



Security Council and the main organs of the UN



The Security Council (SC) has primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security. The Council consists of 15 members (five permanent members with veto power and ten non-permanent members elected by the UN General Assembly for two-year terms). Each Member has one vote. Under the Charter of the United Nations, all Member States are obligated to comply with Council decisions. The Security Council takes the lead in determining the existence of a threat to the peace or act of aggression. It calls upon the parties to a dispute to settle it by peaceful means and recommends methods of adjustment or terms of settlement. In some cases, the Security Council can resort to imposing sanctions or even authorize the use of force to maintain or restore international peace and security. The members take turns at being President of the Council for a month at a time.

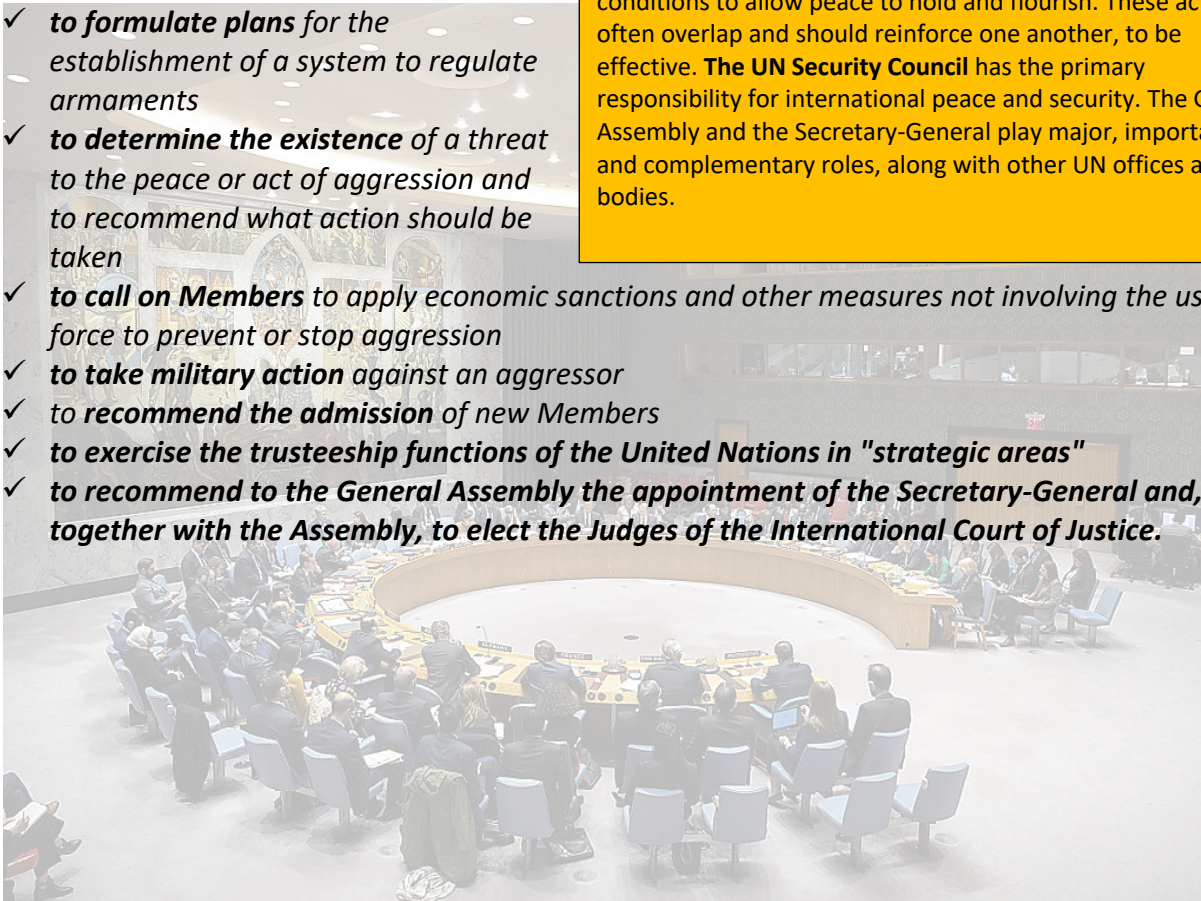
Functions and powers of the Security Council

Under the United Nations Charter, the functions and powers of the Security Council are:

- ✓ **to maintain international peace and security** in accordance with the principles and purposes of the United Nations
- ✓ **to investigate any dispute or situation** which might lead to international friction
- ✓ **to recommend methods** of adjusting such disputes or the terms of settlement
- ✓ **to formulate plans** for the establishment of a system to regulate armaments
- ✓ **to determine the existence** of a threat to the peace or act of aggression and to recommend what action should be taken
- ✓ **to call on Members** to apply economic sanctions and other measures not involving the use of force to prevent or stop aggression
- ✓ **to take military action** against an aggressor
- ✓ **to recommend the admission** of new Members
- ✓ **to exercise the trusteeship functions** of the United Nations in "strategic areas"
- ✓ **to recommend to the General Assembly the appointment of the Secretary-General and, together with the Assembly, to elect the Judges of the International Court of Justice.**

