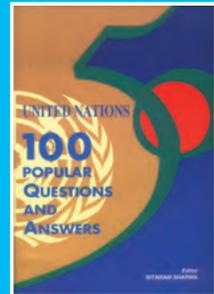




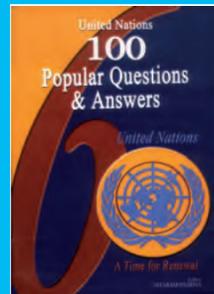
SITARAM SHARMA

About the Editor

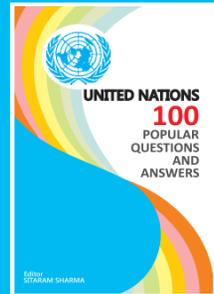
- Honorary Consul of Republic of BELARUS in Kolkata
- Vice President, Indian Federation of United Nations Associations, New Delhi
- Chairman, West Bengal Federation of United Nations Associations, Kolkata.
- Director & Editorial Advisor, Business Economics, a English Fortnightly.
- Member, Advisory Board, Institute of UN Studies, New Delhi.
- Member, Board of Governors, Institute for Inspiration & Self Development.
- Indian Delegate at the following Plenary Assemblies of the World Federation of United Nations Associations – Geneva (1983), Geneva (1985), Ottawa (1987), Moscow (1989), Barcelona (1991), Geneva (1993), San Francisco (1995), Luxembourg (1996) Kolkata (2000).
- As WFUNA Regional Director for Asia and the Pacific, organized following Regional Conferences of United Nations Associations in Asia-Pacific – New Delhi (1986), Ulaanbaatar (1988), Tokyo (1990), New Delhi (1992), Dhaka (1995), Beijing (1997) and Bangkok (2002).
- Invited to address SAARC NGOs Conference in Dhaka, Bangladesh in 1986.
- Delegate to UN Conference on Indian Ocean; A Zone of Peace at Sochi, Soviet Union in 1986.
- Invited as Chief Speaker at the UN Day Seminar in Kathmandu, Nepal in 1993.
- Chief Rapporteur and member of Tripartite Steering Committee of the Seoul International Conference of NGOs in 1999 organized by UN Department of Public Information and CONGO.
- Key note speaker at National Seminar on “A Civil Society Forum to Strengthen the UN” organized by UNA, New Zealand at Grand Hall Parliament Building, Wellington in 2001.
- Invited by United Nations Association of Bangladesh as Guest Speaker to deliver Syed Ahmed Hossain Memorial Lecture – 2005 in Dhaka.
- Edited Reports on National Seminars on “Rights of Minorities”, “Role of Foreign Capital”, “Relevance of Non-Alignment Movement in Changing World”, and “United Nations and New World Order” and “Restructuring of the United Nations”
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UNITED NATIONS 100 POPULAR QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Editor
SITARAM SHARMA

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About United Nations Associations

Signed on 26 June 1945 in San Francisco, the Charter of the United Nations begins with the words, “We the peoples of United Nations”.

On August 2, 1946, the World Federation of United Nations Associations (WFUNA) was founded in Luxembourg as the only international non-governmental organization devoting itself entirely to the support of the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter and to the promotion of public awareness and understanding of the activities of the United Nations.

On November 17, 1947 the UN General Assembly passed the Resolution 137 (II) in which *inter alia*, the Assembly considered that the knowledge and understanding of the aims and activities of the United Nations are essential in promoting and assuring general interest and popular support for its work.

The founders of WFUNA were convinced that the future of the world depended upon a strong United Nations but they realized that this strength could only develop with the support of public opinion in the member countries. With Member Associations in over 100 countries, WFUNA's family of UNAs operates as an independent network promoting public awareness of the activities of the UN.

On the 40th Anniversary of WFUNA the UN General Assembly adopted a special resolution (A/RES/41/68-D) on December 3, 1986 commending the WFUNA for its valuable contribution during past forty years in the mobilisation of popular support for the programmes and work of the United Nations and called upon all Governments and peoples to cooperate and help the United Nations Associations.

The editor of this book has been associated with UN Associations at global, national and local levels in different capacities for more than thirty years as WFUNA Deputy Secretary-General and Director, Asia-Pacific Regional Office, Vice President of Indian Federation of United Nations Associations as well as Chairman of West Bengal Federation of United Nations Associations.



UNITED NATIONS
100
POPULAR QUESTIONS
AND
ANSWERS

Third Revised Edition
2012

Edited by :
SITARAM SHARMA

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FOREWORD



Kiran Mehra - Kerpelman

It is no surprise at all that Mr. Sitaram Sharma's **United Nations : 100 Popular Questions and Answers** is getting ready for its third edition in 17 years. No surprise because the United Nations is embraced so readily by all Indians, in this country where the opening words of the UN Charter *We the Peoples* is taken very seriously.

Aligned to the global thinking that the UN stands for, Indians celebrate the organization's spirit of *Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam*. In India the UN is taught in schools, debated at Model UN Assemblies across the length and breadth of this country and - in the best traditions of democracy - is both praised and lambasted in the vibrant media environs of India. And the vast network of UN Associations continues to encourage public interest in the United Nations through an amazing array of activities and campaigns. The author of this volume too has been closely associated with the UN Associations both at global and regional levels.

While several generations of Indians have contributed their talent to the UN at many levels, the UN too has catalyzed progress in India, especially through the target-oriented 2000-2015 agenda of the Millennium Development Goals.

As the world faces more, and increasingly complex, challenges, the UN is being called upon to significantly expand the scope and extent of its activities. The UN also looks to young people to help address some of these challenges. Providing accurate information about the Organization and its often intricate array of activities is therefore crucial. This volume, I am certain, will help demystify the UN for a young audience and thereby spur greater interest and involvement in the Organization's work.

Today, as India is poised to don the mantle of increasing global leadership in all spheres – political, economic and social – I am sure that this volume will continue to teach Gen-Next the past history of the UN and help stoke future leaders to action.

Above all, I am most sure that this edition will be as well received like those that preceded it.

My heartiest congratulations and best wishes.

Kiran Mehra - Kerpelman

Director

UN Information Centre for India and Bhutan

PREFACE

The United Nations has not been as successful as expected. Peoples of the world are still mired in disagreements, be it political, economic, religious or even environmental.

A new world order emerged after the end of the Cold War, but the enthusiasm for multilateralism has been dwindling particularly with major powers retaining their preferences for unilateral over multilateral actions. It is clear that the two major interventions of the early twenty-first century – into Afghanistan and Iraq – have undermined the authority of the United Nations and have called in question the future of multilateral order. The UN is yet to recover from the damage to its reputation that the Second Gulf War inflicted on it. The major challenge being faced by the UN since the millennium is unilateralism.

Many observers believe that the primacy of the United Nations in international world order is slipping and global decisions particularly pertaining to peace and security will be taken at different levels without reference to the United Nations. It is, therefore, imperative that the role of the United Nations is strengthened in global affairs as highlighted by Indian Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh in his address to the 66th session of the United Nations General Assembly “We must address the issue of the deficit in global governance. We need a stronger and more effective United Nations. We need a United Nations that is sensitive to the aspirations of everyone - rich or poor, big or small. For this the United Nations and its principal organs, the General Assembly and the Security Council, must be revitalized and reformed. The reform and expansion of the Security Council are essential if it is to reflect contemporary reality. Such an outcome will enhance the Security Council’s credibility and effectiveness in dealing with global issues. Early reform of the Security Council must be pursued with renewed vigour and urgently enacted.”

UN Secretary – General Mr. Ban Ki-Moon, speaking on the role of the United Nations, has observed, “With the world facing a pivotal juncture in its history, the global need for the United Nations has never been greater in tackling multiple issues, from sustainable development to ensuring peace to mitigating mega disasters. Periods of global transition present huge challenges but also tremendous opportunities for advancing humanity’s progress. Together no, challenge is too large. Together, nothing is impossible.”

The first edition of “United Nations: 100 Popular Questions and Answers” was published on the occasion of the Golden Anniversary of the UN in 1995 with the foreword by Hans-C von Sponeck, UN Resident Coordinator & UNDP Resident Representative and released by the then President of India Dr.Shankar Dayal Sharma at Rashtrapati Bhawan, New Delhi. The second revised edition was brought out in 2005 coinciding with the 60th Anniversary of the UN with the foreword by Dr. Shashi Tharoor, the then UN Under

Secretary-General and released by the then Governor of West Bengal Mr. Gopalkrishna Gandhi at a special ceremony at Raj Bhawan, Kolkata.

As the UN Charter begins with the words, “We the peoples of the United Nations” the founders were convinced that the future of the world depended upon a strong United Nations but they realized that this strength could only develop with the support of public opinion in the member states. General support for the UN can only be achieved if peoples are aware about its aims and activities. The publication has largely been successful in its objective of disseminating knowledge and information about the principles and purposes of the United Nations.

I am very grateful to Ms. Kiran Mehra-Kerpelman, Director, United Nations Information Centre for having agreed to write the Foreword.

I thankfully acknowledge the support of Mr. H.P Kanoria, Chairman, SREI Foundation in bringing out this publication

Kolkata, India
January 2, 2012

SITARAM SHARMA
Editor

FOREWORD

(Second Edition, 2005)

Sixty is the age at which UN staff usually contemplates retirement. But 2005, the year in which the UN itself turns sixty, has been notable not for any homilies on the many successes of the Organization over the past six decades, but rather for an exciting renewal - a flurry of activity aimed at equipping the UN to face the new challenges of the twenty-first century.

This renewal has been brewing for several years. In a historic speech to the General Assembly in 2003, Secretary-General Kofi Annan said that we had come to a fork in the road: we could either continue with business as usual, which could lead us to disaster, or we could review the entire architecture of the international system that had been built up since 1945, and build a more effective house of global governance for the twenty-first century.



Dr. Shashi Tharoor

In December 2004 the first of two major reports Secretary-General Annan commissioned from experts was released, containing recommendations for changes to the way the world confronts issues of peace and security. And then in January, a group of economists provided him with detailed study of what the world needed to do to fulfil the commitments made on development by world leaders at the 2000 Millennium Summit.

The Secretary-General himself then synthesized the thoughts and ideas of these experts, and offered the UN Member States his own set of recommendations in his aptly-titled paper 'In Larger Freedom'.

The title came from the preamble to the UN Charter, which speaks of the UN striving "to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom". By that magnificent phrase our founders clearly implied both that development is possible only in conditions of freedom, and that people can only benefit from political freedom when they have at least a fair chance of reaching decent living standards. Human rights, development and security are mutually interdependent and, taken together, they add up to larger freedom.

Then, in September, more than 150 world leaders, gathered at UN Headquarters to review those recommendations and make decisions about how best to co-operate for the betterment of our world. The outcome of that meeting is a document that I think will stand the test of time, and serves as a map for the next phase in human development. First and foremost, that document

reinforces the commitment by both rich and developing States to work together to promote development. It also contains, for the first time ever, a clear and unqualified condemnation - by all governments -- of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, committed by whomever, wherever and for whatever purposes. There are decision to establish of better mechanisms to promote peace in States that are emerging from conflict, and to monitor and address human rights, and much, much more.

And central to the decisions and agreements is an affirmation that the UN remains the linchpin of the international system, and some changes that should ensure it is well equipped to continue to play that role for another sixty years.

None of the decisions would have been possible without the support of what we have come to call civil society-people who, acting in their own personal capacities, band together in non-governmental organizations to press for what they believe in. And key among those civil society organizations are the United Nations Associations of the world.

Now that the big decisions have been taken by world leaders, the challenge is not over. Negotiations are under way to put flesh on the bones of the principles that will mold the UN of the twenty-first century. For those negotiations to be effective, the continued interest and, where necessary, pressure from civil society will be essential. And publications like this one are a vital contribution to ensuring that people understand how important it is for all governments and all people to cooperate to mold a better future for us all.

Thank you.

10 October, 2005
New York, USA

Shashi Tharoor
Under Secretary-General
Communication and Public Information
United Nations

PREFACE

(Second Edition, 2005)

People's view of the UN has been shaken in recent years following its failure in Iraq and revelations of UN mismanagement and scandal. The institution's credibility has also suffered over time because of the overall lack of performance of certain UN bodies. Events of past decade have challenged the United Nations and its member states demanding greater accountability and a shift in the UN's mission from convenor of meetings to co-ordinator of actions - from talk shop to actor.

The United Nations, at all levels, has been dogged by accusations of inaction, improprieties, ethical lapses and even outright failure to maintain international peace and security. The United Nations, is far from perfect. In many ways it is an ailing institution badly in the need of fundamental and bold reforms.

The reforms will make the United Nations more effective and bring it closer to the vision it created for itself 60 years ago, while simultaneously preparing it and its member-states for the new challenges of the 21st century. Otherwise the organization risks declining credibility and its own future will be at risk.

Significant change in the United Nations is indeed an imperative, something that the international community dare not avoid or evade. The shrinking world cries out for effective global institutions. The UN is today in grave difficulty, in real danger of declining into irrelevancy as did the old League of Nations. This drives the imperative for change yet the UN reform process is moving slowly and erratically. There is no certainty that it will yield positive results.

It has, however, to be remembered that the United Nations is a body composed of individual nation-states. Regrettably, too often member-states have found it convenient to lay the blame for failure solely on the United Nations in cases where they themselves have blocked intervention or opposed action by the United Nations. Having said that, the United Nations also shares the blame for inaction.

Today the United Nations member nations do not speak with one voice on the role and priorities of the United Nations. They disregard the fact that the United Nations is a weak treaty Organisation that is no stronger nor more effective than the resolve and support of its members. They give the United Nations impossible tasks, micromanage its operations and ignore the need for support, equal to the tasks assigned.

The goals enshrined in the UN Charter particularly those regarding peace and security and the promotion of respect for fundamental human rights, have never been more significant. The world of 2005, however, is not that of 1945. Challenges to security are taking new and more

lethal forms. Collective international efforts are necessary to deal with terrorism, nuclear proliferation, human rights abuses, international conflict and genocide, natural disasters, economic deprivation and poverty. Only the United Nations can be the important vehicle for dealing with these challenges.

The sixtieth anniversary of the founding of the United Nations provides a window of opportunity for reform and restructuring. The difficulties confronting the UN today provide the rationale and incentive to make the UN more effective in meeting the high purposes of its Charter. This opportunity to revitalise the UN will not last for long. All who want an effective and credible United Nations must act now.

It is now more than twenty five years that I have been working voluntarily to promote the purposes and principles of the United Nations. I am convinced that the UN cannot achieve purposes for which it has been created unless people of the world are fully aware of its aims and activities. The knowledge and understanding of the working of the UN is essential in promoting and assuring general interest and popular support for its work.

“United Nations: 100 Popular Questions and Answers” was an humble effort in this direction. The first edition published in 1995 on the occasion of 50th Anniversary of the United Nations which was released by the then President of India Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma at Rashtrapati Bhawan, New Delhi, was well received and appreciated.

Favourable response has encouraged me to bring out the Second Revised Edition of the publication coinciding with 60th Anniversary of the United Nations.

I am deeply grateful to Mr. Shashi Tharoor, UN Under Secretary-General, Communication and Public Information for writing the Foreword. It has certainly added great value to the publication.

I would like to acknowledge the cooperation of UN Information Centre, New Delhi, Mr. Sudipta Narayan Das and other friends who have helped me. The book would have been difficult to bring out without the support of Mr. H. P. Kanoria, Chairman, SREI Foundation.

Kolkata, India
October 24, 2005

SITARAM SHARMA
Editor

FOREWORD

(First Edition, 1995)

It gives me pleasure to write a short foreword to this useful and informative work entitled “United Nations : 100 Popular Questions and Answers” by Shri Sitaram Sharma, Deputy Secretary General and Director, Asia Pacific of the World Federation of United Nations Associations, on the occasion of the Fiftieth Anniversary of the United Nations.

As the UN Secretary-General has pointed out, the Fiftieth Anniversary could hardly have come at a more appropriate time. For an organization going through a time of great change and momentous challenge, it offers an opportunity to celebrate achievements, review lessons of the past and chart a course for the future. But there is one aspect of the anniversary which is especially important: improving public awareness of the United Nations, building a wider constituency and demonstrating the systems continued relevance in the years to come. It is to this objective that publications such as this one can directly contribute and are, therefore, especially laudable.

