

Introduction to the United Nations & the UN's Sustainable Development Goals



Presentation by:

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(with credit for some of the materials in this presentation to Cecilia O'Dwyer, IBVM & the RUN dropbox archives...)

The United Nations (UN)

- ☀ International organization of 193 sovereign states founded in June 1945 (ratified Oct. 24, 1945) to ensure that there would never be another world war
- ☀ Maintains international peace and security
- ☀ Promotes social progress, better living standards, human rights and freedoms



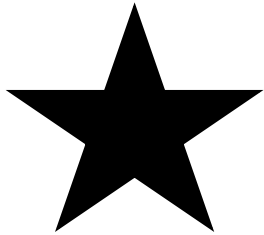
Purposes of the United Nations

1. “To **maintain international peace and security**, . . . take effective collective measures for the prevention and removal of threats to the peace, and for the suppression of acts of aggression or other breaches of the peace . . .”

2. To **develop friendly relations among nations** based on respect for the principle of equal rights and self-determination of peoples, and to take other appropriate measures to strengthen universal peace. (Rule of Law)

3. “To **achieve international cooperation** in solving international problems of an economic, social, cultural, or humanitarian character, and in promoting . . . human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language, or religion.”

4. To **be a center for harmonizing the actions of nations** in the attainment of these common ends.



UN Headquarters / Locations



Also locations in:

