

International Organisations & Bilateral Relations Preview



INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS & BILATERAL RELATIONS

PRELIMS & MAINS

For Civil Services Exams

Table of Contents

Chapter No.	Title	Page Numbers
1	United Nations	1
2	Regional Organizations, Associations and Groupings	45
3	Organizations, Treaties and Associations to Promote Disarmament	103
4	International Non-Governmental Organizations	129
5	Reports and Indexes	146
6	Cold War	165
7	Fundamentals of India's Foreign Policy	176
8	Evolution of India's Foreign Policy	184
9	India and Its Neighbours	210
10	India's Relations with Rest of the World	291
11	Contemporary International Issues	340
12	Indian Diaspora	373

CHAPTER 1 UNITED NATIONS

Introduction

United Nations is an international organization which was established on 24 October 1945 after World War II to prevent another such conflict and promote cooperation among nations. The UN Charter was signed on 26 June 1945. The charter explains the manner of functioning of the United Nations. This charter came into effect on 24 October 1945, and the UN began operation. At its founding, the UN had 51-member states. Presently, the UN has 193 members.

The organization replaced the ineffective 'League of Nations'. League of Nations was the first international organization whose principal aim was to maintain world peace. It was formed in the year 1920 after World War I.

Main aims of UN

1. To maintain international peace and security.
2. To promote friendly relations and coordination amongst nations.
3. To provide humanitarian aid in case of natural disaster, armed conflict, etc.
4. To safeguard human rights, foster social and economic development, protect environment, etc.

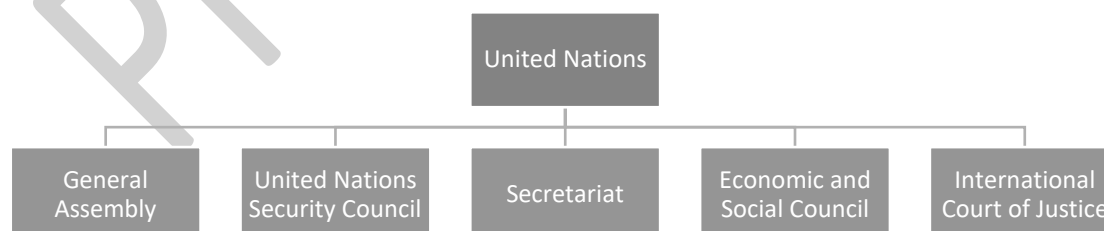
Headquarter: New York, the United States.

Official languages of UN

There are six official languages of UN, namely Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish.

Structure

The UN system is based on five principal organs: the General Assembly, the Security Council, the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), the Secretariat and the International Court of Justice. There was a sixth organ, namely Trusteeship Council which suspended its operations in November 1994, upon the independence of Palau which was the last colony. Trusteeship Council was established to oversee the transition of colonies into independent nations and to ensure that these territories were administered in the best interests of their inhabitants and of international peace and security.



Membership of UN

The UN Charter dictates who can become member of the UN. It states that: 'Membership in the United Nations is open to all peace-loving states which accept the obligations contained in the present Charter and, in the judgment of the Organization, are able and willing to carry out these obligations. The admission of any such state for membership in the United Nations

will be affected by the decision of the General Assembly upon the recommendation of the Security Council.'

Only sovereign states can become UN members. Although today all UN members are fully sovereign states, four of the original members (Belarus, India, Philippines and Ukraine) were not independent at the time of their admission.

Some entities may be considered sovereign states but are not members due to the fact that the UN does not consider them as such. These, as well as international organizations and non-governmental organizations (NGOs), can only become United Nations General Assembly observers, who are allowed to speak but not vote in General Assembly meetings.

Independent Nation States Which Are Not Members of the UN

1. Taiwan—Taiwan left the UN when the Republic of China got its seat. Taiwan claims itself as original China.
2. Kosovo—Kosovo has gained independence from Serbia. Its independence is recognized by some nations of the world.
3. Vatican City—The Vatican City is an observer state at UN with all the rights of full membership except voting.
4. Palestine—In 2012, Palestine was granted the status of non-member observer state. It has not been admitted to the UN as a full member till now.

Functions of UNGA

1. It considers the activities of various organizations and agencies of UN and approves budget for them.
2. It discusses any question relating to international peace and security and makes recommendations thereon, except where a dispute or situation is currently being discussed by the Security Council.
3. It considers reports from the Security Council and other United Nations organs and agencies.
4. It discusses other issues of importance for various nations of the world.

United Nations Credentials Committee

United Nations Credentials Committee is appointed at the beginning of each regular session of the General Assembly. It consists of nine members, who are appointed by the General Assembly on the proposal of the President.

A Credentials Committee is appointed at the beginning of each regular session of the General Assembly. Usually, the committee meets in November, and brings the report to the General Assembly in December for adoption.

The Committee is mandated to examine the credentials of representatives of Member States and to report to the General Assembly thereon.

Security Council

The Security Council is primarily charged with maintaining peace and security amongst nations. The Security Council consists of fifteen member states, five permanent members—

China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom and the United States—and 10 non-permanent members which are elected for a two-year term.

The non-permanent members are chosen from regional groups which are as follows:

- African Group: 3 members
- Asia-Pacific Group: 2 members
- Eastern European Group including Russia: 1 member
- Latin American and Caribbean Group: 2 members
- Western European, North America, Australia and New Zealand Group: 2 members; at least one of these must be from Western Europe

One of the non-permanent members of the council is an Arab country, alternately from the African or Asia-Pacific groups.

Every year the UN General Assembly elects five new members for a two-year term; these elections always begin in October and continue until the two-third majority for countries of each region has been reached. Thus, the winning members are required to secure two-third majority among member nations of United Nations General Assembly. Re-election is allowed, but the term must not be consecutive.

India has secured the seat of a non-permanent member for 8 times.

India's membership at UNSC

S.No.	Years	S.No.	Years
1.	1950–51	5.	1984–85
2.	1967–68	6.	1991–92
3.	1972–73	7.	2011–12
4.	1977–78	8.	2021–22

Decision Making at UNSC

Decisions at Security Council on procedural matters require vote of at least nine members. Each member of the Security Council has one vote. Decisions of the Security Council on all 'other matters' shall be made by an affirmative vote of nine members including the concurring votes of the permanent members.

The creators of the United Nations Charter conceived that five permanent members have important role in the maintenance of international peace and security. Thus, they were granted a special voting power known as the 'right to veto' along with the special status of Permanent member states at the Security Council. 'Right to veto' means that if one of the five permanent members cast a negative vote in the 15-member Security Council, the resolution or decision would not be approved. 'Right to veto' is available to the permanent member when UNSC makes recommendation for appointment of Secretary General or for entry of new nation in UN.

If a permanent member does not fully agree with the proposed resolution and does not wish to cast a veto, it may choose to abstain, thus allowing the resolution to be adopted if it obtains the required number of nine favourable votes.

The five permanent members of the Security Council are the only countries recognized as nuclear- weapon states under the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. While other organs of the UN can only make 'recommendations' to member states, the Security Council has the power to take binding decisions.

The Charter distinguishes, however, between votes on 'procedural matters' and votes on 'all other matters'. Procedural matters are matters of routine nature. It stipulates that when voting on procedural matters, a negative vote cast by a permanent member does not invalidate a decision; it stands if it scores nine affirmative votes. Procedural matters include:

- submission to the General Assembly of any questions relating to the maintenance of international peace and security;
- request to the General Assembly to make a recommendation on the dispute or situation which is under consideration of UNSC;
- request to the Secretary-General for the convocation of a special session of the General Assembly;
- approval of annual reports of the General Assembly;
- holding of meetings at places other than the seat of the UN; or
- establishment of subsidiary organs the Council deems necessary for the performance of its functions.

India Seeking Permanent Seat of UNSC

India seeks permanent seat of UNSC with veto power on the following grounds:

- 1. Representation of Population:** One-sixth of global population resides in India.
- 2. Faith in UN:** India has shown considerable faith in UN and abided by its values such as anti-colonization, anti-racism, international peace and security, etc.
- 3. Size of economy:** India is one of the fastest growing economies of the world. India has the third largest GDP in the world in terms of purchasing power parity (PPP).
- 4. Contribution to UN peace keeping missions:** India has been the largest troop contributor to UN peacekeeping missions since its inception. India has contributed nearly 180,000 troops, the largest number from any country. Indian troops have participated in more than 44 missions out of the 69 UN peacekeeping operations mandated so far and 158 Indian peacekeepers have been killed on UN missions. Even presently, India is amongst the largest troop contributors with around 8000 personnel deployed with ten UN Peacekeeping Missions, including the first Female Police Unit under the UN.

International Response to India's Demands

G-4: It is the group of four nations, namely India, Japan, Brazil and Germany. These nations support each other's claim for permanent membership of UNSC with veto power.

Coffee club: It is a group of coffee exporting nations headed by Pakistan and Italy. Coffee club is against the increase in Permanent members of UNSC but supports expansion of non-permanent members of UNSC.

Secretariat

The Secretariat is the administrative body of UN. It has an important role in setting the agenda for the UN's deliberative and decision-making bodies (the General Assembly, Economic and Social Council, and Security Council), and the implementation of the decision of these bodies.

To elaborate, the mandate of the secretariat is a wide one. An ex-secretary general described the role of UN secretariat as follows:

'It can introduce new ideas. It can, in proper forms, take initiatives. It can put the findings before member governments which will influence their actions.'

The United Nations Department of Political Affairs, which has a role analogous to the ministry of foreign affairs, is a part of the secretariat. The department of United Nations Peace Keeping Operations is also a part of the secretariat.

The secretariat is the main source of economic and political analysis for the General Assembly and Security Council; it administers operations initiated by UN's deliberative organs, operates political missions, prepares assessments that precede peacekeeping operations, appoints the heads of peacekeeping operations, conducts surveys and research.

