

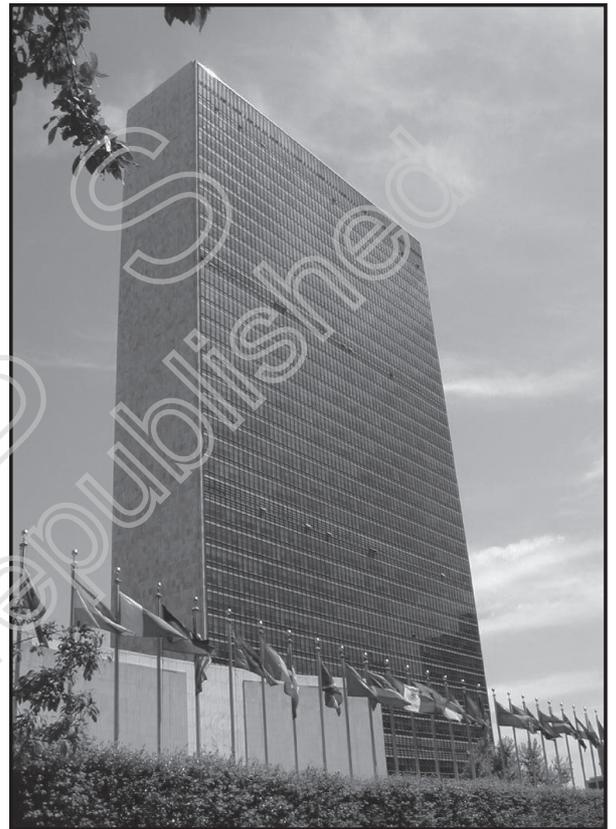
# WORLD ORGANIZATIONS

***We learn about the following in this chapter:***

- *Establishment of UNO*
- *Objectives of UNO*
- *Organs of UNO*
- *Achievements of UNO*
- *Agencies of UNO*

### **United Nations Organization :**

Establishment - 20<sup>th</sup> Century has witnessed two global wars. After the First World War, was League of Nations the established to maintain peace. But, it failed as the Second World War began in 1939. When that war was going on, serious efforts have been made to establish another world organisation to secure lasting peace. Leaders like Winston Churchill of England, Joseph Stalin of Russia, and Franklin D. Roosevelt of America decided to have a new global organization. The term 'United Nations' was coined by President Franklin D. Roosevelt and was first used in the declaration of 1<sup>st</sup> January 1942 signed by 26 countries. Delegates of 50 nations who participated in the San Francisco Conference signed the Charter of the U.N. on 26<sup>th</sup> June 1945. Thus, the U.N.O. as the World organization came into existence on 24<sup>th</sup> October 1945. At present there are 193 member nations in The UNO. Its headquarters are in New York City, Membership is open to all peace loving countries.



### **Aims and objectives of the UNO :**

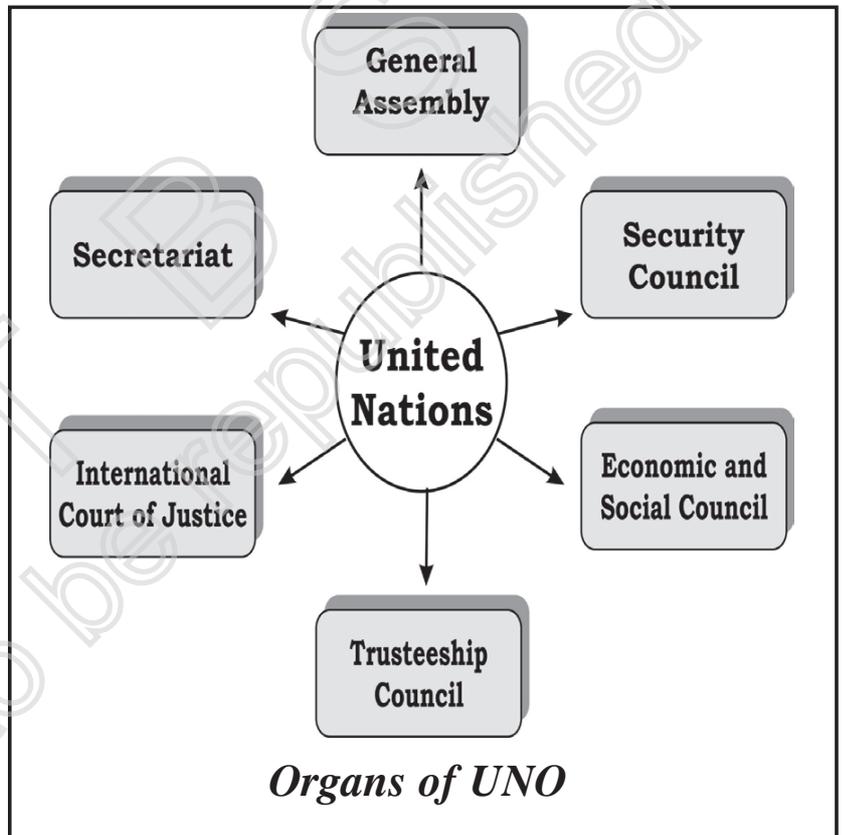
The Charter of the U.N.O. is its basic document which contains 111 articles divided into 19 chapters. The Preamble of the UN Charter starts as follows; "We the people of the United Nations..."

