

Functional commissions and expert bodies of UN – ECOSOC

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ECOSOC REGIONAL COMMISSIONS

- Economic Commission for Africa – ECA – Addis Ababa
- Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific – ESCAP - Bangkok
- Economic Commission for Europe – ECE – Geneva
- Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean – ECLAC - Santiago
- Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia – ESCWA - Beirut

ECOSOC Thematic Issues:

- Advancement of women
- Countries in special situations
- Governance and institution-building
- Human Rights
- International Trade
- Macroeconomics and finance
- Population
- Science, technology, and productive sectors
- Social Development
- Statistics
- Sustainable development, human settlements and energy

Functional Commissions:

- **Commission for Social Development** - established temporarily in February 1946; formally in June 1946 called Social Commission, renamed in 1966. Purpose: to advise ECOSOC on social policies. Commission has 46 members, elected for four years.
- **Issues:**
- Ageing
- Civil Society
- Cooperatives
- Disability
- Employment
- Family
- Indigenous Peoples
- Poverty
- Social Integration
- Youth

World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen 1995, consensus on the need to put people at the center of development

Commission on the Status of Women

Principal Intergovernmental body dedicated to the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women. It was established in June 21, 1946. In 1996 mandate expanded to review the progress and problems in the implementation of the **Beijing Declaration and Platform of Action** and for mainstreaming gender perspective in UN activities. Priority themes are based on Beijing Declaration and linkages to 2030 Agenda.

Others

- Statistical Commission - 1947
- Commission on Population Development - 1946
- Commission on Narcotics and Drugs - 1946
- Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice – 1992
- Commission on Science Technology for Development - 1992
- United Nations Forum on Forests - 2000

Commission on Sustainable Development

- Established in 1992 at the first Earth Summit
- At the UN Conference on SD – Rio+20, Member States decided to replace it with **High Level Political Forum – HLPF in 2012.** Implementation, follow up and review of **2030 Agenda** for Sustainable Development takes place within the framework of HLPF.
- HLPF Modalities govern the process

International Conferences:

FFD Coordinating Secretariat established in January 2000

- Financing for Development – global development and international economic cooperation

First International Conference held in Monterrey, Mexico in March 2002

Second International Conference to Review Implementation of Monterrey – November 29 – December 2, 2008 in Doha, Qatar

- **Focus areas:**

- Mobilizing domestic financial resources for development;
 - Mobilizing international resources for development – foreign direct investment and other private flows;
 - International trade as an engine for development;
 - Increasing international financial and technical cooperation for development;
 - External debt;
 - Addressing systemic issues – enhancing the coherence and consistency of the international monetary, financial and trading systems in support of development.
- **Third International Conference on Financing for Development in July 2015 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia**

UN Treaty Bodies – Rio Convention

- **UN Framework Convention on Climate Change – UNFCCC** (Bonn)
- Entered into force on March 21, 1994 – result of the Rio Earth Summit in 1992
- Conference of Parties – COP – meets annually
- COP 21 resulted in **Paris Climate Agreement** – 197 Parties: 189 ratified
- COP 26 - Scheduled for Glasgow in November 2020 - Postponed

UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) 1994 - Bonn

- Established to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) is the sole legally binding international agreement linking environment and development to sustainable land management. The Convention addresses specifically the arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid areas, known as the drylands, where some of the most vulnerable ecosystems and peoples can be found.

UN Convention on Biological Diversity (UNCBD) 1992 - Bonn

- Signed by 150 government leaders at the 1992 Rio Earth Summit, the Convention on Biological Diversity is dedicated to promoting sustainable development. 196 Parties
- Conceived as a practical tool for translating the principles of **Agenda 21** into reality, the Convention recognizes that biological diversity is about more than plants, animals and microorganisms and their ecosystems – it is about people and our need for food security, medicines, fresh air and water, shelter, and a clean and healthy environment in which to live.
- (**AGENDA 21** - the action plan developed to lead environmental development into the 21st century with its goal of sustainable life on earth.)

General Assembly Committees

- First Committee (Disarmament & International Security)
- Second Committee (Economic and Financial)
- Third Committee (Social, Humanitarian and Cultural)
- Fourth Committee (Special Political & Decolonization)
- Fifth Committee (Administrative & Budgetary)
- Sixth Committee (Legal)

EXPERT BODIES

UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues – July 2000

- The United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII) is a high-level advisory body to the Economic and Social Council. The Forum was established on 28 July 2000 by resolution 2000/22, with the mandate to deal with indigenous issues related to economic and social development, culture, the environment, education, health and human rights.

