

The United Nations

Headings	Notes
THE ORIGINS OF THE UNITED NATIONS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The United Nations (UN) was founded to encourage international co-operation aimed at preventing war, upholding justice, and safeguarding human rights.
THE PATH TO INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Delegates from 50 countries gathered in San Francisco in 1945 to finalise the United Nations Charter. The Secretariat, managed by the Secretary-General, oversees the UN's day-to-day activities. Trygve Lie from Norway was the first Secretary-General. The UN's membership has expanded from 51 to 193 Member States as of 2021.
UN AND INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The General Assembly is the principal body of the UN, consisting of all 193 Member States. It serves as a forum for discussion, debate, and recommendations on global issues. Each Member State holds one vote, and significant decisions require a two-thirds majority.
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY	
UN SECURITY COUNCIL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The UN Security Council is tasked with peacekeeping and peacemaking. It has the authority to impose international sanctions. Comprises five permanent members (USA, China, Russia, France, UK) and ten non-permanent members. Ireland joined as a non-permanent member in 2021. Decisions require a majority vote and the consent of all permanent members, who hold veto power.
UN PEACEKEEPERS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Known as 'Blue Helmets,' UN Peacekeepers are not a conventional army but a group of representatives from Member States. They aim to maintain peace and security in regions of conflict or unrest. Operations generally require authorisation from the Security Council.
FIRST PEACEKEEPING MISSION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The first UN peacekeeping mission was initiated in 1948 during the Arab-Israeli War. It led to a truce but did not yield long-lasting peace. The region has remained a focus of conflict and geopolitical tensions since then.
Keywords	Summary
United Nations (UN)	
Secretariat	
Secretary-General	
General Assembly	
UN Security Council	
UN Peacekeepers	
Arab-Israeli War	

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YUGOSLAVIAN WARS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Yugoslavian Wars broke out in the 1990s, triggered by rising nationalistic sentiments and the breakdown of Yugoslavia. • The UN's involvement began in 1992 with the establishment of UNPROFOR. • Despite UN efforts, events like the Srebrenica massacre occurred, attracting criticism for the UN's ineffectiveness.
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL (ECOSOC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ECOSOC was established in 1945 to discuss international social and economic issues. • The council has 54 members that focus on promoting international co-operation. • They review the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which are 17 global goals like no poverty, zero hunger, and climate action. • ECOSOC oversees specialist agencies such as the World Health Organisation (WHO), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), International Labour Organisation (ILO), and International Monetary Fund (IMF).
WORLD HEALTH ORGANISATION (WHO)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WHO collaborates with Member States to improve global health and well-being. • The organisation provides medical supplies and runs awareness campaigns. • It is partially funded by Member States.
OTHER WAYS THE UN PROMOTES INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UNESCO aims to promote peace through education, science, and culture. • ILO focuses on labour issues and aims to set labour standards. • IMF provides loans to Member States in economic crises. • The International Court of Justice consists of 15 judges from different nations. • The UN Office on Drugs and Crime operates in over 150 countries. • United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) operates in over 190 countries focusing on children's rights and welfare. • Human Rights Council consists of 47 Member States and promotes human rights globally.
Keywords	Summary
Yugoslavian Wars	
UNPROFOR	
Srebrenica massacre	
Sustainable Development Goals	
ECOSOC	
World Health Organisation	
International Labour Organisation	
International Monetary Fund	
UNESCO	
Court of Justice	

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UN AND JUSTICE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Established in 1945 and located in the Hague, Netherlands.
THE INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Comprises 15 judges, each from a different Member State. Works with the General Assembly and Security Council to settle disputes among Member States. Can offer legal opinions at the request of the United Nations.
INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL TRIBUNAL: ICTY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Created by the UN in 1993 in response to the Yugoslavian Wars and atrocities like the Bosnian genocide. Aimed to investigate and prosecute crimes including genocide, crimes against humanity, and violations of international law. Indicted 161 individuals, including Ratko Mladić, who was sentenced to life imprisonment. Concluded operations in 2017, with residual functions transitioning to the Mechanism for International Criminal Tribunals (MICT).
INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL TRIBUNAL: ICTR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Established in 1994 in response to the Rwandan genocide. Prosecuted individuals for genocide, crimes against humanity, and violations of international law. Indicted 93 individuals, including key figures like Jean Kambanda and Colonel Théoneste Bagosora. Concluded operations in 2015, with residual functions transitioning to MICT.
OTHER WAYS THE UN PROMOTES JUSTICE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> General Assembly suspended South Africa's delegation in the 1960s for violations. Security Council often includes rule of law strengthening in its missions. Peacekeepers work to support national police forces and promote justice.
THE UN AND HUMAN RIGHTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adopted by the UN General Assembly in 1948 after World War II. Inspired by the Declaration of the Rights of Man and Citizen from the French Revolution. Contains 30 articles outlining fundamental human rights. Not legally binding but has had a significant influence on global human rights discourse and international treaties.
KEYWORDS	Summary
Bosnian Genocide	
Ratko Mladić	
International Criminal Tribunals	
Rwandan genocide	
Jean Kambanda	
Colonel Théoneste Bagosora	