It communicates with non-state actors such as media and non-government organizations, and is responsible for publishing all of the treaties and international agreements.'

Secretary General

The Secretariat is headed by Secretary General. He serves as the UN's top diplomat. The current Secretary-General is António Guterres, who replaced Ban Ki-moon in 2017.

The Secretary General is appointed by the General Assembly upon the recommendations of the Security Council. In other words, there is a two-stage process for appointment of Secretary General: a recommendation by the Security Council followed by the decision of General Assembly.

The UN Charter does not specify the term of Secretary General. When adopting its resolution, the practice of the Council has been to specify the term of office for its recommended candidate. Similarly, the assembly while adopting the resolution for appointment of Secretary General specify the term. Except for some adjustments during the early years of the United Nations, the terms of office of Secretaries- General have been fixed at five years.

UN Economic and Social Council

The Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) coordinates the work of the UN's specialized agencies, functional commissions, regional commissions, and UN funds and programmes.

The ECOSOC serves as the central forum for discussing international economic and social issues and formulating policy recommendations addressed to member states and the United Nations system. A number of non-governmental organizations have been granted consultative status to the Council to participate in the work of the United Nations. ECOSOC's purview extends over 70% of the human and financial resources of the entire UN system.

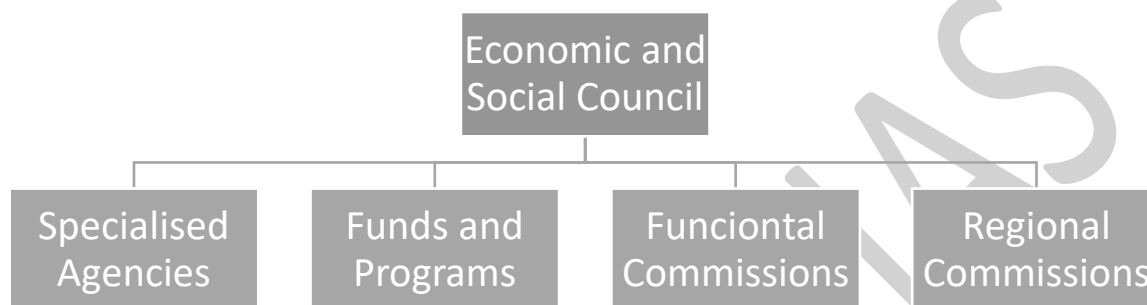
The ECOSOC consists of 54 member states, elected by the General Assembly with two-third majority for three-year term. In carrying out its mandate, ECOSOC consults with academics, business sector representatives and more than 2,500 registered non-governmental organizations.

Chief Executives board for Coordination

The Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB) is the highest level coordination forum in the United Nations comprising the leadership of 31 member organizations.

The underlying premise behind CEB is that an institutional mechanism was needed to coordinate the activities of various specialized bodies working under UN.

CEB meets are held twice a year under the chairmanship of the UN Secretary -General. It reports to ECOSOC and General Assembly.



Specialized agencies

Specialized agencies are autonomous organizations working with the United Nations and with each other through the coordinating machinery of the United Nations Economic and Social Council. Specialized agencies may or may not have been originally created by the United Nations, but they are incorporated into the United Nations System by the United Nations Economic and Social Council. At present, the UN has total 15 specialized agencies that carry out various functions on behalf of the UN. The specialized agencies are listed below:

Food and Agriculture Organization

It helps developing countries and countries in transition to modernize and improve agriculture, forestry and fishery practices, ensuring good nutrition and food security to all. Its motto is 'let there be bread'.

International Labour Organization

The organization aims at promoting social and economic progress and improving labour conditions. It sets labour standards for adoption of member nations such as hours of work and minimum wages. Some of these labour standards are recommendatory, while others are mandatory. If a member nation does not follow the mandatory standard, then it is required to give explanation for the same. It also creates awareness about labour issues and conducts research in these issues.

International Maritime Organization

A specialized agency of the United Nations that is responsible for measures to improve the safety and security of international shipping and to prevent marine pollution from ships. The IMO's objectives can be best summed up by its slogan—'Safe, secure and efficient shipping on clean oceans'.

International Monetary Fund (IMF)

The IMF plays three major roles in the global monetary system. The Fund surveys and monitors economic developments, lends funds to countries with balance-of-payment problems and provides technical assistance and training for countries requesting it.

World Bank Group

The World Bank Group (WBG) is a family of five international organizations that provide loans and other assistance to member nations to facilitate social and economic progress. The five organizations are as follows:

- a. The International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD)
- b. The International Development Association (IDA)
- c. The International Finance Corporation (IFC)
- d. The Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA)
- e. The International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID)

World Health Organization

The World Health Organization (WHO) is responsible for directing and coordinating health. WHO has come to play a vital role as an actor in the field of international public health and international public health policy.

WHO publishes World Health Report (WHR) annually or biennially in multiple languages; each report includes an expert assessment of a specific global health topic, relating to all countries that are member states of the organization. The main purpose of the WHR is to provide policy-makers, international organizations and others with the information they need to help them make appropriate health policy and funding decisions.

World Intellectual Property Organization

World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) carries out a wide variety of tasks related to the protection of Intellectual Property Rights. These include

- assisting governments and organizations to develop the policies, administration and skills needed to protect their intellectual property;
- administering Intellectual property related treaties;
- running global registration systems for intellectual property;
- delivering dispute resolution services; and
- providing a forum for informed debate and for the exchange of expertise.

International Telecommunication Union (ITU)

The ITU promotes international cooperation in assigning satellite orbits, works to improve telecommunication infrastructure in the developing world and assists in the development and coordination of worldwide technical standards.

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

The purpose of UNESCO is to enhance international cooperation in education, science and culture. It strengthens the ties between nations and societies, and mobilizes the wider public so that each child and citizen:

- has access to quality education;
- may grow and live in a cultural environment rich in diversity and dialogue;

- can fully benefit from scientific advances;
- and can enjoy full freedom of expression.

International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)

The ICAO works with the Convention's 191 member states and industry groups to reach consensus on international civil aviation Standards and Recommended Practices (SARPs) and policies in support of a safe, efficient, secure, economically sustainable and environmentally responsible civil aviation sector.

International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)

The IFAD was established as an international financial institution in 1977 as one of the major outcomes of the 1974 World Food Conference. It is dedicated to eradicating poverty and hunger in rural areas of developing countries. Seventy-five per cent of the world's poor live in rural areas of developing countries.

United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)

The Organization's primary objective is the promotion and acceleration of industrial development in developing countries and countries undergoing transition (changing from a centrally planned economy to a market economy) and the promotion of international industrial cooperation.

Universal Postal Union (UPU)

UPU is the primary forum for cooperation among postal sector players and provides technical assistance where needed. It sets the rules for international mail exchanges and makes recommendations to stimulate growth in mail, parcel and improve quality of service for customers.

World Meteorological Organization (WMO)

WMO is the agency of the United Nations for meteorology (weather and climate), operational hydrology and related geophysical sciences. It provides a global scale framework for international cooperation for the development of meteorology, including satellite meteorology, as well as for the attainment of the benefits deriving from its applications.

World Tourism Organization (UNWTO)

The UNWTO is the United Nations' agency responsible for the promotion of responsible, sustainable and universally accessible tourism. It promotes tourism as a driver of economic growth, inclusive development and environmental sustainability and offers leadership and support to the sector in advancing knowledge and tourism policies worldwide.

Related Organizations

Some organizations have a relationship with the UN defined by an arrangement different from the agreements between the specialized agencies and the UN. They are not incorporated into the United Nations system, yet perform functions which further the agenda of UN. These organizations are as follows:

Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization Preparatory Commission

The Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization, CTBTO Preparatory Commission, was established by the states that signed the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) in 1996. Its purpose is twofold: to promote the entry into force of the CTBT, which bans all nuclear explosions, and to establish a global verification regime to ensure that all nuclear tests are detected.

International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)

It seeks to promote the peaceful use of nuclear energy and inhibit the use of nuclear material for any military purpose, including nuclear weapons. It oversees the nuclear trade to ensure that nuclear fuel, technology and equipment are traded for civilian purposes and not for military purposes.

International Organization for Migration (IOM)

IOM is committed to the principle that humane and orderly migration benefits migrants and society. As the leading international organization for migration, IOM acts with its partners in the international community to assist in meeting the growing operational challenges of migration management, advance understanding of migration issues, encourage social and economic development through migration and uphold the human dignity and well-being of migrants.

Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons

The organization verifies the adherence to the Chemical Weapons Convention which prohibits the use of chemical weapons and requires their destruction. The verification consists both of evaluation of declarations by member states and on-site inspections.

World Trade Organization (WTO)

The objective of WTO is to promote free trade amongst nations of the world to facilitate economic development. It deals with trade in goods as well as services. It also calls upon member nations to remove restrictions on foreign investment and protect intellectual property.

Specialized Agencies of UN and Related Organizations

	Official Name	Headquarters	Established
-	United Nations	New York, United States	1945
Specialized Agencies of UN			
1	Food and Agriculture Organization	Rome, Italy	1945
2	International Labour Organization	Geneva, Switzerland	1919
3	International Maritime Organization	London, United Kingdom	1959
4	International Monetary Fund	Washington D.C., United States	1945
5	World Bank Group	Washington D.C., United States	1945
6	World Health Organization	Geneva, Switzerland	1948
7	World Intellectual Property Organization	Geneva, Switzerland	1967
8	International Telecommunication Union	Geneva, Switzerland	1865
9	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization	Paris, France	1946

1	International Civil Aviation Organization	Montreal, Canada	1947
1	International Fund for Agricultural	Rome, Italy	1977
1	United Nations Industrial Development	Vienna, Austria	1985
1	Universal Postal Union	Bern, Switzerland	1874
1	World Meteorological Organization	Geneva, Switzerland	1950
1	World Tourism Organization	Madrid, Spain	1974
Related Organizations			
1	Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty	Vienna, Austria	1996
2	International Atomic Energy Agency	Vienna, Austria	1957
3	International Organization for Migration	Geneva, Switzerland	1951
4	Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical	Hague, Netherlands	1997
5	World Trade Organization	Geneva, Switzerland	1995

Funds and Programmes

The Funds and Programmes were created by the United Nations General Assembly to meet the needs not envisaged at formation of UN, such as Palestine refugees, development assistance, food aid, or the environment.

