

INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATION

WHY INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATION?

1. The UN (United Nations) is regarded as the most important international organisation in today's world.
2. It is indispensable (essential) and represents the great hope of humanity for peace and progress.
3. The second UN general secretary said - "The UN was not created to take humanity to heaven, but to save it from hell."
4. 'Shashi Tharoor', a former UN Under-Secretary wrote "Telling Shop" (Yes, there are alot of speeches and meetings at the UN. But as Churchill put it, jaw-jaw is better than war-war. Its better to talk rather than shoot each other.)

ROLE OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

1. International organisations are important as they help with war and peace matters.
2. They also help countries make better living conditions for all of us.
3. An international organisation is not a super state with supreme jurisdiction over its members.
4. It is made only when states agree to its formation.
5. It responds to needs of states and helps them to solve disputes peacefully.
6. International organisations can be very helpful in some matters. There are issues which are very challenging and can be dealt together for eg - global warming.
7. The CFC's are carrying atmospheric temperatures to rise which is dangerous.

5. Each country can try to find its own solution to the effects of global warming. But there is a need that all the powerful nation cooperate and find a solution.
9. This cooperation b/w diff nation can be generated by an international organisation.
10. It can provide mechanism, rules and a bureaucracy, to help members have more confidence that benefits will be given to all and everyone will honor the agreement.
11. Many nations are concerned about the power of US and other western countries and their participation in the UN. There is a question that "can UN limit the power of US govt.?"

EVOLUTION OF THE UN

- * The first world war forced many countries to create an international organisation that could prevent conflict. It led to the birth of League of Nation (LON) in 1920.
- * LON failed to prevent the II world war. The UN was established as a successor in 1945 after W.W II.
- * UN came into being with the signing of the UN charter by 51 states. Its objective was to prevent conflict and war and to take steps to foster cooperation and organisation.
- * The UN also aimed to bring countries together to improve the prospects of social and economic development all over the world.
- * As of today, UN has 193 member states, all of which are independent states.
- * In the UN general assembly, each member has one vote.

- * India was the 52nd member to join UN.
- * It is considered as one of the founding members.
- * It joined UN on 30th Oct 1945.

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* In the UN Security Council, there are 5 permanent members - US, Russia, UK, China and France. They are the Big five who had won the II WW. They have veto power.

* The present Secretary - General of the UN is Ban-ki-Moon from S. Korea, the 8th Secretary General.

* The UN consists of many agencies issues related to war and peace and discussed in the General Assembly. There are WHO, UNDP, UNHRC etc. for diff. subjects.

REFORM OF THE UN AFTER THE COLD WAR

Reformation and improvement are key to serve the purpose of a changing environment. In the recent years, demands have been made to reform the UN -

1. Reform of UN's structure and processes - The biggest discussion has been made on the functioning of the Security Council (UNSC). There has been a demand to increase the membership of non-permanent and permanent members. There are proposals to increase membership from Asia, Africa and S. America. Beyond this, the US and other Western countries want improvement in the UN's budgetary procedures and its administration.

2. Jurisdiction of the UN - Some countries and experts want the UN to play a greater or more effective role in peace and securing missions. While others want it to ~~confine~~ be confined to development and humanitarian work.

THE CHANGES SINCE THE ORIGIN OF UN

- # The UN was established in 1945 after the II. W. W.
After that many changes have occurred in the world politics like - (After the cold war)
1. The Soviet Union was collapsed
 2. US is the strongest power.
 3. Relationship b/w US and Russia is more cooperative.
 4. China is fast emerging as a great power.
 5. India is growing rapidly.
 6. The Asian economies are also growing on a unprecedented rate.
 7. Many new states have joined the UN
 8. Many new challenges like terrorism, climate change, ethnic conflicts have come up.