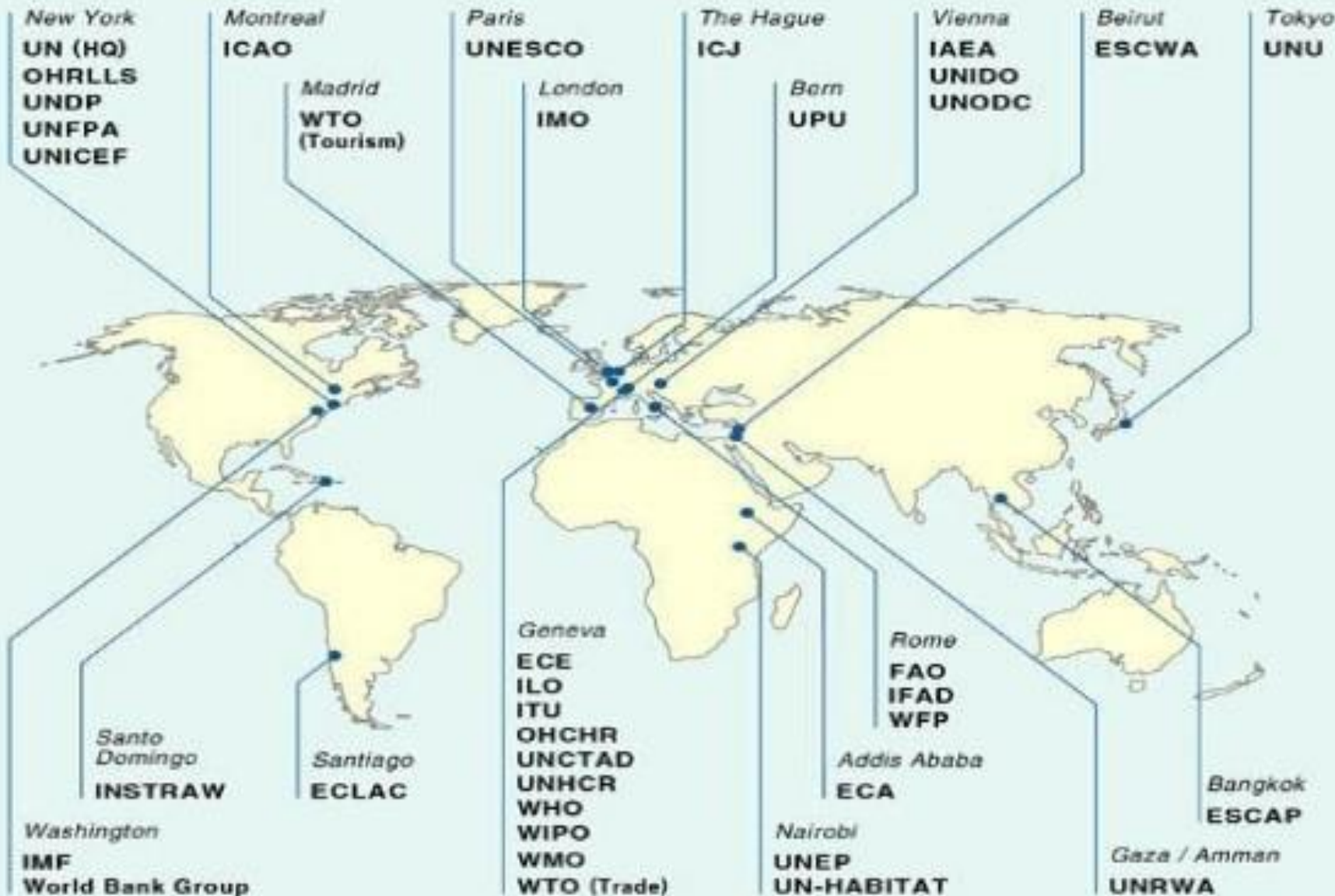
**Geneva,
Switzerland
(1966)**

**Vienna, Austria
(1979)**

**Nairobi,
Kenya (1996)**

United Nations Headquarters Complex in New York City (1948)

PRINCIPAL OFFICES OF THE UNITED NATIONS



With over
44,000 staff
Members
(60% of whom
work in the
field), the
United Nations
Is truly a
Global
Organization
However, UNHQ
in New York City
is an excellent
location with
vibrant energy -
the birthplace...?

What types of groups do the work of the United Nations??



Permanent Missions to the United Nations

- Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Permanent Representative
- Deputy Permanent Representative
- Counsellor
- First Secretary
- Second Secretary
- Third Secretary
- Attaché



Addresses:

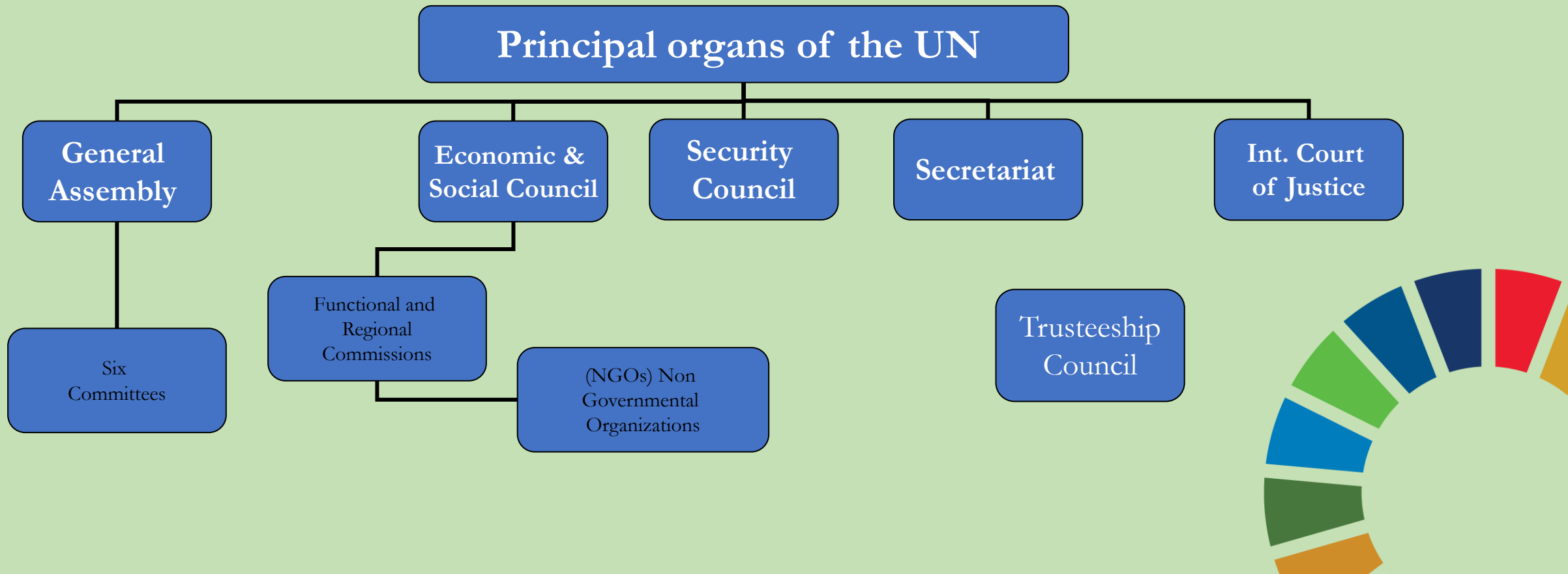
https://visit.un.org/sites/visit.un.org/files/Missions_Contacts_0.pdf

[https://protocol.un.org/dgacm/pls/site.nsf/files/BB307/\\$FILE/bb307.pdf](https://protocol.un.org/dgacm/pls/site.nsf/files/BB307/$FILE/bb307.pdf)

How does the UN work?

