

International Organisations

The Bare Minimum for BCS

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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)

- **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)

- **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)

■ 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

- 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

- * President: Charles Michel
- o Council of the EU
- * Location: Brussels
- * Members: Ministers of EU member countries
- o European Commission
- o Court of Justice of the EU
- * Location: Luxembourg
- o 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)

■ 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

■ 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.