REFORMS IN THE STRUCTURE AND PROCESS OF UN

- In 1992, the UN General Assembly adopted a resolution which has 3 main complaints -
1. The security council does not represent contemporary political ~~reality~~ realities
 2. Its decisions only reflect western values interests and dominated by powerful nations.
 3. It does equitable representation. Kofi Annan.
- On Jan 1997, the UN Secretary General initiated an inquiry into how the UN should be reformed. It is then suggested that a new member should be -
1. A major economic power.
 2. A major military power.
 3. A substantial contributor to the UN budget.
 4. A big nation in terms of its population.
 5. A nation that respects democracy and human rights.
 6. A country that would make council max representative of the world's diversity in terms of geo, culture, etc

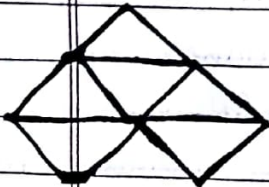
THE SUGGESTIONS GIVEN BY DIFF. COUNTRIES ON THE GIVEN CRITERIA

Most of the above suggestions had some validity. Most of the countries saw certain advantages or disadvantages in these suggestions based on their interest and aspirations. There were certain criteria which were problematic for eg- what qualified a big economic or military power to be a member of the UN.

There was another suggestion for change of nature of membership. Some nations even suggested abolition of veto power as it was perceived to be in conflict with the UN principle of democracy and sovereign equity for all member states.

The UNSC has 5 permanent and 10 non-permanent. The UN Charter gave special powers to the Big five (5) after the II WW.

So that they could stabilise peace in the world. Their special right is veto power which non permanent members don't have. The non-permanent members are elected on the basis of continental representation for a period of 2 years and a country can't be re-elected immediately after completing its 2 year term.



What is Veto Power?

In taking the decisions, the Security Councils proceed by voting. All members have 1 vote. However, the permanent members can vote in a negative manner so that even if all other permanent and non permanent members vote for a particular decision, any permanent members negative vote can stall the decision. This negative vote is called 'veto'.

There has been demand to abolish veto power but it is likely that the permanent members won't agree to such demand and will clean internet in this world organisation.

JURISDICTION OF THE UN

When the UN completed its 60 yr of existence, the heads of all the member states met in Sep 2005 to celebrate the anniversary. The members decided that the following steps should be taken to make UN more relevant -

1. To make UN a peace building commission.
2. International community to be more responsible and protect people from atrocities if their national govt. fails to do so.
3. To create a fund for democracy.
4. To establish a human rights council.
5. To sign agreement to achieve Millennium Development goals.
6. To condemn terrorism in all forms.
7. To agree to wind up the Trusteeship Council.

All these issues are controversial and can be solved if the jurisdiction of the UN is increased.

INDIA AND THE UN REFORMS.

India has supported the restructuring of the UN on several grounds -

1. It believes that the UN should be more strong and revitalised.
2. It supports an enhanced role for the UN in developing cooperation among nations.
3. One of India's major concern has been the composition of Security Council.
4. It also argues that an expanded council with more representation will enjoy greater support in the world community.
5. The membership of the UNEC has expanded from 11 to 15 in 1966. But there is no change in the no. of permanent members.
6. In UNCTA there is a majority of developing countries. So, India believes these countries should also have an imp. role in the UNEC.
UN General Assembly
7. India itself wishes to be one of the permanent members of the Security Council. It is one of the most popular countries of the world and the world's largest democracy too.
8. India has always supported the UN in its peace-keeping operation.
9. India has also made regular financial contribution to the UN.
10. Some countries like Pakistan are reluctant to see India becoming a permanent veto power member of the SC. Yet, others feel that if India is included then, the other energy powers like Brazil, Germany, Japan should also become a permanent member.

THE UN IN A UNIPOLAR WORLD

With the disappearance and collapse of the Soviet Union, the US is the only military power.

It is not easy to check US hegemony. Its military and economic power give it the liberty to ignore the UN or any other international organisation. The US influence within the UN is quite considerable.

It is the single largest contributor to the UN, the financial power is clearly seen in the UN.

The headquarters of the UN are located in the US territory, which gives it an additional advantage. Most of the UN bureaucrats are from the US.

The US has veto power, it has the ability to hegemonise policies in its favour.

Even then the UN offers a platform to unify and modify the attitude and policies of the US.

CONCLUSION - The UN may be an imperfect body, as some say it is, but without it the world would be worse off. It is unimaginable that the seven billion people around the world would be able to survive without an international organisation like UN. It is going to be more important in the near future.