They are subordinate to the United Nations, but since they are immediately controlled by distinct intergovernmental bodies and derive most of their financial resources from sources other than the United Nations budgets, they are somewhat more akin to specialized agencies than to 'subsidiary organs'.

Moreover, as their activities are more operational and carried out at field level, they have needs dictated by an environment quite different from that of headquarters-centred administrations. The Programmes and Funds apply UN rules and regulations in the realm of administration and personnel.

International Trade Centre

The International Trade Centre (ITC) is the joint technical cooperation agency of the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and the World Trade Organization (WTO). ITC has the following objectives:

- Strengthen exporters: Strengthen the international competitiveness of enterprises in developing countries and transition economies.
- Develop trade support institutions: Develop the capabilities of trade service providers to support exporters
- Support policymakers: Support policymakers in integrating the private sector into the global economy.

ITC's regular programme is financed in equal parts by WTO and the UN. ITC also implements projects, at the demand of beneficiary countries, with voluntary contributions from donor governments and civil society institutions.

Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

Its principal functions are to provide international protection to refugees and other persons of concern, including stateless people, and to seek durable solutions for them. Protection includes preventing refoulement (the involuntary return of a refugee or a person of concern

to a country where he or she may have a well-founded fear of persecution) and ensuring that host countries follow international norms in the treatment of refugees.

While its mandate specifically covers refugees, UNHCR also protects and assists internally displaced persons (IDPs) in conflict-generated emergencies.

UN Women

UN Women was established in July 2010, by the General Assembly, to improve the coordination work related to gender equality and empowerment of women across the UN system.

It consolidates the work of four UN gender entities: the UN Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), the Division for the Advancement of Women, the Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and the UN International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women. It has an additional role of leading, coordinating and promoting the accountability of the UN system in its work on gender equality and the empowerment of women.

UN International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF)

The UNICEF was established by the General Assembly to provide emergency assistance to children in war-ravaged countries following World War II. Thereafter, the UN General Assembly charged it with addressing the needs of children in developing countries. Its role was extended to programmes giving long-term benefits to children everywhere, particularly those in developing countries, and changed the organization's name to the United Nations Children's Fund but retained the UNICEF acronym. The Fund also continued to provide relief and rehabilitation assistance at the time of emergencies.

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)

UNCTAD promotes the integration of developing countries into the world economy. The organization functions as a forum for intergovernmental deliberations aimed at consensus building; undertakes research, policy analysis and data collection for informing government representative; and provides technical assistance to developing countries, with special attention to the needs of the least developed countries and of economies in transition.

UNCTAD brought into Effect Two Systems for Facilitating Trade Amongst Nations:

1. Generalized System of Preferences (GSP): Under GSP, developed nations may give trade concessions to developing nations in order to promote their exports.
2. Generalized System of Trade Preferences (GSTP): Under GSTP, developing nations may give trade concessions to other developing nations to promote their exports.

Though WTO requires non-discriminatory trade regime amongst nations, GSP and GSTP are permitted under WTO rules.

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

The UNDP is the United Nations' lead agency for the UN development system. Its objective is to build inclusive, sustainable and resilient societies. It provides expert advice, training and financial support. Special attention is paid to the needs of the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and countries emerging from conflict.

UNDP's focus is on working with developing countries to find solutions to the challenges of:

- Democratic governance
- Poverty reduction
- Crisis prevention and handling
- Environment and energy
- HIV /AIDS

United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

The UNEP was established following the Stockholm Conference on the Human Environment. It aims to provide leadership and encourage partnerships to protect environment.

In 1997, Nairobi Declaration was adopted. The declaration prescribed the core mandate for UNEP:

- Analyse the state of the global environment and assess global and regional environmental trends, provide policy advice and early warning information on environmental threats, and promote international cooperation and action, based on the best scientific and technical capabilities available
- Further the development of international environmental law aimed at sustainable development
- Stimulate cooperation on emerging environmental challenges
- Strengthen its role in coordinating environmental activities in the UN system
- Promote greater awareness of and facilitate effective cooperation in implementing the international environmental agenda
- Serve as an effective link between the scientific community and policy-makers at national and international levels
- Provide policy and advisory services in key areas of institution-building to governments and other relevant institutions.

United Nations Conference on the Human Environment (Stockholm Conference)

The United Nations Conference on the Human Environment (also known as the Stockholm Conference) was an international conference convened under United Nations held in Stockholm, Sweden, in 1972. It was the UN's first major conference on international environmental issues, and marked a turning point in the development of international environmental politics.

United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)

UN-HABITAT is charged with coordinating human settlement activities within the UN system and facilitating the global exchange of information on shelter and sustainable urban development. It also assists countries with policy and technical advice in solving their human settlement problems.

APMCHUD

APMCHUD (Asia Pacific Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development) is a consultative mechanism on the promotion of sustainable housing and urban development amongst Asia Pacific countries.

It was established under the aegis and support of UN-Habitat. The theme of the first conference, i.e. 2006 New Delhi APMCHUD conference, was 'A vision for sustainable urbanization in the Asia-Pacific by 2020'. The second conference was held in Tehran, Iran.

The sixth edition of Asia Pacific Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development (APMCHUD) was held in New Delhi in 2016. The theme of this conference was 'Emerging Urban Forms-Policy Reforms and Governance Structures in the Context of New Urban Agenda'.

World Food Programme (WFP)

The WFP was established by the General Assembly and UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) as the UN System's food assistance organization. The WFP is the world's largest humanitarian agency fighting hunger worldwide.

The Programme also administers the International Emergency Food Reserve (IEFR), established by the General Assembly with a minimum target of 500,000 tonnes of cereals. It is to be noted that WFP was awarded 2020 Nobel Peace Prize for its efforts.

United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)

The UN Population Fund (UNFPA) is a United Nations development agency that promotes the right of every woman, man and child to enjoy a life of health and equal opportunity. UNFPA supports countries in using population data for policies and programmes.

As part of the UN humanitarian system, UNFPA takes the lead in providing supplies and services to protect reproductive health, with an emphasis on the special needs and vulnerabilities of women and young people. The Fund supports various data collection activities, including censuses, to provide detailed information for planning and rapid health assessments to allow for appropriate, effective and efficient relief.

United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS)

The UNOPS is an operational arm of the United Nations, supporting the successful implementation of its partners' peace-building, humanitarian and development projects around the world.

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)

The UNODC is the secretariat of the Conference of the Parties to the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its three supplementary protocols include: Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children; Smuggling of Migrants; and illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms. It is also the secretariat of the Conference of the State Parties to the UN Convention against Corruption. UNODC promotes the ratification and implementation of all of these conventions and protocols through capacity building, training and technical assistance.

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

The UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) was established by the General Assembly following the 1948 Arab-Israeli conflict, to carry out direct

relief and work programmes for Palestine refugees. In the absence of a solution to the Palestine refugee situation, the General Assembly has repeatedly renewed UNRWA's mandate.

Functional Commissions

In order to perform all the functions within the ECOSOC agenda, a number of functional commissions have been established. These bodies are deliberative bodies whose role is to consider and make recommendations on issues in their areas of responsibility and expertise. The Functional Commissions are required to report annually to the ECOSOC on their activities submitting draft resolutions and recommendations to the Council.

United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC)

The UNHRC is responsible for promoting and protecting human rights around the world. Its 47 seats are filled by member states elected for three-year term.

The UNHRC is the successor to the UN Commission on Human Rights (UNCHR). The council works closely with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR).

The General Assembly established the UNHRC by adopting a resolution in 2006, in order to replace the previous CHR, which was ineffective in protection of human rights.

The UNHRC addresses human rights-related situations in all UN member states. The UNHRC also addresses important human rights issues such as freedom of association, freedom of expression, freedom of belief and religion, women's rights, LGBT rights, and the rights of racial and ethnic minorities.

The UNHRC holds regular sessions three times a year, in March, June and September. The UNHRC can decide at any time to hold a special session to address human rights violations and emergencies, at the request of one-third of the member states.

UN Human Rights Council Elections

There are 47 Seats in the UNHRC. The seats are allocated based on equitable regional distribution. For instance, the Asia-Pacific region has 13 seats. Members in the council serve for three years and can have only upto two consecutive terms.

To secure a seat, member country is required to secure at least 97 votes (more than 50%) to get elected out of a total of 193 votes. Each member of the UN General Assembly has one vote.

Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)

UNGA established the post of High Commissioner for Human Rights to promote and protect the effective enjoyment by all people of all civil, cultural, economic, political and social rights, including the right to development.

It further held that the High Commissioner should function as the UN official with principal responsibility for global human rights efforts. The High Commissioner acts under the direction and authority of the Secretary-General.

OHCHR represents the world's commitment to universal human rights and is the principal UN office mandated to promote and protect the human rights of all people. OHCHR also serves as the secretariat to the Human Rights Council.

The High Commissioner is appointed by the Secretary-General and approved by the General Assembly, with regard to geographical rotation. Appointments are for a fixed term of four years, with the possibility of one renewal for another fixed term of four years.

United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL)

The United Nations Commission on International Trade Law is the core legal body of the United Nations on international trade law. It was established in 1966 with an objective to evolve a global set of standards and rules for international trade. Its mandate is to facilitate the 'harmonization' and 'unification' of the law on international trade.

- Harmonization focuses on modifying the domestic laws to bring them to common global legal standards.