While UN50 is a celebration, at heart it is a serious occasion to educate a new generation about the UN’s role and its future. It is an opportunity for the world community to look anew at the UN’s work – not just in keeping peace, but in economic and social development, democratization, human rights, humanitarian affairs and anti environment action – and to rethink the way United Nations deals with these concerns.

Amid the threat of nuclear war and seemingly endless regional conflicts, peacekeeping has long been the most visible UN activity and the most compelling story for the world’s media. But less noticed has been a vast array of work undertaken or led by the United Nations and its family of organizations that touches every aspect of the lives of people around the world. I am particularly glad that Shri Sitaram Sharma has equally addressed this side of UN’s initiatives in his informative work which is a most useful contribution to the body of literature produced worldwide throughout 1995 to deepen understanding of, and building support for, the United Nations, especially among children and young adults.



Hans-C von Sponeck
UN Resident Coordinator &
UNDP Resident Representative

PREFACE

(First Edition, 1995)

The United Nations has frequently suffered severely from inadequate public knowledge and awareness of its work, its principles and its purposes. In an age of expanding democracy within member-countries, a wider support base for the World Organization is clearly needed.

The UN system has weathered fifty years of tumultuous change, and it remains the world's principal mechanism for international peace and security and for mobilizing international efforts to deal with global problems. For various reasons it has not, so far, come close to fulfilling the hopes and dreams of its founders. It has, however, struggled to function as best it could throughout the Cold War period, and it has some major achievements to its credit.

When the Cold War came to an end it was assumed – for a short time at least – that the UN system, freed of the ideological and other constraints of the East- West conflict, would at last come into its own. And indeed over many issues the UN Security Council developed an unprecedented consensus and momentum. It soon became clear, however, that the thawing of the Cold War had exposed long ignored tensions, quickly unleashing many political, ethnic and social upheavals.

The world of 1990s turns out indeed to be a far more dangerous place than many had hoped when the East-West nuclear and ideological confrontation unexpectedly ended.

There is unprecedented restiveness among the world's huge population. Traditional nation-state structures are weakening and long suppressed cultural and ethnic groups are resurgent. There are severe potentially catastrophic economic inequities between the North and South, and growing income disparities and poverty throughout the world. Armed conflict is spreading across the planet.

Unregulated development without heed to the damage of the environment endangers the future of the planet Earth.

Thus the UN system is now functioning in a world in which the volume and the interaction of issues and dangers are vastly more complex than when the Organization was created. The UN system is in greater and more comprehensive demand than ever before. Today there is a great opportunity for the United Nations, revamped and restructured and assured of support and cooperation of Member-States, to become the major instrument for the realization of a just and peaceful world.

The opening words of the Charter of the United Nations are – “We the Peoples of the United Nations” – The Peoples have a special status in the United Nations. They are the ultimate beneficiaries, those for whom the Member States act in trust. The United Nations is an association of sovereign states. But its aim is to improve the world, for the sake of the Peoples of the world.

If the Member States fail, the people suffer. And if the Member States fail to provide the peace, security and development provided for in the Charter, conflict breaks out. What the United Nations needs is the investment of political will by the peoples and the nations of the world.

Consequently, knowledge about the United Nations is evermore important for the Peoples of the world, for citizens in all walks of life, students and youth, men and women, young and old. It is they, who will ensure that their governments recognize the indispensable role of the United Nations in today’s world. With their understanding and support the United Nations can strengthen its work to maintain peace and security, ensure social and economic progress, preserve the ecological balance and achieve a better quality of life for all Peoples.

Calcutta, India
October 24, 1995

SITARAM SHARMA
Editor

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Q.1 What are the aims of the United Nations?

Ans. (a) To keep peace throughout the world; (b) to develop friendly relations between nations; (c) to work together to help people live better lives, to eliminate poverty, disease and illiteracy in the world, to stop environmental destruction and to encourage respect for each other's rights and freedoms and (d) to be a centre for helping nations achieve these aims.

Q.2 What are the principles of the United Nations?

Ans. (a) All Member States have sovereign equality; (b) All Member States must obey the Charter; (c) Countries must try to settle their differences by peaceful means; (d) Countries must avoid using force or the threat of force to settle disputes; (e) The UN may not interfere in the domestic affairs of any country and (f) Countries should try to assist the United Nations.

**Q.3 (a) When did the UN come into existence and
(b) Who coined the name "United Nations"?**

Ans. (a) On October 24, 1945. The day is now celebrated each year around the world as United Nations Day.

(b) United States President Franklin D. Roosevelt. It was first used in the "Declaration by United Nations" of 1 January 1942 during the Second World War, when representatives of 26 nations pledged their governments to continue fighting together against the axis powers.

Q.4 How many Members are there in the UN?

Ans. Currently, 193 (January 2012)

Q.5 What are the six official languages of the UN?

Ans. Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish.

Q.6 How many countries signed the Charter at the San Francisco Conference in 1945?

Ans. Fifty.

Q.7 Name the country which did not sign the Charter at San Francisco but is still considered an original member.

Ans. Poland - which was not able to send a representative.

Q.8 What is the opening statement of the UN Charter?

Ans. "We the peoples of the United Nations determined to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war."

Q.9 What is the United Nations Charter and when and where was it signed?

Ans. The Charter is the constituting instrument of the UN, setting out the rights and obligations of Member States and establishing the UN organs and procedures. The Charter was signed on June 26, 1945 at San Francisco, USA.

Q.10 Name the principal Organs of the UN.

Ans. (i) General Assembly; (ii) Security Council; (iii) International Court of Justice; (iv) Economic and Social Council; and (v) Secretariat.

Q.11 Who are the members of UN General Assembly?

Ans. The General Assembly is composed of representatives of all Member States each of which has one vote.

Q.12 What are the functions and powers of the General Assembly?

Ans. Under the Charter the G.A. is the main deliberative organ. Apart from discussing questions relating to peace, international cooperation, human rights and international collaboration in economic, social, cultural, educational and health fields, it receives and considers reports from the Security Council and other UN organs, it considers and approves the UN budget and apportions the contribution among members, it elects non-permanent members of the Security Council and the members of Economic and Social Council, the judges of the International Court of Justice and, on the recommendation of the Security Council, appoints the Secretary-General.

Q.13 When and how is the General Assembly called in Session?

Ans. The General Assembly's regular session begins each year on the third Tuesday in September and continues usually until mid-December.

In addition to its regular Sessions, the Assembly may meet in Special Sessions at the request of the Security Council, of a majority of the members of the UN or of one

member if the majority of members concurs. Emergency Special Sessions may be called within 24 hours on a request from anyone of these.

Q.14 How are decisions arrived at in the General Assembly?

Ans. Decisions on important questions, such as those on peace and security, admission of new members and budgetary matters require a two-third majority and other questions decided by a simple majority.

Q.15 Are the decisions of the General Assembly binding on the Governments?

Ans. While the decisions of the GA have no legally binding force for Governments, they carry the weight of world opinion as well as the moral authority of the world community.

Q.16 How many representatives can each country have in the General Assembly?

Ans. Not more than five.

Q.17 Where is the Headquarters of UN and since when?

Ans. New York, USA, since 1952.

Q.18 Who is eligible to be a Member of the UN?

Ans. The Charter declares that membership of the UN is open to all the peace-loving nations who accept its obligations. The States are admitted by the General Assembly on the recommendation of the Security Council.

Q.19 Does UN Charter provide for the suspension or expulsion of Member States?

Ans. Yes, for violation of the principles of the Charter.

Q.20 Can the UN Charter be amended?

Ans. Yes, by a vote of two-thirds of the Members of the General Assembly and ratification by two-thirds of the Members of the United Nations including the five permanent Members of the Security Council.

Q.21 What is the main function of the Security Council ?

Ans. The Security Council has primary responsibility under the Charter, for the maintenance of International Peace and Security.

Q.22 Who are the members of the Security Council ?

Ans. The Council has 15 members; five permanent members - China, France, The Russian Federation, UK and USA - and 10 elected by the General Assembly for 2 year terms.

Q.23 What is the 'Veto' power?

Ans. The power to Veto any decision by a negative vote in the Security Council. It is enjoyed by

five permanent members of the Security Council- China, France, Russia, UK and USA.

Q.24 Are the decisions of the Security Council binding on the Member States?

Ans. Yes, the Security Council alone has the power to take decisions which Member States are obliged under the Charter to carry out.

Q.25 Who elects non-permanent members of the Security Council?

Ans. The UN General Assembly.

Q.26 Can any Member State which is not a member of Security Council participate in the discussion of the Security Council?

Ans. Yes, but without a vote and if the Member State considers the discussion specially affects that country's interests and is invited by the Security Council.

Q.27 Can the Security Council meet elsewhere than at its Headquarters in New York and has it so far met elsewhere?

Ans. Yes, in 1972 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia and in 1973 in Panama City, Panama.

Q.28 How is the President of the Security Council elected?

Ans. The members take monthly turn in the presidency in English alphabetical order.

Q.29 What and where is the International Court of Justice?

Ans. The International Court of Justice is the judicial organ of the United Nations. It only deals with cases brought by nations, not individuals. It consists of 15 Judges. The court sits in permanent session at The Hague, Netherlands.

Q.30 Name of present Secretary-General of the UN and his country.

Ans. Mr. Ban Ki-moon from South Korea. Assumed office on January 1, 2007 and was re-elected on January 1, 2011. His second term expires on December 31, 2016

Q.31 Who appoints the UN Secretary-General and what is his diplomatic status?

Ans. The General Assembly appoints on the recommendation of the Security Council. He holds the status of a Head of the State.

Q.32 What is the tenure of his office?

Ans. Five years, but may be re-appointed.

Q.33 Who was the first UN Secretary-General and when was he elected?

Ans. Mr. Trygve Lie of Norway. Elected on February 1, 1946.

Q.34 Name the UN Secretary-General who died in an air-crash?

Ans. Dag Hammarskjold of Sweden, who died on September 18, 1961 during a Congo Mission.

Q.35 How many Secretary-Generals have so far served the UN ? Name them.

Ans. Eight (8) Mr. Trygve Lie (Norway)
Mr. Dag Hammarskjold (Sweden)
Mr. U. Thant (Mayanmar)
Mr. Kurt Waldheim (Austria)
Mr. Javier Perez de Cuellar (Peru)
Mr. Boutros Boutros Ghali (Egypt)
Mr. Kofi Annan (Ghana)
Mr. Ban Ki Moon (South Korea)

Q.36 There is only one UN Secretary-General who resigned before completing his term. Who is he ?

Ans. Mr. Trygve Lie of Norway, who was re-elected on December 13, 1951 for a three year mandate, but resigned in November 1952.

Q.37 Name the UN Secretary-General who later on became the President of his country?

Ans. Mr. Kurt Waldheim of Austria.

Q.38 Only one Latin American became the UN Secretary-General. Who was he and from where?

Ans. Mr. Javier Perez de Cuellar of Peru.

Q.39 Name the only UN Secretary-General who was not re-elected for the second term and why?

Ans. Mr. Boutros Boutros Ghali of Egypt vetoed by USA.

Q.40 Who was the President of the First Session of General Assembly ?

Ans. Mr. Paul-Henri Spaak of Belgium in 1946.

Q.41 Who holds the record for delivering the longest speech at the UN General Assembly?

Ans. Mr. V.K Krishna Menon of India, on January 23, 1957. His speech ran for 7 hours and 48 minutes over two sessions.

Q. 42 Only one Indian has so far been the President of the UN General Assembly. Who is that person ? When and at which session?

Ans. Mrs. Vijaylakshmi Pandit. At the eight session in 1953.

Q. 43 When and where did the first meeting of the UN General Assembly take place?

Ans. On January 10, 1946 in Central Hall, Westminster, London.

Q. 44 When was the first Veto used, by which country and for what?

Ans. On February 4, 1946 by Soviet Union on intervention of British troops in Greece.

Q. 45 China's first Veto as permanent member of Security Council was applied on August 25, 1972, against what?

Ans. To stop the entry of Bangladesh into the UN as a Member State.

Q.46 Mr. Kurt Waldheim's re-election for the third term was vetoed in the Security Council. Who applied the Veto?

Ans. China

Q. 47 What is the significance of the Inter-Allied Declaration?

Ans. Signed in London on June 12, 1941 the Inter-Allied Declaration "to work together, with other free peoples, both in war and peace" was the first of a series of steps which led to the establishment of the UN.

Q. 48 Give the date and venue of the first meeting of the Security Council.

Ans. On January 17, 1946 at Westminster, London.

Q. 49 Why and when was the first-Emergency Special Session of the General Assembly called?

Ans. On November 6, 1956 to discuss the Suez Canal Crisis.

Q. 50 Give the date of India's admission to UN

Ans. October 30, 1945.

Q. 51 Name the UN Secretaries-General who were awarded the Nobel Peace Prize.

Ans. Mr. Dag Hammarskjold of Sweden for his work in helping settle the Congo Crisis. And Mr. Kofi Annan along with UN in 2001.

Q. 52 The Nobel Peace Prize has been awarded nine times to the UN and its organizations. Name them

Ans. 1950 – Ralph Bunche
1954 – Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees
1961 – Dag Hammarskjold

1965	–	UN Childrens Fund
1969	–	International Labour Organisation
1981	–	Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees
2001	–	Kofi Annan
2005	–	International Atomic Energy Agency Mohammad El Baradei
2007	–	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change – Al Gore Jr.

Q. 53 Who pays for the UN and how is the contribution assessed?

Ans. The main source of funds for the regular budget of the UN is the contribution of Member States. Member States are assessed on a scale specified by the Assembly. The fundamental criterion on which the scale of assessments is based is the real capacity of Member States to pay. Rich countries pay more and poor countries pay less.

Q. 54 Is there any limit on payments of contribution to the UN ?

Ans. Yes. No single country can pay more than 22% of the total and the minimum is 0.01%.

Q. 55 Can a Member-State be penalised for delay or non-payment of dues?

Ans. If Member-States get too far behind with their dues they lose their voting rights in the General Assembly. However this has never happened.

Q. 56 What is the difference between UN Peace-keeping forces and other Armed forces?

Ans. There are some important differences

- UN Peace Keepers cannot take sides in a conflict.
- Countries in conflict must agree to the presence of Peace Keepers.
- UN Peace Keepers are generally lightly armed and cannot use force unless attacked.
- UN Peace Keepers may also be civilians and from the police because peace keeping includes a range of activities including humanitarian assistance, monitoring elections, and observing and reporting on a situation.

Q. 57 Who commands the UN Peacekeeping Operations?

Ans. Peacekeeping Operations are established by the Security Council and directed by the Secretary- General usually through a special representative

The UN has no military force of its own and member states provide the military and persons required for each operation. Peacekeepers wear their country's uniform and are identified as peacekeepers only by a UN blue helmet or beret and a badge.

Q. 58 What is the Universal Declaration of Human Rights?

Ans. The Universal Declaration is a standard, but it is not law. However, several covenants, which include the main points of the Declaration, were signed in the 1960s and came into force in 1976 after most of the countries had ratified them. These countries are obliged to abide by them. They also gave the right to the UN to monitor whether or not Governments are observing their citizens' Human Rights.

Q. 59 When was the Human Rights Declaration adopted?

Ans. On December 10, 1948 by the UN General Assembly. December 10 is observed as Human Rights Day around the world.

Q. 60 Can individuals complain to the UN for violations of their Human Rights?

Ans. Yes, communications containing complaints of violations of Human Rights are dealt with under the Economic and Social Council resolution 1503 (XLVIII), commonly known as the 1503 procedure and summarized and sent confidentially to the 53-member commission on Human Rights. Copies of the complaints are also sent to the named State. The identity of the writers is not disclosed unless they have consented to disclosure.

Q. 61 What is UNDP and its role ?

Ans. United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is the world's largest multilateral source of grant funding for development cooperation. It was created in 1965. Its funds come from the yearly voluntary contributions of Member States of the UN or its affiliated agencies.

Q. 62 Who are the United Nations Volunteers?

Ans. Established by a 1970 resolution of the General Assembly the United Nations Volunteers (UNV) are the specialists and field-workers who work in development and humanitarian relief programmes of Governments, assisted by UN agencies.