The objectives of the UNO are: 1) To maintain international peace and security: 2) To develop friendly relations among nations, 3) To establish faith in fundamental human rights, 4) To achieve international cooperation in solving international problems of economic, social, cultural or humanitarian character, 5) To establish justice and respect for international obligation and 6) to function as a centre for harmonizing the actions of nations.

### **Organs and functions of the UNO :**

The U N Charter has provided for six principal organs .They are- the General Assembly, the Security Council, the Economic and Social Council, the Trusteeship Council, the International Court of Justice and the Secretariat.

**1) General Assembly :** This is the general body consisting of all the members of the U.N. Each member country can send 5 members but have only single vote. The Assembly at its first session elects a President for a term of one year. It also elects 17 vice Presidents and 7 Chairmen for the 7 standing Committees. The ordinary session normally commences in September and lasts until mid December. A two third



majority of members present and voting is required on all important questions. The annual budget is to be approved by General Assembly. Emergency meetings of the Assembly may be summoned to discuss urgent issues. It is playing a prominent role in almost all global issues as a World Parliament.

**2) The Security Council :** This is the most powerful organ, the cabinet of the U.N. It consists of 15 members out of which 5 nations- U.S.A., Russia, Britain, France and China are the permanent

members and other are non permanent members. The non-permanent members are elected for a term of two years by the General Assembly. These members represent various geographical regions. Each member has one vote. The support of all the permanent members of the Security Council is essential for any decision of this body. India desires to have a permanent membership of this organ.

Security Council is primarily aiming at solving international disputes through peaceful means. If there is a necessity, it may direct the U.N. peace keeping force for international peace and security. It elects the judges of the International Court of Justice and recommends the name for the post of the Secretary General.

**3) The Economic and Social Council :** This Council consists of 54 members elected by the General Assembly. 18 members of this Council shall be elected each year for a term of 3 years. The Council elects a President among its members. Recently 17 members have been included to Economic and Social Council.

**The main functions of Economic and Social Council is**

- i) To study and report about international economic, social, cultural, educational, health and related matters. Accordingly issues like that of refugees, status of women, housing etc come under its purview.
- ii) It makes recommendations for the observance of human rights and fundamental freedom.
- iii) It can convene international conference pertaining to human resources, culture, education etc.
- iv) The Council coordinates the work of specialized agencies like International Labour Organization (I.L.O.) Food and Agricultural Organization (F.A.O.) World Health Organization (W.H.O.) etc.

**4) Trusteeship Council :** This Council actually works as an auxiliary or assisting organ of the General Assembly. As the number of Trust territories and administering nations has decreased, The Council had become smaller. It has to look after the small territories. Having no statehood as such.

**5) International Court of Justice :** It is the principal judicial organ of the U.N. and all members are the parties to the statute of this Court. It consists of 15 judges elected for a term of 9 years and is eligible for re-election. Its permanent seat is in the Hague of Netherland. It elects its own President and Vice President for a term of 3 years. The Court takes decisions on majority basis. Along with judgments on international disputes, it gives advisory opinions on any legal question.