- Unification refers to adoption of common legal standards by different countries.

Harmonization and unification of law facilitates global trade. On the other hand, lack of predictable laws or obsolete laws hinders international trade. UNCITRAL identifies such issues and provides solutions that are acceptable to different countries with different legal systems. UNCITRAL works towards its objective by developing conventions, model laws and instruments which are related to the various aspects of international trade.

- Model laws are created, which can be used by the countries to harmonize their domestic laws to meet international standards.

- Conventions are adopted by the countries to bring unification in law at global level. In other words, all the countries signing and adopting a convention by UNCITRAL will agree to have similar laws at the global level on various aspects related to trade and commerce across the countries.

UNCITRAL members meet once a year in Summers in New York and in Vienna alternatively.

Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD)

The United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) was constituted to oversee the outcomes of the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development/Earth Summit. It was replaced in 2013 by the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, which meets under the General Assembly every four years and the ECOSOC during remaining three years.

Sustainable Development Goals

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) (known as the Global Goals) are a set of targets relating to future international development. They have replaced the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) after their expiry in 2015. The SDGs were first formally discussed at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development held in Rio de Janeiro in June 2012 (Rio+20). SDGs are further divided into 17 categories as against the MDGs which were divided into 8 categories.

SDGs have target year of 2030. The goals are interconnected—often the key to success on one goal involves issues associated with another goal. The SDGs provide clear guidelines

and targets for all the countries in accordance with their own priorities and the environmental challenges of the world at large.

Sustainable development goals are as follows:

Goal 1: End poverty in all its forms everywhere

Goal 2: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture

Goal 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all the people at all the ages

Goal 4: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

Goal 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

Goal 6: Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

Goal 7: Ensure access to affordable, reliable and sustainable energy for all

Goal 8: Promote inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

Goal 9: Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation

Goal 10: Reduce inequality within and amongst countries

Goal 11: Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

Goal 12: Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

Goal 13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources

Goal 15: Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss

Goal 16: Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels

Goal 17: Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development

UN Commission on the Status of Women (UN CSW)

CSW has been described as the UN organ promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women. Every year, representatives of member states gather at United Nations headquarters in New York to evaluate progress on gender equality, identify challenges, set global standards and formulate concrete policies to promote gender equality and advancement of women worldwide.

Amongst its activities, the CSW has drafted several conventions and declarations, including the Declaration on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women in 1967 and formed women-focused agencies such as the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW) and United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), which was merged with other elements of the United Nations system into a new organization, UN Women, in January 2011.

The United Nations Development Fund for Women, commonly known as UNIFEM, was established in 1976 originally as the Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Decade for Women in the International Women's Year. It provides financial and technical assistance to innovative

programmes and strategies that promote women's rights, political participation and economic security.

Voluntary Fund for the UN Decade for Women was given an expanded mandate by the General Assembly in February 1985 and was renamed as United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM). UNIFEM became an autonomous organization, working closely with UNDP. In January 2011, UNIFEM was merged with International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW), Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues (OSAGI), and Division for the Advancement of Women (DAW). The collective body came to be called UN Women.

Beijing Platform for Action (1995)

During the fourth 'World Conference for Women' held at Beijing, the delegates prepared a Declaration and Platform for Action aimed at achieving greater equality and opportunity for women which came to be known as Beijing Platform for Action.

Mission: The Platform for Action is an agenda for women's empowerment and it aims at removing all the obstacles to women's active participation in all spheres of public and private life through a full and equal share in economic, social, cultural and political decision-making. It places a special emphasis on reproductive rights through its legislation regarding family planning, which states that it is the right of all women 'to be informed and to have access to safe, effective, affordable and acceptable methods of family planning of their choice, as well as other methods of their choice for regulation of fertility which are not against the law'.

What is World Conference for Women?

World Conference for Women is an event organized by UN CSW aimed at achieving gender equality and women empowerment. So far, four such conferences have been organized. The locations were Mexico City in 1975, Copenhagen in 1980, Nairobi in 1985 and Beijing in 1995.

United Nation Forum on Forests

It was established in 2000 with the objective of management, conservation and development of all types of forests.

The Forum has universal membership, and is composed of all member states of the United Nations and its specialized agencies.

Principal functions:

- To facilitate implementation of forest-related agreements and foster a common understanding on sustainable forest management;
- To provide for continued policy development and dialogue amongst governments, international organizations, etc.
- To enhance cooperation as well as policy and programme coordination on forest-related issues.
- To foster international cooperation.

■ To strengthen political commitment to the management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests.

Other Functional Commissions

- UN Commission for Social Development
- Commission on Narcotic Drugs
- Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice
- Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD)
- Commission on Population and Development
- UN Statistical Commission

Regional Commissions

Regional Commissions are the regional outposts of the United Nations and represent an integral part of the regional institutional landscape. Stationed in five regions of the world, they share the key objectives of aiming to foster economic integration at the sub-regional and regional levels and promoting the regional implementation of internationally agreed development goals, including the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

- United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE)
- United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA)
- United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)
- United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)
- United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)

International Court of Justice

The International Court of Justice (also called World Court) is the judicial branch of the United Nations. It is located at Peace Palace in The Hague, the Netherlands.

It settles legal disputes between states and gives advisory opinions to the UN and its specialized agencies. Only a state can sue another state in ICJ. Neither State can sue an individual /organization nor an individual /organization can sue the state in ICJ.

Composition

The International Court of Justice is composed of 15 judges elected for a nine-year term of office by the United Nations General Assembly and the Security Council. These organs vote simultaneously but separately. In order to be elected, a candidate must receive an absolute majority of the votes in both bodies. This sometimes makes it necessary for the number of rounds of voting to be carried out. Elections are staggered, with five judges elected every three years to ensure continuity within the court. If a judge dies in office, the practice has generally been to elect a judge in a special election to complete the term. There is a provision that every sitting judge should be from a different nation. All judges of ICJ should be elected regardless of their nationality amongst persons of high moral character, who are either qualified for the highest judicial office in their home states or known as lawyers with sufficient competence in international law.

There is an informal understanding that the seats will be distributed by geographic regions so that there are five seats for Western countries, three for African states, two for Eastern

European states, three for Asian states, and two for Latin American and Caribbean states. The five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council (France, Russia, China, the United Kingdom and the United States) always have a judge on the Court, thereby occupying three of the Western seats, one of the Asian seats and one of the Eastern European seats.

Criticism of ICJ

1. 'Compulsory' jurisdiction is limited to cases where both parties have agreed to submit to its decision. According to the principle of sovereignty in international law, there is no entity that could force the states into practice of the law or punish the states, in case any violation of international law occurs.

Thus, membership in the UN and ICJ does not give the court automatic jurisdiction over the member states, but it is the consent of each state to follow the jurisdiction that matters.

2. Organizations, private enterprises and individuals do not have access to International Court. This also means that the potential victims of crimes against humanity, such as minor ethnic groups or indigenous people cannot go to International Court.

UN agencies likewise cannot bring up a case except in advisory opinions (a process initiated by the court and non-binding).

3. Other international courts such as the International Criminal Court are not under the umbrella of the International Court. Numerous international courts sometimes makes it hard for the courts to engage in effective and collective jurisdiction.

4. The International Court does not enjoy a full separation of powers, with permanent members of the Security Council being able to veto enforcement of cases, even those to which they consented to be bound.

For instance, after the court ruled that the United States covert war against Nicaragua was in violation of international law (Nicaragua vs. United States), the United States withdrew from compulsory jurisdiction in 1986 to accept the court's jurisdiction only on a case-by-case basis. Chapter XIV of the United Nations Charter authorizes the UN Security Council to enforce Court rulings. However, such enforcement is subject to the veto power of the five permanent members of the Council, which the United States used in the Nicaragua case.

Conclusion

It is to be noted that though almost all states have signed the treaty to create the International Court of Justice, only a third of them have subjected themselves completely to its jurisdiction. It is for the same reason that states have not approached the court on many occasions and hence, only around 10 cases are filed every year and approximately 100 judgements have been delivered by ICJ so far.

Thus, the ICJ has not been able to resolve major disputes amongst enemy nations. However, its judgements have been adhered to by friendly nations on issues of secondary importance. There are two other international judicial bodies i.e. International Criminal Court (ICC) and Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA).

International Criminal Court

ICC is an international tribunal which has jurisdiction to prosecute individuals for the international crimes of genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes. ICC is based in The Hague, the Netherlands.

The ICC is intended to complement existing national judicial systems and thus, it exercises jurisdiction only when national courts are unwilling or unable to prosecute criminals or when the United Nations Security Council or individual states refer situations to the Court. The ICC began functioning on 1 July 2002, the date when the Rome Statute entered into force.

The Rome Statute is a multilateral treaty which serves as the ICC's foundational and governing document. States which become party to the Rome Statute become member states of the ICC. As of October 2017, 123 states are party to the Rome statute.

India has not signed the Rome Statute and, thus, preferred to stay outside the purview of ICC. Following are the reasons given by India for not signing the Rome Statute:

- India argues that the statute brings several crimes under the purview of the Court, which are subject to national jurisdiction and thus affects state sovereignty.
- The statute does not include terrorism as a crime against humanity.
- The statute gives special and discriminatory powers to the UN Security Council to refer or block the consideration of cases.

Difference between ICC and ICJ

1. The International Court of Justice has no jurisdiction to try individuals accused of war crimes or crimes against humanity. However, the ICC tries individual people for genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes and crimes of aggression.
2. All UN member states are automatically members of the ICJ, whereas nations must individually become members of ICC by ratifying Rome Statute.
3. ICJ is an organ of UN, whereas ICC is independent of UN.

Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA)

The PCA is not a court in the traditional sense, but provides services of arbitration tribunal to resolve disputes between member states, international organizations, or private parties arising out of international agreements. PCA does not have permanent judges. The PCA is a permanent bureaucracy that assists temporary tribunals to resolve disputes amongst states (and similar entities), intergovernmental organizations, or even private parties arising out of international agreements. PCA was established by treaty at the First Hague Peace Conference, the Netherlands, in 1899.