Q. 63 What is UNEP ?

Ans. United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) was established as a result of the UN Conference on the Human Environment in Stockholm in 1972. UNEP's main job is to catalyse environmental action and awareness worldwide. It has its Headquarters in Nairobi, Kenya and is the world's leading environmental agency.

Q. 64 Why is the World Environment Day celebrated annually on 5th June?

Ans. To commemorate the anniversary of the opening day of the first UN Conference on the Human Environment in Stockholm in 1972.

Q. 65 What is the UN Democracy Fund (UNDEF)?

Ans. UN Democracy Fund was established in early 2005 to promote democracy throughout the world by providing assistance for projects that consolidates and strengthens democratic governance. However, UNDEF does not promote any sample model of democracy. The fund officially began its work on March 6, 2006

Q.66 What is the role of UNICEF?

Ans. United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) was created by the General Assembly during its first session in 1946 with a mandate for the survival, protection and development of children. As the only UN agency devoted exclusively to the needs of children, UNICEF speaks on their behalf and promotes the implementation of the convention on the child, which became international law in September 1990. UNICEF relies entirely upon voluntary public and government contribution. UNICEF was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1965.

Q.67 What and where is the United Nations University?

Ans. The United Nations University (UNU) is headquartered in Tokyo, Japan. Established in 1973 UNU works to promote scholarly international and scientific cooperation to help solve urgent global problems.

Q.68 In what way is the UNU different from a traditional teaching university?

Ans. It has no student of its own, no faculty, no campus. It operates through worldwide networks of academic and research institutions, including its own research and training centers and individual scholars, to address problems.

Q.69 What means are available to the UN to help resolve conflicts?

- Ans.**
- (a) Member States may bring a conflict to the attention of the Security Council. The Security Council can then call upon countries in conflict to settle their differences peacefully (Article 33).
 - (b) If countries in conflict cannot come to an agreement on their own, they can take the dispute to the International Court of Justice which will decide who is right and who is wrong (Article 36).
 - (c) The Security Council may ask UN members to stop trading with the country or countries and to cut all forms of communication including by sea, air, rail, post, telephone, radio etc. Members may also be asked to close Embassies in the country or countries concerned (Article 41).
 - (d) If all this fails or is felt to be impractical the Security Council may dispatch neutral UN Peace Keepers to patrol safety or demilitarized zones, or to enforce or monitor cease-fire agreements until a permanent agreement is reached. However, Peace Keepers can only be sent if all countries in conflict agree to their presence.
 - (e) In some cases, the Security Council may authorize Member States to intervene in a conflict by using a regular military force. Forces are contributed by Member States. This has happened only twice, in Korea in 1950 and in Kuwait in 1991.
 - (f) Article 43 requires all Member States to make an agreed number of armed forces available to the Security Council for use in such cases.

Q. 70 Who is a refugee and who protects them on behalf of the UN ?

Ans. “A refugee is a person who owing to a well-founded fear of persecution for reasons of race, religion, nationality or political opinion, is outside the country of his nationality and is unable or, owing to such fear, unwilling to avail himself of the protection of that country”.

The office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) was established. by the General Assembly in 1951 to protect refugees and promote durable solutions to their problems.

Q. 71 Name the seventeen agencies, known as “Specialized Agencies” - a term used in the UN Charter.

- Ans.**
- (a) International Labour Organisation (ILO).
 - (b) Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO).
 - (c) UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO).
 - (d) World Health Organisation (WHO).
 - (e) World Bank; International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD).
 - (f) International Development Association (IDA)
 - (g) International Finance Corporation (IFC).
 - (h) Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA).
 - (i) International Monetary Fund (IMF).
 - (j) International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO).
 - (k) Universal Postal Union (UPU).
 - (l) International Telecommunication Union (ITU).
 - (m) World Meteorological Organisation (WMO).
 - (n) International Maritime Organisation (IMO)
 - (o) World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO)
 - (p) International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)
 - (q) United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO)

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) do not have the formal status of a specialised agency.

Q. 72 What is the World Bank?

Ans. The World Bank is a group of four institutions; The International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD), established in 1945, the International Finance Corporation (IFC), established in 1956, the International Development Association (IDA), established in 1960, and the Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA), established in 1988.

The Common objective of all four institutions is to help raise standards of living in developing countries by channeling financial resources to those countries from developed countries.

Q.73 What was the Bretten Woods Conference?

Ans. It was a United Nations Monetary and Financial Conference of 44 Governments held in 1944 at Bretten Woods, USA. It led to the establishment of IBRD - the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development.

Q.74 What is IMF?

Ans. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) founded in December 1945 is an inter-governmental organization to :

- (a) promote cooperation on international monetary issues;
- (b) to promote exchange stability;
- (c) to facilitate balanced growth of international trade; and
- (d) to make the general resources of the fund temporarily available to members to permit them to correct maladjustments in their balance of payments.

Q.75 Was India among the original 51 Member States of the UN in 1945 ?

Ans. Yes.

Q.76 What is IAEA? Give its date of establishment, the place of its Headquarters and its basic objectives.

Ans. International Atomic Energy Agency was established on July 29, 1957 in Vienna. Its two main objectives are to seek to accelerate and enlarge the contribution of atomic energy to peace, health and prosperity throughout the world and to ensure that it is not used in such a way as to further any military purpose. It is administered by a 35-member Board of Governors headed by a Director General.

Q.77 Name the first specialised agency of the United Nations?

Ans. ILO - International Labour Organisation. It was established in 1919 as an autonomous institution associated with the League of Nations. By an agreement approved on December 14, 1946, ILO became the first specialised agency associated with UN. Based at Geneva in Switzerland ILO works to promote social justice for working people everywhere. In ILO, workers, employers and Governments representatives have an equal voice in formulating its policies.

Q.78 “Since war begins in the minds of men, it is in the minds of men that the defences of peace must be constructed.” Where does this well-known quotation come from.

Ans. From the constitution of UNESCO - United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization - which came into being on November 4, 1946, with Headquarters in Paris, France.

UNESCO is involved in promoting education worldwide, preserving the world's heritage and culture, improving accessibility to communication and supporting social scientific research.

Q. 79 What is Sustainable Development?

Ans. The UN Environment Programme (UNEP) defines sustainable Development as programmes that would “improve people’s quality of life within the carrying capacity of the earth’s life-support system”.

Q. 80 Who got the Nobel Peace Prize for his leadership in establishing the UN.

Ans. Mr. Cordell Hull, US Secretary of State in 1945.

Q. 81 What and when was the first resolution adopted by the UN General Assembly.

Ans. On January 24, 1946, UNGA adopts its first resolution and its main focus was peaceful uses of atomic energy and the elimination of atomic and other weapons of mass destruction.

Q. 82 What do you know about “An Agenda for Peace”? When and by whom was it issued?

Ans. On June 17, 1992, UN Secretary-General Mr. Boutros Boutros Ghali issued, for submission to the Member States - An Agenda for Peace. It recommends ways to improve the UN capacity for preventive diplomacy, peace-making and peace-keeping.

Q. 83 What is “An Agenda for Development” ?

Ans. It is a blueprint for improving the human condition.

In response to the request of the General Assembly, the Secretary-General issued this report on May 6, 1994.

Q. 84 What is UN-OHRLLS?

Ans. Set up in this century in December 2001, the office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States was established by the General Assembly to meet the specific needs of these countries. It also engages in advocacy and promotion of global awareness of these issues in partnership with the relevant UN bodies, Civil Society, the media, academia and the foundations. It is headed by a Under Secretary-General.

Q. 85 Name the forerunner organization of the UN and the year of its establishment?

Ans. League of Nations, established in 1919 under the Treaty of Versailles.

Q. 86 Where did the University of Peace get established?

Ans. The General Assembly in 1980 approved the establishment of the University of Peace, in San Jose, Costa Rica.

Q. 87 Which day of the year is celebrated as International Day of Peace?

Ans. The General Assembly has designated 21 September as the International Day of Peace.

Q. 88 What are the Millennium Development Goals adopted at the Millennium Summit in 2000.

- Ans.**
- (a) Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger
 - (b) Achieve universal primary education
 - (c) Promote gender equality and empower women
 - (d) Reduce child mortality
 - (e) Improve maternal health
 - (f) Combat HIV / AIDS, malaria and other diseases.
 - (g) Ensure environmental sustainability
 - (h) Develop a global partnership for development.

Q. 89 What is UN's initiative "Alliance of Civilizations"?

Ans. A new initiative – "Alliance of Civilizations" was launched in 2005 in response to concerns that extremists had been exploiting the sense of a widening gap between Islamic and Western societies with an objective to build bridges and promote a culture of respect.

The alliance was originally proposed by Spanish Prime Minister Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero and co-sponsored by Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan and both countries continue to act as co-sponsors.

Q. 90 AIDS kills more than 2 million people each year. Is there any UN programme to tackle this threat?

Ans. Ten UN agencies have pooled their resources in the UN Programme - called UNAIDS to combat HIV/AIDS. The participating agencies are UNICEF, WFP, UNDP, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNODC, ILO, UNESCO, WHO and the World Bank. In their Millennium Declaration, world leaders resolved by 2015 to have halted and begun to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS and to provide special assistance to children orphaned by the disease.

Q. 91 Why was the Trusteeship Council set-up and why has it suspended its operations?

Ans. Trusteeship Council was set up by the UN to supervise the administration of Trust Territories and its major goal was to promote self-government or independence.

On 1 November 1994 the Council has suspended its operation with the independence of Palau, the last remaining UN Trust territory. It will now meet as occasions required at the request of General Assembly or the Security Council

Q. 92 Who are the Messengers of Peace and Goodwill Ambassadors. Who appoints them.

Ans. They are prominent personalities who have lent their names, talents and time to support UN programmes. Messengers of Peace are appointed by the UN Secretary-General. The Goodwill Ambassadors are appointed by a cross-section of funds. Indian tennis player Vijay Amritraj was appointed UN Messenger of Peace on February 2001.

Q.93 What is NPT? Has India signed it, if not why?

Ans. The Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), the most universal of all multilateral disarmament treaties, was first opened for signature in 1968 and came into force in 1970. The NPT is the cornerstone of the global nuclear non-proliferation regime and the essential foundation for the pursuit of nuclear disarmament.

India is not a signatory to NPT because India considers it a discriminatory treaty.

Q.94 What are the special powers granted to Security Council under Chapter VII of the UN Charter?

Ans. Under Chapter VII of the Charter, the Security Council is empowered to take measures to enforce its decisions. It can impose embargoes and sanctions or authorise the use of military force by a coalition of Member States or by a regional organisation or arrangement. But the Security Council takes such action only as a last resort.

Q.95 What is role of United Nations in the field of disarmament?

Ans. The UN General Assembly has two subsidiary bodies dealing with disarmament issues: the first committee (Disarmament and International Security) and the Disarmament Commission.

The Conference on Disarmament is the international community's sole multinational negotiating forum for disarmament agreements. The Conference successfully negotiated both the chemical weapons convention and the comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT). Of late the Conference has been unable to agree on a substantive programme due to lack of consensus.

Q.96 How does the UN build peace through development?

Ans. While the war is the worst enemy of development, a healthy and balanced development is the best form of conflict prevention. A central tool of the UN action to consolidate peace is development assistance. The UN through its various agencies play a role in stimulating economic recovery and mobilising resources.

Q.97 What is the role of Department of Public information and name the Indian who headed it?

Ans. UN Department of Public Information (DPI) mission is to strategically communicate information about the UN's activities and concerns to the public. It does this to encourage public support for the achievement of the aims of the world body.

Mr. Shashi Tharoor of India, as the Under-Secretary-General for Communication and Public Information headed DPI from 2003 to 2006.

Q. 98 Name the Indian who contested for the post of UN Secretary - General?

Ans. Ms. Shashi Tharoor of India who was under Secretary-General contested for the post of UN Secretary-General in 2006 and lost to the present UN Secretary-General Mr. Ban Ki - moon of South Korea.

Q. 99 What is ESCAP, its objectives and place of its Headquarters?

Ans. Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) was established in 1947 with a mandate to address the economic and social issues of the region. It is the only inter-governmental forum for all the countries of Asia and the Pacific. Its 53 Member States and 9 associate member states represent some 60 percent of the world's population. Headed by an Executive Secretary, it is headquartered at Bangkok, Thailand.

Q. 100 Who can make the UN a more effective body?

Ans. The Member States and the people of the world by providing the requisite support and political will.

“The UN is not just a product of do-gooders. It is harshly real. The day will come when men will see the U.N. and what it means clearly. Everything will be all right — you know when? When people, just people, stop thinking of the United Nations as a weird Picasso abstraction, and see it as a drawing they made themselves.”

– Dag Hammarskjold

“The aim of political institutions like the United Nations is to draw the line between struggle and conflict and to make it possible for nations to stay on the right side of that line...”

– Javier Perez de Cuellar

**ADDRESS BY INDIAN PRIME MINISTER DR. MANMOHAN SINGH
AT 66TH UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON SEPTEMBER 24, 2011**



Dr. Manmohan Singh

Mr. President,

We meet at this session of the United Nations General Assembly at a time of great uncertainty and profound change. Till a few years ago the world had taken for granted the benefits of globalization and global interdependence. Today we are being called upon to cope with the negative dimensions of those very phenomena. Economic, social and political events in different parts of the world have coalesced together and their adverse impact is now being felt across countries and continents. The world economy is in trouble. The shoots of recovery which were visible after the economic and financial crisis of 2008 have yet to blossom. In many respects the crisis has deepened even further. The traditional engines of the global economy such as the United States, Europe and Japan, which are also the sources of global economic and financial stability, are faced with continued economic slowdown. Recessionary trends in these countries are affecting confidence in world financial and capital markets. These developments are bound to

have a negative impact on developing countries which also have to bear the additional burden of inflationary pressures. Declining global demand and availability of capital, increasing barriers to free trade and mounting debt pose a threat to the international monetary and financial system. Questions are being asked about the efficacy of the Bretton Woods Institutions.

There has been unprecedented social and political upheaval in West Asia, the Gulf and North Africa. People of these regions are demanding the right to shape their own future. Energy and food prices are once again spiraling and introducing fresh instability, especially for developing countries. The Palestinian questions still remain unresolved and a source of great instability and violence. India is steadfast in its support for the Palestinian people's struggle for a sovereign, independent, viable and united state of Palestine with East Jerusalem as its capital, living within secure and recognizable borders side by side and at peace with Israel. We look forward to welcoming Palestine as an equal member of the United Nations. Terrorism continues to rear its ugly head and take a grievous toll of innocent lives. New threats to international security have emerged. At a time when the world needs more international commerce, the sea lanes of communication across the Indian Ocean are under siege. Acts of piracy are being carried out with impunity from lands that are beyond the writ of any functioning state or international accountability. Iniquitous growth, inadequate job and education opportunities and denial of basic human freedoms are leading to growing radicalization of the youth, intolerance and extremism.

“If there had been no United Nations today, our first task would have been to create something of that kind, I should like, therefore, to pay my tribute to the work of the United Nations as a whole, even though I might criticize it some aspects of it from time to time.”

- Jawaharlal Nehru

We have no choice but to meet these challenges. We will succeed if we adopt a cooperative rather than a confrontationalist approach. We will succeed if we embrace once again the principles on which the United Nations was founded —internationalism and multilateralism. More importantly, we will succeed if our efforts have legitimacy and are pursued not just within the framework of law but also the spirit of the law. The observance of the rule of law is as important in international affairs as it is within countries. Societies cannot be reordered from outside through military force. People in all countries have the right to choose their own destiny and decide their own future. The international community has a role to play in assisting in the processes of transition and institution building, but the idea that prescriptions have to be imposed from outside is fraught with danger. Actions taken under the authority of the United Nations must respect the unity, territorial integrity, sovereignty and independence of individual

states. Correspondingly, governments are duty bound to their citizens to create conditions that enable them to freely determine their pathways to development. This is the essence of democracy and fundamental human freedoms.

