

CHAPTER 6 International organization in a Unipolar world

Learning objectives:

After studying this chapter, you should be able to understand;

1. Establishment of UNO
2. Need of International/Governmental/NGO'S
3. Types of international organizations
4. Objective and purpose, aims/principles of UN
5. Structure/functions
6. Reform/restructuring of UN in future
7. Jurisdiction of UN
8. Rise of new international organization
9. UN in a unipolar world
10. UN peace-keeping operations
11. Role of India in peace keeping operations
12. India's stand in the UN reforms
13. Obstacles in the way of India to join as 6th permanent member of UNSC.

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Introduction

The outbreak of 2nd world war (1939-45) between allied powers and axis powers resulted in failure of league of nation which was created earlier after the end of world war 1ST (1914-1918). 2nd world war came with a challenge for the world for establishment of an organization ensuring the maintenance of peace at global level. This trial resulted in the formation of UNO on 24-10-1945. Its establishment lead to bipolar system and emergence of cold war era (1945-91) with the end of cold war and collapse of Soviet Union led to the emerge of new global order hegemonised by the USA. It led to a demand for restructuring of the various international organizations, especially the UN to meet the new challenges posed by US hegemony. The demand to restructuring and reform the UN security council has been the most important part of this process.

India also has diversified role in the changing environment. Although there are variety of global organizations like UN, IMF, WHO, WTC, ILO etc. but in this chapter we will discuss the formation of UNO and its organs in detail.

Need of International Organizations

Dag Hammarskjöld, "The UN was not created to take humanity to heaven, but to save it from hell".

The need/purpose of UN is summarized as follows:

1. It deals with war and peace.
2. It fosters countries to cooperate for better living condition.
3. It provides peaceful methods of conflict resolution.
4. It deals with eradication of diseases.
5. It deals with the problem of global warming, greenhouse effect and rising of sea levels.
6. It controls the miss use of global commons.

Types of International Organizations

1. Inter-governmental organizations.
2. Non-governmental organization.
3. Multinational enterprises.

Discuss the origin, objectives, purpose and principles of UNO

Origin:

The United Nations Organization (UNO) is the organization of the world, which represents the great scope of humanity and peace and prosperity. It came into existence after the end of 2nd world war 1945. On April 25 to June 26-1945, the San Francisco conference was held which was attended by 50 nations and signed the UN charter. Poland later accepted and signed the charter as the 51st member. Its headquarter is in New York USA. The UNO functions through six principle organs. The General Assembly (UNGA), The Security Council (UNSC), The Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), The International Court of Justice (ICJ), The Trusteeship Council and The Secretariat.

Objectives and purpose

The main objectives/aims of the UNO are briefly given as follows;

1. To ensure peace for succeeding generation.
2. To maintain faith in fundamental rights.

3. To establish justice and respect for international obligations.
4. to promote social progress and better standards of life.
5. To prevent wars.
6. To ensure the international cooperation in solving disputes of socio-economic-cultural and humanitarian character.
7. To develop friendly atmosphere among the nations based on mutual respect for principle of equal rights.
8. To be at the Centre to facilitate the agreed common goals.

Principles

The main principles of UNO are as under:

1. It is based on the principles of sovereign equality of all its members
2. Its members will fulfill the good faith in the obligation in accordance with UN charter.
3. The non-members of UN to settle disputes peacefully.
4. It will not interfere in domestic affairs of its members
5. The members shall refrain from posing the threats of force against territorial integrity of other states.
6. The member states to give assistance in any action it takes in accordance with the charter.

Structure of UN

There are 193 sovereign states as the members of UNO. The UN performs its activities through six organs. These include following;

1. **UNGA:** The United Nations General Assembly is the world parliament with 193 members. Each state sends five members to UNGA but has one vote only. Its annual session is held once annually in the month of September. It supervises the role of General Assembly in the relation to other organs of UNO. It also coordinates the policies and activities of the specialized agencies like ILO, IMF and WHO.

Functions

1. To elect new members and Secretary General.
 2. To elect non-permanent members of the Security Council, members of Economic and Social Council and Judges of ICJ.
 3. To maintain international order and discuss matters concerning with UN charter.
 4. It exercises the financial powers. The expenditures are borne by the members as advised by UNGA.
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2. **UNSC:** - The United Nations Security Council is the executive organ of the UNO. It is entrusted with the responsibility for maintaining international peace and security. Originally it was constituent of 11 members in whom there were five permanent and six non-permanent members. Since 01-01-1966 its membership was increased to 15 including five permanent i.e. USA, Russia, Britain, France and China. The ten non-permanent members are elected by (UNGA) for a term of two years and are eligible for immediate re-elections. It meets twice a month. Its permanent members have veto power i.e. right to reject a resolution, which is also called the rule of "Great Power Unanimity".