Parties to the Convention on the Pacific Settlement of disputes of 1899 (71 member states) and 1907 (101 member states) are automatically parties to the PCA. As 51 member states are parties to both conventions, the PCA has 121 member states: 119 members of the United Nations, as well as Kosovo and Palestine. India is a party to the PCA according to the Hague Convention on 1899.

PCA undertakes a variety of cases spanning legal issues involving territorial and maritime boundaries, sovereignty, human rights, international investment and trade. The order is binding on countries as there is no appeal process in the UN tribunal.

The Peace Palace was built from 1907 until 1913 for PCA in The Hague. In addition, Hague Academy of International Law, Peace Palace Library and the International Court of Justice also share the same building.

Critical Evaluation of UN

1. There has been criticism that the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council, who are all nuclear powers, have created an exclusive nuclear club that addresses the strategic interests and political motives of the permanent members.
2. Critics call the UN undemocratic, representing the interests of the governments of the nations who form it and not necessarily the individuals, organizations and groups within those nations.
3. UN has failed to achieve its economic and social development goals successfully due to paucity of funds. It is also alleged that the expenses incurred by UN bodies are high because of high salaries of officials.
4. On the positive side, it is to be noted that UN has been successful in achieving coordination of activities and setting standards in various fields.

Geneva Convention

Geneva conventions refer to a set of international treaties concluded from 1864 to 1949 to establish the humanitarian standards for the treatment of civilians and soldiers in war. Later, three additional protocols were added to the convention. At present, Geneva Conventions comprise four conventions and three protocols. The Conventions are universally applicable with 194 countries across the globe as 'Parties to the Convention'.

Objective

The Geneva conventions aim to limit the barbarity of war and accord humanitarian treatment to non-combatants and combatants who are no longer actively engaged in fighting. The conventions hence are applicable to:

1. Civilians
2. Medics and aid workers
3. Wounded soldiers
4. Sick soldiers
5. Shipwrecked troops
6. Prisoners of war etc.

The provisions of the conventions are applicable not only in declared wars but also in peacetime situations. The conventions are also applicable in situations of conflicts that are not recognized as war by one or more of the parties.

List of Conventions and Protocols

Following is the list of conventions and protocols:

1. First Geneva Convention "for the Amelioration of the Condition of the Wounded and Sick in Armed Forces in the Field": It contains 64 articles which provide protection to the wounded

and sick soldiers on land during war. The convention also provides protection to the medical and religious personnel, medical units and medical transportation along with protection for wounded and sick soldiers.

2. Second Geneva Convention "for the Amelioration of the Condition of Wounded, Sick and Shipwrecked Members of Armed Forces at Sea": This convention closely follows the provisions of the first Geneva Convention. It has 63 articles which provide protection to wounded, sick and shipwrecked troops at sea during war. It also provides protection to medical, religious personnel and hospital ships.

3. Third Geneva Convention "Relative to the Treatment of Prisoners of War": This convention protects the prisoners of war (PoW). It contains 143 articles which detail the humanitarian treatment to be accorded to captured soldiers. The conditions and places of captivity, labour of prisoners of war, the relief to be received by them and the judicial proceedings against the PoW are detailed in the convention. After the end of active hostilities, the convention mandates that the PoW should be released and repatriated without delay.

4. Fourth Geneva Convention "Relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War": The fourth convention protects the civilians including those in the occupied territories. The Civilian protection was dealt in detail for the first time in 1949, post-world war II. It consists of 159 articles and a short section on general protection of people facing certain consequences of war. It details the responsibilities of the occupying country vis-a-vis the civilian population of the occupied territory.

Post 1949, there was an increase in armed conflicts which were localized to a particular country or region or were in the nature of civil wars. To address the treatment of combatants and non-combatants in such a scenario, the following protocols were added, two in 1977 and a third one in 2005.

1. Additional Protocol I- deals with protection of victims of international conflicts and places limits on the way wars are fought.

2. Additional Protocol II- deals with non-international conflicts and protection of victims in such cases along with placing limits on the way wars are fought. Additional Protocol II is recognized as the first international treaty that is exclusively devoted to situations of non-international armed conflicts.

3. Additional Protocol III- deals with additional distinctive emblems. This is a short protocol which recognized the Red Crystal as an international protective symbol (symbols to mark persons and objects which are to be protected during an armed conflict. It means that they should not be attacked or shot even in armed conflict areas). The Red Crystal symbol is in addition to Red Cross and Red Crescent emblems, thus giving the title to additional protocol III as the protocol dealing with additional distinctive emblems.

Important Articles of the Conventions

1. Common Article 3: Article 3 is common to all the four Geneva conventions. It covered for the first time the situations of non-international armed conflicts such as traditional civil wars,

internal armed conflicts which spill over into other countries or internal armed conflicts in which a third country or a multinational force intervenes along with the government. The article establishes fundamental rules which cannot be violated at any cost. Article 3 in essence contains the essential rules of all the Geneva conventions in a condensed format. Hence it is considered a mini-convention within the Geneva Conventions. Some of the provisions of Article 3 include:

- a. Humane treatment for all persons in enemy hands. The article prohibits mutilation; torture; cruel, humiliating and degrading treatment; murder; taking of hostages and unfair trial.
- b. The wounded, sick and shipwrecked should be collected and cared for.
- c. The article grants the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) the right to offer its services to the parties of the conflict.
- d. The article calls on the parties to the conflict to bring all or parts of the Geneva Conventions into force through special agreements.
- e. The application of these rules does not affect the legal status of the parties to the conflict.

2. Article 13, Third Convention: The responsibility of humane treatment of Prisoners of War lies with the detaining power, not just the individuals who captured the Prisoners of War. According to this article, any unlawful act or omission by the Detaining power that leads to death or serious endangerment to the health of a prisoner of war in its custody is prohibited. Any breaches of this article are considered a serious breach of the Convention. The PoWs should not be subjected to physical mutilation or to medical or scientific experiments, that are not in the PoWs interests. Likewise, PoWs must, at all times, be protected, particularly against acts of violence or intimidation and against insults. Measures of reprisal against prisoners of war are prohibited.

3. Article 14, Third Convention: Article 14 of the Convention mentions that PoWs are "entitled, in all circumstances, to respect for their persons and their honour". This Article requires that Women shall be treated with all the regard due to their sex and shall be given fair treatment. All Prisoners of war shall retain the full civil capacity which they enjoyed at the time of their capture. The Detaining Power may not restrict the exercise of the rights as conferred under civil capacity except in so far as the captivity requires.

Monitoring of Geneva Conventions

There is a system of "Protecting Powers" to ensure that the provisions of the Geneva Conventions are being followed by the parties in a conflict. Each party to the conflict must designate a third party (which is not party to the conflict) as its "Protecting Power". Generally, the International Committee of the Red Cross plays the role of Protecting Power. The protecting power oversees the adherence to the provisions of the Geneva conventions.

Hague Abduction Convention

The Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction (also known as Hague Abduction Convention or Hague Convention) is a multilateral treaty. The Convention was drafted to ensure the prompt return of children who have been abducted from their country of habitual residence or wrongfully retained in the territory of any contracting party to the convention.

In other words, the central objective of the Convention is to restore the child custody arrangement which existed immediately before an alleged wrongful abduction or retention. Such a provision prevents a parent from crossing national boundaries in search of a more sympathetic court.

The Convention was concluded in 1980 and entered into force in 1983. The convention was developed by the Hague Conference on Private International Law (HCCH). The Convention applies only to children under the age of 16. As of 2021, there are 101 parties to the convention. India is not a party to convention.

What is Private International Law?

Private international law is a body of rules which is used to resolve legal disputes between private individuals who live in different countries.

What is the Hague Conference on Private International Law?

The Hague Conference on Private International Law (HCCH) is an international organization. It works in the field of private international law. It develops and administers several international conventions and protocols.

The Hague Conference was first convened in 1893 in The Hague, Netherlands. After World War II, the Hague Conference transformed into an international organization.

India is not party to convention

The government is not yet ready to sign the Hague treaty. There has been immense international pressure to sign the convention. However, Indian government is of the view that the adoption of the convention could lead to harassment of women escaping marital discord or domestic violence.

The government also opposes the central provision of the Hague Convention. The central provision says that the criterion of habitual residence of the child, which is used to determine whether the child was wrongfully removed by a parent as well as to seek the return of the child to the country of habitual residence, was not always in the best interest of the child.

Berne Convention

The Berne Convention for the Protection of Literary and Artistic Works (popularly called Berne Convention) is an international agreement on protection of copyrights. The convention was first accepted in Berne, Switzerland in the year 1886.

The Berne Convention has influenced several aspects of modern copyright law. For instance, it introduced the concept that a copyright exists the moment intellectual work has come into existence. The convention also requires that countries recognize copyrights held by the citizens of all other parties to the convention. As of February 2018, there are 176 parties, including India, to the Berne Convention.

WIPO Copyright Treaty (WCT)

The WIPO Copyright Treaty (WCT) is related to the protection of works and the rights of their authors in the digital environment. It is a special agreement under the Berne Convention. WIPO Copyright Treaty protects two kinds of subjects by way of copyright:

1. computer programs, and
2. compilation of data or other material ("databases").

WIPO Copyright Treaty was signed in 1996 and came into force in 2002. As of 2021, there are 110 contracting parties, including European Union, to the treaty. India is also a party to WIPO Copyright Treaty.

WIPO Performances and Phonograms Treaty (WPPT)

WIPO Performances and Phonograms Treaty (WPPT) deals with rights of two kinds of beneficiaries (i) performers (actors, singers, musicians etc.) and (ii) producers of phonograms (sound recordings) particularly in the digital environment.

