

# International Organisations

The Bare Minimum for BCS

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## Commonwealth of Nations

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# Commonwealth of Nations

- **Intro:** political organisation, largely composed of former British colonies
- **Establishment:**
  - **Balfour declaration:** → “British Commonwealth of Nations” (1926)
  - Statute of Westminster (1931) made the dominions their own sovereign states
  - **London declaration** → “Commonwealth of Nations” (1949)
- **Members:** 56
  - **Latest members:** Togo, Gabon (2022)
  - The last 4 members are the only ones that have never been British colonies
    - Mozambique (1st non-colony member; 2009)
    - Rwanda (2009)
    - Togo (2022)

- Gabon (2022)
- **HQ:** Marlborough house, London.
- **Head:** Queen Elizabeth II.

## NAM (Non-Aligned Movement)

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# NAM (Non-Aligned Movement)

- **Intro:** Formed during the Cold War by countries supporting neither the Soviet nor the US.
- **Establishment:** 1961; Belgrade, Yugoslavia.
- **Members:** 120 members, 20 observers.
- **HQ:** None



## OIC (Organisation of Islamic Co-operation)

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- **Intro:** Made in the wake of the Arab-Israel war
- **Establishment:**
  - Sep 25, 1969, as Organisation of Islamic Conference
  - Changed to current name in 2011
- **Members:** 57
- **HQ:** Jeddah
- **1st sec. gen.:** Tunku Abdul Rahman (Malaysia)
- **Current sec. gen.:** Hissein Brahimi Taha (Chad)

EU (European Union)

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# EU (European Union)

## ■ Intro:

- World's largest economic union
- Political and economic union, with an internal single market
- After the end of the Cold War and the unification of Germany, to “further advance European integration”

## ■ Establishment:

- **Treaty of Rome: (1957)**
  - Established **European Economic Community (EEC)**
  - Signed by 6 countries: Belgium, France, Netherlands, W. Germany, Italy, Luxembourg
  - Signed: Mar 25, 1957
  - Effective: Jan 1, 1958
  - After formation of EU, renamed to European Community (EC)

- Was one of the “3 pillars” of EU till 2009, when the 3-pillar system was abolished and the functions of the pillars were absorbed into EU
- **Treaty of Maastricht:** (1992; Maastricht, Netherlands)
  - Signed by 12 countries marking the beginning of EU
  - Signed: Feb 7, 1992.
  - Effective: Nov 1, 1993.
- **Treaty of Lisbon:** (2007)
  - Initially called “Reform Treaty”
  - Amendment of the Maastricht treaty
  - Signed: Dec 13, 2007
  - Effective: Dec 1, 2009

# EU (European Union)

- Abolished the 3-pillar system and marked the emergence of the EU as a legal person
- In 2012, the EU received the Nobel Peace Prize

## ■ Members: 27

## ■ HQ: Brussels, Belgium.

## ■ Structure:

- 7 institutions, 1st 4 are the main decision-making institutions
  - European Parliament
    - \* Location: Strasbourg (France), Brussels, Luxembourg
    - \* Members: 705 MEPs (members of European parliament)
  - European Council
    - \* Location: Brussels
    - \* Members: Heads of state of EU member countries

# EU (European Union)

- \* President: Charles Michel
- Council of the EU
- \* Location: Brussels
- \* Members: Ministers of EU member countries
- European Commission
- Court of Justice of the EU
- \* Location: Luxembourg
- European Central Bank
- \* Location: Frankfurt, Germany
- \* Members: ECB President and Vice-President and governors of national central banks from all EU countries

## ■ Euro:

- “Members”:

- 19 member states, together called **eurozone / euro area**, have adopted the euro as their primary currency.
- Croatia will become the 20th member on Jan 1, 2023
- Other EU members can join the eurozone when they fulfill the criteria for joining
- Launch:
  - Jan 1, 1999
  - 11 member states had met the criteria back then, and hence those 11 were the firsts to adopt the euro
  - Physical notes and coins were launched on Jan 1, 2002.



