SECOND CHAPTER

THE UNITED NATIONS AND ITS SPECIALIZED AGENCIES
The effort that has been undertaken in our generation to extend to all men and all countries the knowledge and capital needed to put the earth's lands, forests and oceans to more productive use is something new under the Sun, and yet after 20 years it is so vast and complex as to defy statement and comprehension....

Already it is bringing about an unfolding in human thought and a stimulation of activity. The UN, its organs and agencies are there to help in this great transfer of capital and knowledge and skill.

- Joseph M. Jones.
CHAPTER 2

UNITED NATIONS AND ITS SPECIALIZED AGENCIES

United Nations is an organization of nations which have pledged themselves through signing the Charter, to maintain international peace and security and to co-operate in establishing political, economic and social conditions which may lead the world to perfect peace and prosperity. Origin of the UN

Though there was League of Nations, a forerunner of the United Nations, the desired success could not be achieved through it, and the League of Nations met a fate of failure. The idea of international co-operation emerged when Nine European governments-in-exile settled in London during the two years after world war II started. These governments joined with Great Britain and the Commonwealth nations to take the first step towards building a United Nations. They signed the Inter-Allied Declaration in June 1941. This statement declared that the only basis for lasting peace is the willing co-operation of nations that are free from aggression. These governments declared their intention to work for such co-operation.

The Atlantic Charter, signed on August 14, 1941, by President Franklin D. Roosevelt and Prime Minister Winston Churchill, was the next step towards a world organization.

1. The name United Nations suggested originally by Mr. Roosevelt was first used on January 1, 1942 when the representatives of 26 nations fighting against the axis power undertook to cooperate in winning the war.
The two nations—United States of America and United Kingdom—based their vision of a better future for the world full of security and prosperity on the relative policies of both the nations.

Following the Atlantic Charter, the declaration of four nations on General Security named as "Moscow Declaration" signed on October 30, 1943 in Moscow. This statement declared that it was necessary to establish an international organization for the maintenance of peace as quickly as possible. In the meantime Roosevelt, Churchill and Premier Joseph Stalin of Russia met in Tehran and they recognized the responsibility of all the nations to achieve a lasting peace that would end war "for many generations”.

The Dumbarton Oaks Conference put a concrete foundation for the creation of organization when in 1944 delegates from China, Great Britain, Russia and the United States agreed on plans for the new organization. In Yalta, a black sea resort in the Crimea, in February 1945, the big three leaders\(^1\) considering some cardinal points of UN agreed to call a conference in San Francisco on April 25, 1945 to prepare a charter for the UN. And after much discussion the Charter was signed on June 26, 1945 by 50 nations present at conference. Consequently the UN took birth on this very day and came into being officially when on October 14, 1945 China, France, Great Britain, Russia, USA and the majority of other signing nations had ratified the Charter.

\(^1\) Britain, Russia and America.
Purposes and Principles

The objects of the UN are:

1. to maintain international peace and security;
2. to develop friendly relations among nations;
3. to co-operate internationally in solving international economic, social cultural and humanitarian problems and in promoting respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms;
4. to be a centre for harmonizing the actions of nations in attaining these common ends.

Membership

Membership is open to all peace-loving states whose admission will be effected by the General Assembly upon recommendations of the Security Council.

Organs of the UN

The principal organs of the UN are:

1. The General Assembly
2. The Security Council
3. The Economic and Social Council
4. The Trusteeship Council
5. The International Court of Justice
6. The Secretariat

1. Refer for further details, the table on pp.11-13 - The Statesman's Year-Book 65-66, which shows the Member States of the UN and its specialized agencies.
1. The General Assembly -

It is the only principal organ of the UN which includes representatives from every member nations. Although a member may send five representatives, each member has only one vote. Each member has equal power in this assembly irrespective of its size, population or wealth. Decisions on substantive questions are taken by a majority or two-thirds vote, depending on the importance of the matters involved.

Powers

Its deliberative, supervisory, financial and elective functions have given it the key position in the functioning of UN. The General Assembly may discuss any question that comes under the UN Charter, every member can speak in this assembly regardless the importance of subject to be discussed.

The decisions of this organ carry much weight as they are recommended by world opinion and the member nations are expected to carry actions recommended out.

The General Assembly receives and considers reports from the other organs of UN including the Security Council. The Secretary General makes an annual report to it on the work of the organization.