Of course, the court does not enjoy any compulsory jurisdiction. In spite of these limitations, the Court has contributed towards international peace and security in its own way.

**6) The Secretariat :** This comprises the Secretary General and Staff of the U.N. The Secretary General is the Chief Administrative officer of the Organization who is appointed by the General Assembly on the recommendation of Security Council for a five year term. The Secretariat is located at the head quarters of the UN in New York, having its branches in Geneva, Vienna, and Nairobi. All the day to day administrative work, planning and organization come under its purview.

***Do you know :***

***U.N. Secretaries General :***

1	Trygve Lie	(1946-1952)	Norway.
2	Dag Hammarskjold	(1953-1961)	Sweden.
3	U.Thant	(1961-1971)	Burma.
4	Kurt Waldheim	(1972-1981)	Austria.
5	Javier Perez de Cuellar	(1982-1991)	Peru.
6	Boutros Boutros Ghali	(1992-1996)	Egypt.
7	Kofi A.Annan	(1997-2006)	Ghana.
8	Ban K Moon	(2007—)	Korea.

**Achievements of U.N.O.** The achievements of UNO can be summarized under the following categories.

**1. Peace-keeping Operations :** The UNO has dealt with a large number of political disputes. However, its achievement is rather of mixed nature due to lack of unanimity among the permanent members of the Security Council as well as other complex world situations. The operations undertaken by UN were either through observer groups to supervise cease-fires or military forces. India is a strong supporter of the UN efforts of peace keeping and protection of human rights.

The disputes like Suez Canal, Iran, Indonesia, Greece, Kashmir, Palestine, Korea, Hungary, Congo, Cyprus, Arab-Israel, Namibia, Afghanistan etc are worthy to be mentioned which have been dealt by UN. Moreover, series of serious efforts for disarmament both conventional and nuclear have been made by U.N. It is to be observed that in the post-cold war situation, the U.N. could play more effective role in the maintenance of world peace.

**2. Economic and Financial Achievement:** The preamble of the UNO charter proclaims that it has to "Promote social progress and better standards of life". This task has been accomplished under the supervision of the Economic and Social Council. Under the G.A.T.T.C. (General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade) UN has encouraged international cooperation in the economic and financial fields. The U.N.D.P. (the United Nations Development Programme) is worthy to be mentioned under this category. Various schemes of financial assistance have been launched by special agencies of U.N. like IBRD, IMF etc.

**3. Social Achievements :** A number of educational, health, women and children welfare schemes have been implemented by UN through W.H.O. (World Health Organization) UNESCO (United Nations Educational and cultural organization), UNICEF (United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund), UNHCR (the UN High Commission to Refugees) etc. The Universal Declaration

of Human Rights, 1948 can also be cited as a great achievement. Even in the eradication of apartheid principle i.e. racial discrimination, Colonialism, imperialism the role of UN can be traced to a large extent.

#### 4. Agencies of U.N :

##### a) **F.A.O. (Food and Agricultural Organization):**

With an intention to fight against poverty, hunger and malnutrition all over the world F.A.O. was started in 1945. Its main organs are a) Conference b) Council and c) Director General. It aims at 1) Improvement of agriculture, 2) Provision of more nutritious food 3) Liberation of the world population from hunger and 4) Improvement of the living conditions of the rural people. Its Head Quarter is in Rome.

##### **Do you know this :**

*The official languages of the UN are Chinese, English, French, Russian, Spanish and Arabic*

**b) W.H.O. (World Health Organization) :** In order to protect and improve health of mankind World Health Organization was established in 1948. W.H.O. strives to eradicate epidemics like Cholera, plague, malaria, small pox etc. It fights against AIDS, Cancer and similar global level health hazards. WHO is successful in eradicating small pox from the world. In its agenda there are issues like population explosion, environment protection, hunger and malnutrition. In all these fields the service of WHO is very significant. Its Head Quarter is in Geneva of Switzerland.

