



The United Nations



Term	Definition
Armistice	An agreement by opposing sides in a war to stop fighting for a certain time.
Commission of the Status of Women	Dedicated to the promotion of gender equality and the advancement of women.
Convention	Agreement
Economic and Social Council	Has 54 members, in control of many specialist agencies including WHO, UNESCO and the ILO
High Commissioner for Human Rights	Leads UN activity of human rights issues
Human Rights	Rights that all human beings are entitled to, regardless of race, sex, nationality, religion, ethnicity, language, or any other status.
International Co-operation	Co-operation between countries; countries working together to achieve certain aims
International Court of Justice	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	Court that dealt with war crimes in the former Yugoslavia in the 1990s.
International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda	Court established in 1994 to prosecute people responsible for the 1994 genocide in Rwanda.
International Labour Organisation (ILO)	Created to promote issues such as fairness in the workplace.
International Monetary Fund (IMF)	Helps Member States by providing loans to countries in economic crisis.
Peace making	Taking steps to address conflicts in progress.
Peacekeepers	Representatives from different Member States who help to maintain peace and human rights. All UN Member States share the costs of peacekeeping.
Peacekeeping	Taking steps to help to create conditions for lasting peace.
Refugees	Someone who is forced to leave their country because of war, persecution or natural disaster.
The Human Rights Council	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	Made up of 193 Member States, Each Member State gets one vote in the Assembly.
Treaty	A formal, legal binding written agreement between countries.
Tribunal	A special court appoint to deal with a particular issue or event.
UN Office on Drugs and Crime	Has 20 field offices that cover over 150 countries.
UN Security Council	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)	An organisation that was created to promote international co-operation.
United Nations Convention of the Rights of the Child	Guarantees and sets minimum standards for protecting the rights of children.
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation	Aims to promote peace between different countries through education, science and culture.
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees	Helps resettle refugees
United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund	UNICEF works in over 190 countries to: save children's lives, defend their rights and achieve their potential.
Universal Declaration of Human Rights	Outlines the rights that every person should have, e.g. the right to education
War Crimes	A violation of the law of war, e.g. the murder of civilians and killing of hostages.
World Health Organisation	The WHO works with Member States to improve health and well-being across the world.

3.12 EVALUATE the role of a movement or organisation, such as the European Union or United Nations, in promoting international cooperation, justice and human rights

2.13 ANALYSE the evolution and development of Ireland's links with Europe.

The Stone Age		
<p>The United Nations (UN) serves as a vital international organisation, committed to maintaining global peace, fostering social progress, and upholding international law and human rights. Founded in 1945 after the devastation of World War II, the UN aims to prevent conflict, provide humanitarian aid, and promote sustainable development. Through various organs such as the General Assembly, the Security Council, and specialized agencies like WHO and UNESCO, the UN addresses a broad spectrum of global challenges. Notably, the UN has been instrumental in mediating conflicts and promoting disarmament. It has undertaken peacekeeping missions in numerous regions, helping to maintain or restore peace and stability. Moreover, the UN has set significant milestones in the protection of human rights through the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948 and subsequent treaties and conventions. It has also been at the forefront of efforts to combat climate change, poverty, and inequality by formulating the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), a global roadmap to be achieved by 2030.</p> <p>Ireland's engagement with the United Nations is deep-rooted and extensive. Since becoming a member in 1955, Ireland has contributed significantly to peacekeeping missions and has been an advocate for disarmament and human rights. Ireland's foreign policy aligns closely with UN objectives, particularly in the promotion of peace, justice, and sustainable development. Furthermore, Ireland has been an active participant in UN bodies, serving as a non-permanent member of the Security Council and playing a key role in development cooperation and humanitarian aid. In summary, Ireland's active involvement with the United Nations further reinforces its commitment to global cooperation, peace, and human rights.</p>		
UN General Assembly	UN Security Council	UN Peacekeepers
Established alongside the founding of the United Nations in 1945, the General Assembly is the closest thing to a 'world parliament,' where each of the 193 member states has a seat and a vote. The assembly meets annually and is tasked with discussing and coordinating on international issues including peace and security, human rights, and development. Over the years, the General Assembly has adopted numerous important resolutions and conventions, making it a focal point for diplomatic efforts and international cooperation.	Established in 1945, the UN Security Council is one of the six principal organs of the United Nations. Its primary purpose is to maintain international peace and security. Comprising five permanent members with veto power and ten non-permanent members, the Security Council has the authority to impose sanctions, authorise military action, and pass resolutions that are binding on member states. The Council's role in high-profile crises, such as the Korean War and Syrian Civil War, underscores its significance and complexity in international politics.	The United Nations Peacekeeping Forces, more commonly known as UN Peacekeepers, were established in 1948 to help maintain peace and security in areas experiencing conflict. The Peacekeepers' role can range from monitoring ceasefires to enforcing peace agreements. Their first major mission was during the Suez Crisis in 1956. Over the years, the role of Peacekeepers has evolved and expanded but remains a critical tool for the UN's efforts in conflict resolution and peacekeeping.
Frist Mission and Yugoslavian Wars	International Court of Justice	International Criminal Tribunal - Yugoslavia
The United Nations' first peacekeeping mission was the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO), established in 1948 to monitor the ceasefire between Israel and its Arab neighbours. In contrast, the UN's involvement in the Yugoslavian Wars of the 1990s was fraught with challenges, including the Srebrenica massacre. These missions represent the scope and limitations of UN Peacekeeping efforts, from successful monitoring to situations where the UN has faced criticism for its ineffectiveness.	Established in 1945 as the principal judicial organ of the United Nations, the International Court of Justice (ICJ) arbitrates disputes between states and gives advisory opinions on international legal issues. The court is located in The Hague, Netherlands, and consists of 15 judges elected by the UN General Assembly and Security Council. The ICJ plays a pivotal role in the peaceful resolution of disputes and in the development of international law. Its judgements serve as an important source of guidance for states in understanding their international obligations.	The International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) was established in 1993 to prosecute war crimes committed during the Yugoslavian Wars. As one of the first courts of its kind, the ICTY set precedents for international justice, including the conviction of high-ranking officials like Ratko Mladić. The tribunal demonstrated the UN's commitment to accountability and justice for heinous crimes.
International Criminal Tribunal - Rwanda	Universal Declaration of Human Rights	Ireland's Involvement
Similar to the ICTY, the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR) was established in 1994 to address the crimes committed during the Rwandan Genocide. The tribunal was groundbreaking in its prosecution of genocide and crimes against humanity, serving as a model for subsequent international courts and reinforcing the UN's commitment to justice and accountability.	Adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on 10th December, 1948, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) was the first global enunciation of human rights. It sets out fundamental human rights that should be universally protected, from civil and political rights to economic, social, and cultural rights. The UDHR has inspired a range of international treaties and national laws and remains a foundational text for human rights education and advocacy. It has been translated into over 500 languages, making it one of the most translated documents in the world.	Ireland became a member of the United Nations in 1955 and has since been actively involved in various UN initiatives and missions. Irish troops have participated in UN peacekeeping missions since 1958, beginning with a deployment to Lebanon. The country has also been a proponent of nuclear disarmament and has been involved in the drafting of various international treaties. Ireland served as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council for the 2021-2022 term, a role that has allowed it to engage on high-profile global issues including peace and security. Through its active participation, Ireland has demonstrated its commitment to international cooperation, peacekeeping, and human rights, aligning closely with the core values of the UN.