There are many other things that we can do. We must address the issue of the deficit in global governance. We need a stronger and more effective United Nations. We need a United Nations that is sensitive to the aspirations of everyone - rich or poor, big or small. For this the United Nations and its principal organs, the General Assembly and the Security Council, must be revitalized and reformed. The reform and expansion of the Security Council are essential if it is to reflect contemporary reality. Such an outcome will enhance the Council's credibility and effectiveness in dealing with global issues. Early reform of the Security Council must be pursued with renewed vigour and urgently enacted. We should not allow the global economic slowdown to become a trigger for building walls around ourselves through protectionism or erecting barriers to movement of people, services and capital. Effective ways and means must be deployed to promote coordination of macro economic policies of major economies. The reform of governance systems of international financial institutions ought to be pursued with speed and efficiency. The development agenda must be brought firmly back to the centre stage of the United Nations' priorities. We need a much more determined effort to ensure balanced, inclusive and sustainable development for the benefit of vast sections of humanity. Each of us can contribute to this task, but we can achieve far more if we act in partnership. In the last few decades India has lifted tens of millions of its people out of abject poverty. We are in a position to feed our population better, to educate them better and to widen their economic choices. But we still have a very long way to go. We wish to quicken the pace of India's transformation in partnership with the international community. A fast growing India can expand the boundaries for the global economy. A democratic, plural and secular India can contribute to tolerance and peaceful co-existence among nations. Developing countries need investment, technology and market access for their products. They need assistance in the areas of education, health, women's empowerment and agriculture. During the recently held 4th United Nations - Least Developed Countries Conference, India has strengthened its partnership with the LDCs through significantly enhanced lines of credit and assistance in capacity building. We have to pay particular attention to Africa. Africa's richest resources are not its minerals but its people. We have to empower them and open the doors for them to human advances in technology, education and skill development. At the second India-Africa Forum Summit in Addis Ababa earlier this year India offered lines of credit worth five billion US dollars and an additional 700 million US dollars grant assistance for human resource development, transfer of technology and building new institutions. The United Nations should lead efforts in the area of food security. We need more cooperation in agricultural technologies, water conservation, land usage and productivity and stability in commodity prices.

Developing countries need a peaceful external environment to grow. The fight against terrorism must be unrelenting. There cannot be selective approaches in dealing with terrorist groups or the

infrastructure of terrorism. Terrorism has to be fought across all fronts. In South Asia there are encouraging signs of cooperation in the area of security, as exemplified in India's cooperation with Bangladesh. Such cooperation is adding to the security of both our countries. The recent assassination of Professor Burhanuddin Rabbani in Kabul is a chilling reminder of the designs of the enemies of peace in Afghanistan. It is essential that the process of nation building and reconciliation in that country succeeds. This is vital for ensuring peace and security in the region.

India will play its part in helping the people of Afghanistan to build a better future for themselves, just as we are doing in other countries in South Asia. We will do so because prosperity and stability in our region are indivisible. We wish to see an open, inclusive and transparent architecture of regional cooperation in the Asia Pacific region and peaceful settlement of disputes. I call upon the United Nations to evolve a comprehensive and effective response to the

problem of piracy in the Red Sea and off the coast of Somalia. As a littoral state of the Indian Ocean, India is ready to work with other countries in this regard. Simultaneously, the international community should continue with efforts to restore stability in Somalia. We have joined international efforts to provide humanitarian assistance to the countries afflicted with severe famine and drought in the Horn of Africa, specifically Somalia, Kenya and Djibouti. Nuclear proliferation continues to remain a threat to international security. The Action Plan put forward by Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi for a Nuclear-Weapon-Free and Non-Violent World provides a concrete road map for achieving nuclear disarmament in a time-bound, universal, non-discriminatory, phased and verifiable manner. I commend the United Nations for its efforts in focusing world attention on nuclear safety. Our plans for utilizing nuclear power to meet our energy needs hinge upon full satisfaction about the safety of nuclear energy. We have undertaken a thorough review of the safety of our nuclear plants. We support international efforts under the aegis of the International Atomic Energy Agency to enhance levels of safety and security.

The perspectives that I have outlined to this august assembly are the ones that have guided our actions in the Security Council since India became a non-permanent member of the Council in January this year. There are still millions living in poverty across the world. Their plight has worsened, for no fault of theirs, due to the global economic and financial crisis of the recent years. The actions of governments around the world are therefore under close scrutiny. It is vitally important that through our actions and deeds we renew people's faith in the charter and objectives of the United Nations. I am confident we can do this through statesmanship, foresight and collective efforts. India stands ready to play its part in this noble endeavour.

I thank you.

“Machinery, new or old, by itself, will not save us if we are not truly and sincerely determined to remove war as a means of settling difference.”

- Mrs. Vijaya Lakshmi Pandit

U N System Under Strain

M. K. Narayanan
Governor of West Bengal



I may be excused for exercising my prerogative to speak at the beginning rather than at the end of today's discussion. I hope Krish Srinivasan and Himachal Som will not mind. Having recently seen at first hand the games nations play, and their duplicitous behaviour, I felt it was better that I speak at the beginning, rather than at the end to try and set the tone for today's discussion.

I would like to begin by stating that we must understand the circumstances under which the United Nations Organisation came into being in the mid '40s of the 20th Century. Distance lends enchantment and this is probably true of the UN as well. But if the truth be told, the circumstances under which it came into being were far from perfect, if not convoluted. If one were to go by the reports and records of the period, the UN did not come into being because of the lofty ideals of the Big Powers of that time, but was the result of a series of compromises among the Big Three (the US, the UK and Russia) – many of them of an opaque nature.

This was clearly evident at Yalta in February 1945. The three key personalities present at Yalta, viz., Roosevelt, Churchill and Stalin, had clearly different aims of what required to be done, once Germany was defeated. While all three seemed intent on the dismemberment of Germany, there were wide variations on how to achieve the pacification of Germany. There were also other priorities such as reparations, and carving out of spheres of influence, in the post – war world. The least important seemed to be the creation of an United Nations Organisation. Roosevelt

was the only one among the three who was keen on creating such a body. Stalin was skeptical about the US plans for the UN. It would seem from the records that the UK shared some of Stalin's skepticism.

Basic Structure

The basic structure of the UNO had already been tentatively worked out at Dumbarton – Oaks in 1944. Broad agreement could be reached, despite a great deal of friction amongst those present, in regard to having a General Assembly of all Members and a Security Council comprising Five Permanent Members and 10 rotating members. None of those present at Yalta were, however, interested in the details of the new organization, once there was agreement to set it up – Stalin, least of all, for he had little use for the UN as an institution, convinced that security would depend upon military might and of deals among the great powers.

Essentially, the decision at Yalta to set up a United Nations Organisation was the outcome of several side deals. The entry of France and China into the Five – Member Security Council was part of the deal worked out between the UK and the US on the one hand and Russia on the other. The UK was

keen on the inclusion of France as it was a close ally, so likewise the US wished to have China in the Security Council being its close ally. In return, Russia more or less had its way with regard to exerting control over East Europe and, particularly, as to where to draw the lines as far as Poland was concerned. The issue of an effective Veto for the five Permanent Members of the SC was also finalized at Yalta, as part of the deal after a great deal of acrimony.

This, then, is the background against which the UNO finally came into being. For more than half a Century this structure of the UN could be sustained without major changes. This was mainly because of the overarching influence exercised on the body by the US, due to its predominant economic strength and military might. As the economic, and to some extent military, might of US began to show signs of declining, alongside, power became more diffused globally. It was then that the warts in the UN system began to become evident. By the turn of the Century, though the US was still the sole Superpower, multi – polarity had become the order of the day. The UN system hence came under greater strain. Meanwhile also, issues to which military force was relevant had begun to diminish. The emergence of non – State actors created yet another new paradigm.

New Situation

Absence of an overriding ideology, or a strategic threat, compounded this situation still further. It induced basic changes in the behaviour of nations, freeing them to pursue foreign policies

“More than ever before in human history, we share a common destiny. We can master it only if we face it together. And that, my friends, is why we have the United Nations.”

– Kofi Annan

based increasingly on their immediate national interest. From a system dominated by one, or at best two, superpowers, to an international system characterized by five or six major economic/military powers, and a multiplicity of not insignificant smaller States, represented a fundamental change and necessitated a new correlation of forces. Order would henceforth have to emerge from a reconciliation and balancing of competing national interests. Whether the UN – created out of debris of World War II – could sufficiently transform itself to operate effectively in the new situation remained the cardinal issue.

This gained an element of urgency with the relevance of the UN (whenever key global issues were being deliberated or confronted) being openly being called into question. In this Century alone, we have three conspicuous examples of this. There was the US - led intervention in Iraq in 2003; the issue of Iran's nuclear ambitions from around 2005, as also North Korea's open defiance on nuclear matters; and Climate Change issues, where the UNFCCC was often bypassed. The more important the country or group, the less they seemed to need to involve the UN when reaching conclusions. To take just one example, four years after the Security Council first ordered Iran to stop energizing Uranium, and despite the increasingly stringent sanctions imposed by UN, Europe is still Iran's biggest trading partner. China, for its part, is increasing its investments in Iran. Russia has tended to water down sanctions to suit itself, etc.



It would, hence, seem that there are different sets of rules for nations when coming to terms with the issue of global institutions making global rules. To an extent, perhaps, the recurring demands for the restructuring and revitalization of the UN stem from the perceived impotence of the UN to deal with different problems, often under varying and conflicting circumstances. However, it is uncertain, how genuine this demand is, at least among the so called more

developed countries of the world. Moreover, no one is quite clear what is meant by “restructuring” or “revitalizing” of the UN. There is even less comprehension on what it portends.

In recent years, India has consistently voiced the demand for the UNO to reflect current realities. India has made it clear that this is essential if the UN is to play its appointed role in terms of global governance and maintenance of world peace.

Prime Minister Manmohan Singh speaking in Washington in November last year, underscored this when he mentioned that the world had made some progress in moving towards a more representative mechanism to manage global economic and financial issues, but that the same could not be said about governance of the political and security order. He added that there was need to reform the UN and its Security Council.

What was meant by this is that an UN Security Council which does not have a place for countries like India, Brazil, Germany and Japan cannot hope to fulfil its appointed role.

While the UN is important, and we will continue to press for proper representation, including a Seat for India in the Security Council as a Permanent Member, this is not our sole priority. India is in the midst of a rapid transformation and hence sustainability of development, and a policy of inclusive

growth remain our key priorities. Nevertheless, in an evolving world, with multi – polarity as the order of the day, it is but natural that nations bound together by economic inter – dependence and security concerns should seek to coordinate with each other to mutual benefit.

Asian Century

The 21st Century is often touted as the “Asian Century”, and it is critical that Asia which is clearly underrepresented at present in the world’s councils, achieves greater influence. Within the UN, this would help create a world of positive externalities and mutual prosperity rather than one based on balance of power calculations and animosity. In effecting any such change in the UN balance, the importance of two countries from Asia – India and Japan – cannot possibly be ignored.

This is further buttressed by the concatenation of circumstances existing presently in the 21st Century. The end of the Cold War provided scope for Emerging powers such as India to carve out a strategic space for themselves and presented them with opportunities that did not exist previously. This is already manifesting itself in several directions including, for instance, in the G – 20 where India’s participation is now crucial. In any set of deliberations intended to re – shape

“Peace is not a relationship of nations. It is a condition of mind brought about by a serenity of soul. Peace is not merely the absence of war. It is also a state of mind. Lasting peace can come only to peaceful people.”

- Jawaharlal Nehru

the global economy and the global financial architecture, India cannot any longer be ignored. Quite evidently also, shaping the world of the future in which centrifugal forces of economic integration and the centripetal forces of powerful rising nationalisms compete for influence, the active involvement of countries like India with its rich civilizational legacy and current economic and intellectual strength is vitally necessary.

In the year 2005, Heads of State and Government reaffirmed their commitment to strengthen the United Nations to meet the new challenges of the 21st Century. Following this, there have been some major accomplishments such as the establishment of the Peace – building Commission and of the Human Rights Council. Prior to this, the IMF and the World Bank had been compelled to effect some changes on their own, and the setting up of the Financial Stability Forum was one such effort. All these, however, have merely scratched the surface, and fall far short of what is needed in terms of the reform and restructuring of the UNO. The UN itself, however, is content with debating, at each session of the General Assembly, the same hackneyed themes of revitalisation of the working of the General Assembly, equitable representation and increase in the Membership of the Security Council and related matters, and strengthening of the UN system.

India in Security Council

Meanwhile, platitudes continued to be mouthed about the need to include India, Japan, Germany and Brazil as Permanent Members of the SC to make the body more representative and effective. The efforts of the G – 4 (India, Japan, Germany and Brazil) in this regard have been consistently stymied, however, by the group of countries called the “Uniting for Consensus” despite the fact that Japan and Germany are the second and third largest funders of the UN, and India and Brazil are two of the largest contributors of troops to UN mandated peacekeeping missions.

Without an honest introspection among the members of the UN, and specially the Five Permanent Members of the Security Council, little progress is likely. This is specially true in regard to making the Security Council more representative since there is reluctance among the members of the “Cozy Club of Five” to expand the Membership. As far as India is concerned, among the Five Permanent Members, France has been the most supportive of India’s case. The US is willing but has been less forthcoming in public than France. Russia is committed but has refrained from explicitly stating so. China has been non – committal, while the UK has clearly not been helpful.

The Five Permanent Members must heed the timeless call of Mahatma Gandhi – that “the future depends on what we do in the present; we must be the change that we seek to see in the world.” Finally, to distort what Winston Churchill once said, “The only guide to a country’s conscience is the sincerity of its actions.” In this respect, both the Big Five nations and many smaller nations pitifully fail the standards expected of them.

India and United Nations Reform

Krishnan Srinivasan
Former Foreign Secretary of India



In India, whether the UN needs restructuring or reform is always a loaded question.

Every International Organisation has to change and adapt if it is to survive. Numerous international organizations are languishing, their utility long exhausted, although their participating members for a variety of reasons decline to kill them off.

But the UN shows versatility. That is why it has survived. The UN is our only global organization. So this is a question ultimately of global governance. How should it work? What changes are needed?

The UN has adapted considerably over the decades and will continue to do so. But changing and adapting is a very different matter from reform and restructuring.

No one would have thought four decades ago that the UN would observe elections in many parts of the world, engage in successful conflict resolution in places like Cambodia and East Timor, that there would be as many as 65 peacekeeping operations since 1948, that tribunals would be set up for crimes against humanity, that there would be an International Criminal Court and that the UN would engage in massive relief and rehabilitation efforts in natural disasters or war torn countries.

The issues raised in UN reform relate to the question of decision making, process, transparency and accountability and with these, the related matters of monitoring and evaluation, which are very difficult issues when it comes to dealing with sovereign states. Basically there is a democratic deficit at the international level. In the most serious cases, the issue of peace and security, which is the purview of the UN Security Council, the Charter of the UN has all too often been subverted and distorted by the influence of one permanent member; in the post Cold War era, specifically by the United States, thereby reducing the Council's credibility.

Different Agendas

When we speak of reform of the UN, every country will agree that changes are required but no two countries will agree on what those changes should be. The least developed, the developing, the small states, the landlocked, the industrialized and the emerging countries all have different agendas that serve their own interests. This is what makes it impossible to reach consensus. The countries making the loudest noise for transparency are the same ones that block the reform process and lobby hardest for their unsuitable candidates to find jobs in the UN system.

How effective are the WMO, WIPO, ECOSOC, UNESCO, UNIDO and WTO? I will not expand on the initials. If you do not know what they are, they are probably irrelevant. Would there not be rationale in saving money on these organizations by winding them up? Some of them have budgets only big enough to pay for their own staff salaries.

We can point to waste and inefficiency in many UN agencies and organs around the world. The UNMOGIP from 1949 is the oldest peacekeeping mission though it is not called that, but why does it exist? Is it any use? Does anyone know what it does?

It would be a good thing to eliminate some of these agencies and set up others with new mandates. For example, a new one to deal with energy, water and the equitable sharing of our global commons. My recommendation would be to have a UN Economic Council to supplement the UN Security Council.

There are some agencies that do good work of course. The UN Refugee Agency, the Health Organisation, UNICEF, UNDP and so on. But there is little in the way of synergy or coordination. My recommendation here would be to group many of such agencies under a new umbrella called UNAID – the United Nations Agency for International Development, which could supplement the Bretton Woods Institutions.