The areas outlined below are commonly called the six principal organs of the United Nations, and constitute how the UN organizes its work

Note: International Trusteeship System completed its task and no longer meets regularly





The United Nations System

UN PRINCIPAL ORGANS

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

SECURITY COUNCIL

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

SECRETARIAT

INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE

TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL⁶

Subsidiary Organs

- Main Committees
- Disarmament Commission
- Human Rights Council
- International Law Commission
- Joint Inspection Unit (JIU)
- Standing committees and ad hoc bodies

Funds and Programmes¹

- UNDP** United Nations Development Programme
- **UNCDF** United Nations Capital Development Fund
- **UNV** United Nations Volunteers
- UNEP**⁸ United Nations Environment Programme
- UNFPA** United Nations Population Fund
- UN-Habitat**⁸ United Nations Human Settlements Programme
- UNICEF** United Nations Children's Fund
- WFP** World Food Programme (UN/FAO)

Research and Training

- UNIDIR** United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research
- UNITAR** United Nations Institute for Training and Research
- UNSSC** United Nations System Staff College
- UNU** United Nations University

Other Entities

- ITC** International Trade Centre (UN/WTO)
- UNCTAD**^{1,8} United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
- UNHCR**¹ Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
- UNOPS**¹ United Nations Office for Project Services
- UNRWA**¹ United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East
- UN-Women**¹ United Nations Entity for Gender equality and the Empowerment of Women

Related Organizations

- CTBTO Preparatory Commission** Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization
- IAEA**^{1,3} International Atomic Energy Agency
- ICC** International Criminal Court
- ION**¹ International Organization for Migration
- ISA** International Seabed Authority
- ITLOS** International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea
- OPCW**³ Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons
- WTO**^{1,4} World Trade Organization

Peacebuilding Commission

HLPF High-level political forum on sustainable development

Subsidiary Organs

- Counter-Terrorism Committee
- International Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY)
- International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals
- Military Staff Committee
- Peacekeeping operations and political missions
- Sanctions committees (ad hoc)
- Standing committees and ad hoc bodies

Functional Commissions

- Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice
- Narcotic Drugs
- Population and Development
- Science and Technology for Development
- Social Development
- Statistics
- Status of Women
- United Nations Forum on Forests

Regional Commissions⁸

- ECA** Economic Commission for Africa
- ECE** Economic Commission for Europe
- ECLAC** Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
- ESCAP** Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
- ESCWA** Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

Other Bodies

- Committee for Development Policy
- Committee of Experts on Public Administration
- Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations
- Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues
- UNAIDS** Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS
- UNGEGN** United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names

Research and Training

- UNICRI** United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute
- UNRISD** United Nations Research Institute for Social Development

Departments and Offices⁹

- EOSG** Executive Office of the Secretary-General
- DESA** Department of Economic and Social Affairs
- DFS** Department of Field Support
- DGACM** Department for General Assembly and Conference Management
- DM** Department of Management
- DPA** Department of Political Affairs
- DPI** Department of Public Information
- DPKO** Department of Peacekeeping Operations
- DSS** Department of Safety and Security
- OCHA** Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
- ODA** Office for Disarmament Affairs
- OHCHR** Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
- OIOS** Office of Internal Oversight Services
- OLA** Office of Legal Affairs
- OSAA** Office of the Special Adviser on Africa
- PSBO** Peacebuilding Support Office
- SRSO/CAAC** Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict
- SRSO/SVC** Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict
- SRSO/VAC** Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence Against Children
- UNISDR** United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction

Specialized Agencies^{1,5}

- FAO** Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
- ICAO** International Civil Aviation Organization
- IFAD** International Fund for Agricultural Development
- ILO** International Labour Organization
- IMF** International Monetary Fund
- IMO** International Maritime Organization
- ITU** International Telecommunication Union
- UNESCO** United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
- UNIDO** United Nations Industrial Development Organization
- UNWTO** World Tourism Organization
- UPU** Universal Postal Union
- WHO** World Health Organization
- WIPO** World Intellectual Property Organization
- WMO** World Meteorological Organization
- WORLD BANK GROUP**⁷
 - **IBRD** International Bank for Reconstruction and Development
 - **IDA** International Development Association
 - **IFC** International Finance Corporation

Notes:

- 1 Members of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB).
- 2 UN Office for Partnerships (UNOP) is the UN's focal point vis-a-vis the United Nations Foundation, Inc.
- 3 IAEA and OPCW report to the Security Council and the General Assembly (GA).
- 4 WTO has no reporting obligation to the GA, but contributes on an ad hoc basis to GA and Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) work on, inter alia, finance and development issues.
- 5 Specialized agencies are autonomous organizations whose work is coordinated through ECOSOC (intergovernmental level) and CEB (inter-secretariat level).
- 6 The Trusteeship Council suspended operation on 1 November 1994, as on 1 October 1994 Palau, the last United Nations Trust Territory, became independent.
- 7 International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID) and Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA) are not specialized agencies in accordance with Articles 57 and 63 of the Charter, but are part of the World Bank Group.
- 8 The secretariats of these organs are part of the UN Secretariat.
- 9 The Secretariat also includes the following offices: The Ethics Office, United Nations Ombudsman and Mediation Services, Office of Administration of Justice and the Office on Sport for Development and Peace

This Chart is a reflection of the functional organization of the United Nations System and for informational purposes only. It does not include all offices or entities of the United Nations System.

How does the UN work, cont'd.

☀ The General Assembly: The GA Deals with issues of military conflicts, arms race, sustainable development, human rights, status of children, women and youth – and makes recommendations to the Security Council. At the General Assembly, which kicks off each year in mid-September, all 193 member nations are represented.

☀ The Secretariat: Headed by the Secretary General (currently Antonio Gutierrez), the Secretariat prepares information on various problems so that governments can study them and make recommendations, organizes international conferences, and helps to carry out the decisions of the UN.



The **General Assembly** is the main deliberative, policymaking & representative organ **of the United Nations**. It meets under [its president](#) or Secretary-General in regular yearly sessions, the main part of which lasts from September to December and resumes in January until all issues are addressed.



UN General Assembly Committees

First Committee (Disarmament & International Security)

Second Committee (Economic & Financial)

Third Committee (Social, Humanitarian & Cultural)

Fourth Committee (Special Political & Decolonization)

Fifth Committee (Administrative & Budgetary)

Sixth Committee (Legal)

How does the UN work, cont'd.

