

UNITED NATIONS

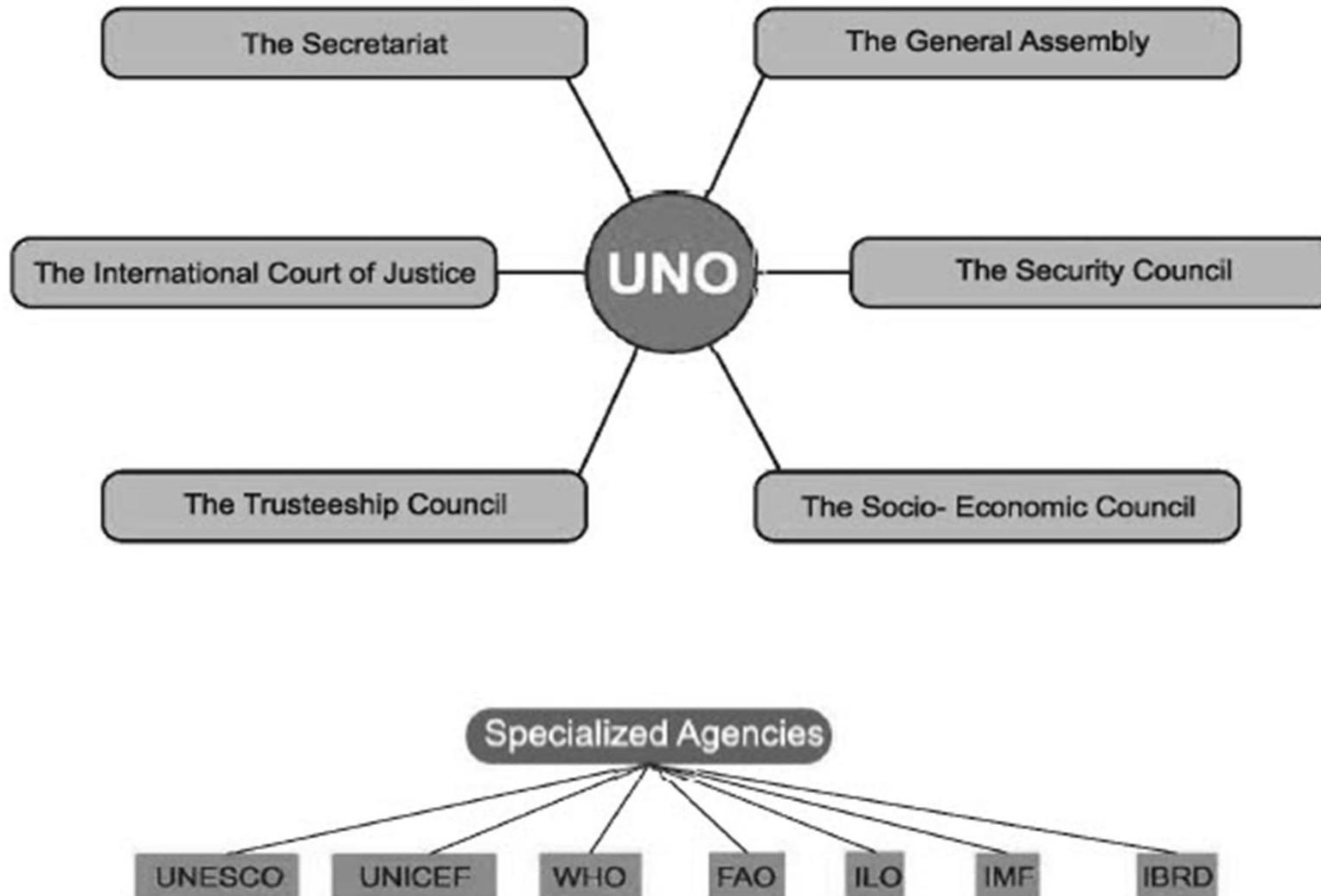
BACKGROUND:-

- Modern International Politics began from the **Treaty of Westphalia in 1648**. In this treaty, nation states are recognised as primary actors in international politics.
- **Woodrow Wilson** inspired the formation of **League of Nations in 1919**. This was the first International Organisation for bringing about peace in the world.
- However, within span of 20 years World War-1 occurred, caused by ultranationalists like **Hitler** and **Mussolini**. Fought between **Axis powers** and **Allied powers**. Allies won the war but it was a **loss of humanity- defeat of civilization** and it shocked the entire world.
- In this context, **in 1945, UNO was set up**. Its objective was to **bring peace to the world, preserving security of the nation states, curbing the proliferation of nuclear weapons and prevention of World War-3 and protection of Human Rights**.

WHAT IS UN?

- UN is a mechanism of collective security. It is a hope for peace in this world. It rests on the principle of multilateralism.
- It recognises the sovereignty and equality of nation states.
- It promotes common or shared human values like liberty, equality, and fraternity.
- It believes in International Law.
- UN provides a platform for peaceful resolution of conflict rather than resorting to war.

