5.2. Role of Regional Organisations

African Union (AU): The AU plays a central role in promoting peace, security, and development across the African continent. It facilitates conflict resolution, promotes good governance, and works towards economic integration through initiatives such as the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA).

Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN): ASEAN promotes political and economic cooperation among its member states in Southeast Asia. It fosters regional stability, enhances economic integration through initiatives like the ASEAN Economic Community, and promotes dialogue and cooperation on security issues.

European Union (EU): The EU is a leading example of regional integration, promoting peace, stability, and prosperity in Europe. It facilitates economic integration through the single market and the euro currency, promotes human rights and democracy, and provides development assistance to member states.

Organization of American States (OAS): The OAS promotes cooperation and dialogue among countries in the Americas, addressing issues such as democracy, human rights, and security. It plays a crucial role in conflict resolution and promotes economic development and social inclusion in the region.

Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC): The OIC fosters solidarity and cooperation among member states in the Islamic world. It addresses common challenges faced by Muslim-majority countries, promotes economic cooperation, and advocates for the rights of Muslim communities globally.

Regional organizations play a vital role in promoting peace, stability, and development within specific geographical regions. Through their diverse initiatives and mechanisms, they contribute to economic integration, political cooperation, and cultural exchange, fostering mutual understanding and prosperity among member states. Understanding the importance and role of regional organizations is essential for effective multilateral cooperation and global governance.

5.6. Summary

Unit V explores the realm of special agencies and regional systems within the international landscape. It delves into specialized organizations

like UNESCO, the ILO, and the IMF, which address issues ranging from education and cultural preservation to labor rights and economic stability. These organizations contribute to global cooperation, social justice, and sustainable development.

Additionally, the unit examines the significance and roles of regional organizations such as the European Union, ASEAN, and the OAS. These groupings foster political dialogue, economic integration, and security cooperation among neighboring countries, promoting peace, stability, and prosperity within their regions.

Throughout the chapter, learners explore the objectives, functions, structures, and impacts of these organizations, gaining insights into their contributions to global governance and the pursuit of shared goals. Understanding the roles and dynamics of these entities enriches learners' comprehension of international relations and the interconnectedness of global challenges in today's world.

Self-Assessment Questions

Multiple Choice Questions (MCQs):

7. Which organization is responsible for promoting international collaboration in education, science, and culture?

    a) UNESCO

    b) IMF

    c) ASEAN

    d) IBRD

8. The ILO's primary mandate involves:

    a) Ensuring global financial stability

    b) Regulating labor rights and standards

    c) Facilitating cultural exchanges

    d) Promoting economic cooperation in Southeast Asia

9. Which regional organization focuses on economic integration and security cooperation among European countries?

    a) ASEAN

    b) OAS

    c) European Union

d) OIC

Fill in the Blanks:

4. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) is tasked with ensuring _____ stability on a global level.

5. UNESCO's efforts to promote education aim at achieving _____ and inclusivity for all.

True/False:

6. The ILO focuses primarily on environmental protection. (True/False)

7. The European Union is a political and economic union that promotes regional cooperation in Europe. (True/False)

Short Answer Questions:

8. Discuss the objectives of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in ensuring global financial stability.

9. How does ASEAN promote political dialogue and economic integration in Southeast Asia?

Answers

1. a) UNESCO
2. b) Regulating labor rights and standards
3. c) European Union
4. Economic
5. Equity
6. False
7. True

European Union (EU)

Overview:

The European Union (EU) is a political and economic union of 27 European countries that work collectively to ensure peace, security, economic stability, and social cohesion across the region. The European Union was formally established in 1993 with the signing of the Maastricht Treaty, The EU was established to foster greater economic integration, but

it has since evolved into a supranational body with significant influence over various policy areas, including trade, environment, and human rights.

Key Objectives:

➤ Promote economic cooperation through a single market with free movement of goods, services, capital, and labor.

➤ Strengthen regional security and promote peace.

➤ Establish a unified stance on foreign policy and defense matters.

➤ Foster social progress and improve living standards across member states.

Primary Institutions:

➤ European Commission: Responsible for proposing legislation and implementing decisions.