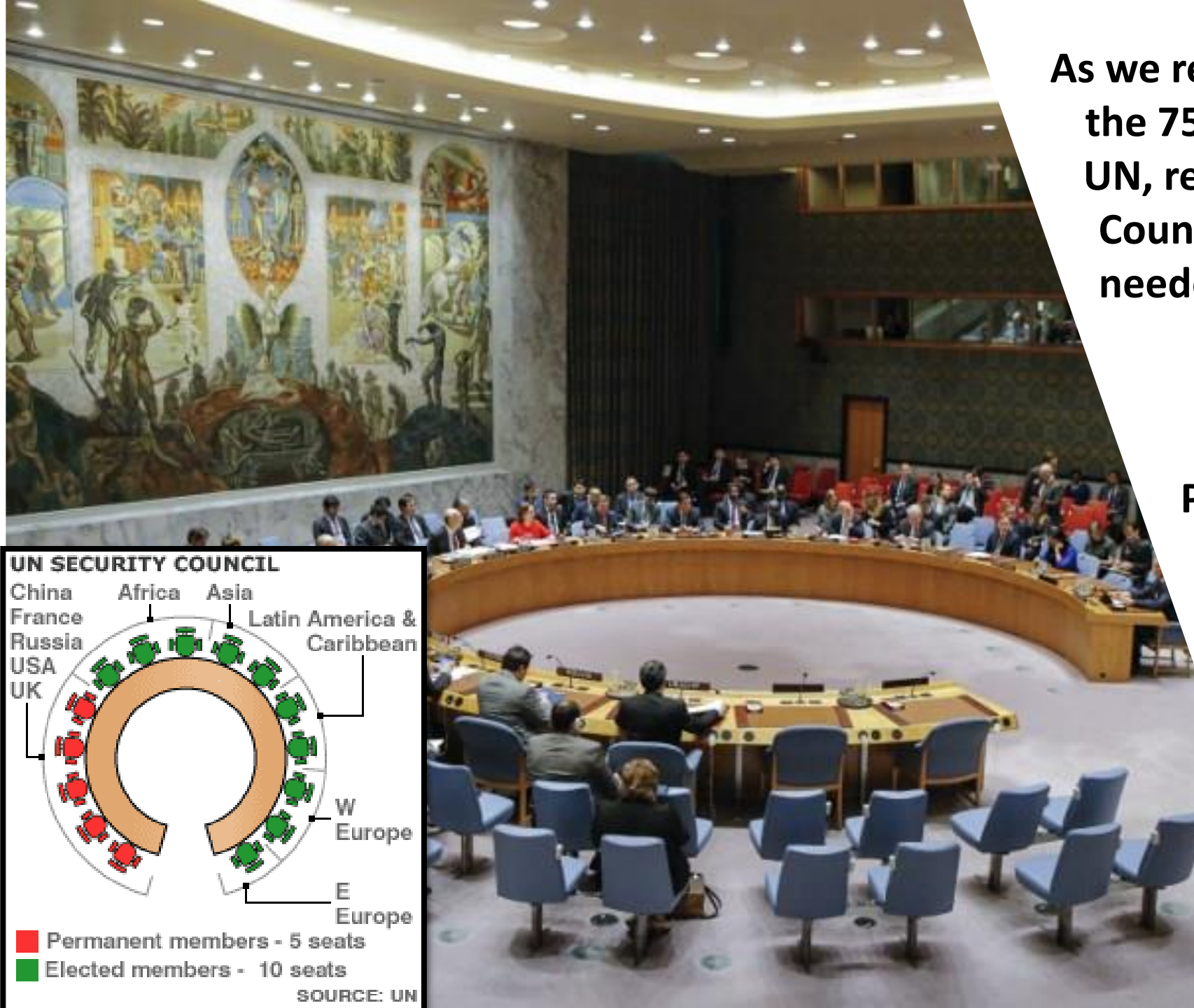
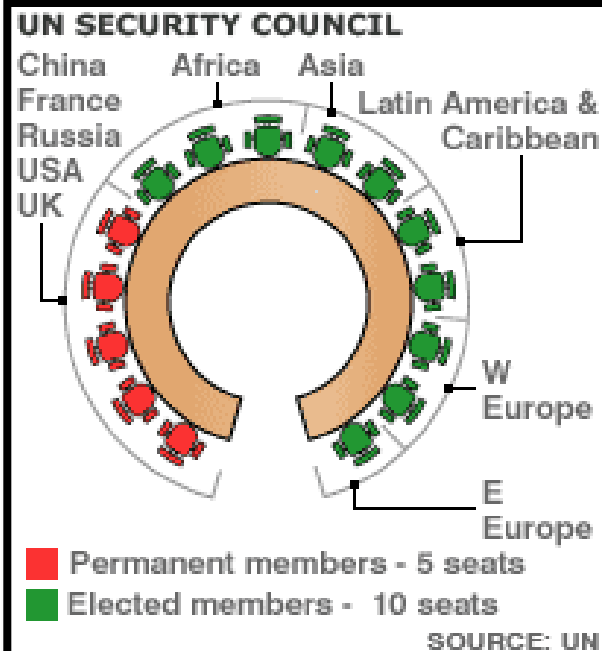


The UN Security Council:

- Investigates any dispute that might lead to international conflict
- Recommends methods and terms of settlement
- Recommends actions against any threats or acts of aggression
- Contains 15 members. Five of these are permanent members with veto power:
China, France, Russia, UK & US

The UN Security Council also works closely with the International Court of Justice, located in the Netherlands at The Hague

As we recognize & celebrate the 75th Anniversary of the UN, reform of the Security Council is the most urgent needed structural change, according to many members of civil society. The five Permanent members of the UN Security Council, who hold veto power, are collectively known as the P5: China, France, Russia, UK & US



How does the UN work, cont'd.

