

The background of the slide features the United Nations logo, which consists of a world map centered on the North Pole, surrounded by a laurel wreath. The logo is rendered in a light blue color.

THE UNITED NATIONS

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Overview

- The United Nations is an inter-governmental/ international organization founded in 1945 after the Second World War by 51 countries .
- The UN is committed to maintaining global peace and security, developing friendly relations among nations and promoting social progress, better living standards and human rights.
- The work of the United Nations and its System (specialized agencies, funds and programmes) reaches every corner of the globe in pursuit of the main goal: to make this world a better and safer place for this and future generations.

The UN organization works on a broad range of fundamental issues, such as:

- Sustainable development
- Environment
- Refugee protection
- Disaster relief
- Counter terrorism
- Disarmament and non-proliferation
- Promotion of democracy
- Human rights
- Governance
- Economic and social development
- International health
- Expansion of food production
- And more...



The Purposes of the United Nations:

CHARTER I: PURPOSES AND PRINCIPLES; Article I

- To maintain international peace and security, and to that end: to take effective collective measures for the prevention and removal of threats to the peace, and for the suppression of acts of aggression or other breaches of the peace, and to bring about by peaceful means, and in conformity with the principles of justice and international law, adjustment or settlement of international disputes or situations which might lead to a breach of the peace;
- To develop friendly relations among nations based on respect for the principle of equal rights and self-determination of peoples, and to take other appropriate measures to strengthen universal peace;
- To achieve international co-operation in solving international problems of an economic, social, cultural, or humanitarian character, and in promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and for fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language, or religion; and
- To be a centre for harmonizing the actions of nations in the attainment of these common ends.



Membership

CHARTER II; Article 3

- ...Is open to all other peace-loving states which accept the obligations contained presented in the Charter and, in the judgment of the Organization, are able and willing to carry out these obligations.
- As of today there are 192 UN Member States



UN Structure and Organization:

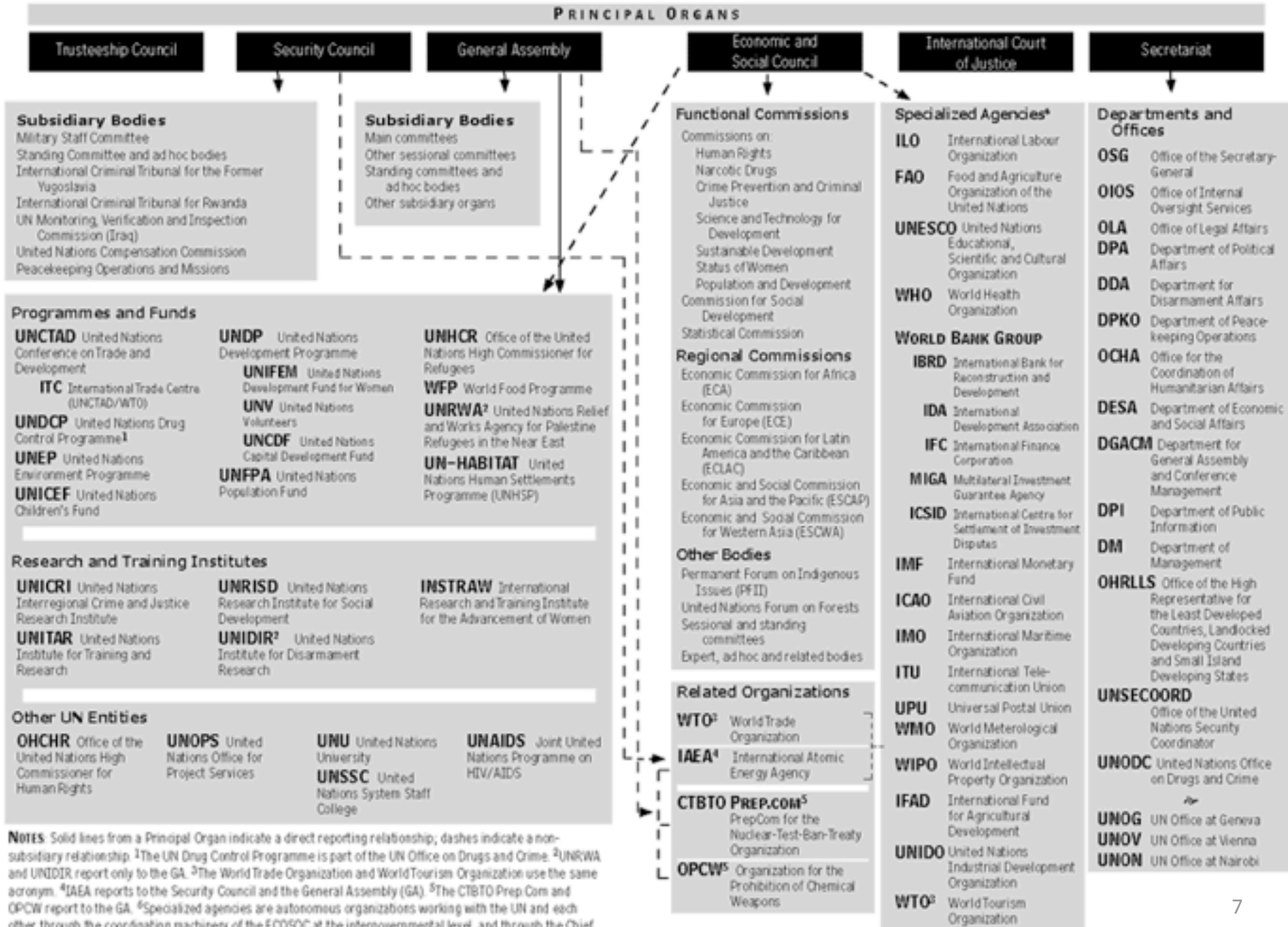
Main Bodies:

- General Assembly
- Security Council
- Economic and Social Council
- Trusteeship Council
- International Court of Justice
- Secretariat



The United Nations system

PRINCIPAL ORGANS



NOTES: Solid lines from a Principal Organ indicate a direct reporting relationship; dashes indicate a non-subsidiary relationship. ¹The UN Drug Control Programme is part of the UN Office on Drugs and Crime. ²UNRWA and UNIDIR report only to the GA. ³The World Trade Organization and World Tourism Organization use the same acronym. ⁴IAEA reports to the Security Council and the General Assembly (GA). ⁵The CTBTO Prep Com and OPCW report to the GA. ⁶Specialized agencies are autonomous organizations working with the UN and each other through the coordinating machinery of the ECOSOC at the intergovernmental level, and through the Chief Executive Board for Cooperation (CEB) of the inter-agency level.



General Assembly – “Global Parliament”, “Sun of the UN Solar System”

- Is the chief deliberative, policymaking and representative organ of the United Nations
- It is composed of 192 Member States
- GA provides a unique forum for multilateral discussion of the full spectrum of international issues covered by the Charter
- It plays a significant role in the process of standard-setting and the codification of international law.



Functions and powers of the General Assembly

- **CHARTER IV**
- Consider and make recommendations on the general principles of cooperation for maintaining international peace and security, including disarmament;
- Discuss any question relating to international peace and security and, except where a dispute or situation is currently being discussed by the Security Council, make recommendations on it;
- Discuss and make recommendations on any questions within the scope of the Charter or affecting the powers and functions of any organ of the United Nations;
- Initiate studies and make recommendations to promote international political cooperation, the development and codification of international law, the realization of human rights and fundamental freedoms, and international collaboration in the economic, social, humanitarian, cultural, educational and health fields;

- Make recommendations for the peaceful settlement of any situation that might impair friendly relations among nations;
- Receive and consider reports from the Security Council and other United Nations organs;
- Consider and approve the United Nations budget and establish the financial assessments of Member States;
- Elect the non-permanent members of the Security Council and the members of other United Nations councils and organs and, on the recommendation of the Security Council, appoint the Secretary-General.



Voting

- Each Member State in the Assembly has one vote.
- Votes taken on designated important issues (such as recommendations on peace and security and the election of Security Council members) require a two-thirds majority of Member States.
- Other questions are decided by simple majority.



