

NCDC HISTORY SAMPLE NOTES BOOK 3

Chapter 5

THE ROLE OF UNITED NATIONS IN DEVELOPMENT AND IT'S IMPACT ON UGANDA

The creation of the United Nations (UN)

Qn. Identify the reasons for the creation of the United Nation (UN)

- The UN was created in 1945 after the second world war.
- Its creation was a result of the failure of the League of nations to maintain peace, in 1930's that led to over punishing Germany which resulted in the 1939 outbreak of the World war II.
- The war was devastating to the world and no nation was ready to have the repeat of the destruction and loss of lives in the world as was the case between 1939-1945.
- The UN was created as a mechanism through which the threats to the world would be resolved and to prevent future catastrophes from happening.
- Since its creation, the UN has aimed at maintaining international peace and security.
- It has worked to develop friendly relations among nations to achieve international cooperation.
- It has also become a Centre for harmonizing the actions of nations.
- The UN is also made up of 193 countries known as member states through which the activities of the organisation are financed.
- Its headquarters are in New York and headed by the Secretary General.

The mission of the United Nations

Qn. Identify the mission of the United Nations in the world today.

The UN brings all nations of the world together to work closely towards achieving world peace and also international conflicts. It works with the world nations to;

- Prevent wars
- Fight against poverty.
- Promote sustainable economic development and protect human rights.
- The UN maintains international peace and security.
- It also takes up effective collective measures in the prevention and removal of threats to the peace.

- The UN suppresses and pre-empts the acts of aggression or breaches of the in the conformity with the principles of justice and international law.
- Actively involves in settlement of international disputes or situations likely to breach peace.
- The UN works to develop friendly relations among nations based on respect for equal rights and sovereignty of nations to strengthen universal peace.
- The UN also aims at achieving international co-operation and solving international problems of an economic, social, cultural or humanitarian character.
- Promoted and accouraged respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction on the basis of race, sex, language or religion.
- Also foster social progress and better standards of living for all the people.
- Address global challenges such as hunger, diseases, climatic change and also inequalities.

The structure of the United Nation

Qn. *Discuss below the main structures of the United Nation today.*

The main organs of the United Nations structures are as follows;

➤ ***The General Assembly.***

The General Assembly is the main deliberative body of the UN, where al members states are represented. Each member state has one vote, and it is a forum for discussing and coordinating international issues.

The General Assembly meets annually in regular sessions.

➤ ***Security Council (SC)***

The Security Council is responsible for maintaining international peace and security. It has 15 members, including five permanent members with veto power (China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom and the United States) and the ten non-permanent members elected by the General Assembly for two- year terms.

➤ ***International Court of Justice (ICJ)***

The ICJ is the principal judicial organ of the UN.

It settles legal disputes between states and gives advisory opinions a legal question referred to it by the General Assembly, the Security Council, or other UN organs and specialized agencies.

➤ ***The Secretariat.***

The secretariat is headed by the Secretary- General, who is appointed by the General Assembly on the recommendation of the Security Council.

The Secretariat carries out the day-to-day work of the UN, implementing decisions and managing programs.

➤ ***The Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)***

It's the principal body for coordination, policy reviews, policy dialogues and recommendations on economic, social and environmental issues as well as implementation of international agreed development goals.

It has 54 members elected by the General Assembly for three-year terms.

➤ ***The Trusteeship Council***

This was established in 1945 by the UN charter. Its role is to provide international supervision to trust territories under the UN administration until they attain self-government and independence.

➤ ***The UN Agencies, Funds and Progress.***

The UN has specialized agencies, funds and programs such as UNICEF, WHO, UNESCO and others which focus on specific areas like health, education and humanitarian assistance.

➤ ***Specialized Conferences and Bodies.***

Various conferences and bodies address specific issues, such as climate changes (UNFCCC), trade (UNCTAD), and human rights (UN Human Rights Council)

(activity 5;1 fountain)

On. *Using the library, ICT, identify the permanent and non-permanent members of the UN Security Council.*

The permanent members

- China
- France
- Russia
- United Kingdom (Britain)
- United States of America

The non-permanent members;

- | | |
|-----------|------------------------------------|
| >Estonia | > India |
| > Ireland | > Kenya |
| > Mexico | > Niger |
| > Norway | > Saint Vincent and the Grenadines |
| > Tunisia | > Vietnam |

The ten non permanent members are elected by the UN General Assembly for a two-year term.

