

# TARGET PRELIMS 2024

## BOOKLET-31

### INTERNATIONAL BODIES-1

#### Table of Contents

<b>1. United Nations (UN): Background .....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>2. Six Main/Principal Organs of UN.....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>1) The UN General Assembly (UNGA) .....</b>	<b>1</b>
A) Elections of the President and Vice-Presidents .....	2
A) Credentials Committee .....	3
B) Various Important Resolutions of UNGA .....	3
C) UNGA votes to suspend Russia from Human Rights Council (April 2022) .....	5
<b>2) The UN Security Council (UNSC).....</b>	<b>5</b>
A) Demands for Reforms and Expansion at UNSC.....	6
B) G-4 countries.....	6
C) Coffee Club /Uniting for Consensus.....	6
D) Africa Group.....	7
E) L69.....	7
F) Reforms are difficult because of stringent provisions .....	7
G) UN Secretary General (Appointment Process).....	7
H) India's Non Permanent Membership (2021-2022) – 8 <sup>th</sup> Occasion.....	7
I) While Participating in the Inter-Governmental Negotiation on Security Council Reform (IGN) in March 2024, India has presented a detailed model on behalf of the G4 nations (G4 model) for Security Council reform .....	8
J) UNSC Sanctions.....	8
K) UNSC Counter-Terrorism Committee (UNSC-CTC).....	9
<b>3) The Trusteeship Council .....</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>4) Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) .....</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>5) The International Court of Justice (ICJ) .....</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>6) The Secretariat.....</b>	<b>12</b>

## 1. UNITED NATIONS (UN): BACKGROUND

- The UN has its origin in 1920 **League of Nations** (founded as a result of Paris peace conference that ended the first world war to keep the world away from war and also promote disarmament).
- Franklin D Roosevelt **used UN to describe the allied powers of WW2**.
- **Atlantic Charter** was a policy statement during WW-II, issued on 14th Aug 1941. It defined the allied goals for the post-war world. The leaders of UK and US drafted the work, and all the allies of the WW-II later signed it.
  - » The Adherents of the Atlantic Charter signed the **Declaration by United Nations** between 1942-45, which became the basis for the Modern United Nations.
- The UN is based on the principle of collective security - one for all and all for one - joint action to prevent attack against the international order.

## 2. SIX MAIN/PRINCIPAL ORGANS OF UN

### 1) THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY (UNGA)

- The general assembly is the main deliberative organ of UN and is composed of representatives of all member States. The work of the UN year around is largely derived from the mandates given by the General Assembly.
- It was established by the UN Charter in 1945.
- **Functions and Powers**
  - » **Forum for Multilateral Negotiation**
    - It occupies a central position as the chief deliberative, policymaking, and representative organ of the UN.
    - It consists of **all 193 members of UN** and provides a unique forum for multilateral discussion.
    - It plays an important role in the process of the standard setting and the codification of International Law.
    - It is the **only UN Organ** in which all members have equal representation.
- **Other Functions and Powers:**
  - » According to charter of the UN, the general assembly may
    - **Approve the budget of UN**.
    - **Elect the non-permanent members of the security council and members of other united nation councils and organs** and, on the recommendation of security council appoint the Secretary General.
    - Consider and make recommendations on the general principles of cooperation for maintaining international peace and security, including disarmament.
    - Discuss any question related to international peace and security and except, where a dispute or situation is currently being discussed in the Security Council, make recommendations on it.

- Initiate studies and make recommendations to promote international political cooperation, the development and codification of international law, the realization of human rights and fundamental freedoms, international collaboration in the economic, social, humanitarian, cultural, educational, and health fields.
  - **Consider reports from security council and other UN Organs**
- » The assembly may also act in cases of a threat to the peace, breach of peace or act of aggression, when the security council has failed to act owing to negative vote of permanent member. In such instances, the assembly may consider the matter immediately and **recommend to its members collective measures** to maintain or restore international peace and security.
- **Meetings**
  - » Assembly meets in regular session intensively from September to December each year, and thereafter as required.
- **Types of Majorities to reach a decision.**
  - » Each of the 193 Member states in the assembly has one vote.
    - **Requirement of 2/3rd majority vs Simple Majority:** Votes taken on designated important issues such as recommendations on peace and security, the election of security council and Economic and Social council members, and budgetary questions - require a 2/3rd majority of member states, but other questions are decided by simple majority.
  - » **Search for consensus:** In recent years, an effort has been made to achieve consensus on issues, rather than deciding by a formal vote, thus strengthening support for the Assembly's decisions.
- **Observers**
  - » Non-member states which are members of one or more specialized organizations of UN, regional and international organizations have received a standing invitation to participate as observers in the sessions and the work of general assembly.
    - **Non-member States and Entities**
      - Holy See
      - State of Palestine
    - **International Organizations**
      - Many organizations like African Union, European Union, Caribbean Community (CARICOM), International Criminal Court, International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), League of Arab etc.
- **Some Criticisms of UNGA**
  - » One state - one vote ->merely 8% of the people can pass a resolution.
- **Other Facts for Prelims**