AU (African Union)

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## ■ Establishment:

- OAU (Organisation of African Unity) → May 25, 1963
- Sirte declaration → Sep 9, 1999 (9/9/99); signed by heads of OAU states
- AU officially launched in Jul 9, 2002.

## ■ Members: 55

- **Latest member:** Morocco (2017)
- All African nations are members
- Morocco was a founding member of OAU, but quit in 1984 due to the acceptance of Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic as a member state, most of the territory of which is ruled by Morocco. Nonetheless, it is a partially recognised sovereign state, with 41 UN nations recognising it.

## ■ HQ: Addis Ababa.

- **Chairperson:** Macky Sall (President of Senegal)

## Arab League

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## ■ Establishment:

- Alexandria protocol (1945) → Arab league (Mar 22, 1945)

## ■ Members:

- Member states: 22
- Observer states: 7
  - Armenia
  - Brazil
  - Chad
  - Eritrea
  - Greece
  - India
  - Venezuela
- Latest member: Comoros (1993)

- Suspended member: Syria (since 2011)
- **Probably unrelated fact:** Egypt and Syria formed the **United Arab Republic** in 1958 (capital: Cairo). In 1961, Syria quit the union, and Egypt continued to be officially known as the UAR until 1971.

## OAS (Organization of American States)

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- **Establishment:** Apr 30, 1948.
- **Members:** 35
  - All independent nations of the Americas are members
  - Founding members: 21
  - Latest member: Guayana (1991)



## GCC (Gulf Cooperation Council)

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- **Intro:** Union of countries bordering the Persian gulf
- **Establishment:** May 25, 1981
- **Members:** Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, KSA, UAE
- **HQ:** Riyadh

## G-7 (Group of 7)

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## G-7 (Group of 7)

- **Intro:** Avengers, basically. Big-shot governments join forces to discuss and coordinate solutions to major global issues in trade, security, economics, and climate change.
- **Members:** 7
  - USA
  - Canada
  - UK
  - Germany
  - France
  - Italy
  - Japan
- **Establishment:**
  - Mar 25, 1973 → G5

- Nov 15, 1975 → G6 (Italy added)
- 1976 → G7 (Canada added)
- 1997 → G8 (Russia added)
- 2014 → G7 (Russia suspended over annexation of Crimea)

■ HQ: None

G-20

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- **Intro:** “the primary venue for international economic and financial cooperation”
- **Establishment:** Sep 26, 1999.
- **Members:** 20
  - 19 countries + the EU
    - G-7 countries (7)
    - BRICS countries (5): Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa
    - Others (7): ARG, AUS, KSA, KOR (Republic of Korea aka South Korea), MEX, IDN (Indonesia), TUR (Turkey)
- **HQ:** None

## D-8 (Developing 8)

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## D-8 (Developing 8)

- Establishment:

- Istanbul declaration (Jun 15, 1997) → D-8

- Members: 8

- Mnemonic: বাপ মা নাই তুমিই সব

- Bangladesh
- Pakistan
- Malaysia
- Nigeria
- Turkey
- Egypt (মিশর)
- Iran

- HQ: Istanbul

## OPEC (Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries)

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# OPEC (Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries)

- **Intro:** Control oil prices worldwide. Responsible for 44% of the total oil production worldwide.
- **Establishment:**
  - Through Baghdad conference (Sep 10-14, 1960), attended by the founding 5
    - Iraq
    - Iran
    - KSA
    - Kuwait
    - Venezuela
- **Members: 13**
  - Founding 5
  - Other current members:

# OPEC (Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries)

- Algeria
- Angola
- Congo
- Equatorial Guinea
- Gabon
- Libya
- Nigeria
- UAE
- Former members: Ecuador, Indonesia, Qatar
- HQ: Vienna

## APEC (Asia-Pacific Economic Co-operation)

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- **Intro:** Promotes free trade throughout countries in the pacific rim
- **Establishment:** 1989
- **Members:** 21
- **HQ:** Singapore