Anachronistic System

Turning to the Bretton Woods institutions, the IMF and the World Bank and GATT, now the World Trade Organisation, are part of the UN family. Their governing structure is heavily weighted in favor of the industrialized countries, though their clientele is almost exclusively from the developing world. Only very recently has the voting power of emerging economies like India and China obtained a slightly higher quota, but both combined are still less than 10%. This is anachronistic and requires revision in keeping with the changed world order. We need only observe that the IMF had almost no role in the global financial meltdown precisely because of this lopsided governance pattern.

In India, any discussion on UN reform and restructuring however turns exclusively on one question only, and that is of expanding the UN Security Council to include India as a permanent member because of its population, its democracy, contribution to UN peacekeeping etc, I was the Indian foreign secretary in 1994 when India for the first time formally proposed its inclusion as a permanent member, in the same year that Japan made a similar claim. Both India and Japan were then, not coincidentally, in a competition at the same time for a non-permanent seat on the Council.

We in India see our case as self-evident, but I frankly think we have wasted enough time, energy and money on enlisting support. When it comes, it will come when our stature as an essential country whose voice is required and respected is recognized by everyone. In other words when we no longer need even to make a case. For many reasons, and several of those having nothing to do with India, that time is not yet ripe.

When India submitted the candidature of Mr. Shashi Tharoor for the UN secretary general's post, I thought that good sense had finally prevailed, for it is inconceivable that New Delhi did not know that a country cannot have a secretary general and a permanent seat on the UN Security Council at the same time. But unfortunately this matter still obsesses our media. For example, when the Indian president visited China recently and when China's response, whatever our wishful-thinking media may say, was typically cautious.

Restructuring the UN Security Council will need an amendment of the UN Charter. This is a very difficult procedure requiring the approval of 2/3rds of the membership of the UN and the consent of all 5 permanent members of the Council, apart from the ratification by due constitutional process of all members. Thus the Charter has only been amended a handful of times in its 65 year old history, the last occasion in 1973.

Amendment of Charter

In 1965 the numbers of non-permanent members of the Council were increased from 6 to 10 and expansion of ECOSOC from 18 to 27. In 1973 ECOSOC numbers were further increased to 54. An amendment to Article 109 in 1968 slightly changed the process for considering amendment to the Charter, which itself requires 2/3rds of the General Assembly and 9 votes of the Security Council.

Changes in structure without amending the Charter have allowed the Security Council to take decisions even if the permanent members abstained instead of voting in favour, the admission of China instead of Taipeh in 1971 and Russia taking the place of the Soviet Union in 1991. The Rules of Procedure of various UN bodies have been repeatedly modified.

But there are no shortcuts to expanding the numbers of permanent or non-permanent members of the Security Council. I mention this only to show how hard it is to amend the Charter, and by Charter amendment, the basic structure of the UN.

The fundamental point about India's permanent membership is that it will be a package deal, not only about India but many countries covering all the continents. There will have to be give and take – bargains will have to be struck and no one will get full satisfaction. The reality is that there is no consensus at present in expanding the Council and with which countries.

The day will come, probably within our lifetime, when India will be a permanent member. We need not fret and fuss about this. We should build our own strength and credibility, and attend to our weaknesses. When the time comes we will be invited in, we will not have to try and force the door open.

UNITED NATIONS AT SIXTY

Policies of Major Countries In Need of Reform

By SITARAM SHARMA

(published in The Statesman of 13 January, 2005)

Even before war in Iraq the world had become unbalanced in military terms although the full extent of that imbalance did not become clear till the invasion by the coalition forces. New concepts of war have emerged which seek to justify, in certain circumstances, armed intervention in the affairs of another sovereign state. This refers to the concept of humanitarian war to prevent or punish, genocide, ethnic cleansing and other heinous crimes, and the war to effect a regime change in order to liberate an oppressed people from dictatorship and install a democratic form of government. If such a war is waged with the approval of the United Nations, there would be no problem as to its legality. If, however, it were to be launched by a state that possesses the capacity to do so militarily, grave questions would arise as to its legality leading to a world order based on military dominance.

Challenging Time

The former UN Secretary-General, Kofi Annan, has said the US action in Iraq has inflicted serious damage to the credibility of the United Nations. Calling it an illegal war Mr. Annan said, "I have indicated it is not in conformity with the UN Charter from our point of view and from the Charter's point of view it was illegal". The Iraq war not only undermined the United Nations, it also undermined the multilateralism which is a key to participation of all in the management of world affairs. The new unilateral doctrine of pre-emptive force represents a fundamental challenge to the principles of collective security. The architects of the Charter were guided by a central idea - that durable international peace could be built only on the foundations of interdependence. Underpinning this idea was the rule of law and multilateralism as the only rational basis for civilized discourse among nations.

Since controversies surrounding the Iraq crisis began, it has been an extraordinarily challenging time for the United Nations. The weakening of the United Nations, especially the Security Council, has created uncertainty and has a destabilizing effect on the world order. All countries big or small, rich or poor, strong or weak need to be treated as equals with no country imposing its will on others. To avert global threats and secure peace, an effective United Nations is needed.

As the UN approaches its 60th anniversary in 2005 amid multiple threats and challenges ranging from wars and terrorism to disease and poverty, it is imperative that the UN is reformed and strengthened from both within and without. However, reforms will change nothing if the attempts to sideline the United Nations and to disempower it continue. In such a situation reform will be reduced to a survival exercise.

Differing Views

So far, the reforms initiated by the UN since 1992 to face the challenges of the post Cold- War period have neither been effective nor fruitful. "Reforming the machinery of the United Nations is no substitute for the willingness of governments to use the organization, nor can it, by itself, bridge the very real differences in interests and powers that exist among member States".

The working group on the question of equitable representation on and increase in membership of the Security Council has been grappling with potentially the most important and politically charged reform issues facing the United Nations. Discussions have been focused on size, composition and decision-making in the Security Council, including the right of veto. The Security Council is the only UN body where the principle of one country one vote is not fully applied. While many countries see broader representation of developing countries as an essential expression of a more democratic and legitimate Council, others have expressed concern that too large a Council would be unwieldy and less efficient.

Much more difficult is finding a convergence of views on the right of veto. Only the five permanent members currently have the right of veto, and any change to the veto power must be acceptable to all of them. The issue of veto remains a sticking point - some countries believe the new permanent members should possess equal rights - as does the means of determining who should be the new permanent members. In the General Assembly's annual high-level general debate this year, 140 states spoke specially about the reform of the Security Council. The majority of states indicated their preference for the enlargement of the Security Council in the permanent and nonpermanent membership. There was also a group of speakers who wished for enlargement of the Security Council only in non-permanent membership, not for permanent members. And there was a third category of speakers that was ready to accept the enlargement of the Security Council.

India has thrown its hat in the ring for a permanent seat in the Security Council following years of canvassing support among scores of nations. Recently, the Indian effort has become coordinated in concept with three other aspirants to the same status - Brazil, Germany and Japan.

Emergence of G-4

This new group of states, the G-4 are hopeful that the highlevel panel on threats, challenges and change, which is due to submit its report in December, will give them a special opportunity to enter the portals of the Council. The present situation might appear favourable to G-4 leaders because the recent crisis in the former Yugoslavia and West Africa, and above all, in Iraq, have exposed the inadequacy of the current system, and underscored the need for change.

At the conclusion of the three day General Assembly debate on the report of the Security Council and the question of its reforms, the Assembly President, Jean Ping, noted four major areas where consensus had emerged: that the 15 member body must be revitalized ahead of the 60th anniversary; that such a reform should focus on the Council's composition and its methods; that the expansion of the Council will make it more representative of geo-political realities in today's world and make its discussions more legitimate; and that the expansion of the Council should make it possible for developing countries to be better represented.

The United Nations needs strong reforms and restructuring to meet the needs of 21st century. The UN has been doing its part of reforming itself but critical reforms depend on member states alone. What is most in need of reform is not the United Nations but the United Nations policies of its member countries, particularly of the major powers who are permanent members of the Security Council.

EFFICACY IN DIVERSITY

The new world order needs a more participatory and democratic UN, writes Sitaram Sharma

(published in The Telegraph, Kolkata edition of 12 July, 1994)

Forty-nine years ago in San Francisco, a group of dedicated men and women met to draft the final text of what was to become the Charter of the United Nations. This is a remarkable document which would be virtually impossible to create today.

The UN charter touches on so many delicate and complex matters that its unanimous acceptance has been ascribed to its being written in the closing days of World War II. In spite of some dissonance, the 50 national representatives at San Francisco were imbued with a sense of mission.

Admittedly the UN has not succeeded in achieving its foremost objective of maintaining international peace and security. Since 1945 over a 100 major conflicts have taken place around the world and left 20 million dead. The UN was rendered powerless to deal with many of these wars because of vetoes - 279 of them cast in the security council during the first 40 years.

“The environment is an international issue, to be placed in the context of international co-operation, to be pursued through international institutions, to be linked to all aspects of international relations.

Conservation is each nation’s task, but it is a task which can be accomplished only in the setting of a co-operative world order.”

- Rajiv Gandhi

But the international system has undergone a sea change since 1945. The old order created after World War II had completely broken down by 1992. The broad contours of the new world order are discernible.

First, the international system for the first time in history has become near universal. With the breakaway regions of the former Soviet Union, Yugoslavia and Czechoslovakia having joined the UN as independent states, the latter’s membership has increased to 180.

Second, the world is virtually rid of military alliances. The United States has emerged as the dominant military and economic power.

Third, the countries of the South are being marginalized in world politics and the world repolarised along a North-South axis instead of an East-West one. Also, sharp economic disparities have developed within the South. As a single negotiating group on global issues, the South is losing relevance.

Fourth, international communism as a major plank of foreign policy has disappeared. Islam as an ideological force, though not monolithic and organized, is raising its head. A wave of political democratization and economic liberalization has swept the world. One result has been ethnic turmoil, political instability and economic uncertainty in various parts of the world.

The international system is in flux. There is an opportunity to build a system which is participatory and democratic. It would be potentially free from conflicts caused by territorial aggressiveness and ideological expansion. It should be a system in which problems of economic insecurity and environmental degradation are tackled in a nondiscriminatory manner.

Such a system cannot be erected around only the militarily or economically most powerful states. These states would be inclined to pursue their own national interests. It can only be build around a universal international organization - which is exactly what the UN happens to be. The UN, no longer incapacitated by the Cold War, could do the job.

The emergence of a new consensus among the permanent members of the security council has enabled the UN to be an effective world policeman since 1990.

But the composition of the council is open to criticism as being highly unrepresentative of current global realities. The idea of the five great powers of 1945 should forever retain the leading role in international peace and security has few takers. Conscious efforts should be made to democratize the UN by amending the charter or implementing some of its unused provisions.

The Security Council sits at the pinnacle of the global power structure. Within the council the permanent members exercise extraordinary powers through their right to veto. Besides, this is the only organ of the UN which has teeth.

The composition and procedure of the Security Council needs of be changed. The existing structure does not reflect prevailing international realities. This is the case whether one judges the global power structure in military and economic terms, in relationships between the great powers, by the total membership of the UN or by the definition of a security threat.

Advocates of change, mostly from the South, believe the Security Council has recently been used in the service of a few powerful countries acting as a "self appointed directorate". Countries like Japan and Germany feel their economic power earns them a seat at the decision making levels of the UN. Both of them have staked claims to permanent seats. The former US president, Mr. Bill Clinton, declared his support for their cause.

Japan, after all, contributes more to the UN's finances than Britain and France combined. Japan desires more tangible influence in the UN's top levels. Tokyo expects a Security Council seat by next year. Otherwise Japan would increasingly resent what the former Japanese Prime Minister, Mr. Kiichi Miyazawa, called "taxation without representation".

However, the plea for changes is opposed by the West, especially the existing permanent members. Shortly before the Security Council summit convened in New York, a reporter asked the British Prime Minister, Mr. John Major, whether he would recommend reforming the Council. Mr. Major responded, “Why break up a winning team?”

“Since the creation of the UN Charter, the world should have changed far more than it has in the half century that has elapsed. Decolonisation is almost complete, but the scars of colonization are still with us. The present bears a heavy burden of the past. The arms race, support of terrorism and aggressive polemics only add to tensions and create a climate of instability so much out of place in the contemporary global environment.”

- I. K. Gujral

thirds of the member states, including any nine members of the security council. Article 108 also allows the Charter amended upon the approval of two-thirds of the member states, including all five permanent members of the security council.

Five decades after the World War II and in the aftermath of the Cold War, a new world is taking shape. Wide ranging changes have taken place in international relations. The East-West division has come to an end. Several countries have come together. Others are ceding sovereign power to collective entities. Ethnic, religious and other groups are asserting their separate identities.

The transition, however, is not complete. Human rights are still being violated. Apartheid's dismantling has been matched by a surge of racism elsewhere. The two super-powers are disarming. But the proliferation of arms, including nuclear weapons, continue to endanger peace. New sources of instability and conflict - economic, ecological, social, humanitarian - call for rapid collective responses and new approaches to security.

The main argument against change is that the post-Cold War Security Council has been able to function efficiently because of its small size. It would also not be easy to develop a consensus among new members. Once the existing set up is reformed it would be difficult to determine the right numbers for the permanent and non-permanent categories.

Pressure to revise the UN Charter has been building up for many years and is likely to increase. The weakness of the arguments in defence of indefinitely retaining the San Francisco Charter will produce other initiatives.

The framers of the Charter had envisioned a dynamic institution that would evolve over time. Article 109 provides for the convening of a “general charter review conference” upon the approval of two-

Second Syed Ahmad Hossain Memorial Lecture

By

SITARAM SHARMA

Deputy Secretary-General & Director, Asia Pacific Region

World Federation of United Nations Associations

organised by

United Nations Association of Bangladesh

May 6, 2005, Dhaka, Bangladesh

Mr. President,

It is always a pleasure to be among friends once again. I deem it a great honor for being invited by the United Nations Association of Bangladesh to deliver the Syed Ahmad Hossain Memorial Lecture.

I had the privilege of knowing and working with Mr. Syed Ahmad Hossain in my capacity as the Director of Asia Pacific Regional Office of the World Federation of United Nations Association. He was personally very close to my predecessor Late Mr. S. D. Pandey. In my case it was an instant relationship. A bachelor, he was married to UNAB. He was short in height but with a tall personality. He was a great patriot and nationalist with an international outlook. Being a chain smoker he was always in and out of the halls in the international meetings but never missed a single opportunity to make his point in the interest of his UNA and his country. He was always heard with attention and commanded respect. As a great believer in democratic values, social justice and world peace he was totally committed to the objectives of the United Nations. A strong, functioning and vibrant UNAB is the biggest tribute to him.

I would now like to share with you my thoughts on “United Nations in a Multipolar World”.

Since the birth of United Nations in 1945 the international system has undergone a sea change. That the United Nations did not succeed in achieving its foremost objective of maintaining international peace and security is obvious from the fact that in the first 50 years of its existence between 1945 to 1990 about 100 major conflicts took place around the world leaving some 20 million dead. The United Nations in the bi-polar world of Cold War was rendered powerless to deal with many of these crises because of the vetoes - 279 of them - cast in the Security Council.

The disintegration of the Soviet Union brought an end to the bi-polar world and the world entered into a unipolar era with the United States as the only dominant economic and military power. However, the embryo of multipolar pattern began to take shape during the bi-polar period itself. In the 1960s and 1970s gradual disintegration took place between the two major blocs under the United States and the Soviet Union. Alliance between China and the Soviet Union broke down. Europe and Japan registered rapid economic growth resulting in a stronger

sense of independence. A large number of colonial countries gained political independence and a broad third world emerged.

Events 'of nine-eleven' provided the unipolar system with the logic and an opportunity to consolidate its hold over the commanding heights of the international system. The United States possesses a unique combination of economic strength, military and technological powers and political vitalities. However in the post-Cold War new international order the US must learn to share the stage with the other Nations. For during the Cold War, security concerns were the guidepost for the relations between the countries, as the pre-eminent military power in the

“If the relevance of the United Nations is to continue, we will now need to address the root causes of what afflicts humankind. Looking into the causes even casually, nuclear weapons still loom large, nowhere near abolition. Poverty and underdevelopment are pervasive in many continents. International terrorism haunts the innocent. Harmony in pluralistic societies, whose number is the largest, is being disrupted by increasing fundamentalist trends based on exclusivism and intolerance, and in many cases hatred.”