ECOSOC, or the Economic and Social Council, coordinates the economic and social work of the United Nations, which includes financing for development. It carries out its work through the following Functional Commissions that meet annually:

- ▶ Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice
- ▶ Narcotic Drugs
- ▶ Population and Development
- ▶ Science and Technology for Development
- ▶ Social Development
- ▶ Statistics
- ▶ Status of Women
- ▶ Sustainable Development
- ▶ United Nations on Forests

Over 3,000 non-governmental organizations work through ECOSOC to give feedback and policy suggestions.

The **United Nations member states** are the 193 sovereign **states** that are **members** of the **United Nations (UN)** and have equal representation in the UN General Assembly.

Membership of the principal United Nations Organs

General Assembly: All 193

Secretariat: Staff from over 180 countries

Security Council: 15 members

Economic and Social Council: 54 members

International Court of Justice: 15 members

Trusteeship council: 5 Permanent members of Security Council

Permanent Observers:

- **Non – member States**
- **Intergovernmental organizations**
- **Other Entities**

SO, WHY SHOULD People BE INTERESTED IN THE UN?

(What are the many ways in which the UN might affect your constituents daily lives??)

Maintaining peace and security: 17 peacekeeping operations by 113,000 men and women from 118 countries

Creating peace: bring conflicts to an end – El Salvador, Guatemala, Namibia, Cambodia . . . 40 % decline in conflict since 1990

Seeking solutions to the climate crisis: 1979 first World Climate Conference, 1992 Rio Conference and Rio +20 in 2012 – PLUS the Paris Climate Agreement in Dec. 2015 (entered into force 4 November 2016)
75 Parties have ratified, of 197 Parties to the Convention have ratified it thus far....

Providing food to the neediest humans around the world (WHO, FAO, WFP, UNICEF, UNFP, etc.)



The UN has also played a key role in the following areas:

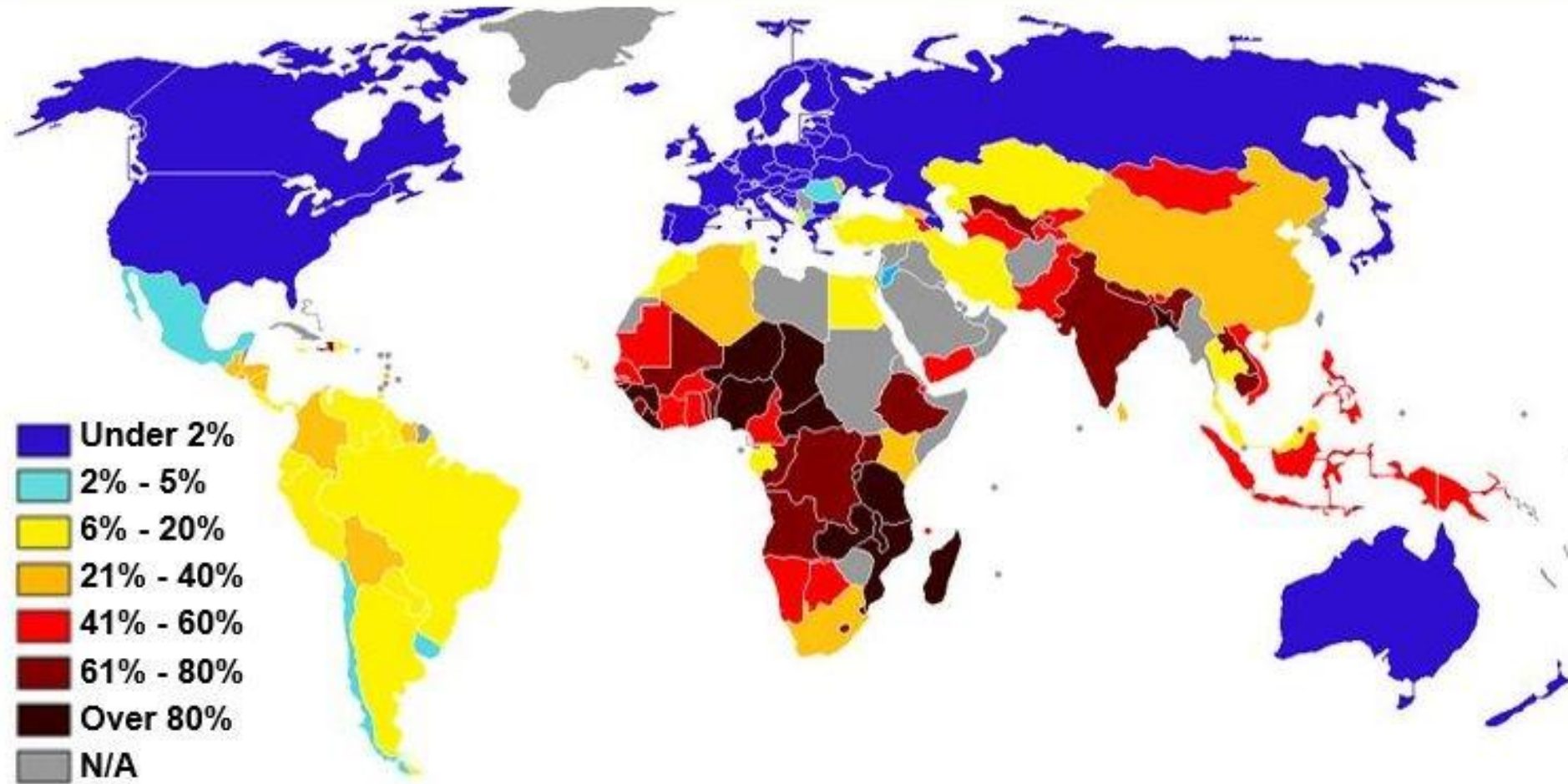
Promoting Human Rights
International Air Travel - Global Communications - Health Issues - International Aid
Reducing Child Mortality - Improving Literacy - Transitions to Democracy