## A) ELECTIONS OF THE PRESIDENT AND VICE-PRESIDENTS

- As per Rules of Procedure of UN, the UNGA shall elect a President and 21 vice Presidents atleast 3 months before the opening of the session.

---

## A) CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE

- A Credential Committee is appointed at the beginning of each regular session of the General assembly. It consists of 9 members, who are appointed by the General Assembly on the proposal of the President.
- The committee reports to the assembly on the credentials of representatives.
- **Structure and Functions:**
  - » The credentials of representatives and the names of members of the delegation of each member state are submitted to secretary general and are issued either by the Head of the State or Government or by the Minister of Foreign Affairs. (Rule 27 of the Rules of Procedure of the General Assembly)
  - » The Committee is mandated to examine the credentials of representatives of Member States and to report to the General Assembly thereon (Rule 28 of the Rules of Procedure of the General Assembly)
  - » Special and emergency special sessions of the General Assembly as well as conferences convened under its auspices also appoint a Credential Committee having the same composition as that of the Credential Committee as its most recent regular session.

---

## B) VARIOUS IMPORTANT RESOLUTIONS OF UNGA

### INDIA VOTES IN FAVOR OF UNGA RESOLUTION THAT EXPRESSES DEEP CONCERN OVER ISRAEL NOT WITHDRAWING FROM SYRIAN GOLAN (NOV 2023)

- The 193 member UNGA voted on the draft resolution "The Syrian Golan" under agenda item 'The situation in the Middle East' on Nov 28.
  - » The resolution said it is deeply concerned that Israel has not withdrawn from the Syrian Golan, which has been under occupation since 1967, contrary to the relevant Security Council and General Assembly resolutions.
  - » It also declared that Israel failed to comply with security council resolution 497 (1981), which decided that "the Israeli decision to impose its laws, jurisdictions and administration in the occupied Syrian Golan Heights is null and void and without international legal effect".
- The resolution was introduced by Egypt, and was adopted by recorded vote with 91 in favor, eight against and 62 abstentions.
- **Note:** Syrian Golan is a region in southwest Syria that was occupied by Israeli forces in June 1967

---

### INDIA ABSTAINED FROM VOTING ON UNGA RESOLUTION THAT CALLED FOR HUMANITARIAN TRUCE AND CEASEFIRE IN GAZA (OCT 2023)

- The resolution, titled the "Protection of civilians and upholding legal and humanitarian obligations", proposed by Jordan on behalf of the Arab League and co-sponsored by about 40 countries, was passed in the UNGA on 27th October with 120 votes in favor, 14 including the US and UK against, and 45 abstentions, including India.
- **Reasons given by India:** The resolution didn't include "explicit condemnation" of the 7th of Oct terror attacks on Israel.

#### UNGA HAS ADOPTED A DRAFT RESOLUTION INTRODUCED BY INDIA TO ESTABLISH A MEMORIAL WALL IN THE UN HEADQUARTERS TO HONOUR FALLEN PEACEKEEPERS (JUNE 2023)

- The resolution introduced by India was titled 'Memorial wall for fallen UN peacekeepers'.
- It was co-sponsored by nearly 190 UN members and was adopted by consensus.

#### GLOBAL TOURISM RESILIENCE DAY: 17TH FEB

- UNGA Resolution 77/269 (Adopted in Feb 2023)
- The resolution decides to proclaim **17th Feb** as Global Tourism Resilience Day, to be observed annually.
- It aims to emphasize the need to foster resilient tourism development to deal with shocks, taking into account the vulnerability of the tourism sector to emergencies.

#### INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR PREVENTION OF VIOLENT EXTREMISM AS AND WHEN CONDUCIVE TO TERRORISM: 12TH FEB

- **UNGA Resolution 77/243**
- The resolution has declared **12th Feb** as the **International Day for the Prevention of Violent Extremism** as and when conducive to terrorism, in order to raise awareness of the threats linked to violent extremism as and when conducive to terrorism and to enhance international cooperation in this regard.
- The resolution reaffirmed that terrorism and violent extremism as and when conducive to terrorism can't and shouldn't be associated with any religion, nationality, civilization and ethnic group.

#### UNGA DECLARES ACCESS TO CLEAN AND HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT AS UNIVERSAL HUMAN RIGHTS

- The resolution demonstrates that the member states can come together in a collective fight against the triple planetary crisis of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution.
- It will help reduce environmental injustices, close protecting gaps and empower people, especially those that are in vulnerable situations, including environmental human right defenders, children, youth, women, and indigenous peoples.
- **Note:** A similar text was adopted by UN Human Rights Council in 2021.

#### UN DECLARES MARCH 15 AS THE INTERNATIONAL DAY TO COMBAT ISLAMOPHOBIA (MARCH 2022)

- In March 2022, a resolution proclaiming 15 March as the International Day to Combat Islamophobia was unanimously adopted by the UNGA.
- The resolution was introduced by Pakistan on behalf of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC).
- The text called for expanded international efforts to create a global dialogue that will encourage tolerance and peace centered on respect for human rights and the diversity of religions and beliefs.
- **India's stand:**
  - India raised concerns over phobia against one religion being raised to the level of an international day, saying that there are growing contemporary forms of religiophobia, especially anti-Hindu, anti-Buddhism and anti-Sikh.

### C) UNGA VOTES TO SUSPEND RUSSIA FROM HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL (APRIL 2022)

- The General Assembly has the **right to suspend the rights of membership in the council of any member** that commits gross and systematic violation of human rights. This process requires **2/3rd Majority** vote (of those present and voting) by the General Assembly.
- In April 2022, the resolution, '**Suspension of the rights of membership of the Russian Federation in the HRC**' was proposed by a group of countries that included Ukraine, the US, the EU, several Latin American countries and required 2/3rd majority of those present and voting for adoption.
  - » **Note:** Abstentions don't count in the tally of those 'present and voting'.
- UNGA voted, **93 to 24, with 58 abstentions**, including **India**, to adopt the resolution suspending Moscow from the UNHRC.
  - » **India** abstained for reasons of "substance and process". Some countries including India were of the view that adopting the resolution would violate due process and impact the credibility of the organization.

## 2) THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL (UNSC)

- **Introduction**
  - » It is one of the six principal organs of UN. It is primarily responsible for maintenance of international peace and security.
    - It achieves this through investigating any dispute which may lead to international friction, regulating armament, peace keeping operations, international sanctions, and authorization of military actions.
  - » The Security Council has a special place among the UN organs as it is the **only organ that has the powers to take binding decisions** that member states have agreed to carry out (Article 25 of UN Charter).
  - » Other crucial functions of UNSC include recommending admission of new members to UN and to recommend to the general assembly the appointment of secretary general and together with the assembly, elect the **judges of the ICJ**.
- **Membership:** The UNSC consists of **15 members**.
  - » Of these **5 members are permanent with veto powers** (USA, UK, France, Russia and China) and **remaining 10 are non-permanent members** who are elected by UNGA (at least 2/3rd votes) on

a regional basis to serve a **term of two years**. **Five non-permanent members** are elected every year.

- **Regional Groups from which non-permanent members come:**
  - » African group - 54 - 3
  - » Asia-Pacific group - 53 - 2
  - » Eastern European - 23 - 1
  - » Latin America and Caribbean - 33 - 2
  - » Western European and other groups - 28 - 2
- **Elections:** NP members chosen by regional groups - confirmed by UNGA.
  - A member country needs to secure the votes of **2/3rd of the members present and voting** at the General Assembly session (i.e., minimum 129 votes if all 193 member states participate)
  - **India** has so far been a non-permanent member of the UNSC **eight time**: 1950-51, 1967-68, 1972-73, 1977-78, 1984-85, 1991-92, 2011-12 and 2021-22.
- UNSC members are always present at UNHQ to meet at any time.
- **Presidency** held for a month by a member on rotational basis of English alphabet.