These members are chosen based on regional representation, with five seats allocated to African and Asian countries, two seats to Latin American and Caribbean countries and one seat to a western European and other states country.

The non-permanent members serve on a rotating basis, participate in decision making, voting on resolutions but do not possess veto powers.

Qn. Explain the activities of the UN in Uganda today and present them to the class.

- Provides humanitarian aid to the vulnerable populations affected by conflicts, natural disaster and displacement. This is in the form of food, clean water, shelter, health etc.
- Maintains a peacekeeping mission in Uganda which aims at promoting peace, stability and security in the country.
- Supports Uganda in achieving the sustainable development goals which include eradicating poverty, ensuring quality education, improving health etc.
- Also take part in promoting gender equality and avoiding discrimination basing on tribalism, age, vulnerability etc.
- Work to promote and protect human rights in Uganda. Involves supporting efforts to strengthen the rule of law and addressing issues such as child labor, human trafficking etc.
- Assists Uganda in addressing the environmental challenges of deforestation, climate change and biodiversity loss. This is to promote sustainable land use, renewable energy and conservation of the natural resources.
- Provide technical assistance and capacity building support to the Ugandan government and civil society organisation. This include training programs, knowledge sharing and public administration.
- Collaborates with Uganda to improve healthcare services, combat infectious diseases and address the HIV/AIDS epidemic. This is by supporting prevention, access to treatment, promoting awareness etc.
- The UN also works to improve access to quality education in Uganda. Efforts are made to enhance school infrastructure, teacher training, curriculum development etc.
- Work to enhance access to justice for all Ugandans, particularly marginalizing the vulnerable population. This is by supporting legal reforms and strengthening the justice system.
- Provide technical assistance and support to Uganda during electoral processes. This is by promoting transparency and strengthening electoral institutions.
- Support initiatives that support the young people in Uganda, i.e. promoting education, skills development, entrepreneurship etc.
- The UN supports Uganda in promoting gender equality and empowering women. This include initiatives to address gender-based violence, child torcher, etc.

The roles of the UN and its Agencies

(Activity 5;2 fountain)

Qn. Discuss the roles of the UN and its agencies.

Qn. Explain the role of the UN and its agencies in the crises/ conflicting area of East Africa.

- The UN is the main international body charged with maintaining peace in the world. Through the security council, the UN sanctions the use of any available means to stop, negotiate and resolve any conflict in the world.

- The UN protects human rights and provides humanitarian assistance to areas in the world where there is need. This is done in line with the universal declaration of human rights adopted in 1948 by the general assembly as a standard for its human rights operation.
- The UN provides technical assistance to nations involved in elections and helps to improve structures and systems that enforce justice and protect human rights.
- Help to improve judicial structures and contribute to the development of draft constitutions.
- Promoting gender equality and empowering women worldwide. This is meant to eliminate discrimination, violence and other barriers that hinder women's rights and opportunities.
- The UN has also continued to provide relief like food, drinking water, shelter and other humanitarian services to people displaced by conflicts and natural disaster.
- The UN has also continued to provide development assistance to world nations through the UN development programs. through the world bank, developing countries have been supported with loans and grants to run some projects.
- The UN subsidiary agencies have also worked with world nations to provide social and humanitarian assistance. This include World Health Organisation (WHO), UNAIDS, World Bank Group etc. these agencies fund issues like education, health, democracy etc.
- The UN Environmental program (UNEP) address environmental challenges, promotes sustainable development and coordinates international efforts to combat climate changes, protect biodiversity and reduce pollution.
- The UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) promotes education, cultural diversity, scientific cooperation and preservation of the cultural heritage.
- The World Health Organisation (WHO), a specialized agency of the UN, works to improve global health by providing leadership on health issues, setting standards and coordinating responses to health emergencies.
- Encourage scientific cooperation and the use of technology for sustainable development. The United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO) promotes industrialization, innovation and technology transfer in developing countries.
- The UN Refugees Agency (UNHCR) protects and assists refugees and internally displaced persons, providing them with shelter, healthcare and other essential services.