History of Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

- **In 1923 -25**, Haudenosaunee Chief Deskaheh travelled to Geneva to speak to the League of Nations and defend the right of his people to live under their own laws, on their own land and under their own faith. Returned in 1925 without speaking, but had impacts

- **1981 Martinez Cobo Study** - One of the most cited descriptions of the concept of the indigenous peoples was given by Jose R. Martinez Cobo, the Special Rapporteur of the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, in his famous Study on the Problem of Discrimination against Indigenous Populations.
- 1982 – Working Group on Indigenous Populations
- 1993 International Year of the World's Indigenous Peoples

Indigenous Issues

- 1994 International Decade of the World's Indigenous Peoples
- **2000 Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues**
- 2005 Second International Decade
- 2007 Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples
- **2007 UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples**
- 2014 World Conference on Indigenous Peoples

Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations

- Standing – 1946, has 19 members
 - Consideration of applications for consultative status and requests for reclassification by NGOs
 - Consideration of quadrennial reports submitted by NGOs in General and Special Categories

Other Committees

- Committee for Development Policy
- Committee of Experts on Public Administration
- **Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters – 2004**
- Committee on **Economic, Social and Cultural Rights** – 1985 to monitor implementation of the International Covenant on Economic, social and Cultural Rights
- Ad Hoc Committee on a Comprehensive and Integral **Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities**
- **Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) 1982**

PROGRAMS AND FUNDS

- UN Development Program – UNDP (1965 – New York)
- UN Environment Program – UNEP (1972 - Nairobi)
- UN Population Fund – UNFPA (1969 – New York)
- UN Human Settlements Program = UN-HABITAT (1978 - Nairobi)
- Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) (1950 - Geneva)
- UN Children’s Fund – UNICEF (1946- New York)
- UN Office on Drugs and Crime – UNODC (1997 - Vienna)
- UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East – UNRWA (1949 – Amman, Jordan)
- UN Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women – UN Women (2010 – New York)
- World Food Program – WFP (1961- Rome)

SPECIALIZED AGENCIES

- **International Labor Organization** – ILO (1919-
Geneva)
- **Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN** –
FAO (1945)
- **UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural
Organization** –UNESCO (1945)
- **World Health Organization** – WHO (1948)
- **World Bank** – **WB (1944 - Washington DC)**
- **International Monetary Fund** – IMF (1944 –
Washington DC)
- **UN Industrial Development Organization** –
UNIDO (1966 - Vienna)
- **World Tourism Organization** – UNWTO (1974 –
Madrid)

- **International Organization for Migration – IOM**

- IOM office at the UN in New York works together with Secretariat, UN Agencies and Member States to create a world in which all migrants are treated with dignity and respect. (IOM oversees the implementation, Follow up and Review of the Global Compact on Migration.)

Major Groups and Other Stakeholders - MGoS

- **1992 Earth Summit - Conference on Environment and Development, In Agenda 21 recognized the active participation of all sectors of Society to achieve Sustainable Development. It recognized the following nine groups:**

Major Groups...

- Women
- Children and Youth
- Indigenous Peoples
- Non-Governmental Organizations
- Local Authorities
- Workers and Trade Unions
- Business and Industry
- Scientific and Technological Community
- Farmers
- Persons with Disabilities

Major Groups...

At the Rio+20 Conference, in its Outcome document **“The Future we Want”** highlighted the role of Major Groups. In addition the governments invited other stakeholders-

- Local communities
- Volunteer groups and foundations
- Migrants and families
- Older persons and persons with disabilities

Major Groups...

- To participate in UN processes related to sustainable development, in collaboration with Major Groups.
- There is a high level of engagement in all intergovernmental processes at the UN
- Member States decide upon the modalities of participation.
- Organizing Partners, made up of accredited organizations who function as facilitators between the Major Group constituencies and DSD
- ***Find more information on Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform***

UN Functional Commissions

The UN Charter established ECOSOC in 1945 as one of the six main organs of the UN. The Economic and Social Council is the heart of the UN system to advance the three dimensions of Sustainable development – economic, social and environmental.

ECOSOC links a diverse family of UN entities dedicated to sustainable development providing overall guidance and coordination. These entities include regional economic and social commissions, functional commissions facilitating intergovernmental discussions of major global issues and specialized agencies, programs and funds at work around the world to translate development commitments into real changes in people's lives.

ECOSOC is the gateway for UN partnership and participation by the rest of the world – it offers a unique global meeting point for productive dialogues among policy makers, parliamentarians, academics, foundations, businesses, youth and over 5081 ECOSOC registered NGOs

UN Convention/Treaty & Treaty Bodies

- An agreement between definite countries that is legally binding to the contracting states. It becomes legally binding when a country ratifies the convention/treaty.
- UN Human Rights Treaty Bodies are committees of experts created to monitor governments' implementation of specific Human Rights conventions. 10 of the HR agreements are overseen by Treaty Bodies.