**c) UNESCO: (The United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization) :** {"Since wars begin in the minds of men, it is in the minds that the defenses of peace must be constructed" preamble of UNESCO }

It was established in 1946 and it has the headquarters in Paris. This is a prominent specialized organ mainly dealing with the promotion of science, education, and culture throughout the

##### **Activity:**

*Make a list of the Historical important place in Karnataka identified by UNESCO.*

globe. It aims at the development of technical education, information technology, creative mental, cultural and environment studies. In the development of knowledge and its dissemination UNESCO assists state and non-state institutions all over the World.

**d) UNICEF (United Nations Children's Emergency Fund) :** This specialized agency came into existence in the year 1946 to look after the welfare of children especially after the Second World War. Later in 1957 it became a permanent institution. Its main objectives are to provide favorable condition for the development of women and children. It consists of 30 members. It extends assistance to all the needy countries of the world to fulfill these goals. In 1965 UNICEF won the Nobel Prize. The money collected by selling the greeting cards by this organization is utilized for the welfare of the children. Thus, it is a popular humanitarian organization.

**e) I.M.F. (International Monetary Fund) :** This global financial institution established in 1945 started its functioning in 1947. Washington is the headquarter. It aims at solving international economic problems. It strives to promote world trade, economic stability and sound balance of payment situations. This Institution consists of Board of Governors, Executive Directors and Managing Directors. The functioning of IMF has been by and large appreciated for its efficiency and transparency. It may be described as Central Bank of central banks of different countries. It strives to harmonize the economic relations of advanced and poor nations.

**f) I.B.R.D. (International Bank of Reconstruction and Development) :** This is also known as World Bank which is established in 1947. Its headquarters was Washington. This has been established with the aim of economic rejuvenation of the world after the Second World War. It extends huge loan facilities to all the needy member states for the development of agriculture, industry, transport and communication etc. It helps to promote World trade and balance of payment adjustments. For all the developing nations World Bank or IBRD is extending very useful financial assistance. It consists of Board of Governors, the Executive Directors and the President. . IBRD has 2 subsidiaries; a) the International Development Association (IDA) and b) the International Finance Corporation (IFC).

**g) I.L.O. (International Labour Organization) :** As the very word suggests this is mainly aiming at the welfare of the working class. Its headquarters is in Geneva of Switzerland. Every member state sends two representatives to its Administrative Council one from labour class and another from the management. Issues like social security, protection from health hazards, standard of living etc. of working classes come under the preview of I.L.O. Even the maternity benefits of women labour, minimum wage, housing benefits etc. are also dealt by this organization. Though the decisions of I.L.O. are only advisory in nature, still the Member states do respect them. The General conference of I.L.O. is in effect a World Parliament meant to uphold the interests of labour class.

**h) U.N.C.T.A.D ( The United Nations Conference on trade and Development):** This world agency is mainly concerned with the promotion of global level trade and commerce. It strives for smooth international trade by providing technical assistance. It helps to avoid any policy barriers and thereby promote international trade and commerce. Thus, it intends to economic progress of the Family of Nations.

**i) W.T.O. (World Trade Organization) :** Another Organization namely World Trade Organization was established on 1<sup>st</sup> January 1995. All the member states have signed an agreement called GATT (General Agreement of Trade and Tariff). It is also aiming at solving any sort of problems relating to international trade and commerce. It functions along with the World Bank in formulating policies on international trade and commerce. Developing nations do face some difficulties owing to free trade policy. It can be regarded as the 3<sup>rd</sup> economic pillar of World Trade and commerce along with IMF and IBRD.

**Regional Cooperation:** In the present day world we can observe many regional organizations which facilitate mutual understanding and cooperation among the member States. The following are some of the main organizations.

**1) Commonwealth of Nations:** This was formally called British Commonwealth of Nations and later the word 'British' has been deleted. It started in 1926 and most of the countries including India which got independence voluntarily joined this organization.

It is symbolically headed by the British Crown. At present there are 54 countries in the Commonwealth of Nations and London is its headquarters. Prime Minister, Finance and Foreign Ministers are participating in the meetings of this organization. Upholding of democracy, liberties, assisting to eradicate poverty, promotion of world peace, sports, science, and cultural ties are some of the objectives of Commonwealth of Nations. This Organization helps to promote friendly ties among the member states.