---

#### A) DEMANDS FOR REFORMS AND EXPANSION AT UNSC

- **Need of Reform:** Undemocratic; anachronistic; inequitable economic and geographical representation; unfair regional distribution; Weapon exporting countries at the helm; P5 involved in lots of conflict etc.
- **Demands for reforms on 5 key issues.**
  - Categories of membership
  - Veto power.
  - Regional representation
  - Size of the enlarged council and its working methods
  - Security council general assembly relationship

---

#### B) G-4 COUNTRIES

**They are bidding for permanent membership of UNSC.**

- **Germany** - among the largest contributors to UN, most well-functioning economy of Europe
- **Japan**
  - One of the largest contributors
  - Behaved impeccably in international forums since the UN got formed in 1945
- **Brazil** - 5th largest territory, most suitable to represent South American continent
- **India** - 2nd largest population
  - Largest average contributor to UN Peace Keeping force

---

#### C) COFFEE CLUB /UNITING FOR CONSENSUS

- Italy, Spain, Argentina, Canada, Mexico, South Korea and Pakistan
- Opposed to G-4 becoming permanent members with a veto power
- Favors expansion of the non-permanent seats with regional representation.



---

#### D) AFRICA GROUP

- Demands **two permanent seats**, because of historical injustices.
- Council's agenda largely concentrated on the continent.

---

#### E) L69

- It is a group of developing countries from Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, Asia and Pacific (Small Island Developing States). They form a major bloc that is united by the common cause of achieving the lasting and comprehensive reform of the UNSC by expanding both permanent and non-permanent seats.
  - » It currently has 32 members.
- The group derives its name from the draft document number "L.69" that the group had tabled in 2007-08, which led to the initiation of the Intergovernmental Negotiation (IGN) process.
- **Note:** India is a member of the grouping.

---

#### F) REFORMS ARE DIFFICULT BECAUSE OF STRINGENT PROVISIONS

- Reform requires the **agreement of at least two-third of UN member states** and that of all the P-5 members of UNSC enjoying the Veto right.

---

#### G) UN SECRETARY GENERAL (APPOINTMENT PROCESS)

- **How is secretary general chosen?**
  - » Secretary general is appointed by the General Assembly on the recommendation of Security Council.
    - The recommendation of security council should be backed by at least 9/15 votes and no veto by the P-5 countries.
  - » Reappointment of Antonio Guterres:
    - UNSC unanimously recommended his name to UNGA and UNGA appointed Antonio Guterres as the UN Secretary General for a second term beginning Jan 1, 2022, and ending on 31st Dec 2026.
  - » **Note:** There is no term limit applicable to the post, no secretary general has so far been appointed for more than 2 terms.

---

#### H) INDIA'S NON PERMANENT MEMBERSHIP (2021-2022) – 8<sup>TH</sup> OCCASION

- External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar declared India's candidature as non-permanent member of the UNSC for the 2028-29 term.
- **Note:**
  - India has been part of UNSC eight times so far: 1950-1951, 1967-1968, 1972-1973, 1977-1978, 1984-1985, 1991-1992, 2011-2012 and 2021-22.
  - India's last membership (2021-2022) ended on 31st Dec 2022.

---

#### NORMS (NEW ORIENTATION FOR REFORMED MULTILATERAL SYSTEM)

- NORMS was India's overarching mission for its eighth term as a non-permanent member of UNSC.
- In this India was guided by five priorities:



- New Opportunities for Progress, Effective Response to International Terrorism, Reforming Multilateral Systems, Comprehensive Approach to International Peace and Security, and Technology with a human touch".
- India has sought reforms in multilateral systems including **UNSC, IMF, WHO**, and others arguing for a **more inclusive** leadership to make them better as per the changed global realities.

## I) WHILE PARTICIPATING IN THE INTER-GOVERNMENTAL NEGOTIATION ON SECURITY COUNCIL REFORM (IGN) IN MARCH 2024, INDIA HAS PRESENTED A DETAILED MODEL ON BEHALF OF THE G4 NATIONS (G4 MODEL) FOR SECURITY COUNCIL REFORM

- **Security Council Membership increase** from current 15 to 25-26, by adding six permanent members and 4 or 5 non permanent members.
  - **Among six permanent members, two each** are proposed to be from African States, and Asia Pacific States. One from Latin American and Caribbean States; and one from West European and Other States.
    - » The Model says that the member states who should occupy new permanent seats should be decided by the General Assembly in a democratic and inclusive election.
- It also includes flexibility on the veto issue.
  - While the new permanent members would, as a principle, have the same responsibilities and obligations as current members, they shall not exercise the veto until a decision on the matter has been taken during a review.
  - "Nonetheless, we should not allow the veto issue to have a "veto" over the process of Council reform itself. Our proposal is also a gesture of displaying flexibility on the issue for a constructive negotiation".