Committees

Like other representative bodies, the assembly performs most of its work in Committees. At each session the assembly organizes Seven main committees on each of which every member
has the right to be represented by delegates:

1. Political and Security
2. Economic and financial
3. Social, humanitarian and cultural
4. Trusteeship
5. Administrative and Budgetary
6. Legal
7. Special Political Committee to assist Committee No. 1.

The Assembly has two procedural committees (The General Committee and the Credentials Committee), two Standing Committees (Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions and the Committee on Contributions). Besides, the General Assembly establishes subsidiary and ad-hoc bodies when necessary to deal with specific matters.

Meetings

The Assembly holds at least one regular session each year. It elects a President for each annual session and establishes its own rules and procedures. Special sessions may be convoked by the Secretary General if requested by the Security Council, by a majority of the members of the UN, or by one member if majority of members agree to the request.

2. The Security Council - Organization and Working

The Charter places on the Security Council, the
primary responsibility for maintenance of international peace and security. It is also responsible for the functions of the UN in trust territories classed as 'Strategic areas'.

It consists of 15 members of the UN who are members of the Council, the five permanent members (China, France, UK, U.S.S.R., U.S.A.) and rest non-permanent members which are elected by the assembly and serve two year terms. In selecting non-permanent members, the assembly must strive for an equitable geographical distribution as well as consider their contributions to the maintenance of international peace and security.

On procedural matters, decisions by the Council are made by an affirmative vote of any seven members; on substantive matters, which include the investigation of any dispute and the application of sanctions, seven affirmative votes plus the concurrence of the five permanent members are required. A vote as to whether a matter is procedural or substantive is itself a substantive question.

The Council is the only organ of UN in which one member nation can over-rule the decisions and actions of the group. The five permanent members have a special power of vote called the veto power. If any permanent member votes against a resolution, it can not be passed.

The Security Council functions continually. Each members is represented at all times at the seat of organization. The Council functions through subsidiary organs established
to assist in carrying out the Council's resolutions. The Presidency of the Council rotates monthly.

The Military staff Committee, provided for in the Charter, is responsible for the strategic direction and deployment of any armed forces placed at the disposal of the Council.

Powers

The Security Council has greater powers under the Charter than any other organ of UN. It is the only body that can give an order to a member nation. The Council is authorized to investigate any dispute which might threaten international peace and security, and to make recommendations for its peaceful settlement. The Council may also call on members of the UN to apply economic and diplomatic sanctions against any state which the Council has found guilty of breach of peace or act of aggression.

3. The Economic and Social Council

The Economic and Social Council studies the problems that concern improvements in the way people live. It is charged with directing and co-ordinating the complex system of economic, social, humanitarian and cultural activities of the UN.

It comprises 18 members, elected by the assembly for three year terms with the possibility of re-election. The assembly strive to keep the membership of the Council representative of the world's economic, cultural and religious systems. Non-governmental organizations are also consulted by the Council on questions with which they are concerned.
The Economic and Social Council meets at least twice a year, it is directed by the Charter to make or initiate studies and make recommendations with respect to the promotion of international co-operation in economic and social matters. It may prepare draft conventions for submission to the Assembly and call international conferences for specific purposes.

The Council works primarily through subsidiary organs functional and geographical commissions.

The Council may enter into agreements with the specialized agencies,¹ established by inter-governmental agreement and having wide responsibilities in economic, social, cultural, health and related fields, to bring them into relationship with the UN.

4. The Trusteeship Council -

The Charter provides for an international trusteeship system to safeguard the interests of the inhabitants of territories which are not yet fully self-governing and which may be placed thereunder by individual trusteeship agreements. These are called trust territories. The basic principles of the system are: to further international peace and security, to promote the political, economic, social and educational advancement of the inhabitants and their development toward self-government or independence to encourage respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion; and to

¹. For details—please refer Chapter I of general Introduction.
ensure equal treatment for all members of the UN and their nationals.

Territories are placed under the trusteeship system by means of individual trusteeship agreements which must be approved by the states directly concerned and by the General Assembly or, in the case of "Strategic areas" by the Security Council. The agreements include the terms under which the territories are to be administered and designate the administering authority, which may be one or more states or the UN itself.

The trusteeship Council consists of the 2 members of administering trust territories: Australia, U.S.A.; the permanent members of the Security Council that are not administering trust territories China, France, USSR.; and any other members elected for 3 years terms by the General Assembly.