## **2) South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC)**

In 1985 South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation Came into existence. It consists of 8 countries viz. India, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Srilanka, Maldives, Nepal, Bhutan and Afghanistan. This is mainly aspiring for the promotion of welfare of these member states. The main objectives of SAARC are the promotions of economic growth, social progress and cultural development through mutual cooperation. In order to fulfil these objectives a number of Technical, Standing as well as Action Committees have been established. Of course, mutual distrust and a number of disputes among the member states stood as the stumbling blocks on the path of the progress. The 'Unanimity' rule which means the acceptance of all the Member states for any decision proved to be a handicap of SAARC. It could not solve the dispute among its members. Still its periodical meetings provided opportunity for leaders to have amicable discussions. A number of seminars and workshops, training programmes have been jointly sponsored by the Member States in the fields of Science, technology, agriculture etc. India plays vital role in the working of SAARC. Its Head Quarter is in Katmandu of Nepal.

**3) European Union:** The European Union or EU is a Union of 27 European countries. It was established in 1992 by the Treaty of European Union in Maastricht. It implements a common single market, a single currency, common agricultural and trade policy etc. The most important EU institutions are i) the Council ii) the Commission iii) the European Parliament and iv) the European Court of Justice. As such EU may resemble a federation or Confederation. Supporters of the European Union agree that it is a force for peace and democracy. European Union is the successor of European Economic Community (EEC). The members of the EU have transferred to it considerable sovereignty.

**4) Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) :** The Association of South East Asian Nations came into existence in 1967. Its original members are Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia, Philippines and Thailand. Now there are 10 countries in this organization. The main objects of ASEAN are i) to accelerate the economic growth, social progress and cultural development in this region; ii) to promote active collaboration and mutual assistance in economic, social, cultural, technical, scientific, administrative fields etc.

The ASEAN is not a military alliance. Although India sympathized with the aims and objectives of ASEAN she has not joined this. This association included about 9% of the World's population.

**5) The Organization of African Unity :** The Organization of African Unity was formed in 1963. A large number of African states which gained independence have initially evolved a number of regional associations. Later, they formed this Organization of African Unity. It stands for the principles of self-determination of all the independent African States. It upholds freedom, equality, justice and solidarity of African countries. The member states of OAU expressed their determination "to fight against neo-colonialism in all its forms". The membership of the OAU is open to all independent sovereign states of Africa who are willing to abide by the Charter.

The Organization of African Unity consists of i) Assembly of Heads of States and Government, ii) a Council of Ministers, iii) a Secretariat, and iv) a Commission of Mediation, Conciliation and Arbitration. The OAU has played an important role in denouncing colonialism, apartheid, imperialism etc.

### **EXERCISES**

#### **I. Fill in the blanks with suitable words:**

- 1 UNO has been established in \_\_\_\_\_.
- 2 The Headquarters of UNO is situated in the city of \_\_\_\_\_.
- 3 The organ of the UNO resembling the Cabinet is \_\_\_\_\_.
- 4 Tenure of Judges of International Court of Justice is \_\_\_\_\_ years.

- 5 International Court of Justice is at \_\_\_\_\_.
- 6 The present Secretary General of UNO is \_\_\_\_\_.
- 7 World Health Organisation has been started in the year \_\_\_\_\_.
- 8 SAARC has been established in the year \_\_\_\_\_.

**II. Discuss in group and answer in Two or Three sentences.**

- 1 Who are responsible for the formation of UNO.
- 2 Which are the main organs of UNO?
- 3 Who are the permanent members of Security Council?
- 4 What are the objectives of WHO?
- 5 Prepare the list of activities of International Labour Organization?
- 6 Expand the word SAARC?

**III. Discuss in group and answer in 6 to 10 sentences.**

- 1 List out the objectives of UNO.
- 2 Explain the formation of General Assembly.
- 3 What are the activities of Economics and social Council?
- 4 Explain the role of UNO in maintaining world peace.
- 5 What are the functions of UNESCO.
- 6 Explain the role of IMF in solving the economic problems of the World.
- 7 List out the objectives of Commonwealth of Nations?
- 8 Explain the European Union.

**IV. Activities :**

- 1 Collect the historical pictures of Karnataka which comes under UNESCO World Heritage centers.

**V. Project :**

- 1 Collect the information from Newspapers about the peacekeeping activities of the UNO.

