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How the UN Works

- Established on 24 October 1945

- 51 countries were committed to preserving peace through international cooperation

- UN Membership: 192 countries

- States agree to accept obligations of the UN Charter, an international treaty that sets out basic principles
How the UN Works

- According to the Charter the UN has 4 basic principles:
  1. Maintain international peace and security
  2. Develop friendly relations among nations
  3. Cooperate in solving international problems and promote respect for human rights
  4. Be the center for harmonizing the actions of nations
How the UN Works

- The UN is not a world government
- It does not make laws

- Large or small, rich or poor, and with differing political views and social systems:
  - All member states have a voice
  - All member states have a vote
Main Bodies

- General Assembly (New York)
- Security Council (New York)
- Economic and Social Council (New York)
- Trusteeship Council (New York)
- Secretariat (New York)
- International Court of Justice (The Netherlands)
General Assembly

- The main deliberative organ of the UN
- Composed of all member states
- Each member has one vote.
- Decisions on important issues require two thirds majority vote
  - Peace and Security
  - Admissions of new members
  - Budget matters
- Decisions on other issues: simple majority
Functions and Powers

- Maintain international peace and security (disarmament)
- Make recommendations to the Security Council
- Promote international political cooperation
- Develop international law
- Promote human rights
- Oversee international collaboration in the economic, social, humanitarian, cultural, and educational and health fields
Functions and Powers

- Receive and consider reports from the Security Council and other UN organs
- Consider and approve UN budget
- Establish financial assessments of Member States
- Elect non-permanent members to SC and other UN councils and organs
- Appoint Secretary General
General Assembly

- Subsidiary Organs
- Committee on Information
- Human Rights Council
- Candidacies
Security Council

Prior to 1966, there were six elected members, while the permanent members have in essence not changed since the creation of the United Nations in 1945, apart from the representation of China.

Elected members hold their place on the Council for a two-year term, and half of these places are contested each year.

To ensure geographical continuity, a certain number of members is allocated for each of the five unofficial UN regional groupings.
Security Council

- Primary responsibility to maintain peace and security
- A representative of each member must be present at all times at the UN Headquarters
- 15 Council Members
- Five permanent members:
  - China
  - France
  - Russian Federation
  - the United Kingdom
  - the United States
Security Council

- Ten **non-permanent** members elected by the General Assembly for two year terms
  - **Argentina** (2014)
  - **Australia** (2014)
  - Chad (2015)
  - Chile (2015)
  - Jordan (2015)
  - Lithuania (2015)
  - **Luxemburg** (2014)
  - Nigeria (2015)
  - **Republic of Korea** (2014)
  - Rwanda (2014)

- Each member has one vote
Security Council

- Ten non-permanent members elected by the General Assembly for two year terms
- Permanent and Non-Permanent Members
- The Council is composed of 15 Members:
  - five permanent members: China, France, Russian Federation, the United Kingdom, and the United States,
  - and ten non-permanent members elected for two-year terms by the General Assembly (with end of term date):
    - Each member has one vote
The 2014 United Nations Security Council election will be held on 16 October 2014 during the 69th session of the United Nations General Assembly, held at United Nations Headquarters in New York City. The elections are for five non-permanent seats on the UN Security Council for two-year mandates commencing on 1 January 2015. In accordance with the Security Council's rotation rules, the ten non-permanent UNSC seats rotate among the various regional blocs into which UN member states traditionally divide themselves for voting and representation purposes.
Security Council

The five available seats are allocated as follows:

- One for Africa
- One for the Asia-Pacific Group
- One for Latin America and the Caribbean
- Two for the Western European and Others Group
- These five members will serve on the Security Council for the 2015–2016 period.
Security Council
Candidates 2015-2016 period

Western European and Others Group
- New Zealand
- Spain
- Turkey

Latin American and Caribbean Group
- Venezuela

Asia-Pacific Group
- Fiji
- Malaysia

African Group
- Angola
Security Council

- In the event of fighting the Council:
  - Tries to secure a ceasefire
  - May send peace keeping mission
  - Impose economic sanctions
  - Order an arms embargo
  - Rare occasions “all means necessary”

