

WHAT IS THE “UNITED NATIONS”?

UNITED NATIONS

- Founded on **OCTOBER 24, 1945**.
- Came into existence after the charter ratified by: China, France, the Soviet Union, the United Kingdom, the United States, and by a majority of other signatories.
- Current Secretary-General: **ANTÓNIO GUTERRES** (9th)

SAN FRANCISCO CONFERENCE

- FIFTY (50) na bansa ang nagpulong sa San Francisco, California, noong ika-25 ng Abril hanggang ika-26 ng Hunyo, 1945 sa **United Nations Conference on International Organization**.
- Dito, naaprubahan ang *charter* na nagdedeklara ng pagkakatatag ng *United Nations* noong ika-24 ng Oktubre, 1945, na tinatawag na **United Nations Day**.

LEAGUE OF NATIONS – bago itinatag ang UN, ang *League of Nations* ang samahan na itinatag noong 1919 matapos ang Unang Digmaang Pandaigdig (WWI), sa ilalim ng **TREATY OF VERSAILLES**.

- Noong ika-20 ng Abril, 1946, nagwakas ang League of Nations at isinuko ang mga *assets* sa United Nations.

FRANKLIN D. (DELANO) ROOSEVELT – siya ang nagbigay ng pangalang “*United Nations*” at isa sa mga *proponent* nito sa pagkakatatag matapos ang Ikalawang Digmaang Pandaigdig.

SIX MAIN BODIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS

1. **GENERAL ASSEMBLY (UNGA)** – one of the six principal organs of the United Nations serving as its main deliberative, policymaking, and representative organ. Currently in **80th session**.

- There are **193 MEMBER-STATES** represented in the United Nations General Assembly.
- There are **two** permanent non-member states with observer status which are:
 - The Holy See (Vatican City)
 - State of Palestine

2. **SECURITY COUNCIL (SC)** – the UN’s principal organ responsible for maintaining peace & security. It is also responsible for investigating disputes and enforcing economic sanctions to military actions. In total, this has **15 Members** with one vote each.

- **5 Permanent Members:** China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United States.
- **10 Non-Permanent Members:** Algeria, Denmark, Greece, Guyana, Pakistan, Panama, Republic of Korea, Sierra Leone, Slovenia, Somalia.
- The current presidency of the Security Council as of October 2025 is the **Russian Federation (Russia)**

3. **ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL (ECOSOC)** – 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.
 - This council has **54 MEMBERS** elected by the General Assembly for overlapping three-year terms.

4. **TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL (UNTC)** – provide international supervision for 11 Trust Territories that had been placed under the administration of seven Member States, and ensure that adequate steps were taken to prepare the Territories for self-government and independence.
 - The latest member that joined UN from a trust territory is **PALAU**.

5. **INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE** – 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 (United States of America). 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 United Nations organs and specialized agencies.
6. **SECRETARIAT** – comprises the **Secretary-General and tens of thousands of international UN staff members** who carry out the day-to-day work of the UN as mandated by the General Assembly and the Organization's other principal bodies.

THE UN SECRETARY-GENERAL

The **Secretary-General** is Chief Administrative Officer of the Organization, appointed by the General Assembly on the recommendation of the Security Council for a **five-year, renewable term**.

CURRENT: **ANTÓNIO GUTERRES** (since January 1, 2017)

LIST OF PREVIOUS:

- **Ban Ki-moon (Republic of Korea)** who served from January 2007 to December 2016;
- **Kofi Annan (Ghana)** who held office from January 1997 to December 2006;
- **Boutros Boutros-Ghali (Egypt)**, who held office from January 1992 to December 1996;
- **Javier Pérez de Cuéllar (Peru)**, who served from January 1982 to December 1991;
- **Kurt Waldheim (Austria)**, who held office from January 1972 to December 1981;
- **U Thant (Burma, now Myanmar)**, who served from November 1961, when he was appointed acting Secretary-General (he was formally appointed Secretary-General in November 1962) to December 1971;

- **Dag Hammarskjöld (Sweden)**, who served from April 1953 until his death in a plane crash in Africa in September 1961; and
- **TRYGVE LIE (NORWAY)**, who held office from February 1946 to his resignation in November 1952.

Trygve Lie is the first UN Secretary General.

ATLANTIC CHARTER – a joint declaration of principles after World War II, issued in August 14, 1941 by:

- U.S. President **Franklin D. Roosevelt**, and British Prime Minister **Winston Churchill**.

UN CHARTER – the official founding document of the United Nations signed on **June 26, 1945** and ratified October 24, 1945:

- Signed by **50 COUNTRIES** in San Francisco
- Poland, which was not represented, signed it later and is the 51st of the original countries who signed it.

OFFICIAL LANGUAGES OF THE UN:

- Arabic
- Chinese
- English
- French
- Russian
- Spanish

HEADQUARTERS OF THE UN: New York, USA, since 1952.

OTHER INFORMATION

LOUISE FRECHETTE – first woman appointed to the post of Deputy-Secretary-General of the UN in 1999.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS – these are 17 goals adopted by the UN in 2015, aimed for 2030 agenda that are for the peace and prosperity for people and the planet.

1. No Poverty	2. Zero Hunger	3. Good Health & Wellbeing
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4. Quality Education	5. Gender Equality	6. Clean Water and Sanitation
7. Affordable and Clean Energy	8. Decent Work and Economic Growth	9. Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure
10. Reduced Inequalities	11. Sustainable Cities & Communities	12. Responsible Consumption and Production
13. Climate Action	14. Life Below Water	15. Life on Land
16. Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions	17. Partnerships for the Goals	

CARLOS P. ROMULO – the first Asian to serve as the president of the UN General Assembly (1949).

FIVE MAIN OBJECTIVES/AIMS OF THE UN:

- Maintain international peace & security
- Protect human rights
- Deliver humanitarian aid
- Support sustainable development and climate action
- Uphold international law.