ORGANS OF UN



GENERAL ASSEMBLY

It has **193 members**. There are various committees for transacting the business of General Assembly like **political committee, disarmament committee, administrative committee**. It elects all the officers of UN. For example:

- (1) Election of non-permanent members of UNSC
- (2) Election of members of International Court of Justice.
- (3) Election of Social-Economic Council.

Passage of budget of UN is also an important function of General Assembly. At its annual meeting in Sept, UNGA passes resolutions for various subjects of world politics.

IMPORTANCE OF UNGA

- UNGA is a **microcosm** of the entire world. Countries belonging to socialist bloc, liberal countries, authoritarian regimes are all members of General Assembly. It represents the entire world with members from all continents. Thus, it has potential to be a **world Parliament**. It can be seen as world parliament in **embryonic form**.
- Maintaining security is the main function of UNSC. But during Korea crisis in 1950, UNSC failed to maintain peace and subsequently, General Assembly passed a resolution for maintaining peace in the world which is popularly known as “**Uniting for Peace Resolution**”.

SECURITY COUNCIL

STRUCTURE:

- Security Council comprises of **15 members** of which **5 are permanent (P5)** and 10 members are elected regularly after every **2 years**. P5 enjoy **veto powers** too. Veto power means **negative voting**. Any resolution passed by UNSC can be blocked through veto powers of any of the P5.
- 10 non-permanent members are elected by UN General Assembly for 2 years. However, they cannot be elected for 2 consecutive periods.
- The function of **maintaining peace and security** in the world is assigned to UNSC. The resolutions of UNSC are **binding over nation states**.

HOW UNSC WORKS

- It imposes **economic sanctions** over a country. After 1998 India conducted nuclear explosion and UNSC imposed economic sanctions on India. In the world of globalisation, no country can live in isolation.
- It also **takes military actions when economic sanctions fail**. UNSC attacked Iraq in 1991 against its invasion of Kuwait, against Afghanistan in 2001, against Libya in 2012.
- Marks some territory as **no flying zone**. This is an act of depriving a state of her sovereignty.
- **Agenda for Peace** came into being due to misuse of veto power initiated by UNSC as an **alternative mechanism**.

3 ELEMENTS OF AGENDA FOR PEACE

- (1) Peace Keeping
- (2) Peace Making
- (3) Peace Building

- Peace Keeping means **UN sends armed forces for settling disputes peacefully**. UN sends the peace keeping forces
- Peace Making is also known as **Preventive Diplomacy**. It means resolving the disputes diplomatically.
- Peace Building is a **comprehensive concept**. It means maintaining social economic conditions or situations for peace.

REFORM IN UNSC

- World Politics has **changed dramatically after 1990's** in the post cold war world. Conditions are altogether different in present world than they were in 1945 when UN was set up. However, UNSC has not changed with the changing circumstances. **It remained static.**
- When UN was set up, its permanent members in SC were 5 and number of nations was 51 with almost no representation from Asia and Africa. Its members has increased to 193 but permanent members have remained the same.
- **Charter of UN must be amended** for bringing out reform in UNSC.

PROSPECT OF INDIA'S MEMBERSHIP IN UNSC

- There are two grounds on which India bases its demand for membership: **Idealistic** and **Realistic**.

Idealistic Grounds:

- India is the largest democracy in the world. As democratic values are foundation stones of UNSC, India being a democracy lends its claim to permanent membership some credibility.
- As the second largest populated country of the world if it is not represented in UN, then UN cannot claim to be a representative international organisation.
- India is a founding member of UN. Moreover, India's contribution to peace keeping operations is considerable and recognised by UN.

REALISTIC GROUNDS

- India is one of the largest emerging markets in the world. France is not only supporting permanent membership for India but also for granting it veto powers. So France is India's most staunch supporter in SC.
- Russia has always supported India since very beginning. 2010 onwards, US also supports India's candidature for permanent seat in SC. Britain also extended her support to India after US support.
- The present global problems of world politics like environment, terrorism, AIDS, drug trafficking and finalisation of trade talks of WTO can't be completed without Indian support. India is thus most likely to get the membership of SC.

THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC COUNCIL

STRUCTURE:

- It consists of **54 members**. These members are elected by UNGA. Its function is social and economic development of the entire world. This socio-economic development takes place through various agencies which work under the socio-economic council. These include

AGENCIES:

- **WHO, FAO, ILO, UNESCO.**
- This points that UN is like a “**Banyan tree**” which is comprised of various agencies, programmes and funds.

PROGRAMMES:

- **UNDP, UNEP**

FUNDS:

- **UNICEF, IMF etc.**

INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE

STRUCTURE:

- 15 judges are appointed in ICJ. They are appointed for 9 years.