Functions of UNSC

The main functions of Security Council are:

1. Maintaining peace and settle disputes peacefully.
 2. To discuss, investigate and make recommendations on matters of international peace and security.
 3. It is described as the "enforcement arm" of the UN, as it decides the measures to restore peace and security.
 4. It initiates the actions against the aggressor states.
 5. It takes part in the elections of Security General, the judges of ICJ and can recommend the suspension of any member for violating the UN charter.
- 3. ECOSOC:** Economic and Social Council has 54 members elected by the (UNGA). Its 18 members get retired every year. The members are elected for three years' term. Its main function is to promote social, economic, cultural, educational cooperation between members.

Functions

1. To find solutions of International Economic, Social, Cultural, Educational and Health matters.
 2. To prepare draft conventions for submission to the General Assembly with respect to matters within its competence.
 3. It makes recommendations for the purpose of promoting respect to Human Rights and Fundamental Freedom to all people.
 4. It calls for International conferences on matters under its jurisdictions.
 5. It helps the Nations in their development plan.
 6. It coordinates the appropriate steps to obtain regular report from specialized agencies.
- 4. Trusteeship Council:** It has 14 members to look after areas liberated from Japan and Germany after 2nd world war with decolonization, its importance has declined. However, 5 permanent members are entrusted in its functions.

Functions

- a. To see the trust territories are administered by responsible government in accordance to wishes of masses.
 - b. Considers reports by the administering authority.
 - c. Examines reports, visit the territories.
 - d. Makes efforts for advancement in promotion of moral, social and educational advancement.
- 5. International Court of Justice:** - The (ICJ) is the judicial organ of the UNO. It has 15 judges, who are elected by the (UNGA) and (UNSC) for a term of a nine years. The 5 judges of ICJ retire after every 3 years. It has a permanent seat at Hague, but it can meet elsewhere also whenever desired. It elects president and vice president for a term of 3 years. It takes all decisions by majority of judges present. In case of tie the president has a casting vote. Its decisions are binding only on parties to disputes and only for case and not in other cases.

Functions

1. To settle disputes between member states.
2. It hears and decides disputes on the basis of international law, UN charter, international treaties, customs and traditions.

3. The General Assembly can ask for legal advice on any issue from the ICJ.

Composition and Function of the UN Secretariat

6. **Secretariat:** The secretariat is the administrative organ and headquarter of the UNO. The Secretary General is recommended by UNSC and elected by UNGA. Secretary General is the chief administrative officer of UNO. Its headquarters is at New York USA and its branch offices are at Geneva, Vienna and Nairobi.

Its functions are as follows:

1. It calls the meeting of the various organs of the UNO.
2. It enforces the decisions taken by the various organs of the UNO.
3. It maintains the records of the proceedings of the UNO.
4. It prepares annual report of each organ of the UNO and presents it to the UNGA
5. It runs the working of the UN smoothly and efficiently.

Reform of Structure and Processes

UN General Assembly in 1992 in its deliberation on reformation passed a resolution with the following three components

1. The UNSC longer reflects the reality of the contemporary world
2. The decision of UNSC reflecting western interest and values are hegemonised by big five.
3. UNSC doesn't have equitable representation

The growing demand for reformation led the UN Secretary General, Kofi Annan to initiate an enquiry into how could be UN formed. Different criteria were proposed for permanent and non-permanent membership in UNSC. Now a new member should have:

1. Major military power.
2. Big economic power.
3. Major contributor to UN budget.
4. Populous country.
5. Possessing human rights and democracy.

The above mentioned suggestions had some validity. As these suggestions have its impact in the countries fulfilling the criteria and some opposed it saying these as disadvantages.

In nutshell, we can summarize the demands for reformation as under:

1. At its inception, the UN had most European and North American members. With the conclusion of new Asian, African and Middle East countries under developed countries, some new problems and aspirations emerged, hence, the security council need to accommodate these countries their problems and aspirations.
2. The veto powers given to five permanent members has become an obstacle in handling the issues. As they have become autocratic now.
3. The security council is the constituent body of 15 members, which cannot represent the whole world.
4. The economies of Afro-Asian nation are at high pace, who are playing now a great role in world politics. Hence these Afro-Asian countries need to be represented.