<https://www.un.org/un70/en/content/70ways>

BOOKLET: *60 Ways the United Nations Makes a Difference*

<http://win.janegoodall.it/varhtml/news/UN60Anni.pdf>

Global Poverty Map



Source: United Nations

Percentage of Country Population on Under \$2 Per Day

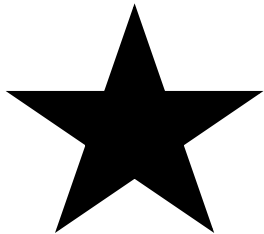
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2000–2015: Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)



Similar to a Strategic Plan, the MDGs were implemented in 129 countries to reduce poverty, promote good governance, address crises, and preserve the environment:

1. To eradicate [extreme poverty](#) and [hunger](#)
2. To achieve [universal primary education](#)
3. To promote [gender equality](#) and empower women
4. To reduce [child mortality](#)
5. To improve [maternal health](#)
6. To combat [HIV/AIDS](#), [malaria](#), and other diseases
7. To ensure [environmental sustainability](#)
8. To develop a [global partnership](#) for development

Achievements were impressive in some areas, yet spotty in others due to a variety of reasons including lack of grassroots input (especially from the Global South) and a lack of funding.

2015–2030: Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)



The Post-2015 development agenda and SDG process was an outcome from the Rio+20 conference (June 2012).

Many discussions, proposals, and meetings were held to develop the Post-2015 agenda:

[Meeting of High-level Political Forum](#) (July 2014)

[Report of Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing](#) (2014)

[Proposed Sustainable Development Goals, formulated by the Open Working Group on the Sustainable Development Goals](#) (August 2014)

[Report of Secretary-General's Independent Expert Advisory Group on a Data Revolution for Sustainable Development](#) (November 2014)

[Synthesis Report of the Secretary-General on the Post-2015 Agenda](#) (December 2014)

“Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development” was adopted by all 193 nation-states (September 2015).



.... the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) can provide a framework for change



A RACE WE MUST WIN
CLIMATE ACTION NOW!



1

NO
POVERTY

2

ZERO
HUNGER

3

GOOD HEALTH
AND WELL-BEING

4

QUALITY
EDUCATION

5

GENDER
EQUALITY

6

CLEAN WATER
AND SANITATION

7

AFFORDABLE AND
CLEAN ENERGY

8

ECONOMIC GROWTH
AND DECENT JOBS

9

INDUSTRIALIZATION,
INNOVATION AND
INFRASTRUCTURE

10

REDUCED
INEQUALITIES

11

SUSTAINABLE
CITIES AND
COMMUNITIES

12

RESponsible
consumption
and production

13

Climate
action

14

Life
below
water

15

Life
on
land

SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT
GOALS

UN75
2020 AND BEYOND

**SHAPING
OUR
FUTURE
TOGETHER**

