



# LAST MINUTE PRELIMS RECKONER 2025

UNITED NATIONS

# UNITED NATIONS

## ABOUT:

- The United Nations is an international organization founded in 1945.
- In 1945, **representatives of 50 countries** met in **San Francisco** at the United Nations Conference on International Organization to draw up the United Nations Charter.
- The UN officially came into existence on **24 October 1945**.
- Currently, it is made up of 193 Member States.
- The UN is headquartered on **international territory in New York City**, with its other main offices in Geneva, Nairobi, Vienna and The Hague.

## Objectives of the UN

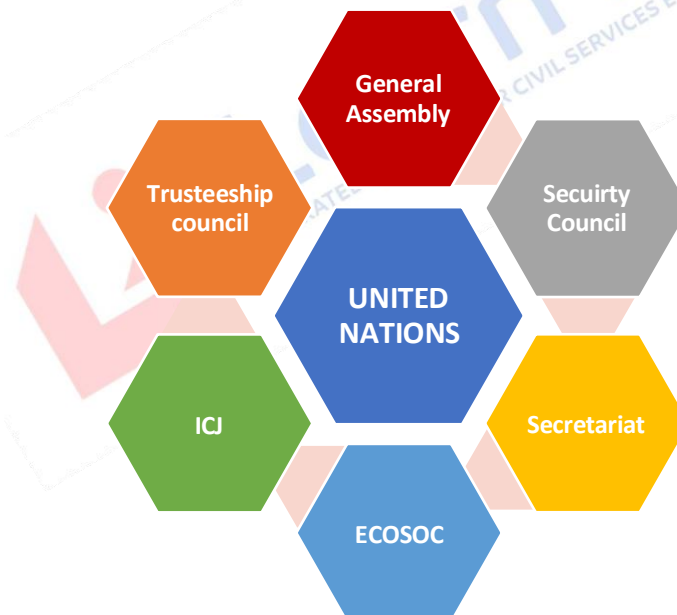
Maintain international peace and security

Develop friendly relations amongst the nations

Achieve international cooperation to solve international issues of social, economic, cultural or humanitarian nature

Be a centre to harmonize the actions of the state to accomplish these common goals

## MAIN BODIES:



## I. GENERAL ASSEMBLY:

- ✓ It is the main deliberative, policymaking and representative organ of the UN.
- ✓ **All 193 Member States of the UN are represented** in the General Assembly, making it the only UN body with universal representation.
- ✓ **Each year, in September, the** full UN membership meets in the General Assembly Hall in New York for the annual General Assembly session.
- ✓ Decisions on important questions, such as those on peace and security, admission of new members and budgetary matters, require a **two-thirds majority** of the General Assembly.
- ✓ Decisions on other questions are by **simple majority**.

## II. SECURITY COUNCIL:

- ✓ The Security Council has primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security. All Member States are obligated to comply with Council decisions.
- ✓ **It has 15 Members:**
  - **5 permanent:** China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United States
  - **10 non-permanent:** Elected for two-year terms by the General Assembly
- ✓ Each member has one vote.
- ✓ The council's function includes:
  - Determining the **existence of a threat** to the peace or act of aggression.
  - **Call upon the parties to a dispute to settle it** by peaceful means and recommends methods of adjustment or terms of settlement.
  - Resort to **imposing sanctions** or even authorize the use of force to maintain or restore international peace and security.

## III. SECRETARIAT:

- ✓ **Comprises the Secretary-General and international UN staff members**
- ✓ Carries out the day-to-day work of the UN as mandated by the General Assembly and the Organization's other principal organs.
- ✓ The **Secretary-General is chief administrative officer, appointed by the General Assembly** on the recommendation of the Security Council for a **five-year, renewable term**.

## IV. ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL:

- ✓ The ECOSOC is the principal body for coordination, policy review, policy dialogue and recommendations on economic, social and environmental issues, as well as implementation of internationally agreed development goals.
- ✓ It has **54 Members, elected by the General Assembly for overlapping three-year terms**.

## V. INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE:

- ✓ ICJ is the **principal judicial organ** of the United Nations.
- ✓ Its seat is at the **Peace Palace in the Hague** (Netherlands). It is the only one of the six principal organs of the United Nations **not located in New York**.
- ✓ The Court's role is to settle, in accordance with international law, legal disputes submitted to it by States and to give advisory opinions on legal questions referred to it by authorized UN organs and specialized agencies.

### INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT (ICC)

- ✓ Governed by an international treaty called '**The Rome Statute**', the ICC is the world's first permanent international criminal court.
- ✓ It investigates and, where warranted, tries individuals charged with the gravest crimes of concern to the international community: genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity and the crime of aggression.
- ✓ It is seated in The Hague, Netherlands
- ✓ Unlike the International Court of Justice, the ICC is legally independent from the United Nations.
- ✓ India has neither signed nor ratified the Rome Statute.