## J) UNSC SANCTIONS

### Introduction:

- » The Security Council can take action to maintain or restore international peace and security under Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter. **Sanctions measures, under Article 41**, encompass a broad range of enforcement options that do not involve the use of armed force.
- » **Presently**, there are **14 ongoing sanction regimes** which focus on supporting political settlement of conflicts, nuclear-non-proliferation, and counter-terrorism.
- » **Each regime** is administered by a **sanctions committee** chaired by a **non-permanent member** of the Security Council.
  - The committee consist of all members of the UNSC.
- **ISIL (Da'esh) and Al-Qaeda Sanctions Regime:**
  - » The sanction regime was created through **resolution 1267** (in 1999) and was updated by **resolution 1989 (2011)** and **2253 (2015)**. It concerns with Al Qaeda, ISIL and associated individual and groups.
  - » The **sanctions committee** is also known as **1267/1989/2253 ISIL (Da'esh) and Al-Qaida Sanctions Committee**.

- » This committee allows a UN member state to propose **adding of name of terrorist or terror groups to a consolidated list**, maintained by the Committee, that has affiliation to Al Qaeda and ISIS.
  - » **Addition of names to the list results into: An arms ban, A travel embargo and an asset freeze** of the individuals and entities.
  - » Asset freeze means that all member states without delay should freeze the funds and other financial assets or economic resources of designated individuals and entities.
- » **Decision of the committee** is reached by **consensus** -> Thus any member can hold up the decision by raising an objection.
- » **India** has successfully proposed the listing of several terror entities in the past two decades, including Pakistan based Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) and Lashkar-e-Taiba.
  - » The LeT chief, **Hafiz Saeed**, and his deputy, **Zaki-ur-Rahman Lakhvi** were both placed on the list after the 26/11 terrorist attacks in Mumbai.
  - » **In May 2019**, In a huge diplomatic win for India, the UN designated Masood Azhar as a "global terrorist" after China lifted its hold on the proposal to blacklist the Pakistan-based Jaish-e-Mohammed chief, a decade after new Delhi approached the world body for the first time on the issue.
    - Earlier China had kept blocking (4 times) Jaish-e-Mohammed Chief Masood Azhar's inclusion under the ISIL and Al Qaida Sanctions List.
  - » In Jan 2023, the Committee has placed **Abdul Rehman Makki**, a fundraiser and key planner of the Pakistan-based-terrorist outfit Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), on its sanctions list. It was possible after China withdrew its technical hold that it had imposed in June 2022.

IN JUNE 2023, CHINA BLOCKED A PROPOSAL BY INDIA AND THE US TO DESIGNATE LASHKAR-E-TAIBA (LET) TERRORIST SAJID MIR, WANTED FOR HIS INVOLVEMENT IN THE 26/11 MUMBAI TERROR ATTACKS AS A GLOBAL TERRORIST UNDER 1267 SANCTIONS COMMITTEE OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

## K) UNSC COUNTER-TERRORISM COMMITTEE (UNSC-CTC)

### ABOUT UNSC-CTC

- The United Nations Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee (UNSCCT) was **established in 2001** following the 9/11 terrorist attacks in the United States.
- Its mandate is **to monitor the implementation of Security Council Resolution 1373**, which requires all UN member states to take steps to prevent and combat terrorism.
  - » The UNSCCTC is responsible for assessing the capacity of member states to implement measures to prevent and combat terrorism, and for providing technical assistance to countries in need.
  - » It also works to facilitate international cooperation and coordination in the fight against terrorism.
- The Committee **comprises all 15 members of the UNSC**, and it is supported by a Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED), which provides technical assistance and conducts assessments of member states' compliance with Resolution 1373.

### RESOLUTION 1373:

- Resolution 1373 was adopted by UNSC in 2001
- It prevents and suppresses the financing of terrorist acts.
- It criminalizes the wilful provision of collection, by any means, directly or indirectly, of funds by their nationals or in their territories with the intention that the funds should be used to carry out terrorist acts.