Powers

The trusteeship council is authorized to send visiting missions of inspection into trust territories to receive and examine petitions, to consider reports submitted to it annually by the administering authorities and to make recommendations with respect to all matters coming within its purview. The Council is required to submit annual reports on its activities to the General Assembly.
5. International Court of Justice -

The court is the principal judicial organ of the UN. Its statute is an integral part of the Charter of the UN. It consists of 15 judges elected by the General Assembly and the Security Council voting independently. They serve 9 years and are eligible for re-election. The judges are selected so that the principal judicial systems of the world are always represented.

Only States may be parties in cases before the Court, which is open to the States parties to its statute. The Court exercises its jurisdiction in all cases which the parties refer to it and in all matters provided for in Charter, or in treaties and conventions in force. The Court may also give an advisory opinion on any legal question to any organ of the UN or its agencies.

The Court has its seat at the Hague in the Netherlands, but it may decide to meet at other places.

6. The Secretariat -

The Secretariat is the service organisation of the UN. It keeps records, makes studies, handles correspondence and performs other duties assigned to it by the Charter and by other UN organs. The Secretary General is the head of the Secretariat.

Secretary General is the chief administrative officer of the organization and acts as such in all meetings of assembly and all councils.
He also has important political functions, being specially charged with bringing before the organization any matter that threatens or violates international peace and security. He and his staff perform secretarial functions for the various organs. He submits an annual report to the general assembly on the work of organization during the preceding year.
SPECIALIZED AGENCIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS

In the preceding chapter some light has been thrown on the specialized agencies of the UN. Here it is proposed to lay down some cardinal points and specific characteristics of each specialized agency in a nut shell.

1. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations -

It helps nations obtain more and better products from their farms, forests and fishing waters. It advised governments on how to improve their agriculture and work to improve the diets of people throughout the world and provides ample technical assistance in the said fields.

2. The International Labour Organization (ILO) -

Origin and Purpose:

The ILO was established on April 11, 1919 as an autonomous part of the League of Nations. It is an inter-governmental agency with a tripartite structure, in which representatives of governments, employers and workers participate. It works on the idea that could be established only if based upon social justice. To achieve this prime goal, it seeks through international and action to improve labour conditions, raise living standards and promote economic and social stability. In 1946 the ILO was recognized by the UN as specialized agency.¹

¹ For text of agreement please see year Book of United Nations 1946-47 pp. 679-83.
Functions:

One of the ILO's principal functions if the formulation of international standards in the form of International Labour Conventions and recommendations. Member Countries are required to submit conventions to their competent national authorities with a view to ratification. It keeps proper machinery to ascertain whether conventions thus ratified are effectively applied.

The ILO, besides its extensive research and advisory activities, extends technical assistance to member governments in the various fields for the all-round upliftment of the workers.

Organization:

The organs of ILO are the General Conference of representatives of the members, the Governing Body and the International Labour Office which is controlled by the Governing body.

The Conference is the supreme deliberative organ of the ILO. The Governing body, elected by the Conference, if the Executive Council and the office serves as secretariat operational headquarters, research centre and publishing house.

3. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) -

Origin and Objects:

This organisation was originated in a conference, convened by U.K, in association with France in London in 1945. Consequently the UNESCO came into being on 4 November 1946.
The purpose of UNESCO as stated in its constitution is:
"to contribute to peace and security by promoting collaboration among the nations through education, science and culture in order to further universal respect for justice, for the rule of law and for the human rights and fundamental freedoms which are affirmed for the peoples of the world, without distinction of race, sex, language or religion, by the Charter of the UN."

The Education programme has three main objectives: the extension of Education, the improvement of education, and education for living in a world community.

Functions:

UNESCO is helping to establish regional and national training centres to train teachers specialized in the techniques of fundamental education. It seeks to promote international scientific cooperation and encourages scientific research designed to improve the living conditions of mankind. In its mass communication work, UNESCO endeavours by disseminating information, carrying out research and providing advice to increase the scope and quality of press, film and radio services throughout the world.

Organisation:

It consists of a General Conference (Composed of representatives from each member state), and Executive
Board (consisting of 24 governments representatives elected by the General Conference) and a Secretariat.

4. World Health Organization -

**Origin and Objectives:**

An international Health Conference, convened by the UN Economic and Social Council, met in New York in 1946, and drew up a constitution for the WHO. This constitution came into force on 7 April 1948.

The Objective of WHO as stated in article 1 of its Constitution, is "The attainment by all peoples of the highest possible level of health" Health is defined in the preamble to the constitution as a "state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity."

**Functions:**

The functions of the organization necessary to attain this objective are enumerated in article 2 of the constitution. Insipite of directing and coordinating the international health, it should assist the governments in the improvement of health of their peoples.