**VI. TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL:**

- ✓ The Trusteeship Council was established to provide international supervision for 11 Trust Territories and ensure that adequate steps were taken to prepare the Territories for self-government and independence.
- ✓ By 1994, all Trust Territories had attained self-government or independence. **Hence, the Trusteeship Council suspended operation in November 1994.**

**FUNDS AND PROGRAMMES:**

- ✓ The funds and programmes are established by a resolution of the UN General Assembly and have a focused mandate.
- ✓ They are funded either mainly or entirely **through voluntary contributions**.
- ✓ Coordination is facilitated through ECOSOC and the Chief Executives Board (CEB)

**I. United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)**

- ✓ Headquarters: **New York City, USA**
- ✓ The UNDP works towards eradicate poverty, reduce inequalities and build resilience so countries can sustain progress.
- ✓ UNDP plays a critical role in helping countries achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

**II. United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)**

- ✓ Headquarters: **Nairobi, Kenya**
- ✓ UNEP acts as a catalyst, advocate, educator and facilitator to promote the wise use and sustainable development of the global environment.

**III. UN-HABITAT**

- ✓ Headquarters: **Nairobi, Kenya**
- ✓ The mission of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT) is to promote socially and environmentally sustainable human settlements development and the achievement of **adequate shelter for all**.

**IV. United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)**

- ✓ Headquarters: **New York City, USA**
- ✓ UNFPA is the United Nations sexual and reproductive health agency

**V. United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)**

- ✓ Headquarters: **New York City, USA**
- ✓ The UNICEF works to save children's lives, to defend their rights, and to help them fulfil their potential, from early childhood through adolescence.

**VI. World Food Programme**

- ✓ Headquarters: **Rome, Italy**
- ✓ The world's largest humanitarian agency, the WFP aims to eradicate hunger and malnutrition.
- ✓ The WFP was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2020.

**UN SPECIALIZED AGENCIES:**

- ✓ The UN specialized agencies are autonomous international organizations working with the United Nations.
- ✓ They were brought into relationship with the UN through negotiated agreements.
- ✓ They are independent international organizations **funded by both voluntary and assessed contributions**.

**I. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)**

- ✓ Headquarters: **Rome, Italy**
- ✓ The FAO leads international efforts to fight hunger.
- ✓ It is both a forum for negotiating agreements between developing and developed countries and a source of technical knowledge and information to aid development.

**II. International Labour Organization (ILO)**

- ✓ Headquarters: Geneva, Switzerland
- ✓ The ILO promotes international labour rights by formulating international standards on the freedom to associate, collective bargaining, the abolition of forced labor, and equality of opportunity and treatment.

**III. International Monetary Fund (IMF)**

- ✓ Headquarters: Washington, DC, USA
- ✓ The IMF fosters economic growth and employment by providing temporary financial assistance to countries to help ease balance of payments adjustment and technical assistance.

**IV. WORLD BANK**

- ✓ Headquarters: Washington, DC, USA
- ✓ The World Bank focuses on poverty reduction and the improvement of living standards worldwide by providing low-interest loans, interest-free credit, and grants to developing countries for education, health, infrastructure, and communications, among other things.
- ✓ It consists:
  - International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD)
  - International Development Association (IDA)
  - International Finance Corporation (IFC)
  - International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID)\*
  - Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA)\*

\* ICSID and MIGA are not specialized agencies in accordance with Articles 57 and 63 of the Charter, but are part of the World Bank Group.

**V. United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)**

- ✓ Headquarters: Paris, France
- ✓ The UNESCO focuses on everything from teacher training to helping improve education worldwide to protecting important historical and cultural sites around the world.

**VI. World Health Organisation (WHO)**

- ✓ Headquarters: Geneva, Switzerland
- ✓ The World Health Organization is the directing and coordinating authority on international health within the United Nations system.

**VII. World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)**

- ✓ Headquarters: Geneva, Switzerland
- ✓ The WIPO protects intellectual property throughout the world through 23 international treaties.

**VIII. International Telecommunication Union (ITU)**

- ✓ Headquarters: Geneva, Switzerland
- ✓ The ITU is the UN's specialized agency for information and communication technologies.

**IX. World Meteorological Organization (WMO)**

- ✓ Headquarters: Geneva, Switzerland
- ✓ The WMO facilitates the free international exchange of meteorological data and information and the furtherance of its use in aviation, shipping, security, and agriculture, among other things.

**X. OTHERS:**

- ✓ **International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)**, with headquarters in Montreal, Canada
- ✓ **International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)**, with headquarters in Rome, Italy
- ✓ **International Maritime Organization (IMO)**, with headquarters in London, UK
- ✓ **World Tourism Organization**, with headquarters in Madrid, Spain
- ✓ **United Nations Industrial Development Organization**, with headquarters in Vienna, Austria
- ✓ **Universal Postal Union**, with headquarters in Bern, Switzerland.