- The Council makes recommendations to the General Assembly on:
  - appointment of Secretary General
  - admission of new Members to the UN
Economic and Social Council

- Council has 54 members
  - Elected by the General Assembly
  - Three year terms

- Serves as central forum for discussing international economic and social issues
Secretariat

- International staff working in duty stations around the world
- Carry out diverse day to day work of the UN
- Survey economic and social trends
- Prepare studies on human rights and sustainable development
- Inform the media about work of the UN
Secretariat

- Organize international conferences
- Interpret speeches
- Translate documents
- Staff 8,900 under a regular budget from some 170 countries
- Take oath not to seek or receive instructions from any government
International Court of Justice

- Hears cases involving legal disputes among governments
- Clarifies questions of international law
- Interprets the UN Charter
- Composed of 15 judges, elected to office for 9 year terms by UN GA&SC
- Official languages are English and French
Specialised Agencies

- **Specialised agencies** are autonomous organisations working with the UN and each other through the coordinating machinery of the **United Nations Economic and Social Council** at the inter-governmental level, and through the Chief Executives Board for coordination (CEB) at the inter-secretariat level.

- 17 specialized agencies carry out various functions on behalf of the UN System.
Working for the United Nations
UN4U

The United Nations works for you
STAFF OF THE UNITED NATIONS

- United Nations Staff are International Civil Servants 24/7
- Mobility: Staff may be assigned anywhere in the world by the Secretary-General
- Highest standards of efficiency, competence and integrity (Charter, article 101.3)
- Staff are subject to standards of conduct and ethics
- Maximum age: 62 (except very senior positions)
CATEGORIES OF STAFF

• Senior Levels
  • Under-Secretary-General (USG)
  • Assistant Secretary-General (ASG)

• Professional and Higher Categories (internationally recruited):
  • Directors D-1 & D-2)
  • Professionals (P-1 – P-5)

• Locally Recruited Staff:
  • National Officers
  • General Service & Related Categories (support staff)
  • (G-1 – G-7, TC-1 – TC-8, S-1 – S-7, PIA, LT)

• Other Personnel:
  • Consultants & Contractors (Special Service Agreement: SSA)
  • Service Contracts
  • Interns

• United Nations Volunteers (UNV)
MAIN ENTITLEMENTS & BENEFITS

• Annual & Sick Leave
• Home Leave
• Maternity & Paternity Leave
• Education Grant & Travel
• Rental Subsidy
• Defined-benefits Pension
• Health Insurance
• Installation & Shipment & Repatriation
• Pay for Additional Official Language
• Mobility and Hardship Pay
• Rest and Recuperation (peacekeeping missions)
UN ESTABLISHED DUTY STATIONS & TRIBUNALS

Geneva
UNOG, UNCTAD, OHCHR, ECE, OCHA

Nairobi
UNON, UNEP, UN-Habitat

New York
UN Headquarters

Vienna
UNOV, UNODC

The Hague
ICTY

Addis Ababa
ECA

Bangkok
ESCAP

Beirut
ESCWA

Santiago
ECLAC

Arusha
ICTR
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>United Nations Agency</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Geneva</td>
<td>United Nations Office at Geneva</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>United Nations Conference on Trade and Development</td>
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<td>United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees</td>
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<td>United Nations Economic Commission for Europe</td>
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<td>Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs</td>
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<td>Nairobi</td>
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<td>United Nations Environment Programme</td>
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<td>United Nations Human Settlements Programme</td>
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<tr>
<td>New York</td>
<td>UN Headquarters</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vienna</td>
<td>United Nations Office at Vienna</td>
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<td>United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Hague</td>
<td>International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia</td>
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<tr>
<td>Addis Ababa</td>
<td>United Nations Economic Commission for Africa</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bangkok</td>
<td>United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific</td>
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<tr>
<td>Beirut</td>
<td>United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia</td>
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<tr>
<td>Santiago</td>
<td>United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean</td>
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<tr>
<td>Arusha</td>
<td>International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda</td>
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SUBSTANTIVE JOBS IN THE UNITED NATIONS