As far as performers are concerned, the Treaty grants performers economic rights and moral rights, that is, the right to be identified as the performer and the right to object to any distortion, mutilation or other modification that would be prejudicial to the performer's reputation.

As far as producers of phonograms are concerned, the Treaty grants them economic rights in their phonograms: (i) the right of reproduction; (ii) the right of distribution; (iii) the right of rental; and (iv) the right of making available. Thus, the treaty also empowers the producers in their negotiations with new digital platforms and distributors.

WPPT was signed in 1996 and came into force in 2002. As of 2021, there are 109 contracting parties, including European Union, to the treaty. India is a party to WPPT.

The WCT and WPPT are together termed WIPO "internet treaties".

World Health Organisation – in detail

The World Health Organization (WHO) is responsible for directing and coordinating international health. WHO has come to play a vital role in the field of international public health and international public health policy.

WHO publishes the World Health Report (WHR) annually or biennially in multiple languages; each report includes an expert assessment of a specific global health topic, relating to all countries that are member states of the organization. The main purpose of the WHR is to provide policy-makers, international organizations and others with the information they need to help them make appropriate health policy and funding decisions.

How is WHO Governed?

The WHO is governed through the World Health Assembly, which is the main decision-making authority, and the Executive board which implements the decisions of the health assembly. The Director general, who is appointed by the Health Assembly based on the recommendations of the executive board, acts as the head of WHO.

World Health Assembly: The World Health Assembly is the supreme decision-making body of WHO. The Assembly meets every year in Geneva and is attended by delegations from all WHO member states. It focuses on a specific health agenda which is prepared by the Executive board. The World Health Assembly is responsible to determine the policies of the organization, appoint the Director-General, review and approve the programme budgets.

Director General: The Director General heads the World Health Organization. He is the chief technical and administrative officer who oversees the functioning of WHO.

Executive Board: The Executive board has 34 technically qualified members who are elected for 3 years term. The board meets every year in January where the members agree upon the agenda along with the resolutions to be considered for the World Health Assembly. The board also meets after the health assembly meeting to discuss the implementation of decisions of the assembly. The Executive board is responsible to offer advice, implement the decisions and policies of the world health assembly and facilitate its work. In 2020, India became the chair of the WHO Executive board.

International Health Regulations

International Health Regulations (IHR) is the guiding international agreement adopted by the WHO member states in 2005. It is a legal instrument binding on 196 countries, including all the 194 member states of WHO. The instrument was framed as a response to epidemics in the 2000s. The regulations mandate the obligations for countries along with rights and require the countries to report public health events. The regulation identifies the criteria to determine whether an event constitutes a "public health emergency of international concern". Further, the countries are required:

- to designate a National IHR Focal Point for communications with WHO
- to establish and maintain core capacities for surveillance and response, including at designated points of entry.

The IHR also addresses the issues of international travel during the epidemics. In extreme cases, IHR empowers the World Health Organization to take actions which can challenge the sovereignty of governments. WHO can collect disease-event information from non-governmental sources and can seek verification from governments about such information. If it deems necessary, WHO can share such information with other countries as well. Moreover, IHR grants the WHO Director-General the power to declare a public health emergency of international concern, even when the country experiencing the outbreak objects to such declaration.

Post Covid-19, IHR and WHO's response came under scrutiny. The USA accused WHO of not taking enough measures and not confronting the Chinese leadership over the crisis. In the 2020 World Health Assembly, a resolution was adopted by the member countries (including India) asking for an "impartial, independent and comprehensive evaluation" of the WHO's response to Covid-19.

WHO Funding

The two main sources of funding of World Health Organization are:

1. Assessed contributions from Member states: Assessed contributions are calculated as a percentage of the country's GDP. This percentage will be as agreed upon by the United Nations General Assembly. The member states approve these percentages once every two years at the World Health Assembly. The assessed contributions constitute less than 20% of the WHO's total budget. In simple words, assessed contributions are the dues that countries pay to the WHO. The assessed contributions are much more predictable compared to voluntary contributions.

2. Voluntary contributions from Member states and other partners: 80% of the WHO's budget is funded by voluntary contributions from member states, other United Nations organizations, inter- governmental organizations, private sector, philanthropic foundations and other sources.

Voluntary contributions are further categorized into Core voluntary contributions and Pandemic Influenza Preparedness (PIP) Contributions based on the degree of flexibility that the WHO has in deciding how to spend these funds:

a. Core voluntary contributions: Core voluntary contributions are fully unconditional, i.e. WHO has complete discretion on how to spend these funds. These funds represent around 3-9% of all voluntary contributions.

b. Thematic and strategic engagement funds: These are partially flexible funds that are required to meet contributors' requirements for reporting and accountability while providing a certain degree of flexibility in how these funds are allocated. These represent around 6% of all voluntary contributions.

c. Specified voluntary contributions: Specified voluntary contributions are earmarked to specific programme areas, geographical locations and need to be spent within a specified time frame. These contributions account for the major share of WHO funding and constitute around 90% of all the WHO voluntary contributions.

India contributes to around 0.48 percent of total WHO contributions.

United Nations Convention against Torture

The Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment is commonly known as the United Nations Convention against Torture (UNCAT). The convention is an international human rights treaty that aims to prevent torture and other acts of cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment around the world.

The Convention requires states to take effective measures to prevent torture under their jurisdiction, and it also forbids states to transport people to any country where they might be tortured.

The text of the Convention was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 1984. The treaty came into force on 26 June 1987. Since then, 26 June is recognized as the International Day in Support of Victims of Torture.

As of 2021, the Convention has 117 state parties. India has signed the convention, but not ratified it. It is to be noted that the United States of America, China and Pakistan have ratified the convention.

Committee against Torture

The Committee against Torture (CAT) is a body of human rights experts that monitors implementation of the Convention by state parties. All state parties are obliged under the Convention to submit regular reports to the CAT on how rights are being implemented.

Upon ratifying the Convention, states must submit a report within one year, after which they are obliged to report every four years. The Committee examines each report and addresses its concerns. Thereafter, it makes recommendations to the State party in the form of 'concluding observations'. Under certain circumstances, the CAT may consider complaints or communications from individuals claiming that their rights under the Convention have been violated.

India's position on UN Convention against Torture

Two decades after signing the UN Convention against Torture, India is yet to ratify it.

Why there is urgency for early ratification?

1. India has pending extradition requests with many other countries. In the absence of a law prohibiting torture, many countries do not agree to the extradition requests from India.
2. During the Universal Periodic Review, India was subjected to close questioning of its human rights obligations at the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva. Thus, a law to prevent torture would bring credibility to human rights record of India.
3. A domestic law against torture will also have positive implications for the protection of human rights.

Is there a need of a separate law?

There is a debate on the necessity of new law to prevent and punish torture. For instance, Provisions to prevent forceful extraction of a confession, criminal intimidation and wrongful confinement are already there in the Indian Penal Code. However, a single law prohibiting torture would cater to various types of torture and will prescribe higher punishment against all the forms of torture.

Past efforts to enact separate law

The Prevention of Torture Bill was passed by the Lok Sabha in 2010, but it was not passed by the Rajya Sabha.

In year 2017, the Law Commission submitted a draft Bill for the government's consideration.

Practice Questions

1. Which of the following statements regarding the 'veto' power in the Security Council is correct according to the United Nations Charter?

- (a) Any permanent member of the Security Council can prevent any decision from being accepted, by vetoing it.
- (b) Any permanent member of the Security Council can prevent any decision on non-procedural matters from being accepted, by vetoing it.
- (c) All the permanent members of the Security Council enjoy veto power but only on resolutions affecting their national security.
- (d) Any non-permanent member of the Security Council can prevent any resolution from being passed by voting against it.

2. Which of the following statements about 'Veto Power' with regard to United Nations is correct?

- (a) One veto can stall a Security Council resolution.
- (b) It is a kind of positive vote power.
- (c) The Secretary General uses this power when not satisfied with any decision of the Council.
- (d) All the members of the Security Council possess the veto power.

3. How many non-permanent members are there of United Nations Security Council?

- (a) Five
- (b) Ten
- (c) Fifteen
- (d) Twenty

4. Which of the following statements about the United Nations organs is correct?

- (a) Decisions of the General Assembly are binding on all members.
- (b) The term of the non-permanent members of the Security Council is for three years.
- (c) International Court of Justice has 20 Judges elected for a period of five years.
- (d) The Trusteeship Council has been suspended since 1 November 1994.

5. Consider the following statements:

- 1. Only the five permanent members of the Security Council have been given the veto power.
- 2. As the concurrence of five permanent members is essential, they can use veto power even in procedural matters.

Which of the statements give above is/ are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

6. Which are the official languages of the UN?

- (a) English, French and Russian only
- (b) English, French, German and Russian
- (c) English, French, Russian, Chinese and Hindi
- (d) English, French, Chinese, Russian, Arabic and Spanish

7. When did the United Nations Organization come into existence?

- (a) 24 October 1945
- (b) 24 October 1943
- (c) 26 November 1945
- (d) 26 November 1943

8. The Secretary General of the United Nations is appointed

- (a) by the General Assembly upon recommendation of United Nations Secretariat
- (b) from amongst the officers of the permanent secretariat of United Nations on the principle of seniority and merit
- (c) by the General Assembly upon the recommendations of the Security Council
- (d) by the Security Council

9. In the context of Antonio Guterres election as United Nations Secretary General recently, consider the following statements:

- 1. Secretary General of United Nations is elected by the United Nations Security Council.
- 2. The post of Secretary-General of United Nations is not as powerful as permanent member of UNSC even though he serves as the UN's top diplomat and chief administrative officer.

Which of the statements given above is/ are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

10. Consider the following statements:

- 1. The five permanent members of the Security Council are the only countries recognized as nuclear- weapons states under the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.
- 2. The term of non-permanent members of the Council is five years.