Reforms needed in UNSC

1. The membership of Security Council should be increased. More representations should be given to Afro-Asian and Latin American developing countries
2. Permanent membership of the Security Council should be increased.
3. It is demanded that India, Germany, Japan, Brazil and Nigeria should be made permanent members of Security Council.
4. The (Veto Powers) should be abolished or it should be restricted.
5. The voting rules of UNSC should be changed. All decisions should be made by majority of the non-permanent members.

Jurisdiction of the UN

Since the membership is a serious issue and UN completed 60 years of its existence in 2005. As the heads of member countries met and agreed to take the following steps to make the UN more effective.

- a. To create a peace building commission.
- b. International community should protect the people facing the brutal atrocities by their state governments.
- c. To establish H.R.C (operational since 2006)
- d. To sign the agreements to achieve millennium develop goals.
- e. To condemn terrorism in all its forms and manifestations.
- f. To create fund for democracy.
- g. To agree to windup the Trusteeship council.

The contentious issues agreed and most of the members are still in developing stage and it is unrealistic to expect solutions from them. The jurisdiction of UN has to increase, and only time will determine how it should be.

Rise of new International Organizations and NGO'S

NGO's: - The phrase (NGO) non-government organization came into use with the establishment of UNO. By NGO we mean that organization which is directly part of the organization of the government. The NGO'S can be defined as "any international organization that is not formed by the international treaty". The NGO's presently operate virtually in every part of the globe. These mainly deal with humanitarian issues and sustainable development. International Red Cross and Red Crescent movement is the world's largest groups of the humanitarian NGO's.

Red Cross/Red Crescent society

It is an international society for relief and suffering in time of war or disaster. It was found in 1863 an advocacy of J.H Dunant. An important meeting was held in Geneva which was attended by 14 countries. These 14 countries adopted the Geneva convention which provided for neutrality of personal treating wounded on the battle of Gettysburg. Over 100 Red Cross societies exist now. It was awarded Nobel Peace Prize in 1917, 1944 and 1963.

International Monetary Fund (IMF)

International Monetary fund: - The IMF was established in 1945 to oversee the financial institutions and regulations that act at international level. However, it started to promote,

depreciation etc. it has 184 members, but do not have equal voting rights, the top 10 countries have 55% votes. With USA alone bearing 17.4% voting rights. The other nine are Italy, Canada, Russia, Saudi Arabia and China, Japan, Germany and France. It has board of governors, executive director, and managing director. Its headquarter is at Washington USA. Its main functions are as follows;

Functions

- Exchange stability.
- Eliminating BOP Disequilibrium.
- Stabilize economies.
- Credit Facilities.
- Maintaining balance between demand and supply of Currencies.
- Maintenance of Liquidity.
- Technical Assistance

World bank: - world bank was carved out after the end of 2nd world war in 1945. Its main objectives are the development of the developing countries. It provides loans and grants to its member states for the development of education, health agriculture and rural development, irrigation and rural services. It protects the environment by enforcing and establishing regulations. It develops infrastructure in terms of roads, urban connectivity, regeneration of electricity. It provides loans and grants for good governance, free from corruption and develops legal intuitions. By the loans and grants it exercises the greater influence over the economies and policies of developing nations.

World Trade Organization

WTO: - The WTO was founded on 1-1-1995 as a successor of General Agreement on Trade and Tariff (GATT). It is based in Geneva and its underlying principle is to create an international environment that enables the free flow of goods, services and ideas. It has full time representatives from member countries. And has 150 members. All decisions in it are taken unanimously but the major economic powers such as USA, the E.U and Japan have managed to use it to advance their own interests. WTO countries together account for 90% of the world trade. The WTO has acquired the universal character but the developing countries often complain of non-transparent procedure and are mostly governed by big powers

International Atomic Energy Agency

IAEA: - The International Atomic Energy Agency was created in 1957. It came into existence to enforce the US president Dwight Eisenhower's "Atom for peace" proposal. It aims to promote the peaceful use of nuclear energy and to limit the use of military purposes. IAEA teams regularly inspect nuclear facilities all around the world to verify the civilian reactors are not put to use for military purposes.

Human Rights Watch: - It is an important international NGO involved in research and advocacy of human rights all around the globe. It is the largest US based international NGO. It draws the attention of global media to human right abuses. It helps in building international coalition like campaigns to ban landmines, to stop the use of child soldiers and establish the international criminal court.

Amnesty International: - It is an international NGO, which was established on 28th of May 1961. It perceives the human rights to be interdependent and indivisible. It has more than 2.2 million members, supporters and subscribers in over 150 countries. Despite the fact, the governments are not always pleased with the reports since their reports play a significant role in research and advocacy of human rights. It has won the noble prize for peace in 1977.