Qn. Identify areas of ongoing crises/ conflicts in Africa today.

This include;

- Democratic Republic of Congo DRC. Has been plagued by armed conflicts involving various rebel groups, militias, and neighboring countries. These are due to competition over resources, ethnic tensions and political instabilities.
- South Sudan. Since gaining independence in 2011, they have experienced civil wars characterised by ethnic violence, power struggle, and economic challenges.
- Somalia. Has been grappling with political instabilities too, terrorism and clan-based conflicts. The presence of the Al-Shabaab, an Islamist extremist group has further exacerbated the situation leading to violence and insecurity.

- Nigeria. The northeastern part of Nigeria has been severely affected by the Boko Haram insurgency since 2009. The Boko Haram seeks to establish an Islamic state and have carried out numerous attacks resulting to displacements and humanitarian crises.
- Mali. Has forced a complex crisis involving armed groups, ethnic tensions, and political instabilities. This worsened in 2012 when the Islamist militant groups took control of the northern part of the country. although a peace agreement was signed in 2015, violence and insecurity persist.
- Libya. Following the overthrow of Muammar Ghaddafi in 2011, Libya descended into chaos and has since been plagued by armed conflicts involving various factions, militias and foreign intervention. The power vacuum has allowed extremists hence leading to humanitarian needs.
- Central African Republic (CAR). Experienced recurring cycles of violence and instabilities. This are often along religious and ethnic lines.

Qn. Discuss mechanisms through which East African countries can avoid crises/ conflicts from occurring.

- Taking part in political sensitizations.
- Having democracy and the rule of law.
- Promoting regional integration and cooperation so as to foster economic interdependence and reduce the likelihood of conflicts.
- Proper management of the natural resources such as land, water and minerals.
- Establishing transparency and equitable resource sharing mechanisms that prevent conflicts arising from competition over scarce resources.
- Providing quality education and accessible healthcare services hence contributing to long term stability. Education promotes critical thinking, tolerance and understanding while healthcare improves the well-being of the citizens.
- Promoting good governance and accountability. This involve establishing strong institutions, promoting the rule of law and combating corruption.
- Fostering economic growth and reducing poverty are essential for stability. This is by government focusing on creating job opportunities, improving infrastructure and diversifying the economy.
- Ensuring equal rights and opportunities for all citizens, regardless of ethnicity, religion and gender. This promotes dialogues and addresses historical grievances hence preventing conflicts rooted in identity.
- Investing in conflict prevention mechanisms. This include early warning systems, mediation and diplomacy.
- Strengthening the regional organizations like the East African Community (EAC) and supporting peacebuilding initiatives to help resolve disputes peacefully.
- Taking part in collaborative efforts to combat transnational threats such as terrorism, organized crimes and illicit arms trafficking. These efforts also help to prevent conflicts and maintain stability.

The contribution of the UN in peace and development in Uganda

(Activity 5;3 fountain)

Qn. Explain how the UN has contributed to the peace and development (well-being) of Uganda

Uganda is one of the members of the UN having joined the organisation in 1962. Since independence, Uganda has witnessed political and economic instabilities that saw the beginning of several UN development and humanitarian agencies operations in Uganda.

- The UN has expanded to include development programs through financial and humanitarian support.
- The UN has provided capacity building and technical support to address a wide range of development challenges including health, education, human rights and gender.
- The World Health Organisation (WHO) under the UN has also supported the immunization campaign and the fight against preventable diseases like malaria and HIV/AIDS.
- The UN agencies have also supported the economic and political empowerment of women to participate in development and human rights.
- The UNICEF has assisted the government in the areas of children's rights, their survival and development with focus on increased access to education.
- The UN supported Uganda during the northern insurgency by providing humanitarian assistance and support to the displaced people.
- After the insurgency, the UN supported the recovery programs for the people of northern Uganda like in land recoveries, food supply, safe water facilities etc.
- The UN has contributed to support Uganda which host a number of refugees from the neighbouring countries of South Sudan and DRC.
- It has also worked with government to develop and fund district development plans in refugee-hosting districts.
- The UN has supported Uganda's peace keeping operations. Uganda has contributed to UN peacemaking operations in Libya, Liberia, Somalia, Congo, South Sudan etc. by providing troops, police, prison officers and civilian experts.

