

## About the United Nations:

- the United Nations was founded in 10/24/1945 in San Francisco, California, in the U.S. after the Dumbarton Oaks Conference which was held in Washington DC, following the failure of the League of Nations in its tasks after World War II. Iraq was a founding member of it.

- The United Nations membership is open to all peace-loving states which accept the obligations of its charter. Currently, the UN has 193 members. The United Nations, due to its unique international character and powers granted to it in its founding Charter, can take action on a wide range of issues.

- Eight Secretary-Generals succeeded on the presidency of the United Nations, most recently, Mr. Ban Ki-moon from South Korea, who took over in 2007 until now.

- The number of official languages of the United Nations is 6 languages (English, Chinese, Arabic, Spanish, French, and Russian).

- The United Nations system is based on six main bodies that altogether constitute a structure called the "United Nations System" and they are:

- 1- General Assembly: the main deliberative organ of the United Nations composed of representatives of all Member States. The work of the United Nations counts throughout the year on a large extent on the mandate granted by the General Assembly. Work is underway on the revitalization of the General Assembly to strengthen its role.

- 2 - Security Council: the main sponsor for the maintenance of international peace and security. The

group concerned with reform of the Security Council carries out a series of meetings since ١٩٩٣ to formulate ideas that include reform of the Security Council in two ways: the increase in membership and working methods reform.

٣ - Trusteeship Council: was established to provide international supervision on (١١) eleven regions covered by the mandate run by seven Member States to ensure that appropriate steps are taken to prepare these regions for autonomy or independence.

٤ - Secretariat General: in charge of various daily work of the UN. It provides services to the other major organs and carries out a variety of functions of different issues such as: Department of Peacekeeping, the survey of economic and social trends, decolonization, and preparing studies on human rights and other issues.

٥ - International Court of Justice: the main judicial body of the UN. Its headquarters is in The Hague, the Netherlands. The court settles disputes between member states and issues advisory opinions to the United Nations and its specialized agencies. Its statute is an integral part of its charter.

٦ - Economic and Social Council: the main body to coordinate the economic and social work, and related work. Voting in it is counted according to simple majority, meaning one vote for each member, Iraq is currently is a member of this council.

## **Iraq and the United Nations:**

- Iraq participated twice in the work of the Security Council as a non-permanent member: the first was in the years ۱۹۵۷-۱۹۵۸, and the second was in ۱۹۷۴ - ۱۹۷۵.
- Iraq's relations with the international community deteriorated over the thirty years before the fall of the former regime because of its foreign policies, which was characterized by waging absurd wars on its neighbors and because of its internal practices like oppressing its people, and as a result Iraq underwent dozens of resolutions adopted under Chapter VII of the UN Charter including comprehensive economic sanctions that led to economic and financial burdens as well as harming Iraq's sovereignty.
- After the fall of the former regime in ۲۰۰۳, Iraq worked with the international community, first of which was the United Nations in order to regain its role as an active and responsible member of the international community.
- Despite that the UN's role in Iraq goes back to ۱۹۵۵, Iraq's relationship with this organization and its specialized affiliate bodies witnessed great development after the fall of the former regime. Iraq contributes mainly in the construction of the new complex of the UN mission (UNAMI) by giving them a land in Baghdad and granted it (\$۲۵) million in ۲۰۱۰ and (\$۲۵) million from its ۲۰۱۱ budget.
- The United Nations has an effective role in Iraq; it implements various projects and programs through cooperation and partnership with the Iraqi government and with civil society organizations and a number of international partners. These projects cover different sectors such as education, water and sanitation, health,

nutrition, housing and shelter, food security, and other areas for development and human rights.

- There are (١٦) UN organizations, programs, agencies and funds working in Iraq (the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the International Labor Organization, the International Organization for Migration (IOM), United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI), UN Development Program, the UN United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), United Nations Fund for Population Program of the United Nations Human Settlements Program, the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), United Nations Development Fund for Women, United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS), World Food Program (WFP) and the World Health Organization.

