## **5- The United Nations**

# The United Nations



# What is the United Nations?

- The United Nations has four purposes:
- to maintain international peace and security;
- to develop friendly relations among nations;
- to cooperate in solving international problems and in promoting respect for human rights;
- and to be a center for harmonizing the actions of nations. Cooperating in this effort are more than 30 affiliated organizations, known together as the UN system.

The United Nations is not a world government, and it does not make laws. It does, however, provide the means to help resolve international conflicts and formulate policies on matters affecting all of us. At the UN, all the Member States — large and small, rich and poor, with differing political views and social systems — have a voice and a vote in this process. The United Nations gives the opportunity for countries to balance global interdependence and national interests when addressing international problems. The UN system works to promote respect for human rights, reduce poverty, fight disease and protect the environment. The United Nations leads international campaigns against drug trafficking and terrorism. Throughout the world, the UN and its agencies help expand food production, assist refugees, lead the fight against AIDS and set up programmes to clear landmines, among others.

### **How is the United Nations structured?**

- The work of the United Nations is carried out almost all over the world and is done by six main organs:
- I. General Assembly
- 2. Security Council
- 3. Economic and Social Council
- 4. Trusteeship Council
- 5. International Court of Justice
- 6. Secretariat

#### THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

- All members of the United Nations (currently 192) are represented in the General Assembly. Each nation, rich or poor, large or small, has one vote.
- Functions :
- To discuss and make recommendations on any subject (except those being dealt with at the same time by the Security Council);
- To discuss questions related to military conflicts and the arms race;

- To discuss ways and means to improve the state of children, youth, women and others;
- To discuss the issues of sustainable development and human rights;
- To decide how much each Member country should pay to run the United Nations and how this money is spent.

#### THE SECURITY COUNCIL

While the General Assembly can discuss any world concern, the Security Council has primary responsibility for questions of peace and security. Membership The Security Council has fifteen members. Five are permanent members: China, France, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom and the United States. The other ten nonpermanent members are elected by the General Assembly for two-year terms and are chosen on the basis of geographical representation.