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ELEANOR ROOSEVELT AND HANSA MEHTA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eleanor Roosevelt served as the first Chairperson of the Commission on Human Rights, and was heavily involved in drafting the UDHR. • Hansa Mehta of India changed the language to be gender-neutral, advocating for 'All human beings are born free and equal.'
UNITED NATIONS INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN'S EMERGENCY FUND (UNICEF)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Established in 1946. • Operates in over 190 countries to defend children's rights and their potential. • Initiatives include gender equality, reducing child mortality, and ending the use of child soldiers.
UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD (UNCRC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adopted in 1989. • Sets minimum standards for protecting children's rights. • Most widely ratified human rights treaty. • Other UN conventions focus on women (1979) and rights of persons with disabilities (2006).
OTHER WAYS THE UN PROMOTES HUMAN RIGHTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commission on the Status of Women (CSW): Focuses on gender equality and advancement of women. • United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR): Operates in over 130 countries to help displaced people. • High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR): Former Irish President Mary Robinson served from 1997-2002. • Human Rights Council: Reviews the human rights records of 193 UN Member States every four years. • General Assembly: Condemns human rights abuses. • Security Council: Issues resolutions on human rights. • Peacekeepers: Include a human rights team in many missions. • International Labour Organisation (ILO): Focuses on improving workers' rights.
Keywords	Summary
Eleanor Roosevelt	
Commission on Human Rights	
Hansa Mehta	
UNICEF	
UNCRC	
CSW	
UNHCR	
OHCHR	
Human Rights Council	

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Armistice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An agreement by opposing sides in a war to stop fighting for a certain time.
Commission of the Status of Women	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dedicated to the promotion of gender equality and the advancement of women.
Convention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agreement
Economic and Social Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has 54 members, in control of many specialist agencies including WHO, UNESCO and the ILO
High Commissioner for Human Rights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leads UN activity of human rights issues
Human Rights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rights that all human beings are entitled to, regardless of race, sex, nationality, religion, ethnicity, language, or any other status.
International Co-operation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Co-operation between countries; countries working together to achieve certain aims
International Court of Justice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Court made up of 15 judges from different nations and settles disputes between Member States. Based in the Hague in the Netherlands.
International Criminal Tribunal for former Yugoslavia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Court that dealt with war crimes in the former Yugoslavia in the 1990s.
International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Court established in 1994 to prosecute people responsible for the 1994 genocide in Rwanda.
International Labour Organisation (ILO)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Created to promote issues such as fairness in the workplace.
International Monetary Fund (IMF)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Helps Member States by providing loans to countries in economic crisis.
Peace making	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Taking steps to address conflicts in progress.
Peacekeepers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Representatives from different Member States who help to maintain peace and human rights. All UN Member States share the costs of peacekeeping.
Peacekeeping	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Taking steps to help to create conditions for lasting peace.
Refugees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Someone who is forced to leave their country because of war, persecution or natural disaster.
The Human Rights Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promotes and protects human rights around the world. Every four years, the Council reviews the human rights records of UN Member States.
The UN General Assembly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Made up of 193 Member States, Each Member State gets one vote in the Assembly.
Treaty	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A formal, legal binding written agreement between countries.
Tribunal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A special court appoint to deal with a particular issue or event.
UN Office on Drugs and Crime	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has 20 field offices that cover over 150 countries.
UN Security Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Made up of representatives from different Member States. Five permanent members - USA, China, Russia, France and the UK. Decisions made by the Council need a majority vote and all permanent members must agree.
United Nations (UN)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An organisation that was created to promote international co-operation.
United Nations Convention of the Rights of the Child	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guarantees and sets minimum standards for protecting the rights of children.
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aims to promote peace between different countries through education, science and culture.
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Helps resettle refugees
United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UNICEF works in over 190 countries to: save children's lives, defend their rights and achieve their potential.
Universal Declaration of Human Rights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outlines the rights that every person should have, e.g. the right to education
War Crimes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A violation of the law of war, e.g. the murder of civilians and killing of hostages.
World Health Organisation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The WHO works with Member States to improve health and well-being across the world.