- P. V. Narasimha Rao

economic growth and its rising international standing. Fifthly, the developing countries have demonstrated a growing momentum for unity and self reliance and various forms of regional organizations are forging ahead.

It is of great significance that China, Russia and France have officially resolved to make joint efforts in further promoting the trend of multipolarity. The formation of multipolar pattern is going to be a gradual process requiring a long period. Judging from the current situation the development of a multipolar world will be of great significance. It should break the domination of a few powers in the world affairs and may allow the developing countries a bigger role. Multipolarity will lead to the establishment of a new and balanced international political and economic

West, the US was able to set much of the international agenda. Now in the 21st century when international issues often have a central economic component, the US should no longer think and act unilaterally.

Although the US has become the only super power and attempts to establish a unipolar world, it is confronted with increasing domestic, economic and international constraints. Secondly, the cohesion of the western alliance has been weakened after the disappearance of their common adversary and threat. Both Europe and Japan want to be independent poles in future multipolar world. Thirdly, inspite of decline of Russia's strength it is still a big power commanding international influence and the only country capable of contending with the US militarily, especially in the field of nuclear weapons. Fourthly, China's rapid

order. A pluralistic international society, ensuring co-existence of different social systems and leading to world stability peace and development will be the gains of a multipolar world; it will replace hegemony and power politics with justice and equality. A strengthened United Nations in the multipolar world may work more democratically, effectively and independently.

There are of course numerous uncertain and unstable factors existing in multipolarity. Regional hegemony may lead to regional tensions. Multipolar world will be more complex compared to bi-polar. Mishandling of relations between the poles or ineffective maintenance of the balance of forces between them may yet precipitate unrest and instability in the world.

Today the international peace and development is facing more and more challenges. Old problems remain unresolved, and new ones are cropping up. In what direction will the world move? This depends very much on how we judge the current situation and how we take on the challenges. The war in Iraq is over, but order has not returned. The Middle East conflict drags on, and bloodshed continues unabated. Terrorism remains rampant and unpredictable. Globalization hasn't made everyone a winner, and in the fields of finance, information, health and others, there exists hidden security threats.

“The UN’s unique legitimacy flows from a universal perception that it pursues a larger purpose than the interests of one country or a small group of countries. In the euphoria after the Cold War, there was a misplaced notion that the UN could solve every problem anywhere.”

- Atal Bihari Vajpayee

Cultural alienation often finds expression in cultural aggression. Rarely in human history have truly cultured nations violated the civilizations, cultures and traditional integrity of the other people. They, in fact, imbibe instead the salient aspects of the other cultures and make these a part of their own. However now within the materially developed countries, under the pressures of the market place, culture is being transformed into an aspect of the economic activity, and consumption becomes a cultural expression thus blurring the distinction between culture and economics or the metaphysical and physical. And the most uncivilized and brutal manifestation of violence, wars; genocide and terrorism are now being defined as symptoms of a “clash of civilization”.

The international situation is really undergoing a complicated and profound transformation. Security threats have taken on multiple dimensions. Traditional security concerns such as ethnic or religious conflicts and border or territorial disputes still exist, while non-traditional security problems such as terrorism, cross border crimes, environmental pollution, population explosion, drug trafficking and infectious diseases have become the major problems impeding the human development. The interweaving and mutual conversion between the two kinds of security issues has brought new challenges to the international peace and security.

Since the dissolution of the bi-polar world structure, the United States and Europe have been drifting apart. The primary political goal of the United States in the 21st Century is to assume and reinforce its 'leadership role' in world's politics and establish a new unipolar world order, while one of the EU's goals is to establish its identity through a common foreign and security policy in the international arena. In the economic field, the European Union has grown so strong as being able to compete with the US on an equal footing.

Politically, Europe and Russia both refuse to accept a US-dominated unipolar world structure and strive to build a multipolar one instead, and both are opposed to unilateralism and super multilateralism. This political common ground and practical geopolitical needs are driving Euro-Russian relations closer and form the basis of their bilateral strategic cooperation. From the European geopolitical perspective, removing the East West European divide, which was a legacy of the Cold War, to make Europe whole and integrated is not only the EU's long term strategic goal, but also conforms to Russia's vision of a "unified greater Europe" that encompasses Russia.

US-Russian relationship is on a completely different setting as was the case with US-Soviet relationship. It took a traditional turn especially after the September 11 terrorist attack on the US. However, strategic objectives and interests of each side remain incompatible with those of the other. Politically, the US strategic objective is to seek hegemony and a unipolar world while that of Russia is to establish a multipolar one in which Russia is but one power center.

Militarily, despite the conclusion of the new Strategic Offensive Reduction Treaty [SORT] between the US and Russia in 2002 and bilateral cooperation and coordination in international non-proliferation, each side remains wary and suspicious of the others military strategy. Since the termination of the bipolar structure, all major actors including China, the US, the EU, Russia, Japan, India and the ASEAN, have entered the geopolitical arena in Asia one after another, playing important roles distinctive from one another. In pursuit of different strategic objectives and interests, they have formed multiple intricate relationships on a multilateral basis. The United States, while remaining the strongest power, finds it difficult to assume a dominant role as it used to, being constrained by other major players and interlocking multilateral relationships. The main features of this multilateral relationship are reflected in a complex interplay based on both cooperation and competition.

What the events in Iraq and elsewhere prove, is that even the most powerful states will have to abide by genuine multilateralism. In South East and East Asia, the multilateral processes of dialogue and cooperation through regional organizations have become well established and are laying the ground for common prosperity in a vast and populated region. The Association of South East Asian States [ASEANS], which includes 10 member-states has adapted to global challenges, by adopting an inclusive approach of structured dialogue, political, military and economic cooperation with extra regional states with whom there are complementarities of interests the association has widened the areas of peace. China, Japan the Republic of Korea, India, Russia, USA-and lately Pakistan - among others, now cooperate with ASEAN as an

institution. This approach of non-exclusive cooperation with major states, who share interests in stability and security, needs to be relayed to other regions as well.

For the establishment of a multipolar order reforms in the United Nations are urgently required, it would seem that regional cooperation offers the most effective form of multilateralism and lays the ground for the multipolar world.

The long-standing challenges of humanity happen to be supplemented by new and no less threatening ones, coming from international terrorism, religious extremism, militant chauvinism, the drug trade and organized crime.

No peace and security can be achieved unless the international community joins hand in cooperation. Upholding the international collective security mechanism is the fundamental guarantee for a more stable and prosperous world. According to the charter of the United Nations, the UN Security council is the core of such a mechanism and the most authoritative and legitimate institution of the multilateral security regime. The type of a world order to be established hinges on the nature of the multilateral mechanism we have. A peaceful, democratic, fair and equitable world order calls for a strong United Nations and its Security Council. In this respect, our collective will and concerted efforts are essential.

The events in Iraq have echoed in the obviously changed tone of longstanding discussions on the role and place of the United Nations Organizatons in the contemporary world. One year after the beginning of the war it became obvious that all talks and concerns about the “failure” and “demise” of the UN were totally unreasonable. Infact there is a better understanding of the urgent need to strengthen UN activities in the contemporary world. However, acknowledging the UN’s vital role is not to imply that the organization doesn’t require improvement and moderation. In outlining the vectors of the search, based on the admitted need to give a more representative composition to the Security Council and to devise a more flexible decision-making system that would combine consensus and compromise.

This September, world leaders will assemble in New York for a UN Summit to commemorate its 60th anniversary. It will provide them a real opportunity to make UN a more useful body for a better world. Let them keep in mind that the UN cannot expect to survive into the 21st century unless ordinary people throughout the world feel that it does something for them - not only helping to protect them against conflict, but also against poverty, hunger, disease and pollution.

Global cooperation is needed to meet global challenges and global cooperation calls for global mechanism. The United Nations is the international organization with the most universality, representativeness and authority. Since its founding 60 years ago, the UN has scored achievements in upholding world and regional peace, pushing forward human progress and development. All countries should uphold the authority and the leading position of the UN in international affairs. An efficient, strong and effective UN is the hope of the world. Time and again it has been proved that casting the UN aside and abandoning the multilateral cooperation will not work.

UNITED NATIONS AND CIVIL SOCIETY

Address by Mr. Sitaram Sharma, Deputy Secretary - General & Regional Director, Asia Pacific, World Federation of United Nations Associations at the National Seminar on "A Civil Society Forum To Strengthen The United Nations" organized by United Nations Associations of New Zealand at Legislative Chamber and Grand Hall Parliament Building, Wellington, on 23 & 24 November, 2001.

Mr. President

I can think of no invitation to speak that is a greater honour or a greater challenge, than this one. I am really thankful to the United Nations Association of New Zealand for providing me this opportunity and privilege.

"The United Nations, if its purposes had to be recited in simple terms - which may not always be accurate - is the Organization for world peace and co-operation. The very words of the Charter open with the exhortation to rid the world of the scourge of war so that this planet may not be again plunged into confusion, as has been the case twice in this century. It also uses in the beginning, the words "We the peoples of the United Nations".

- V. K. Krishna Menon

Nations" are the opening words of the UN Charter proclaimed in 1945. The following year on 2 August 1946, WFUNA - World Federation of United Nations Associations was launched as "a peoples movement for the United Nations".

We in WFUNA and National United Nations Associations (UNAs) are solely and exclusively devoted to the objective of bringing peoples closer to UN and the UN closer to peoples.

WFUNA recently along with The Stanley Foundation cosponsored a Symposium on UN Civil Society outreach in June this year at New York under the patronage of the President of UN General Assembly.

This year the United Nations has been awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for promoting peace, defending human rights and fighting poverty. In his UN Day Message former Secretary - General Mr. Kofi Annan had said "All of us at the United Nations are honoured and humbled by this prize. I hope it will encourage us to tackle our tasks with even greater determination. I know as we move forward, we can rely on the cooperation and support of you, the people of the world. The UN is you and we exist to serve you".

This relationship of the UN and the Peoples is as old as the founding of the UN. "We the peoples of the United

NGOs - Non-Governmental Organizations - have always been a presence at the United Nations - there at San Francisco at the founding and mentioned explicitly in Article 71 of the Charter, but the growth of NGOs have been especially remarkable in recent years. Consider the numbers, in 1948, only 41 NGOs were granted consultative status by the ECOSOC today more than 2000 enjoy the right to participate in that body's proceedings. The number of NGO's associated with Department of Public Information (DP) has also skyrocketed from 200 in 1968 to more than 2100 today. NGOs occupy an indispensable place in today's world and are making their mark on global society as never before. Since the Earth Summit of 1992 in particular; NGOs have, to a significant extent shaped the agenda and the outcome of World Conferences on such vital issues as human rights, the environment, population, women and poverty. We all are aware of the Nobel Prize winning international campaign to ban landmine in 1997 and an unprecedented level of participation of civil society to lobby for the International Criminal Court in 1998. The partnership between UN and the Civil Society is already yielding excellent results.

As Chief Rapporteur I was witness to one of the biggest gathering of NGOs - The 1999 Seoul International Conference of NGOs - attended by over 7000 delegates representing about 1100 NGOs from 90 countries. The objective of the conference was to assess commitments made by Governments at recent UN World Conferences, to advocate fulfillment of these commitments, to engage in policy dialogue with the UN and Government agencies to enhance communication and collaboration among NGOs and to build networks for more effective implementation of NGO's activities in support of the World Conferences recommendations.

The world has changed beyond recognition during last few years. UN must reform itself to meet the requirements of a New World that is radically different than that which existed even a decade ago. What kind of United Nations do Member States desire in the twenty first century? Today's economy is global, markets are global and the problems we face from the environment to terrorism, to the spread of disease and the proliferation of arms, tend more and more to be global. But politics for the most part remain local. Thus, there is a widening gap between what citizens demand and what government can deliver. The challenge is to bridge that gap. This also provides limitless space for effective civil society action.

The United Nations has been both witness to and participant in the birth of a global civil society. The states are still the main holders of political authority in the world and are likely to remain so. The United Nations represents the expression of the "International Community". Earlier this International Community was represented exclusively by States but today it includes non-state actors in the system - private companies, voluntary agencies, pressure groups, philanthropic foundations, universities, and think-tanks and of course creative individuals. Growing partnership with all these different non-state actors will only strengthen the UN enabling it to fulfill the principles and purposes of its Charter. I firmly believe that the 21 st century would be an era of NGOs in name and reality. It is certain that democratic Governments, markets and civil societies would constitute the three main pillars of the nations and world.

All the major issue of the day involve active participation of civil society and this is not going to diminish but increase in coming years. Growth of NGOs and civil society is as important a development in this century as the rise of States itself had been in earlier centuries.

The importance of the state in political activity has diminished. Citizen concerns such as human rights and environment have grown. The end of cold war presented new opportunities for the civil society and the demands on the UN system have increased without a corresponding increase in the resources. As a result, new methods of problem solving are dictating a new alignment

“This great world body was founded as a group of nations united in a wartime alliance. With the entry of newly freed countries, the end of the decade saw its expansion into a much bigger body. The next 30 years have brought about near universality in its composition. Today, because of the unique authority entrusted to it in controlling military crises through its instruments and its influence on social and economic developments through its various specialized agencies, the United Nations is an integral part of the lives of nations and individuals.”

- Indira Gandhi

between civil society, the United Nations and member states. The historic nation-state hierarchy is increasingly complemented by market enterprises and by civil society. This changes the context for governance. Good governance now requires constructive and sustainable partnership between governmental and inter-governmental institutions and the other societal domains. Such partnership will flourish in a climate of openness and transparency. The United Nations is uniquely situated to create and maintain such a climate and should act promptly to do so. The ECOSOC rules and privileges for NGOs should be extended to the General Assembly and its related and subsidiary bodies, including working groups. NGOs should have access to all meetings and bodies that are open to all member

states. The NGO accreditation process should be improved and streamlined to make it: prompt, objective and transparent.

The core challenge is to find the best balance between NGO access and UN transparency on the one hand, while reserving actual decision-making to the member states and avoiding NGO interference on the other. NGO role is a consultative one.

NGOs are not decision-makers and are not in a position to negotiate with the UN in decision-making and policy setting arenas, even though some voices in the NGO community may argue for this.

If NGOs are to be effective partners, they must be responsible and constructive in their participation. They must be academically honest in providing accurate and objective information and analysis. As a proxy for civil society, they must be civil in their interactions. To the extent they are passionate, they must understand the reality of differing passions. Their focus should be on constructive outcomes rather than self promotion. Most NGOs are responsible and constructive and their consultative counsel is heard and often heeded.

The civil society domain includes a wide variety of non-state actors and is much more than traditional NGOs. However NGOs, broadly defined, are probably the best available proxy for civil society, but there are questions about which non-state actors should be included in the NGO definition as well as whether there is a North-South divisions among NGOs. How are local governments, parliamentarians; coalitions of non state actors and others to be considered? Civil society has great strengths in gathering and distributing information. It is effective in: focusing attention on issues and generating ideas for their resolutions. It can build shared values and encourage awareness. However civil society is not well structured. It is very fluid and flexible. Public interest tends to have a short-term perspective, focusing on issues of immediate concern. At the same time some NGOs have maintained consistent attention to long term issues. Civil society does not have structured decision-making processes. While it can claim to 'speak for' some constituency, it cannot claim to be representative in the sense of having an externally defined constituency that can exercise governance.

In his January 1998 address to the World Economic Forum, former UN Secretary-General, Mr. Kofi Annan said - "Peace and prosperity can not be achieved without partnership involving governments, international organizations, the business community and civil society". He also noted that "the United Nations is at present inadequately equipped to engage civil society and make it a true partner in its work".