Which of the statements given above is/ are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

11. With reference to the Security Council of United Nations, which of the following statements is/are correct?

- 1. It has 15 members.
- 2. Its non-permanent members are chosen by United Nations General Assembly.
- 3. Retiring members are not eligible for immediate re-election.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

12. Consider the following organizations:

- 1. International Bank for Reconstruction and Development

2. International Finance Corporation
3. International Fund for Agricultural Development
4. International Monetary Fund

Which of these are agencies of the United Nations?

- (a) 1 and 2
- (b) 3 and 4
- (c) 1, 2 and 4
- (d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

13. Consider the following statements with respect to United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development:

1. The United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development was constituted in 1992 during United Nations conference on Environment and Development.
2. The United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development was replaced in 2013 by the High-Level political forum on Sustainable Development.

Which of the statements given above is/ are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

14. Consider the following statements about UN women:

1. UN Nations Development fund for women was merged with other dedicated agencies under the UN system for welfare of women to form UN women in 2011.
2. UN women was formed as single agency under UN to deal with women related issues in order to ensure coordination amongst activities related to welfare of women.

Which of the statements given above is/ are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

15. Consider the following statements about the UNO:

1. The UN was formed to avoid war amongst nations and resolve international disputes through peaceful means.
2. The Charter of the UN explicitly mentions that UNSC permanent members shall carry nuclear weapons to safeguard the global community.
3. The UN has resolved all the major global disputes including the Palestine dispute.

Which of the statements given above is/ are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2
- (b) 1 and 3
- (c) 2 and 3
- (d) 1 only

16. What is the 'World Conference for Women'?

1. World conference for women is an event organized by United Nations to discuss issues related to women.

2. So far, five such conferences have taken place. The last one was held at Beijing.
Which of the statements given above is/ are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

17. With reference to the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), which of the following statements is/are correct?

- 1. UN-Habitat is charged with coordinating human settlement activities within the UN system.
- 2. Its aim is to build 10 million households every year.
- 3. It also assists countries with policy and technical advice in solving their human settlement problems.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

18. With reference to The International Court of Justice (also called World Court), which of the following statements is/are correct?

- 1. It settles legal disputes between states and gives advisory opinions to the UN and its specialized agencies.
- 2. Only state can sue another state in ICJ. Neither State can sue an individual/organization nor an individual/organization can sue the state in ICJ.
- 3. The ICJ is composed of 15 judges with a nine-year term. There is a provision that every sitting judge should be from a different nation.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

19. Consider the following organizations:

- 1. International Criminal Court
- 2. United Nations Human Rights Council
- 3. International Court of Justice

Which of the above given agencies has jurisdiction to prosecute individuals for the international crimes of genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

20. Consider the following statements:

1. Permanent Court of Arbitration provides services of arbitration tribunal to resolve disputes between member states, international organizations or private parties arising out of international agreements.

2. PCA is a court and has 15 permanent judges.

Which of the statements given above is/ are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

21. Consider the following statements:

1. The Geneva Conventions are a set of three conventions and four protocols that deal with humanitarian treatment in times of war.

2. The Geneva Conventions do not deal with protection of civilians in the occupied territories.

Which of the statements given above is/ are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

22. Which of the following organizations acts as the 'Protecting power' under Geneva convention?

- (a) United Nations Organization
- (b) International Committee of the Red Cross
- (c) World Health Organization
- (d) Amnesty International

23. Which of the following countries is/are a part of G-4?

- 1. India
- 2. Japan
- 3. Venezuela
- 4. Germany

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1, 2 and 3 only
- (b) 3 and 4 only
- (c) 1, 2 and 4 only
- (d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

24. With reference to the United Nations Human Rights Commission (UNHRC), consider the following statements:

1. UNHRC has 50 members who are elected by the majority of members of the United Nations General Assembly.

2. Each member serves for a term of five years.

3. A member can be re-elected but can have only upto two consecutive terms.

Which of the statements given above is/ are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only

- (c) 3 only
- (d) 1 and 2 only

25. Consider the following statements:

1. The third Geneva convention is related to the protection of Civilians in occupied territories.
2. The fourth Geneva convention is related to the treatment of Prisoners of War.

Which of the statements given above is/ are incorrect?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

26. With reference to the governance of World Health Organization, consider the following statements:

1. The Executive body is the main decision-making body of the World Health Organization.
2. The World Health Assembly is responsible to implement the decisions and policies of the Executive body.

Which of the statements given above is/ are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

27. Consider the following statements:

1. The Hague convention is related to the civil aspects of international child abduction.
2. India recently ratified the Hague convention in 2020.
3. The central objective of the Hague Convention is to restore the child custody to the earlier arrangement which existed immediately before an alleged wrongful abduction.

Which of the statements given above is/ are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

28. Which of the following treaties are considered a part of WIPO internet treaties?

1. WIPO Copyright Treaty
2. WIPO Performances and Phonograms Treaty
3. Berne Convention

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

29. Consider the following statements:

1. According to the Berne Convention, a copyright exists the moment intellectual work has come into existence.

2. The intellectual property rights related to computer programs are protected by the WIPO Copyright Treaty.

Which of the statements given above is/ are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

30. Which of the following pairs are correctly matched?

International Organization	Functions
1. International Civil Aviation Organization	International cooperation in assigning satellite orbits
2. International Monetary Fund	Survey and monitor global economic developments
3. International Maritime Organization	Safe, secure and efficient shipping on clean oceans

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

31. Which of the following constitutes a part of the World Bank Group?

- 1. International Bank for Reconstruction and Development
- 2. World Trade Organization
- 3. International Finance Corporation

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

32. Consider the following statements:

- 1. The International Atomic Energy Agency is an autonomous international organization within the United Nations system.
- 2. The IAEA aims to eliminate the use of nuclear material in all forms and manners.

Which of the statements given above is/ are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

33. Which of the following organizations was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2020?

- (a) International Atomic Energy Agency
- (b) World Food Programme
- (c) United Nations Human Rights Council
- (d) UN Women

34. Consider the following statements:

1. The Permanent Court of Arbitration settles international legal disputes between countries as well as individuals.
2. The Permanent Court of Arbitration was established by treaty at the First Hague Peace Conference in Netherlands in 1989.
3. Justice Dalveer Bhandari is one of the judges of the PCA.

Which of the statements given above is/ are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

35. Consider the following statements with reference to the International Criminal Court (ICC)?

1. The International Criminal Court is founded on the basis of the Rome Statute.
2. The ICC has jurisdiction to prosecute individuals for the international crimes such as genocide, war crimes and terrorism.
3. India is not a signatory to the Rome Statute.

Which of the statements given above is/ are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

36. Which of the following is/are the differences between ICC and ICJ?

1. The ICC has jurisdiction only over states whereas ICJ has jurisdiction over private individuals.
2. ICJ is an organ of the United Nations whereas ICC is independent of the UN.
3. India is a member of both ICC and ICJ.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

37. Which of the following pairs are correctly matched?

SDG Goal	Focus Area
SDG 1	End hunger
SDG 3	Health
SDG 5	Gender Equality

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

38. Which of the following statements are correct?

1. The United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) is the core legal body of the United Nations on international trade law.
2. UNCITRAL was established in 1945 to evolve a global set of standards and rules in international trade.
3. UNCITRAL focuses on the 'harmonization' and 'unification' of the law on international trade.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

39. Consider the following statements with reference to Article 3 of the Geneva Conventions:

1. Article 3 is common to all the Geneva Conventions and is considered a mini-convention.
2. The article grants the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) the right to offer its services to the parties in the conflict.
3. Article 3 is not applicable to non- international armed conflicts.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

40. With reference to the funding to World Health Organization, consider the following statements:

1. India contributes to around 0.5 percent of total WHO contributions.
2. 80% of the WHO's budget is contributed by assessed contributions from member states.
3. The assessed contributions by member states is based on the nations' foreign exchange reserves.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Perfecting Past Prelims

1. With reference to the United Nations, consider the following statements: (2009)

1. The Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) of UN consists of 24 member states.
2. It is elected by a 2/3rd majority of the General Assembly for a 3-year term.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

2. Which of the following is not related to United Nations? (2010)

- (a) Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency

- (b) International Finance Corporation
- (c) International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes
- (d) Bank for International Settlements

3. 'Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action', often seen in the news, is (2015)

- (a) A strategy to tackle the regional terrorism, an outcome of a meeting of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization.
- (b) A plan of action for sustainable economic growth in the Asia- Pacific Region, an outcome of the deliberations of the Asia—Pacific Economic Forum.
- (c) An agenda for women's empowerment, an outcome of a World Conference convened by the United Nations.
- (d) A strategy to combat wildlife trafficking, a declaration of the East Asia Summit.

4. With reference to 'Asia Pacific Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development (APMCHUD)', consider the following statements: (2017)

1. The first APMCHUD was held in India in 2006 on the theme 'Emerging Urban Forms—Policy Responses and Governance Structure'.

2. India hosts all the Annual Ministerial Conferences in partnership with ADB, APEC and ASEAN. Which of the statements given above is/ are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

5. With reference to the role of UN-Habitat in the United Nations programme working towards a better urban future, which of the statements is/are correct? (2017)

1. UN-Habitat has been mandated by the United Nations General Assembly to promote socially and environmentally sustainable towns and cities to provide adequate shelter for all.

2. Its partners are either governments or local urban authorities only.

3. UN-Habitat contributes to the overall objectives of the United Nations system to reduce poverty and to promote access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1, 2 and 3 only
- (b) 1 and 3 only
- (c) 2 and 3 only
- (d) 1 only

6. Consider the following statements: (2019)

1. The United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) has a 'Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air'.

2. The UNCAC is the ever-first legally binding global anti-corruption instrument.

3. A highlight of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC) is the inclusion of a specific chapter aimed at returning assets to their rightful owners from whom they had been taken illicitly.

4. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) is mandated by its member States to assist in the implementation of both UNCAC and UNTOC.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- (a) 1 and 3 only
- (b) 2, 3 and 4 only
- (c) 2 and 4 only
- (d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

7. With reference to the "United Nations Credentials Committee", consider the following statements: (2022)

1. It is a committee set up by the UN Security Council and works under its supervision.
2. It traditionally meets in March, June and September every year.
3. It assesses the credentials of all UN members before submitting a report to the General Assembly for approval.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 3 only
- (b) 1 and 3
- (c) 2 and 3
- (d) 1 and 2

8. With reference to the United Nations General Assembly, consider the following statements: (2022)

1. The UN General Assembly can grant observer status to the non-member States.
2. Inter-governmental organisations can seek observer status in the UN General Assembly.
3. Permanent Observers in the UN General Assembly can maintain missions at the UN headquarters.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer Keys

Practice Questions

1. (b)	2. (a)	3. (b)	4. (d)	5. (a)
6. (d)	7. (a)	8. (c)	9. (b)	10. (a)
11. (c)	12. (d)	13. (c)	14. (c)	15. (d)
16. (a)	17. (c)	18. (d)	19. (a)	20. (a)
21. (d)	22. (b)	23. (c)	24. (c)	25. (c)
26. (d)	27. (c)	28. (a)	29. (c)	30. (b)
31. (c)	32. (a)	33. (b)	34. (a)	35. (c)
36. (b)	37. (b)	38. (c)	39. (a)	40. (a)

Perfecting Past Prelims

1. (b)	2. (d)	3. (c)	4. (d)	5. (b)
6. (c)	7. (a)	8. (d)		

Solutions

Practice Questions

1. (b) Veto power is given only to permanent members and this power is applicable only to 'non-procedural' matters. The veto power does not apply to 'procedural' matters.

2. (a) A Veto by any of the five permanent members of the Security Council can stall proceedings of the Council except in case of procedural matters.

5. (a) Statement 2 is incorrect. The veto power does not apply to procedural matters.

8. (c) The Secretary General is appointed by the General Assembly upon the recommendation of the Security Council. In other words, there is a two-stage process for appointment of Secretary General—a recommendation by the Security Council, followed by a decision by the General Assembly.

9. (b) Statement 1 is incorrect. The Secretary General is appointed by the General Assembly upon the recommendations of the Security Council.

10. (a) Statement 2 is incorrect. The term of non-permanent members of the Council is two years.

11. (c) Statement 2 is incorrect. The non-permanent members of UNSC are chosen by regional groups (not by the General Assembly). After non-permanent members are chosen, their appointment is approved by the General Assembly through elections. Each chosen member requires votes by a two-third majority.

12. (d) All the given agencies are specialized agencies of UN. Specialized agencies are legally independent international organizations with their own rules, membership, organs and financial resources.

13. (c) Statement 1 is correct. The United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) was established by the UN General Assembly in December 1992 to ensure effective follow-up of United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), also known as the Earth Summit.

Statement 2 is correct. At the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), member states agreed to establish a high-level political forum that will subsequently replace the Commission on sustainable development. Thus, United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) was replaced by the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development in the year 2013.

14. (c) Statement 1 is correct. UN women was formed by merging four of the UN's agencies and offices—the UN Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), the Division for the Advancement of Women (DAW), the Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues, and the UN International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (UN-INSTRAW). It became operational in January 2011.

Statement 2 is correct. United Nations General Assembly unanimously voted to create a single UN body tasked with accelerating progress in achieving gender equality and women empowerment.

15. (d) Statement 2 is incorrect. No such thing is mentioned in the UN Charter.

Statement 3 is incorrect. United Nations is indeed an effective institution; it plays an irreplaceable role in dealing with many international disputes and settlement of international affairs. However, the United Nations also has its limitations and shortcomings, which are mainly reflected in the poor settlement of regional disputes and the inability to stop the war. The Palestinian issue is one such example of the failure of UN in resolving regional disputes.

16. (a) Statement 2 is incorrect. Four world conferences for women have been organized by the UN. These conferences took place in Mexico City in 1975, Copenhagen in 1980, Nairobi in 1985 and Beijing in 1995.

17. (c) Statement 2 is incorrect. There is no such objective. Rather the twin goals of the habitat agenda are adequate shelter for all and the development of sustainable human settlements in an urbanizing world.

19. (a) Out of the given agencies only International Criminal Court has jurisdiction to prosecute individuals for the international crimes of genocide, crimes against humanity, and war crimes.

20. (a) Statement 2 is incorrect. PCA is not a court and does not have permanent judges. The PCA is a permanent bureaucracy that assists temporary tribunals to resolve disputes amongst states (and similar entities), intergovernmental organizations, or even private parties arising out of international agreements.

21. (d) Statement 1 is incorrect: The Geneva Conventions are a set of four conventions and three protocols.

Statement 2 is incorrect: The Geneva Conventions deal with non-combatants also such as civilians (including those in the occupied territories), medical and health care professionals.

23. (c) Venezuela is not a part of G-4. Brazil, India, Germany and Japan are members of G-4.

24. (c) Statement 1 is incorrect: UNHRC has 47 members, not 50 members.

Statement 2 is incorrect: Each member serves for a term of 3 years.

25. (c) Statement 1 is incorrect: The third Geneva convention is related to the treatment of Prisoners of War.

The fourth Geneva convention is related to the protection of Civilians in occupied territories.

26. (d) Statement 1 is incorrect: The WHO is governed through the World Health Assembly, which is the main decision-making body.

Statement 2 is incorrect: Executive board implements the decisions of the health assembly.

27. (c) Statement 2 is incorrect: India is not a party to the Hague convention.

30. (b) Pair 1 is not correctly matched: The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) promotes international cooperation in assigning satellite orbits.

31. (c) The World Bank Group (WBG) consists of the five international organizations: International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD), International Development Association (IDA), International Finance Corporation (IFC), Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA) and International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID).

32. (a) Statement 2 is incorrect: The IAEA seeks to promote the use of nuclear material for peaceful purposes such as generation of energy. It seeks to eliminate the use of nuclear material only for weapon purposes.

34. (a) Statement 3 is incorrect: Justice Dalveer Bhandari is one of the judges of the International Court of justice, not PCA.

35. (c) Statement 2 is incorrect: The Rome statute does not include terrorism as a crime against humanity and thus, ICC does not have jurisdiction to prosecute individuals for terrorism.

36. (b) Statement 1 is incorrect: The ICJ has no jurisdiction over private individuals. The ICC does not prosecute states, it prosecutes individuals for the international crimes of genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes.

Statement 3 is incorrect: India is a member of ICJ, but not ICC.

37. (b) Pair 1 is not correctly matched: SDG 1 is End poverty everywhere in all its forms. SDG 2 focuses on ending hunger, achieving food security, improving nutrition and promoting sustainable agriculture

38. (c) Statement 2 is incorrect: UNCITRAL was established in 1966 to evolve a global set of standards and rules in international trade.

39. (a) Statement 3 is incorrect: Article 3 is applicable to the situations of non-international armed conflicts such as traditional civil wars, internal armed conflicts which spill across borders etc.

40. (a) Statement 2 is incorrect: 80% of the WHO's budget is contributed by voluntary contributions from member states.

Statement 3 is incorrect: The assessed contributions by member states is based on the nations' GDP and population.

Perfecting Past Prelims

1. (b) Statement 1 is incorrect. The United Nations Economic and Social Council has 54 member states which are elected by the United Nations General Assembly by two-third majority for three- year terms.

2. (d) All the other agencies are specialized agencies of UN.

3. (c) Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action was an outcome of the Fourth World Conference for Women in September 1995. Platform for Action made comprehensive commitments under 12 critical areas of concern.

The Platform for Action imagines a world where each woman and girl can exercise her freedoms and choices, and realize all her rights, such as to live free from violence, to go to school, to participate in decisions and to earn equal pay for equal work.

4. (d) Statement 1 is incorrect. The 1st APMCHUD was held in New Delhi in 2006 and the theme was 'A Vision for Sustainable Urbanization in the Asia-Pacific by 2020'.

Statement 2 is incorrect. APMCHUD's ministerial conference is a biennial event held at different nations.

5. (b) Statement 2 is incorrect. UN-Habitat draws together cooperation with committed partners, relevant stakeholders, and urban actors, including at all levels of government as well as the private sector.

6. (c) Statement 4 is correct.

Statement 1 is incorrect. United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) is against corruption and is not related to Smuggling of Migrants. UNCAC has been in news in context of amendments in Prevention of Corruption Act to make it in line with UNCAC. UNTOC has a Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air.

Once we know that statement 1 is incorrect and statement 4 is correct, we are left with options (b) and (c).

Statement 3 is also incorrect. UNTOC has three supplementary protocols namely Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children, Smuggling of Migrants, and illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms. It does not have specific chapter aimed at returning assets to their rightful owners from whom they had been taken illicitly.

7. (a) Statement 1 is incorrect: A United Nations Credentials Committee is appointed at the beginning of each regular session of the General Assembly. It consists of nine members, who are appointed by the General Assembly on the proposal of the President. Thus, the Credentials Committee functions under the auspices of the UN General Assembly.

Statement 2 is incorrect: A Credentials Committee is appointed at the beginning of each regular session of the General Assembly. Usually, the committee meets in November, brings the report to the General Assembly in December for adoption.

Statement 3 is correct. The Committee is mandated to examine the credentials of representatives of Member States and to report to the General Assembly thereon.

8. (d) Statements 1 and 2 are correct: The United Nations General Assembly may grant non-member states, international organizations and other entities Observer Status. Thus, Inter-governmental organisations can seek observer status in the UN General Assembly.

Statement 3 is correct: Permanent Observers may participate in the sessions and workings of the General Assembly and maintain missions at the UN Headquarters.

PrepMate IAS