### 3) THE TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL

- Made up of P5.
- To promote the advancement of the inhabitants of Trust Territories and their progressive development towards self-government or independence.
- With the independence of **Palau**, a resolution was adopted in 1992 through which the Trusteeship Council amended its rules of procedure to drop the obligation to meet annually and agreed to meet as occasion required.
  - » Its future role and existence remain uncertain.
- Presently there are no trust territories.

### 4) ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL (ECOSOC)

- The ECOSOC is one of the six principal organs of the UN System established by the UN Charter in 1945. It consists of 54 members of the UN elected by General Assembly.
- Responsible for **coordinating the economic, social, and related work of the UN specialized agencies, their functional commissions and five regional commissions.**
- Identifying solutions to international economic, social and health problems
- Facilitating international cultural and educational cooperation
- Encouraging universal respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms
- **Specialized Agencies**
  - » These specialized agencies are **autonomous organizations** working with the United Nations and each other inter alia **through the coordinating machinery of the Economic and Social Council**
    - International Labour Organization (ILO)
    - Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO)
    - United Nation Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
    - World Health Organization (WHO)
    - World Bank Group
      - International Bank for Reconstruction and Development
      - International Development Association
      - International Finance Cooperation
      - Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency
      - International Centre for settlement of Investment Disputes
    - International Monetary Funds (IMF)
    - International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)
    - International Maritime Organization (IMO)
    - International Telecommunication Union (ITU)
    - Universal Postal Union (UPU)

- xi. World Meteorological Organization (WMO)
- xii. World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)
- xiii. International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)
- xiv. United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)
- xv. United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)
- xvi. United Nation Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)
- xvii. United Nation Development Program (UNDP)
- xviii. United Nation Office of Project Services (UNOPS)
- xix. International Narcotics Control Board (INCB)
- xx. United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

## 5) THE INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE (ICJ)

- It is the principal judicial organ of the United Nations (UN).
- **History:** ICJ was established in June 1945 by the charter of the UN and began work in April 1946.
- The **Seat** of the court is at the Peace Palace in The Hague (Netherlands).
  - » Of the six principles organs of the United Nations, it is the only one not located in New York.
- **Role:** The courts role is to settle, in accordance with the international law, legal disputes submitted to it by the states and to give advisory opinions on legal questions referred to it by authorized UN organs and specialized agencies.
- **Structure:**
  - » The court is composed of **15 judges**, who are elected for **terms of office of nine years** by the UNGA and UNSC by absolute majority. 1/3 elected every three years, not more than one national of the same state.
    - Elections requires **2/3rd majority at UNGA** and **9/15 votes at UNSC**.
  - » Its official languages are English and French.
  - » **Ad-hoc judges** - If a party to a contentious case doesn't have one of that party's nationals sitting on the Court, it can select one additional person to sit as a judge on that case only.
- **Jurisdiction**
  - » **Contentious Issues**
    - In contentious cases (adversarial proceedings seeking to settle a dispute), the ICJ produces a binding ruling between states that agree to submit to the ruling of the court. **Only states may be party** in the contentious cases.
      - Individual, corporations, parts of federal states, NGOs, UN organs and self-determination groups are excluded from direct participation in cases, although the court may receive information from public international organizations.
      - This doesn't preclude non-state interests from being the subject of proceedings if one state brings the case against another.
  - » **Advisory Opinion**

- A function of court **only to specialized UN bodies and agencies.** Advisory Opinion is a means by which UN agencies could seek the court's help in deciding complex legal issues that might fall under their respective mandates.
- Only consultative in character but are influential and widely respected.

- **Source of Law**

- International treaties and conventions in force, international custom, general principles of law and judicial decisions and the teachings of the most highly qualified publicists Jurisdiction on Advisory proceedings - are open solely to the five organs of the UN and to 16 specialized agencies of the UN family.

## 6) THE SECRETARIAT

- Day to day work of the organization is done by the secretariat.
- It services other principal organs of the UN and administers the programs and policies laid down by them.
  - » Administering **peace keeping operations**
  - » Mediating international disputes
  - » **Surveying** economic and social trends and problems
  - » **Preparing studies** of human rights and sustainable development and so on.
- It is **organized along the departmental lines**, with each department or office having a distinct area of action and responsibility.
  - » For e.g., Department of Peace Operations (DPO) provides political and executive directions to UN Peacekeeping operations around the world and maintains contact with the security council.
- The Secretariat is **headed by Secretary General**, who is also the de facto spokesperson and leader of the UN. She is appointed by General Assembly on the recommendation of security council for a five-year renewable term.