It will be useful for us to examine the comparative strengths and weaknesses of the United Nations and of NGOs as a part of Civil Society. Our objective is to find ways in which at their interfaces, the strength of the United Nations and the NGOs can compliment the weaknesses or meet the needs of the other. It will be useful for us to explore partnership between the UN and the NGOs, Partnering includes the recognition that the parties involved have common interests and shared goals, Built on this, partnering agreements codify how the parties will work with each other in times of agreement and disagreement. They seek collaborative rather than adversarial resolution of differences. The relationship between UN and NGO should neither lead to compromising NGO independence nor member state prerogatives.

As we strive to create a more secure, peaceful and free and just world, the United Nations must improve its interaction with the Civil Society which represent the voice of "we the peoples" as so aptly highlighted in the Millennium Summit Declaration of September 2000 providing enhanced mandate for civil society participation in the work of United Nations.

Global Action To Address Climate Change

SITARAM SHARMA

Vice President

Indian Federation of UN Associations

[Speech delivered as Chairman of the Session on “New Challenges for the UN Climate Change Conference and the Solutions” at the conference on “Counter Climate Change through Enhanced International Co-operation” organized by Indian Federation of UN Associations jointly with UNA of China, UNA of Sweden, UN system in India and Ministry of Environment, Government of India on November 2, 2011 in New Delhi.]

Scientifically speaking, Climate Change can be caused by both natural factors and human activities. But in the context of global cooperation, only the human dimension of climate change is addressed. According to the definition of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), climate change means “a change of climate which is attributed directly or indirectly to human activity that alters the composition of the global atmosphere and which is in addition to natural climate variability observed over comparable time periods.”

Since Industrial Revolution in the mid 18th century, human beings have used a lot of fossil fuels and emitted large quantity of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere. When the greenhouse gases concentration becomes denser in the atmosphere, it will lead to the increase of surface temperature of the earth like a greenhouse. Climate Change can lead to serious problems for the earth including melting of ice caps and snow in Poles area, rising of sea levels, aggravating extreme weather, causing health problems and wide spread diseases. The climate change may affect the natural ecosystem, food safety, sustainable development and even the existence of human society.

Hence Climate Change is a matter of deep concern for one and all. Recognising the problems of potential global climate change, World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) and United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP) established the IPCC in 1988 to assess its impact. Since 1990 IPCC has published several assessment reports on Climate Change.

The Climate Change is a common challenge facing the international community but was historically caused by high per capita emission of greenhouse gases of the developed countries. The UNFCCC provided that the responsibility of developed countries is higher and these countries should take lead in providing additional financial resources and to transfer technology to address Climate Change.

Climate Change is not only an environmental issue, but also a development one. Developed countries have achieved industrialisation and have the technologies and financial resources to address Climate Change. However per capita emission is much higher than that of developing countries. The Kyoto protocol came into force in 2005 providing for reduction of emission by at least 5 percent below 1990 levels. However according to National Greenhouse Gas inventory data compiled by the secretariat of UNFCCC developed countries did not reduce GHG emissions

but increased it by 11 percent above their 1990 levels. Little progress has been made in technology transfer, limited progress has been made on the provisions of financial resources and assistance in capacity building. According to statistics from 1750 to 2000 developed countries accounting for only 20 percent of the world population emitted 79 percent of the world's greenhouse gases.

Climate Change is a concern of all mankind and can be addressed only by International Community through coordination and cooperation. No single country or a group of countries is capable of addressing this global issue. Developed countries due to their long historical emission and current high per capita emission should take the lead to reduce GHG emissions after 2012, while other countries should make contribution to addressing climate change in accordance to their responsibilities and capabilities. The best way is to address Climate Change is to achieve sustainable development.

There are 195 countries in the world. Big and small, rich and poor, Developed, Developing and Least Developed. Some located on the islands are deeply concerned that they will fall victim to the rising sea level. Naturally different countries have different concerns on climate change. No single rule or standard can be followed. Nor equal emission cuts can be applied. In all fairness, the principle of common but differentiated responsibility must be upheld in the Kyoto Protocol. This can be the only way to international cooperation leading towards a low-carbon and green economy.

International Cooperation based on technology transfer and financial resources is needed to achieve the common goal of climate change. Developed countries have advantages of technology in energy conservation, emission reduction and new energy as well as in financial resources. We need to intensify efforts in mechanism building for international response to climate change. The only effective existing global mechanism is the UN Conference on Climate Change, which has led to Kyoto Protocol, Bali Roadmap and Copenhagen Accord and so on.

The international community reached agreement on the “Bali Roadmap” at the climate change conference held on Bali Island, Indonesia. It was decided then to start a two-year negotiation process to pave the way for Copenhagen conference at which the following three major issues should be settled: first, quantified emission reduction targets beyond 2012 by the developed countries that are parties to the Kyoto Protocol; second, comparable obligations of the developed country that is not a party to the Kyoto Protocol, i.e. the United States; and third, actions by developing countries as well as the financial and technological support they should receive. The negotiations on the “Bali Roadmap” went on for two years without any substantive progress on the core issues.

As the developed countries went into recession one after another after the outbreak of the international financial crisis, the cost of emission reduction became a more prominent issue. Some countries thus adopted a more negative attitude. They showed no intention of fulfilling their obligations as committed. What's more, they tried all means to shift responsibilities to the developing countries by asking the latter to undertake what's beyond their historical responsibilities and current capabilities.

Their real purpose was to address climate change at the expense of the development interests of the developing countries while maintaining and strengthening their own advantage in economic development.

The Copenhagen conference caught the attention of the whole world with its large scale, high level and heated contention. But essentially, it was to safeguard the development rights of the developing countries. The result of the conference shows that the developing countries effectively safeguarded their core interests and promoted a positive outcome of the conference despite tremendous pressure from the developed countries.

The United Nations should be granted a leading role and take more important responsibilities as it is an international multilateral organisation which has the largest membership of world countries, covers the most areas and enjoys the highest authority. The United Nations should play active leading role and on the basis of the U.N. Framework Convention on Climate Change, actively coordinate the positions of member countries to seek consensus on more issues and urge them to abide by the Convention. It should also work out short-medium- and long – term objectives for transformation of the world growth model and comprehensive measures for realizing the objectives, thus pointing out the direction for countries around the world to make common efforts in their future scientific development. And long-term programmes and operation mechanisms should be drawn up for protecting the eco-system.

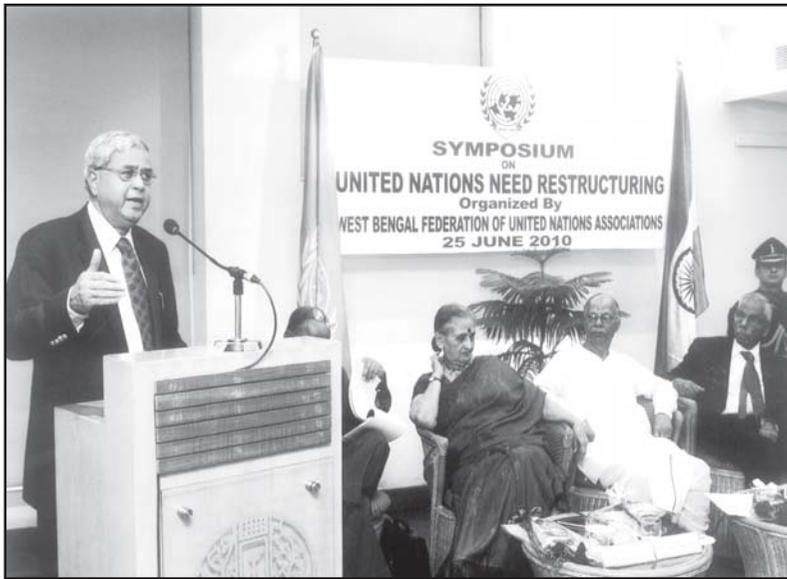
Both China and the United States are the largest emitter of carbon dioxide (the combination of their emission accounts for about 40% of the world total) and respectively the biggest developing country and developed country in the world today. Therefore, they play an irreplaceable role in the international strategy. In this context, the two countries' strategic orientation toward for addressing global climate change will have a decisive bearing on the outcome of the international efforts to counter climate change.

It is satisfying to note the positive result of the meeting in Panama City (1 to 7 October 2011) which is the last formal negotiating session of the year designed to prepare for the next annual UN Climate Change Conference in Durban, South Africa (28 November to 9 December 2011).

Formal climate negotiations in Panama have ended with progress on drafting those decision texts that will allow governments to push ahead strongly in Durban with concrete help for the developing world to deal with climate change. Panama has also made good progress on preparing the decisions that will help developing countries adapt to climate change and get access to the technologies they need to create their own clean energy futures. Panama meeting has provided a better view of how the USD30 billion in fast-track funds up to the end of 2012 have been committed and the plans to disburse them. Meanwhile, governments have put forward their ideas for mobilising the long-term finance that should reach USD100 billion a year by 2020. Panama has also made some progress on the longer-term question of how governments will meet their agreed goal of limiting global average temperatures to no more than a 2C rise. In Durban, governments will look to decide the shape of a formal Review between 2013 and 2015, which they agreed in Cancun as a reality check on progress towards their temperature goal. Clarity on an effective, credible Review is most important, especially in light of the fact that the sum total of current national pledges to reduce global emissions falls 40% short of keeping below 2C and that gap will have to be filled in the future. There is no alternative to international cooperation to face the challenges of climate change.

UN Needs Restructuring

Sitaram Sharma
Chairman
West Bengal Federation of United Nations Associations



The World has changed beyond recognition since a group of dedicated men and women met sixty five years ago in San Francisco to draft the final text of what became the Charter of the United Nations. When the Charter was signed in 1945 there was a clear consensus on the UN's role but the international order meanwhile has undergone profound changes.

The UN was rendered powerless to deal with many of the crises during the cold war era because of the vetoes - 279 of them cast in the Security Council during the first 40 years of its existence. With the end of cold war the United States of America emerged as the sole superpower. The world from bi-polar era entered into a unipolar world.

In 2009, the World under went a further major transformation which has generated more striking changes than those brought about by the end of cold war in the 1990s. Major global trends of far-reaching impact leading to shift of power are emerging. First, there are signs that the US is beginning to decline. The policy of unilateralism followed by Bush administration since early 2000 and war in Iraq and Afghanistan coupled with economic crisis has inflicted serious damage to the soft power of the US weakening its dominant role in international affairs. US share in the global GDP dropped from 32.8 percent in 2001 to 25.5 percent in 2007.

Emerging Market Economies

Second, the scenario of developed countries having dominant position in the international political and economic order has begun to change in view of the rise of “emerging market economies”. According to UN’s Development and Globalisation: Facts and Figures 2009 the per capita GDP of developing countries grew by nearly 30 percent between 2003 and 2007, while that of G7 countries grew by 10 percent. Based on market exchange rates, the GDP of developing countries already accounted for over 30 percent of the world’s total in 2008. With qualitative changes taking place in the North South balance of power necessary reforms of the existing international political and economic order has already been put on the agenda of the international community.

Third, development has become the core issue in today’s world. Developed countries are resisting any major change in the existing economic systems which work in their favour whereas the developing countries demand a change and reform. Economic globalization has brought about more and more global issues such as climate change, energy security, food security and financial stability calling for joint international responses. Developed and developing countries hold sharply divided positions. Developing countries are showing an increasing degree of unity and strength on major international economic issues to protect their right and interests. Those emerging economies like India, Brazil and African countries are seeking bigger say in international political affairs as their economies grow.

The new world order calls for a more democratic and participatory United Nations. The United Nations needs strong reforms and restructuring to meet the needs of 21st Century. In recent years the UN’s political, economic and social role has been greatly eroded. The world is confronted with a marginalized UN General Assembly. The IMF and the World Bank, the leaders of international finance, are not accountable to the UN.

All political power is vested in the victors of the Second World War; the five powerful permanent members of the Security Council. They want to hold on to that power at any cost. The UN is a product of war. It can not avoid being highly political. National interests take the front seat. Money talks. This is the world we live in.

National Interest

The Security Council has come to be viewed as the epitome of the global power structure in view of the extraordinary power of veto conferred on its permanent members.

Those who demand a change in the composition and procedure of the Security Council justify it on the ground that existing situation does not accord with the prevailing international realities with regard to global power structure in military and economic terms and total membership of the UN.

So far the reforms initiated by the UN since 1992 to face the challenges of new world order have neither been effective nor fruitful. The working group on the question of equitable representation on and increase in the membership of the Security Council has been grappling with potentially the most important and politically charged reform issues facing the United Nations. The Security Council is the only UN body where the principle of one country one vote is not fully applied.

Pressure to revise the UN Charter has been building up for many years and is likely to increase. The framers of the Charter had envisioned a dynamic institution that would evolve over time. Article 109 provides for the convening of a “general charter review conference”. Article 108 also allows the charter amendment upon the approval of two thirds of the member states including all five permanent members of the Security Council.



India officially announced her candidature for permanent membership of the Security Council of the United Nations during the 49th UN General Assembly in 1994.

India was admitted to the UN on 30 October 1945 even before its independence. India should seize the opportunity offered by changing world order to develop policy activism at the UN. India’s agenda should shift to a greater strategic management to project its own interests. Both the Indian free market and democracy are dynamic forces. The Indian diplomacy should project itself as an Asian Power to achieve an optimum global posture.

Recent developments particularly signals from US and China indicating a bigger role for India in the international affairs seem to be a positive indication of growing support for India’s claim to the permanent membership of the Security Council.

The UN must reform itself and democratise its decision making body and process. The permanent members are expected to provide statesman like leadership, rising above their own narrow national interests. There is no alternative to the UN and a reformed UN is the best guarantor for world peace and development.

United Nations Member States (as of January 2012)

Member State	Date of Admission	Member State	Date of Admission
Antigua and Barbuda	Nov 11, 1981	China	Oct 25, 1971*
Argentina (original UN member)	Oct 24, 1945	Colombia (original UN member)	Nov 5, 1945
Armenia	March 2, 1992	Comoros	Nov 12, 1975
Australia (original UN member)	Nov 1, 1945	Republic of the Congo	Sept 20, 1960
Austria	Dec 14, 1955	Democratic Republic of the Congo	Sept 20, 1960
Azerbaijan	March 2, 1992	Costa Rica (original UN member)	Nov 2, 1945
The Bahamas	Sept 18, 1973	Cote d'Ivoire	Sept 20, 1960
Bahrain	Sept 21, 1971	Croatia	May 22, 1992
Bangladesh	Sept 17, 1974	Cuba (original UN member)	Oct 24, 1945
Barbados	Dec 9, 1966	Cyprus	Sept 20, 1960
Belarus (original UN member)	Oct 24, 1945	Czech Republic	Jan 19, 1993
Belgium (original UN member)	Dec 27, 1945	Denmark (original UN member)	Oct 24, 1945
Belize	Sept 25, 1981	Djibouti	Sept 20, 1977
Benin	Sept 20, 1960	Dominica	Dec 18, 1978
Bhutan	Sept 21, 1971	Dominican Republic (original UN member)	Oct 24, 1945
Bolivia (original UN member)	Nov 14, 1945	East Timor	Sept 22, 2002
Bosnia and Herzegovina	May 22, 1992	Ecuador (original UN member)	Dec 21, 1945
Botswana	Oct 17, 1966	Egypt (original UN member)	Oct 24, 1945
Brazil (original UN member)	Oct 24, 1945	El Salvador (original UN member)	Oct 24, 1945
Brunei	Sept 21, 1984	Equatorial Guinea	Nov 12, 1968
Bulgaria	Dec 14, 1955	Eritrea	May 28, 1993
Burkina Faso	Sept 20, 1960	Estonia	Sept 17, 1991
Burundi	Sept 18, 1962	Ethiopia (original UN member)	Nov 13, 1945
Cambodia	Dec 14, 1955	Fiji	Oct 13, 1970
Cameroon	Sept 20, 1960	Finland	Dec 14, 1955
Canada (original UN member)	Nov 9, 1945	France (original UN member)	Oct 24, 1945
Cape Verde	Sept 16, 1975	Gabon	Sept 20, 1960
Central African Republic	Sept 20, 1960	The Gambia	Sept 21, 1965
Chad	Sept 20, 1960		
Chile (original UN member)	Oct 24, 1945		