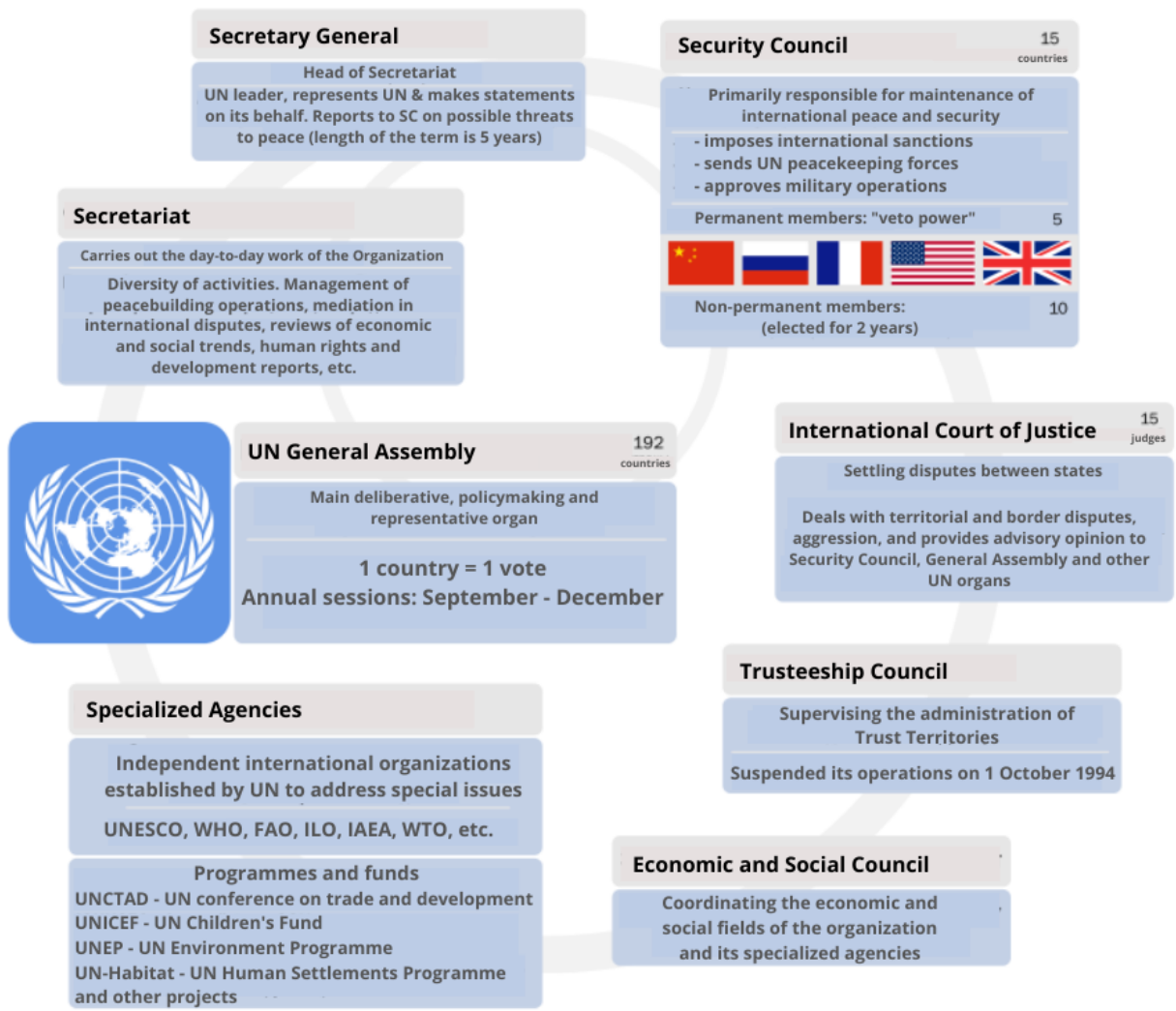
Maintain International Peace and Security

The United Nations came into being in 1945, following the devastation of the Second World War, with one central mission: the maintenance of international peace and security. The UN does this by working to prevent conflict; helping parties in conflict make peace; peacekeeping; and creating the conditions to allow peace to hold and flourish. These activities often overlap and should reinforce one another, to be effective. **The UN Security Council** has the primary responsibility for international peace and security. The General Assembly and the Secretary-General play major, important, and complementary roles, along with other UN offices and bodies.





The main organs of the United Nations



The United Nations works in every country in the world and is led by six principal organs, including the Security Council.

- **The General Assembly:** the main deliberative, policymaking and representative organ of the UN. All 193 Member States of the UN are represented in the General Assembly, making it the only UN body with universal representation. Each year, in September, the full UN membership meets in the General Assembly Hall in New York for the annual General Assembly session, and general debate, which many heads of state attend and address.
- **The Economic and Social Council:** the principal body for coordination, policy review, policy dialogue and recommendations on economic, social and environmental issues.
- **Trusteeship Council:** helps ensure that Trust Territories placed under the Trusteeship System were administered in the best interests of their inhabitants and of international peace and security.
- **The International Court of Justice (ICJ):** settles legal disputes submitted to it by States and to give advisory opinions on legal questions referred to it by authorized United Nations organs and specialized agencies.
- **Secretariat:** is an international staff working in duty stations around the world that carry out the diverse day-to-day work of the Organization. It services the other principal organs of the United Nations and administers the programmes and policies laid down by them.