FUNCTION:

- Security Council resolves political dispute but legal dispute, i.e, **dispute related to international treaties are resolved by ICJ.**
- There are two types of functions of ICJ- **Compulsory** and **Voluntary.**

JURISDICTION OF ICJ:

- Compulsory jurisdiction includes resolving disputes related to international treaties.
- Voluntary jurisdiction is also known as an advisory jurisdiction. The various agencies of UN can receive advice from ICJ.

TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL

- Function of trusteeship council is no longer active today. So it is an inactive organ of UN.
- UN had become trustee of smaller nations which were unable to govern over itself. However, now no country is under the trusteeship of UN.
- It was created for destruction of colonialism and imperialism. Thus this council was set up to help post-colonial countries **to achieve self-government.**
- So formally, colonialism and imperialism came to an end and this is one of the most significant achievements of UN.

SECRETARIAT

- This means **administrative wing** of UN. This is headed by Secretary General of UN. Secretary General performs two roles:
 - (1) **Administrative head of UN.**
 - (2) **First diplomat of international politics.**
- Secretary General is appointed for **5 years by UNGA.**

NATURE OF UNITED NATIONS

IDEALIST:

- Idealists believe in the possibility and benefits of a world government which rules over the entire world. This would include one parliament. Entire world politics will be regulated by international law. This would lead to peaceful co-existence in this world as world will be governed through morality and justice.

REALIST:

- However, nature of real world is different from idealist views. Power politics dominates in the world and nation states are the primary actors in international politics. All nations are not equally powerful and therefore this world is dominated by super powers.

RAJESH MISHRA

Visit us at : www.saraswatias.com

- However, UN comes in between these views. United Nations is an international organisation. It simply means **that it depends upon the state and governments of the nation states.**
- UN synthesises the **ideals of world government and reality of power politics.** It incorporates balance of power by recognizing the superpowers and giving them veto powers while at the same time making them dependent on non-permanent members for passage of resolutions.
- UN stands for collective security. Theoretically, balance of power and collective security stand against each other but **practically it is complementary to each other.**

ROLE OF UNITED NATIONS

(1) Maintaining Peace and Security:

- Peace Enforcement- UNSC.
- Peace Keeping- Peace Making- Peace Building.
- Countering non-traditional threat of security- terrorism, drug trafficking, internal conflict and environment.
- **Resolution 1373**: No member state will provide any financial and technical help to terrorist organisations.

(2) Social and Economic Development:

- UN is a social agency which underlies social and economic development in underdeveloped areas. This it does through various agencies and programmes which aim for attaining of **SDG's**.
- **Changing role of UN- MDG's and SDG's** indicates that UN is not merely a security agency but a social agency.

The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)

Goal 1	Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger
Goal 2	Achieve universal primary education
Goal 3	Promote gender equality and empower women
Goal 4	Reduce child mortality
Goal 5	Improve maternal health
Goal 6	Combating HIV/AIDs, malaria, and other diseases
Goal 7	Ensure environmental sustainability
Goal 8	Develop a global partnership for development

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as proposed by the OWG

<u>Goal 1</u>	End poverty in all its forms everywhere
<u>Goal 2</u>	End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture
<u>Goal 3</u>	Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages
<u>Goal 4</u>	Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote life-long learning opportunities for all
<u>Goal 5</u>	Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls
<u>Goal 6</u>	Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all
<u>Goal 7</u>	Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy for all
<u>Goal 8</u>	Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment, and decent work for all
<u>Goal 9</u>	Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization, and foster innovation
<u>Goal 10</u>	Reduce inequality within and among countries
<u>Goal 11</u>	Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable
<u>Goal 12</u>	Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns
<u>Goal 13</u>	Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts
<u>Goal 14</u>	Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas, and marine resources for sustainable development
<u>Goal 15</u>	Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, halt and reverse land degradation, and halt biodiversity loss
<u>Goal 16</u>	Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all, and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels
<u>Goal 17</u>	Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development

Protecting Human Rights

- In 1948, UN declared the **Universal Charter of Human Rights** which was again **modified in 1966** which incorporates **civil rights, political rights, socio-economic rights as well as cultural rights too.**
- In 2006, **UNHRC** was set up for protecting the human rights. It **comprises of 47 nations** and **passes resolutions against nation states.** So it is **intervening in the internal matters** of nation states for protecting human rights of people of these nations.
- **Women's empowerment** is also incorporated in the protection of Human Rights too.

(4) Preserving and Protecting the Environment:

- Founding fathers of UN had main objective of preventing wars but in the present world, the most important threat faced by humanity comes not from war but from environment degradation.
- In 1992, the first **International Conference for Environment** was held in **Stockholm**. Also in 1992, the **Rio summit- Earth summit** was also held in **Rio de Janeiro** in **Brazil**. **UNFCCC- United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change** was set up.

(5) Non Proliferation- Recent Iran Deal:

- For maintaining peace and security in the world, proliferation of nuclear weapons should be curbed and recently SC initiated p5+1 talks with Iran to limit nuclear programme and to prevent it from getting nuclear weapons.