- Economic Affairs
- Social Affairs
- Political Affairs
- Civil Affairs
- Humanitarian Affairs
- Human Rights
- Rule of Law
- Public Information, Radio & TV
- Drug Control & Crime Prevention
- Statistics
- Demographics
- Public Administration
- Electoral Affairs
- Legal Affairs
SUPPORT JOBS IN THE UNITED NATIONS

- Administrators: Human Resources, Finance, Budget, Facilities Management, Administration (general)
- Information and Communications Technology
- Information Management
- Cartography
- Medical
- Programme/Project Management
- Security
- Logistics
- Procurement
- Engineering
- Aviation
- Library Science
- Conference Servicing
- Language Staff: Interpreter, Translator, etc.
MINIMUM EXPERIENCE REQUIREMENTS

- P-2 = 2 years
  No experience required if you pass the United Nations NCRE or Language examination

- P-3 = 5 years

- P-4 = 7 years

- P-5 = 10 years

- D-1 = 15 years
UN JOBS WEBSITE: http://jobs.un.org
Examinations held annually based on a country’s representation status and government’s agreement.

Most entry level positions (P-2), *except for peacekeeping*, are filled through competitive examinations.

**NCRE applicants must:**

- Be a national of any of the participating Member States
- Be younger than **32** years old as of 31 December of the year of the exam
- Hold at least a first-level university degree relevant to one of the offered occupational groups
- Be fluent in either English or French
UN INTERNSHIP PROGRAMME

• Opportunity to familiarize yourself with the daily issues of the United Nations
• Interns work in departments related to their field of study
• It is an *unpaid* full-time internship

Requirements:
• Must be enrolled in graduate school
• Must apply at least 4 months in advance of the start of internship to the duty station of choice
• Duration: 2 months (may be extended up to 6 months)
• Starting dates are mid-January, June and mid-September
MAIN REASONS FOR WORKING AT THE UN

• Opportunity to serve a good cause
• Opportunity to work in a multicultural environment and global organization
• Opportunity to serve in different locations
• Status and reputation of the United Nations
• Strong belief in the purpose of the United Nations
Integrity is a founding value at the UN.

It is embedded in:

- The Charter of the United Nations
- The Universal Declaration of Human Rights

UN staff, through a recent survey conducted by the Office of Human Resource Management, selected integrity as the foremost core value of the Organization.
• Organizational integrity is characterised by a staff whose individual and collective professional conduct demonstrates consistent adherence to high ethical principles and professional standards.

• A conduct characterised by integrity and ethics goes beyond mere compliance with written requirements, but honours the values that lie behind them.
The World Health Organization (WHO) established the U.N.’s first programme to respond to AIDS in 1987:

“The Global Programme on AIDS (GPA)”
In the early 1990s, U.N. officials and international donors increasingly recognized the need for a multi-sector response to the complex challenges of the HIV pandemic, including the social, economic, and development issues contributing to the spread of the virus.
They realized that WHO’s medically based approach was insufficient to effectively combat the virus.

In response, the United Nation’s Economic and Social Council established the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) and its operations started in 1996.
UNAIDS is comprised of a Secretariat and eleven UN Co-Sponsors that act at the global, regional, and country levels.
UNAIDS is the UN’s first joint cosponsored programme of its kind, and its establishment was intended to be a model of U.N. reform.
The success of UNAIDS is highly dependent on collaboration within the UN system.
UNAIDS Has Worked
to Improve UN Coordination

and Improve the International Community’s Commitment and Approach to HIV
Zero new HIV infections.
Zero discrimination.
Zero AIDS-related deaths
We can end AIDS by 2030