**Organization:**

The main organs of WHO, as provided in its constitution, are: the World Health Assembly representing all member states and associate members; an Executive Board consisting of
24 technically qualified persons designated by 24 member states and elected by the World Health Assembly; and a Secretariat.

5. International Development Association (IDA) -

To help nations whose borrowing capacity is limited by foreign exchange stringency, member countries of the Bank established the International Development Association in 1960. This institution is managed by the Bank, but grants development credits on a long-term, interest-free basis. By 31 December 1965 IDA had extended 79 credits to 30 countries, totalling $1,192 m.

6. International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD or World Bank) -

It is created to facilitate the international flow of loan capital. The articles of agreement establishing the IBRD were drawn up at the UN Monetary and Financial Conference, held at Bretton Woods, N.H., in July 1944. The Bank came into existence on December 27, 1945 when its articles of agreement were signed by 28 governments in Washington D.C.

The agreement establishing the relationship between the Bank and the UN became effective on November 15, 1947, when it was approved by the General Assembly.

1. For text of its Articles of agreement see Year Book of United Nations 1946-47, pp. 754-66.

The Bank was established for the following purposes:

(a) to assist in the reconstruction and development of its member countries by facilitating the investment of capital for productive purposes and thereby to promote the long-range growth of international trade and the improvement of standards of living.

(b) to promote private foreign investment by guarantees of and participation in loans and investment made by private investors, and

(c) to make loans for productive purposes out of its own resources or funds borrowed by it when private capital is not available on reasonable terms.

In 1964, the Bank entered into co-operative agreement with UNESCO and FAO for educational and agricultural projects. The Bank furnishes a wide variety of technical assistance services, ranging from full scale surveys to investigations or advice on particular projects.

The IBRD has two subsidiary affiliates, created to render services not initially within the province of the Bank: (a) International finance corporation— which operates in support of private—enterprise development and (b) the International Development Association— which provides loans on terms somewhat easier than those of the Bank. All of these institutions plus other supporting arrangements came into being to facilitate the global placement of capital.

1. For a fuller statement of its purposes see YUN 1951, pp. 904-905.
7. **International Finance Corporation** -

The Corporation, an affiliate of IBRD, was established in July 1956. Its purposes are to assist private industrial enterprises in the territories of less developed member countries, to stimulate the international flow of private capital and to broaden the development of local capital markets. Its paid up capital at the end of 1965 was $99.3 million subscribed by 80 member countries.

Its operations fall into four main categories:

i) direct investment in industrial companies, usually on a mixed loan and equity basis and with the participation of domestic or foreign private investors and entrepreneurs,

ii) assistance to privately owned development finance companies engaged in industrial financing,

iii) Stand-by and underwriting commitments, and

iv) the sale of investments from portfolio to other financial institutions.

8. **International Monetary Fund (IMF)** -

The IMF\(^1\) was established on December 27, 1945 as a result of the UN Monetary and financial Conference held at Bretton Woods, N.H. in July 1944.

**Purposes:**

It was established to promote international monetary co-operation and exchange stability, and to assist in the

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1. For details see YUN 1946-47, pp. 772-88.
removal of exchange restrictions. The fund seeks to facilitate expansion of world trade as a means of promoting high levels of employment and income and of developing the productive resources of its members.

Organization:

The fund consists of a Board of Directors, Executive Directors and a Managing Director and staff.

All powers of the supervision of the fund are vested in the Board of Governors, on which each member government is represented.

The Executive Directors are responsible for the general operations of the fund. The Managing Director is selected by the Executive Directors. He is responsible for the ordinary business of the fund and supervision of staff, under general control of the directors. He presides as Chairman at their meetings, but may not vote except in case of a tie.

Activities:

The fund has collaborated with member governments in establishing a pattern of exchange rate fixed in ratio to gold and the US S Changes by more than 10% in these rates must be approved by the Fund's Board of Executive Directors. The fund works towards the removal of restrictions on current exchange transactions, and is consulted by its members on major changes in their foreign exchange practices. Members may exchange limited of their own currencies for other currencies held by the Fund, for purposes approved by its Directors.
9. **International Civil Aviation Organisation** -

Origins:

The convention providing for the establishment of the International Civil Aviation Organisation was drawn up by the International Civil Aviation Conference held in Chicago in 1944. A provisional ICAO operated from 6 June, 1945 until the formal establishment of ICAO on 4 April 1947.

The Convention on ICAO superseded the provisions of the Paris Convention of 1919, which established the International Commission for Air Navigating drawn up at Havre in 1928.