- The United Nations Assistance Mission in Iraq (UNAMI) was established under UN Security Council Resolution ١٥٠٠ on ١٤/٠٨/٢٠٠٣. It enjoys its mandate basing on the consent of the Iraqi government to provide support, assistance and advice in the light of UN Security Council Resolution No. ١٧٧٠ on ٢٠٠٧ in the areas of (elections, reconciliation, resolve border problems, human rights, humanitarian aid, reconstruction and development). In August ٢٠١٠, the Security Council unanimously adopted Resolution No. ١٩٣٦, which stated that the Special Representative of the Secretary-General of the UN and UNAMI work until ٣١<sup>st</sup> of July ٢٠١١ at the request of the Government of Iraq.

- The United Nations runs the Extended Humanitarian Response Fund through the UN Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. The fund provides quick and flexible funding operations of up to \$٤٠٠,٠٠٠ to national and

international organizations and implements urgent humanitarian activities in Iraq.

## **General Assembly of the United Nations**

The General Assembly is the main representative organ for deliberations and drafting public policy in the United Nations. It consists of all the 193 member states of the UN. The General Assembly forms a unique multilateral forum where the discussion of all international issues covered by the Charter takes place. The General Assembly meets annually in ordinary intensive session that starts in September until December, and afterwards as requested.

It was established in 1945 under the UN Charter. It enjoys a central position as the UN main representative deliberations and public policy making, and a forum for discussions of multilateral discussions for the entire diverse spectrum for the international issues covered by the Charter. It plays an important role in the process of setting standards and codification of international law.

### The functions and powers of the General Assembly

According to the UN Charter, the General Assembly may do the following:

- Consider the general principles of cooperation in the international peace and security keeping, including disarmament, and submit recommendations on these principles.

- Discuss any issue relating to the international peace and security keeping and to submit recommendations thereon, unless the Security Council was discussing a dispute or situation regarding that matter.
- Discuss, with the same exception, any matter ranging within the scope of the Charter or affecting the powers and functions of a UN body and to submit recommendations on those matters.
- Initiate studies and submit recommendations to promote international political cooperation, the development and codification of international law and realization human rights and fundamental freedoms and international cooperation in the economic, social, humanitarian, cultural, educational and health services.
- Submit recommendations for the settlement of any situation that might impair friendly relations among nations in a peaceful way.
- Receive issues from the Security Council and other UN bodies and consider them.
- Consider the UN budget and approve it. Decides funding shares of the member states.
- Elect the non-permanent members of the Security Council and other UN bodies and appoint the Secretary-General on a recommendation from the Security Council.

The General Assembly may also, in accordance to its resolution entitled "United for Peace" adopted in November 1950 (resolution 377 (D-5)), adopt measures if the Security Council fails to act, due to negative vote of a permanent member, in a given case if it sounded like a threat to peace or if there was an act of aggression. Then the Assembly can consider the matter immediately in order to issue recommendations to the members to take

measures to safeguard or restore international peace and security.

Although the General Assembly authority is limited to issuing non-binding recommendations to States on international issues ranging within its competence, the General Assembly has taken - political, economic, humanitarian, social and legal measures that affected the lives of millions of people all over the world. The historic Declaration on the Millennium, which was adopted in 2000, and the final document of the UN World Summit for 2000 reflect the commitment of member states to achieving specific goals to reach peace, security and disarmament along with development and poverty eradication, and protection of human rights and strengthening the rule of law and protect environment and to meet the special needs of Africa, and strengthening the United Nations. Each Member State has one vote in the General Assembly. The approval of two thirds of the member states is required to vote on important issues, such as recommendations on peace and security and the election of the members of the Security Council, the other issues are decided upon a simple majority.

In recent years, special efforts were made to reach a consensus on the issues rather than finalizing them in a formal vote in order to strengthen the decisions of the Assembly. The President of the General Assembly, after consultation with delegations and reaching an agreement with them, can propose the adoption of a resolution without a vote.

## **The six Main Committees of the General Assembly**

- The Committee on Disarmament and International Security (First Committee), which is concerned with disarmament and relevant international security issues.
- Economic and Financial Committee (Second Committee), deals with economic issues.
- Social, Humanitarian and Cultural Committee (Third Committee), which deals with social and humanitarian issues.
- Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee), which deals with a variety of political subjects that are not tackled by the First Committee, as well as dealing with decolonization.
- Administrative and Budgetary Committee (Fifth Committee), which deals with issues relating to the administration and budget of the United Nations.
- Legal Committee (Sixth Committee), which deals with international legal issues.