

There are 15 members in this council. USA, Soviet Union, United Kingdom, France and China are permanent members. The term of membership of the other 10 members is limited to 2 years. The permanent members enjoy veto power. Veto power means that if one member disagrees with a proposal, that proposal would become void. Every member is bound under the charter to accept and carry out the decisions of the Security Council.

The main function of the Security Council is to probe into conflicts that could be a threat to international peace and security and forward proposals to settle them peacefully. Other important functions of the council are imposing economic restrictions and taking military actions if necessary against invaders.

❖ The Economic and Social Council



Fig 8.22 The meeting of Economic and Social Council

There are 54 members in this council. Their term of membership is three years. The main objective of this council is improving economy, culture, education and health of the world community with the help of international community. They have several affiliated institutions to carry out the functioning of this council.

International Labour Organization (ILO), Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO), United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), International Monetary Fund (IMF), World Health Organization (WHO), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) are among them.

❖ The Trusteeship Council

The main duty of this council is the administration of the areas taken under United Nations trusteeship. There were 11 trusteeship territories at the time the United Nations Organization was established. All those nations got independence by 1994. This council became inactive since then. The World Leaders Council suspended its functioning under the secretary general's recommendation.

❖ The International Court of Justice

The main court of the United Nations is the International Court of Justice. It is situated in Hague of Netherland. The judges are selected from those who held highest positions in the courts of member countries and specialists of international law.

The main task of the International Court of Justice is to provide different institutions of United Nations with legal advice. The member countries seek the legal assistance of this court to settle the conflicts that arise between them.



Fig 8.23 – International Court of Justice situated in Hague

❖ The Secretariat

The main administration body of the United Nations is the Secretariat. This is situated in New York city of USA. The chief of this office is the secretary-general appointed for a period of 5 years by the General Assembly on the recommendation of the Security Council. The secretary-general has the power to forward any matter he believes that would be a threat to international peace and security, to the Security Council. Many officers are there around the world for the duties of the secretariat. There are about 9000 officers working in these offices.

❖ Attempts made by the United Nations to protect the world peace

The United Nations Organization which was established with the objective of making the future generations free of threats of devastating wars started its functioning by establishing the 'Atomic Energy Commission.' They must have started with this step to show the world the necessity of controlling atomic energy because of the destruction caused by the atomic bombs in World War II.

The powerful countries tend to work strategically for the victory of their camp as a result of the two camps created after World War II with USA and Russia as two heads. This war which was carried out without weapons was called the "Cold War" or weaponless war.

Several situations that came closer to fights were settled before developing into battles by the mediation of the United Nations. Some examples for such situations are;

- Suez Conflict

The president of Egypt, Abdul Gamal Nasser nationalised the Suez Canal following the socialist economic tradition. Because French companies had to face difficulties due to this decision, they sent forces of Israel, Britain and France to Suez area. The United Nations were able to settle this problem.

- Gulf Conflict

Based on an oil rig located in Iraq and Kuwait border, this conflict arose. Iraq invaded Kuwait because of that. This war which was only a little inferior to a world

war caused huge destruction. Later, the United Nations mediated and settled the matter.

- **Cuban Missile Conflict**

Those who escaped to USA from Cuba during the Cuban Revolution got armed training in USA and came back to Cuba armed against the Fidel Castro's government. Because the rebels were supported by USA, Russia placed missiles in Cuba so that USA could be attacked. Because of this USA surrounded Cuba and placed missiles in Turkey aiming at Russia. This conflict was settled by the general secretary of the United Nations.

Steps the United Nations can take to protect world peace today

We discussed above how several conflicts that took place between countries after World War II were settled by the United Nations Organization. There are several steps the United Nations can take in resolution of conflicts that emerge between countries and protecting world peace. When there are incidents that threaten world peace, the Security Council of United Nations mediates to settle the matter. That is because the main responsibility of international peace and security lies in the hands of the Security Council.

Several steps the United Nations can take to protect world peace on the recommendations of the Security Council are;

Imposing Economic Restrictions

The countries that do not respect the decisions of the United Nations are forced to oblige their orders by imposing economic restrictions.

Taking steps to limit and control the production of nuclear weapons

When there is information about countries that start producing new nuclear weapons, the United Nations Commissions are sent to investigate them. Such commissions were appointed to examine the nuclear weapons in North Korea and Iraq.

Employment of Peace Keeping Forces

The peace keeping force of the United Nations is employed to control the situation when there are severe battles between two parties.