An agreement establishing the relationship between the UN & ICAO came into force on 13 May 1947.

**Functions:**

It assists international Civil Aviation by encouraging use of safety measures, uniform regulations for operation, simpler procedures at borders, etc. and promotes use of new technical methods and equipment.

**Organization:**

The principal organs of ICAO are an Assembly, consisting of all members of the organization, and a Council, which is comprised of 21 states elected by the Assembly. The main subsidiary bodies are: the Air Navigation Commission, Air Transport Committee and the Legal Committee.

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1. For the text of the agreement see YUN 1946-47, Pp. 741-45.
10. Universal Postal Union -

The UPU was established on 1 July 1875, when the Universal Postal Convention adopted by the Postal Congress of Berne on 9 October 1874 came into force (For further information concerning UPU, see L'Union postale universelle: Sa fondation et son development, 1874-1949).

The prime aim of UPU is, to promote in this field, the development of international collaboration. To this end, the members of UPU are united in a single postal territory for the reciprocal exchange of correspondence.

The UPU is composed of a Universal Postal Congress, which usually meets every 5 years, a permanent Executive and Liaison committee, which consists of 19 members elected on a geographical basis by each Congress, and an International Bureau, which functions as the permanent secretariat. (For Constitution see YUN 1953, pp. 798-814)

11. International Telecommunication Union -

The International Telegraph Union, founded in Paris in 1865 and the International Radiotelegraph Union, founded in Berlin in 1906, were merged by the Madrid Convention of 1932 to form the International T.U. ITU came into being on 1 January 1934. The Agreement\(^1\) establishing relationship between UN and ITU approved by General Assembly in 1947, ITU has been governed since 1 Jan. 1949 by the revised International Telecommunication Convention adopted on 2 Oct. 1947.

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1. For text of agreement see YUN 47-48, pp. 949-54.
The main purpose of ITU is to maintain and extend international co-operation for the improvement and rational use of telecommunication. "Telecommunication means" any transmission, emission and reception of signs, signals, writing images and sounds or intelligence of any nature by wire, radio, visual or other electromagnetic systems."

As provided by the Atlantic City Convention, the structure of ITU consists of a Plenipotentiary Conference, Administrative Conferences and the permanent organs of the Union: the Administrative Council, the General Secretariat, the International frequency registration Board and 3 international Consultative Committees (radio, telephone, telegraph.)

12. The World Meteorological Organization -

The WMO came formally into being on 4 April 1951 as an international body and related to UN as a specialized agency in 1951 by an agreement approved by the UN as well as the agency. (For text of agreement see YUN 1951, pp. 957-60)

Its primary functions are:-

1. to promote international co-operation in the field of meteorology and the quick exchange of weather data;
2. to establish world-wide net works of meteorological stations and facilitate the publication and standardization of their observations;
3. to further the application of meteorology to human activities; and
4. to encourage research and training in the field of meteorology.
As provided by the Convention, WMO consists of a World Meteorological Congress, an Executive Committee, Regional Associations and Technical Commissions set up by the Congress, and a permanent Secretariat.

13. Intergovernmental Maritime Consultative Organization -

The UN Maritime Conference, called at the request of the E & SC, met in Geneva in 1948. It drew up the convention on the IMCO. The IMCO came into being when 21 states of which seven had a total tonnage of at least one million gross tons of shipping, each became parties to convention. It was fully established in Jan. 1959.

The purpose and functions of IMCO, as laid down in the Convention, are:

1. to provide machinery for co-operation among Governments in the field of governmental regulation and practices relating to technical matters,

2. to encourage the removal of discriminatory action and of unnecessary restrictions by Governments,

3. to consider matters concerning unfair restrictive practices by shipping concerns,

4. to consider any matters concerning shipping referred to it,

5. to provide for the exchange of information among governments on matters under consideration by the organization.

It has an assembly of all member states, a Council composed of 16 members and a Secretariat.
To sum up all the specialized agencies can be categorized in three groups:

The first group for lack of better term may be called the development agencies. They are 'development' in the sense that they are intended to improve world economic, social and cultural conditions. This group consists of first four agencies.

The second group are essentially financing institutions and are related to the UN only in a very loose sense, while all these agencies are members of the UN system, they have developed their unique organizational pattern. It includes IBRD, IDA, IFC, IMF.

The third group includes the communication agencies, whose major purpose is to broaden and facilitate communication among nations. This last group covers all the rest agencies except World Meteorological Organization which is out of all these groups.