The UN in a unipolar world: After the collapse of the former USSR, the USA emerged as the sole super power of the globe. The role of UN in this unipolar world changed. The UN cannot easily check the US power. Its military and economic power allows it to ignore the US or any other international organization. Secondly the US has unmatched financial power and is single largest contributor to the UN. In addition to US's veto power it can stop/removes that which finds its against its interests. The role of UN in balancing the international relations is not more effective. However, it cannot be ignored that the UN has served to bring the US and other countries on a common table to discuss over various issues of the world. Despite the fact, that it is impossible to balance the US power, but the UN does provide a space within which arguments against US attitude and policies are heard and compromises and concessions can be shaped. Therefore, the UN is still needed, inspite of the hegemony of USA so people and governments will have to find ways of supporting and using the UNO.

UN Peace keeping-operations

UN peace keeping-operations has not been used in its charter. These have evolved during 1950's and disputes/conflicts between states or communities within the state. Operation here refers as activities which are done to establish peace in international sphere. So far about 40 operations have been organized by UN. Its main objectives can be summarized as;

1. Maintenance of world peace and security.
2. Fastening cordial relations between states.
3. Promotion of international cooperation in social, economic, cultural and technical fields.
4. Promotion of respect for human rights.
5. Harmonization of interests of different nations into a common interest.

Role of India in peace keeping operations

India's contribution has been in maintaining peace in Africa and Asia despite taking part in four continents. India is the 2nd largest contributor of troops in UN. It is one brigade of troops stand arranged by UN for participation in UN peace keeping operations in Korea, Middle East and international control commission for Indo-China, Congo, Yemen, Cyprus military observer group on Iran-Iraq border, Iraq-Kuwait observer mission, Namibia, Mozambique etc. India has not only provided armed forces in the UN-peace keeping operations but has also mastered the techniques of negotiation and diplomacy at the UN. India risked the lives of its soldiers for the Nobel causes to strengthen the UNO.

India's role in the UNO

India is one of the first signatories of UN charter among its 51 members. Since then it is playing a vital role in the functions of UNO which is briefly discussed as under;

- a. India was in the forefront in solving the Korean crises by UN, authorized by (UNGA).
- b. Adoption of Non-Alignment policy by India was greater support to UN.
- c. India followed the objectives of the global disarmament based on the principle of the universality, non-discrimination and effective compliance.

- d. India played a significant role in the UN peace keeping operations in Korea, Middle East, Vietnam, Cambodia and France, Congo, Cyprus, Yemen, Namibia and Mozambique.
- e. India played its role in ending the wars of independence of various Afro-Asian nation countries.
- f. India opposed colonialism and called for combating it.
- g. India helped UN in organizing an informal Afro-Asian group and has represented their views in UN.
- h. India supported the UN declaration of human rights in 1948 and inclusion of fundamental rights in its constitution.

Obstacles in the way of India to permanent seat of the (UNSC)

India has been demanding the permanent seat in the UNSC but there are certain hindrances in its way which are as follows

1. India's troublesome relations with Pakistan. And Pakistan's opposition to India's inclusion as sixth member of UNSC.
2. India's nuclear capabilities are opposed by some states which advocate Pakistan's support will make India more effective.
3. The demands of inclusion by Brazil, Germany, South Africa and South America are also obstacles in its way to have permanent seat in UNSC.

Now you should be able to answer the following questions.

Long Answer Type Questions

1. Discuss the functions of UNO in detail.
2. What are the various organs of UN? Discuss?
3. What are the aims/objectives/principles/purposes of UN?
4. Elucidate the functioning of UN?
5. India's claim to UNSC permanent membership is justified, comment?
6. Describe the suggestions for reforming the UN with special reference to Security Council.

Short Answer Type Questions

1. Discuss the evolution of UN.
2. Discuss the need of international organization.
3. What are various types of international organizations?
4. What are the various agencies of UN?
5. What are obstacles in the way of India to become the permanent member of UNSC?
6. What do you mean by peace keeping operations?
7. Discuss the India's role in peace keeping process.
8. Suggest the reforms needed in UN?
9. Discuss the importance of UNGA, UNSC and ICJ?

Very Short Answer Type Questions

1. What is veto power?
2. How is US hegemony a challenge to UN?
3. Name any two UN peace keeping operations?
4. Define Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch?
5. How many members are there in UNGA and UNSC?
6. Why should India get permanent seat in UNSC?
7. What are the functions of Trusteeship Council?
8. Explain the nature of ICJ?
9. When was WHO and WTO formed?
10. Name the present Secretary General of UN.