The UN and Human Rights in Uganda

(Activity 5;4 fountain)

Qn. Identify the human rights violations that are common in Uganda today.

- Unlawful killings and tortures by the security forces.
- Harsh prison conditions.
- Arbitrary detention/ arrests.
- Instances of restrictions on freedom of expression including censorship of media, harassments.
- Intimidation of journalists, activists and opposition members.
- Peaceful protests and gatherings have been met with excessive use of force by security the forces.

- Counter terrorism operations.
- Discrimination and violence against marginalized groups e.g. the LGBT community face discrimination, social stigma and violence.
- Violations of women's rights like in sexual harassments and child marriages.
- Human trafficking.
- Land rights violations.
- Forced labor.

Qn. Explain the causes of human rights violations you have identified.

- Restrictions on freedoms of press, expression and political participations.
- Limited democratic space that is to say too much dictatorial tendencies.
- Too many armed conflicts and riots.
- Ethnic and tribal conflicts.
- Economic factors like poverty, unemployment among others.
- Psychological factors like drugs, depression etc.
- Lack of awareness and education amongst some of the people.
- Authoritarian/ dictatorial regimes and oppressive governments.
- Discrimination and inequalities based on race, gender, religion, among others also tend to cause human rights violation.
- Corruption and impunity. This is when those who violate human right are not being punished.
- Cultural and social norms also may clash with the universal human rights standards. This include practices like early child marriages, female genital mutilation etc.

Qn. In groups, discuss how the UN has helped in overcoming Human rights violations

The UN is the custodian of human rights in the world under the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of 1948. The UN human rights operations in Uganda are run by the UN Human Rights Office in Uganda which was established in 2005 to protect and promote human rights in the conflict affected areas of northern Uganda and Karamoja.

The following are some of the contributions of the UN in Uganda;

- Advocated for human rights awareness and protection. This is through building the capacity to monitor and report on human rights activities and provide information to authorities to take appropriate and timely actions.
- It has also improved capacity to nationals, national human right institutions, civil society and individuals to contribute to improved reporting mechanisms on human related issues.
- The Un office has also supported the electoral process in Uganda by supporting all actions and intensions of widening the democratic space. This is because Uganda's electoral process is full of political tensions that often result in violence and loss of lives.
- The UN has also come I to train other stakeholders like the civil society organizations and journalists to contribute and report human rights violations during elections.
- Support the Uganda Human Rights Commission (UHRC) in fighting impunity and promoting accountability of the rule of law. This is through coming up with regulations on the prevention and prohibition of torture.

- Has supported the training of traditional elders, youth and women leaders on the prevention and prohibition of torture within their traditional institutions especially in the areas of West Nile Region.
- Have also taken part in direct military interventions and mediations hence avoiding the abuse of human rights through wars or conflicts.
- Also promoted human education and awareness through various initiatives like supporting educational programs, campaigns and training activities to enhance understanding and respect for human rights.
- The UN also establish working groups to focus on specific thematic areas, such as arbitrary detention, enforced disappearances or the rights of indigenous people.
- Deployed peacekeeping missions to conflict-affected regions to protect civilians and uphold human rights.

Sample activity of integration

The government of Uganda and the Democratic Republic of Congo have tried to restore peace and order in eastern Congo. Cases of human rights violations and organised crime caused by various opposing groups are still evident. As a result, there is a large refugee crisis which is affecting local communities in western Uganda.

Various efforts are needed by the leaders in the affected areas to help the refugees.

Task

As the Resident District Commissioner (RDC) in the border town, prepare a written speech to enlighten the community on the measures to be put in place to deal with the situation.

Chapter 6

THE EVOLUTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN UGANDA