Subsidiary Organs of the General Assembly

- Committees
- Commissions
- Boards
- Councils and Panels
- Working groups



Security Council

- **CHAPTER V:**
- Has the main responsibility, under the Charter, for the maintenance of international peace and security and the “Pacific Settlement of Disputes”
- It consists of 15 Members of the United Nations, including 5 permanent members (China, France, Russia, United Kingdom, United States).
- Nonpermanent members of the Council are elected for two-year terms by the General Assembly, beginning on January 1, with five replaced every year.
- Each nonpermanent member is elected by its respective regional group and is then confirmed by the General Assembly



Functions and Powers:

- “To settle disputes peacefully (**Chapter VI**) and to meet threats to peace with the concerted action of the organization (**Chapter VII**)”
- The Council uses its judgement and takes many considerations when trying to assess threats to global peace. Its common techniques for addressing issues are:
 - Deliberation
 - Investigation
 - Recommendation
 - Mediation
 - Conciliation
 - Interposition of a peacekeeping presence
 - Economic and military sanctions (last resort for extreme cases)



Procedure and Voting

- The Security Council is always in permanent session
- Each member of the Security Council has one vote
- Decisions of the Security Council are made by one affirmative vote from each one of the nine Council members, unless a member is of the Council is a party to a dispute
- States that are members of the United Nations but not of the Security Council may participate in meetings, but do not have voting power.
- **Veto Power**
 - Only the five permanent members of the Council have the power of veto

Economic and Social Council - ECOSOC

- ECOSOC is the principal organ coordinating the economic, social and related work of the United Nations, its specialized agencies, functional and regional commissions.
- It serves as the central forum for discussing international economic and social issues, and for formulating policy recommendations addressed to Member States and the United Nations system.
- It consists of 54 members
- Voting in the ECOSOC is by simple majority; each member has one vote.



ECOSOC is responsible for:

- Promoting higher standards of living, full employment, and economic and social progress.
- Identifying solutions to international economic, social and health problems.
- Facilitating international cultural and educational cooperation.
- Encouraging universal respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms.



Trusteeship Council

- Was established under Chapter XIII of the Charter in order to supervise the administration of Trust Territories
- The Trusteeship Council was in charge of examining and discussing reports from the Administering Authority on the political, economic, social, and educational advancement of the Trust Territories
- As of November 1, 1994 the Trusteeship Council suspended its operation with the independence of Palau, the last Trusteeship Territory
- The council only meets periodically per request of the General Assembly and Security Council



International Court of Justice

- Is the principal judicial organ of the United Nations.
- It settles legal disputes between states.
- Gives advisory opinions to the UN and its specialized agencies.
- Its Statute is an integral part of the United Nations Charter.
- The Court is composed of 15 judges, who are elected for terms of office of nine years by the United Nations General Assembly and the Security Council.
- It is assisted by a Registry, its administrative organ.



Secretariat

- The Secretariat is responsible for carrying out the day-to-day work of the United Nations
- It services the other principal organs of the UN and is responsible for administering the programs and policies that the principal organs lay down
- It is headed by the Secretary General (currently **Ban Ki-moon**) who is appointed by the General Assembly on the recommendation of the Security Council for a five-year renewable term



Role of Secretariat

- The role of the Secretariat varies based on the problems that the United Nations deals with.
- Different tasks and roles for the Secretariat include: administering peacekeeping operations, dealing with social and economic problems, mediating international disputes, working with human rights issues
- Article 99 of the Charter states that the Secretary General has the right to, “bring to the attention of the Security Council any matter which in his opinion may threaten the maintenance of international peace and security.”



Secretariat Structure

- The Secretariat has a very large and vast structure of organizations, offices, internal justice bodies, tribunals, special advisers, representatives and envoys, UN regional commissions, and other offices.
- Such offices, organizations, tribunals, commissions include:
 - Executive Office of the Secretary-General (EOSG)
 - Department of Political Affairs (DPA)
 - Office of Disarmament Affairs (ODA)
 - Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)
 - International Criminal Tribunals for Rwanda (ICTR) and the Former Yugoslavia (ICTY)
 - Office of the United Nations High Commissioner of Human Rights (OHCHR)
 - Office of the United Nations High Commissioner of Refugees (UNHCR)
 - UN Regional Economic Commissions



Questions To Think About:

- Which organ of the United Nations do you believe is the most important?
- Which is perhaps the least important?
- Why are the six UN primary organs referred to as “only the tip of the iceberg” when discussing the UN System as a whole?



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