➤ European Parliament: Elected body representing EU citizens, involved in passing legislation.

➤ European Council: Comprised of heads of state or government, sets EU policy direction.

➤ Court of Justice of the EU: Ensures laws are applied uniformly and settles disputes.

Achievements:

➤ The establishment of a single currency, the euro, used by 20 of the 27 member states.

➤ The EU has played a leading role in tackling climate change through its Green Deal.

➤ The Schengen Agreement, allowing passport-free travel between most EU countries.

Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)

Overview:

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) is a regional intergovernmental organization comprising 10 Southeast Asian countries. ASEAN was established on August 8, 1967, with the signing of the ASEAN Declaration (Bangkok Declaration) by five founding members: Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, and Thailand. ASEAN promotes economic growth, political stability, and regional peace among its

members. Formed in 1967, it has evolved into one of the most successful regional groupings in Asia, with strong economic ties among its members.

Today, ASEAN has 10 member states:

Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, The Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

Key Objectives:

➢ Accelerate economic growth, social progress, and cultural development.

➢ Promote regional peace and stability through adherence to principles of non-interference and respect for sovereignty.

➢ Strengthen regional cooperation in trade, investment, and technology.

➢ Promote collaboration on environmental issues and disaster management.

Primary Bodies:

➢ ASEAN Summit: Highest policy-making body, comprising heads of state/government.

➢ ASEAN Secretariat: Coordinates ASEAN's day-to-day operations and policy implementation.

➢ ASEAN Economic Community (AEC): Focuses on creating a single market and production base.

Achievements:

➢ The establishment of the ASEAN Free Trade Area (AFTA) to promote economic integration.

➢ Success in maintaining regional peace and avoiding conflicts among member states.

➢ Strengthened cooperation in addressing regional challenges such as disaster relief and environmental sustainability.

Organization of American States (OAS)

Overview:

The Organization of American States (OAS) is a regional organization founded in 1948 with the signing of the Charter of the Organization

of American States in Bogotá, Colombia.. It has 35 member countries from North, Central, and South America. The OAS works to strengthen democracy, human rights, security, and development in the Americas, promoting collaboration and solidarity among member states.

Key Objectives:

➢ Strengthen democracy and protect human rights across the Americas.

➢ Foster peace and security within the region.

➢ Encourage economic, social, and cultural development.

➢ Promote multilateral cooperation to tackle transnational issues such as drug trafficking and corruption.

Primary Bodies:

➢ General Assembly: The supreme decision-making body, comprising representatives from all member states.

➢ Permanent Council: Supervises the day-to-day operations of the OAS.

➢ Inter-American Commission on Human Rights: Promotes and protects human rights across member states.

Achievements:

➢ The OAS has been instrumental in promoting democracy, particularly in times of political crisis in Latin America.

➢ Created frameworks to address transnational threats like drug trafficking and organized crime.

➢ Facilitated free trade agreements and economic development initiatives in the region.

Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC)

Overview:

The Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) is an intergovernmental organization consisting of 57 member states, representing the Muslim world. The OIC was founded on September 25, 1969, in response to the arson of the Al-Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem. The OIC aims to safeguard and protect the interests of Muslims globally while fostering cooperation in political, economic, social, cultural, and scientific fields.

Key Objectives:

- ➢ Promote solidarity among Muslim countries and protect the rights of Muslims globally.
- ➢ Foster collaboration in political, economic, and scientific fields.
- ➢ Defend the sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity of member states.
- ➢ Strengthen international peace and security in alignment with Islamic principles.

Primary Bodies:

- ➢ Islamic Summit: The highest authority, attended by heads of state/government.
- ➢ Council of Foreign Ministers: Formulates policies and reviews matters concerning common Muslim interests.
- ➢ Islamic Development Bank (IDB): Provides financial support for development projects in member states.

Achievements:

- ➢ Played a crucial role in representing the collective voice of Muslim countries in international fora.
- ➢ Supported the resolution of conflicts affecting Muslim communities, such as the Palestinian cause.
- ➢ Promoted economic development through the Islamic Development Bank.