Member State	Date of Admission	Member State	Date of Admission
Georgia	July 31, 1992	Lebanon	Oct 24, 1945
Germany	Sept 18, 1973	(original UN member)	
Ghana	March 8, 1957	Lesotho	Oct 17, 1966
Greece	Oct 25, 1945	Liberia	Nov 2, 1945
(original UN member)		(original UN member)	
Grenada	Sept 17, 1974	Libya	Dec 14, 1955
Guatemala	Nov 21, 1945	Liechtenstein	Sept 18, 1990
(original UN member)		Lithuania	Sept 17, 1991
Guinea	Dec 12, 1958	Luxembourg	Oct 24, 1945
Guinea-Bissau	Sept 17, 1974	(original UN member)	
Guyana	Sept 20, 1966	Macedonia	April 8, 1993
Haiti	Oct 24, 1945	Madagascar	Sept 20, 1960
(original UN member)		Malawi	Dec 1, 1964
Honduras	Dec 17, 1945	Malaysia	Sept 17, 1957
(original UN member)		Maldives	Sept 21, 1965
Hungary	Dec 14, 1955	Mali	Sept 28, 1960
Iceland	Nov 19, 1946	Malta	Dec 1, 1964
India	Oct 30, 1945	Marshall Islands	Sept 17, 1991
(original UN member)		Mauritania	Oct 27, 1961
Indonesia	Sept 28, 1950	Mauritius	April 24, 1968
Iran	Oct 24, 1945	Mexico	Nov 7, 1945
(original UN member)		(original UN member)	
Iraq	Dec 21, 1945	Micronesia, Federated States of	Sept 17, 1991
(original UN member)		Moldova	March 2, 1992
Ireland	Dec 14, 1955	Monaco	May 28, 1993
Israel	May 11, 1949	Mongolia	Oct 27, 1961
Italy	Dec 14, 1955	Montenegro	June 28, 2006
Jamaica	Sept 18, 1962	Morocco	Nov 12, 1956
Japan	Dec 18, 1956	Mozambique	Sept 16, 1975
Jordan	Dec 14, 1955	Myanmar (Burma)	April 19, 1948
Kazakhstan	March 2, 1992	Namibia	April 23, 1990
Kenya	Dec 16, 1963	Nauru	Sept 14, 1999
Kiribati	Sept 14, 1999	Nepal	Dec 14, 1955
Korea, North	Dec 17, 1991	Netherlands	Dec 10, 1945
Korea, South	Dec 17, 1991	(original UN member)	
Kuwait	May 14, 1964	New Zealand	Oct 24, 1945
Kyrgyzstan	March 2, 1992	(original UN member)	
Laos	Dec 14, 1955	Nicaragua	Oct 24, 1945
Latvia	Sept 17, 1991	(original UN member)	
		Niger	Sept 20, 1960

Member State	Date of Admission	Member State	Date of Admission
Nigeria	Oct 7, 1960	South Africa	Nov 7, 1945
Norway (original UN member)	Nov 27, 1945	(original UN member)	
Oman	Oct 7, 1971	South Sudan	July 14, 2011
Pakistan	Sept 30, 1947	Spain	Dec 14, 1955
Palau	Dec 15, 1994	Sri Lanka	Dec 14, 1955
Panama (original UN member)	Nov 13, 1945	Sudan	Nov 12, 1956
Papua New Guinea	Oct 10, 1945	Suriname	Dec 4, 1975
Paraguay (original UN member country)	Oct 24, 1945	Swaziland	Sept 24, 1968
Peru (original UN member)	Oct 31, 1945	Sweden	Nov 19, 1946
Philippines (original UN member)	Oct 24, 1945	Switzerland	Sept 10, 2002
Poland	Oct 24, 1945	Syria (original UN member)	Oct 24, 1945
Portugal	Dec 14, 1955	Tajikistan	March 2, 1992
Qatar	Sept 21, 1977	Tanzania	Dec 14, 1961
Romania	Dec 14, 1955	Thailand	Dec 16, 1946
Russia (original UN member)	Oct 24, 1945	Togo	Sept 20, 1960
Rwanda	Sept 18, 1962	Tonga	Sept 14, 1999
Saint Kitts and Nevis	Sept 23, 1983	Trinidad and Tobago	Sept 18, 1962
Saint Lucia	Sept 18, 1979	Tunisia	Nov 12, 1956
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	Sept. 16, 1980	Turkey (original UN member)	Oct 24, 1945
Samoa	Dec 15, 1976	Turkmenistan	March 2, 1992
San Marino	March 2, 1992	Tuvalu	Sept 5, 2000
Sao Tome and Principe	Sept 16, 1975	Uganda	Oct 25, 1962
Saudi Arabia	Oct 24, 1945	Ukraine (original UN member)	Oct 24, 1945
Senegal	Sept 28, 1945	United Arab Emirates	Dec 9, 1971
Serbia	Nov 1, 2000	United Kingdom (original UN member)	Oct 24, 1945
Seychelles	Sept 21, 1976	United States of America	Oct 24, 1945
Sierra Leone	Sept 27, 1961	Uruguay	Dec 18, 1945
Singapore	Sept 21, 1965	Uzbekistan	March 2, 1992
Slovakia	Jan 19, 1993	Vanuatu	Sept 15, 1981
Slovenia	May 22, 1992	Venezuela (original UN member)	Nov 15, 1945
Solomon Islands	Sept 19, 1978	Vietnam	Sept 20, 1977
Somalia	Sept 20, 1960	Yemen	Sept 30, 1947
		Zambia	Dec 1, 1964
		Zimbabwe	Aug 25, 1980

THE UN SECRETARIES – GENERAL

Following is a roll call of the United Nations Secretaries-General.

February 1, 1946

The General Assembly elects the first UN Secretary General, Trygve Lie of Norway, for a five year mandate.

December 13, 1951

Trygve Lie is re-elected for a further three-year mandate, but resigns in November 1952.

April 7, 1953

The general Assembly elects Dag Hammarskjold of Sweden as Secretary General.

September 26, 1957

Dag Hammarskjold is re-elected for a five-year mandate.

November 3, 1961

The general Assembly elects U Thant of Burma (now Myanmar) as interim Secretary General, after Hammarskjold's death in an air crash on September 18, 1961 during a Congo Mission.

November 30, 1962

The General Assembly elects U Thant of Burma as Secretary General.

December 12, 1966

U Thant is re-elected to a second mandate.

December 22, 1971

The General Assembly elects Kurt Waldheim of Austria as Secretary General.

December 8, 1976

Kurt Waldheim is re-elected for second mandate.

January 11, 1982

The General Assembly elects Javier Perez de Cuellar of Peru as Secretary General.

October 10, 1986

Javier Perez de Cuellar is re-elected for second mandate.

December 3, 1991

The General Assembly elects Boutros Boutros-Ghali of Egypt as Secretary General.

January 1, 1997

The General Assembly elects Kofi Annan of Ghana as Secretary General.

January 1, 2002

Kofi Annan is re-elected for second mandate.

January 1, 2007

The General Assembly elects Ban Ki-moon of South Korea as Secretary General.

June 21, 2011

Ban Ki-moon is re-elected for second mandate.

PRESIDENTS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

SESSION	YEAR	NAME	COUNTRY
First	1946	Mr. Paul-Henri Spaak	Belgium
Second	1947	Mr. Oswaldo Aranha	Brazil
Third	1948	Mr. H. V. Evatt	Australia
Fourth	1949	Mr. Carlos P. Romulo	Philippines
Fifth	1950	Mr. Nasrollah Entezam	Iran
Sixth	1951	Mr. Luis Padilla Nervo	Mexico
Seventh	1952	Mr. Lester B. Pearson	Canada
Eighth	1953	Mrs. Vijaya Lakshmi Pandit	India
Ninth	1954	Mr. Eelco N. Van Kleffens	Netherlands
Tenth	1955	Mr. Jose Maza	Chile
Eleventh	1956	Prince Wan Waithayakon	Thailand
Twelfth	1957	Sir Leslie Munro	New Zealand
Thirteenth	1958	Mr. Charles Malik	Lebanon
Fourteenth	1959	Mr. Victor Andres Belaunde	Peru
Fifteenth	1960	Mr. Frederick Henry Boland	Ireland
Sixteenth	1961	Mr. Mongi Slim	Tunisia
Seventeenth	1962	Sir Muhammad Zafrulla Khan	Pakistan
Eighteenth	1963	Mr. Carlos Sosa Rodriguez	Venezuela
Nineteenth	1964	Mr. Alex Quaison-Sackey	Ghana
Twentieth	1965	Mr. Amintore Fanfani	Italy
Twenty-first	1966	Mr. Abdul Rahman Pazhwak	Afghanistan
Twenty-second	1967	Mr. Corneliu Manescu	Romania
Twenty-third	1968	Mr. Emilio Arenales Catalan	Guatemala
Twenty-fourth	1969	Miss Angie E. Brooks	Liberia
Twenty-fifth	1970	Mr. Edvard Hambro	Norway
Twenty-sixth	1971	Mr. Adam Malik	Indonesia
Twenty-seventh	1972	Mr. Stanislaw Trepczynski	Poland
Twenty-eighth	1973	Mr. Leopoldo Benites	Ecuador
Twenty-ninth	1974	Mr. Abdelaziz Bouteflika	Algeria
Thirtieth	1975	Mr. Gaston Thorn	Luxembourg
Thirty-first	1976	Mr. H. S. Amerasinghe	Sri Lanka
Thirty-second	1977	Mr. Lazar Mojsov	Yugoslavia
Thirty-third	1978	Mr. Indalecio Lievano	Colombia

SESSION	YEAR	NAME	COUNTRY
Thiny-fourth	1979	Mr. Salim A. Salim	United Republic of Tanzania
Thiny-fifth	1980	Mr. Rudiger Von Wechmar	Federal Republic of Germany
Thiny-sixth	1981	Mr. Ismilt T. Kittani	Iraq
Thiny-seventh	1982	Mr. Imre Hollai	Hungary
Thiny-eighth	1983	Mr. Jorge E. Illueca	Panama
Thiny-ninth	1984	Mr. Paul J. F. Lusaka	Zambia
Fonieth	1985	Mr. Jaime de Pinies	Spain
Fony-first	1986	Mr. Humayun Rasheed Choudhury	Bangladesh
Fony-second	1987	Mr. Peter Florin	German Democratic Republic
Fony-third	1988	Mr. Dante M. Caputo	Argentina
Fony-founth	1989	Mr. Joseph Nanven Garba	Nigeria
Fony-fifth	1990	Mr. Guido de Marco	Malta
Fony-sixth	1991	Mr. Sam ir S. Shihabi	Saudi Arabia
Fony-seventh	1992	Mr. Stoyan Ganev	Bulgaria
Fony-eighth	1993	Mr. Samuel R. Insanally	Guyana
Fony-ninth	1994	Mr. Amara Essy	Cote d'Ivoire .
Fiftieth	1995	Prof. Diogo Freitas do Amaral	Ponugal
Fifty-first	1996	Mr. Razali Ismail	Malaysia
Fifty-second	1997	Mr. Hennadiy Udovenko	Ukraine
Fifty-third	1998	Mr. Didier Opemi	Uruguay
Fifty-founth	1999	Mr. Theo-Ben Gurirab	Namibia
Fifty-fifth	2000	Mr. Harri Holkeri	Finland
Fifty-sixth	2001	Mr. Han Seung-soo	Korea
Fifty-seventh	2002	Mr. Jan Kavan	Czech Republic
Fifty-eighth	2003	Mr. Julian Roben Hunte	Saint Lucia
Fifty-ninth	2004	Mr. Jean Ping Gabon	Gabon
Sixtieth	2005	Mr. Jan Eliasson	Sweden
Sixty-first	2006	Haya Rashed Al-Khalifa	Bahrain
Sixty-second	2007	Srgjan Asan Kerim	Macedonia
Sixty-third	2008	Miguel d'Escoto Brockmann	Nicaragua
Sixty-fourth	2009	Ali Abdussalam Treki	Libya
Sixty-fifth	2010	Joseph Deiss	Switzerland
Sixty-sixth	2011	Nassir Al-Nasser	Qatar

UNDAYS, WEEKS AND YEARS, INTERNATIONAL DAYS AND WEEKS

27 January	International Day of Commemoration in memory of the victims of the Holocaust	15 September	International Day of Democracy
20 February	World Day of Social Justice (as of 2009)	16 September	International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer
21 February	International Mother Language Day	21 September	International Day of Peace (formerly the opening day of the UN General Assembly, changed to a set date as of 2002)
8 March	International Women's Day and United Nations Day for Women's Rights and International Peace	During last Week	World Maritime Day
21 March	International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination	1 October	International Day for Older Persons
21-28 March	Week of Solidarity with the Peoples Struggling against Racism and Racial Discrimination	4-10 October	World Space Week
22 March	World Water Day	5 October	World Teacher's Day
23 March	World Meteorological Day	First Monday	World Habitat Day
4 April	International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action	Second Wednesday	International Day for Natural Disaster Reduction
7 April	World Health Day	9 October	World Post Day
23 April	World Book and Copyright Day	10 October	World Mental Health Day
3 May	World Press Freedom Day	16 October	World Food Day
15 May	International Day of Families	17 October	International Day for the Eradication of Poverty
17 May	World Information Society Day (formerly World Telecommunication Day)	24 October	United Nations Day and World Development Information Day
21 May	World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development	24-30 October	Disarmament Week
22 May	International Day for Biological Diversity (formerly December 29, changed in 2001)	6 November	International Day for Preventing the Exploitation of the Environment in War and Armed Conflict
25 May-1 June	Week of Solidarity with the Peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories	14 November	World Diabetes Day
29 May	International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers	16 November	International Day of Tolerance
31 May	World No-Tobacco Day	Third Sunday	World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims
4 June	International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression	20 November	Universal Children's Day and Africa Industrialization Day
5 June	World Environment Day	21 November	World Television Day
17 June	World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought	25 November	International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women
20 June	World Refugee Day	29 November	International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People
23 June	United Nations Public Service Day	1 December	World AIDS Day
26 June	International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking and International Day in Support of Victims of Torture	2 December	International Day for the Abolition of Slavery
First Saturday	International Day of Cooperatives	3 December	International Day of Disabled Persons
11 July	World Population Day	5 December	International Volunteer Day for Economic and Social Development
9 August	International Day of the World's Indigenous People	7 December	International Civil Aviation Day
12 August	International Youth Day	9 December	International Anti-Corruption Day
23 August	International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition	10 December	Human Rights Day
8 September	International Literacy Day	11 December	International Mountain Day
		18 December	International Migrants Day
		19 December	United Nations Day for South-South Cooperation
		20 December	International Human Solidarity Day

UNITED NATIONS AGENCIES – LOGOS AND WEBSITES

	UN	United Nations www.un.org
 UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT GROUP	UNDG	United Nations Development Group www.undg.org
 Economic Commission for Africa	ECA	Economic Commission for Africa www.uneca.org
 UNITED NATIONS ESCAP <small>Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific</small>	ESCAP	Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific www.unescap.org
	FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations www.fao.org
 IFAD <small>Enabling poor rural people to overcome poverty</small>	IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development www.ifad.org
	ILO	International Labour Organization www.ilo.org
 ITU International Telecommunication Union	ITU	International Telecommunications Union www.itu.int
 UNAIDS	UNAIDS	Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/ AIDS www.unaids.org
 UNITED NATIONS UNCTAD	UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development www.unctad.org
 UN DP	UNDP	United Nations Development Programme www.undp.org



UNEP United Nations Environment Programme
www.unep.org

UNESCO United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
www.unesco.org



UNFPA United Nations Population Fund
www.unfpa.org



UN Habitat United Nations Human Settlements Programme
www.unhabitat.org



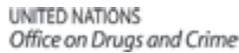
UNHCR United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
www.unhcr.org



UNICEF United Nations Children's Fund
www.unicef.org



UNIDO United Nations Industrial Development Organization
www.unido.org



UNODC United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
www.unodc.org



UNOPS United Nations Office for Project Services
www.unops.org



UNWTO United Nations World Tourism Organization
www.unwto.org



WFP World Food Programme
www.wfp.org



WHO World Health Organization
www.who.int



World Bank World Bank Group
www.worldbank.org



WMO World Meteorological Organization
www.wmo.int