



■ **Functions :**

- **To investigate any dispute or situation which might lead to international conflict;**
- **To recommend methods and terms of settlement;**
- **To recommend actions against any threat or act of aggression;**
- **To recommend to the General Assembly who should be appointed Secretary-General of the United Nations.**



THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL (ECOSOC)

- **The Economic and Social Council is the forum to discuss economic problems, such as trade, transport, economic development, and social issues. It also helps countries reach agreement on how to improve education and health conditions and to promote respect for and observance of universal human rights and freedoms of people everywhere.**



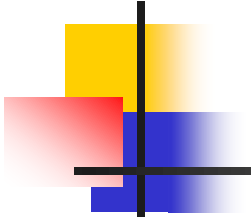
■ **Functions :**

- **Serves as the main forum for international economic and social issues;**
- **Promotes higher standards of living, full employment and economic and social progress;**
- **Advances solutions to international economic, social and health-related problems, as well as international cultural and educational cooperation.**



Achievements of the UN

- • The UN was a promoter of the great movement of decolonization, which led to the independence of more than 80 nations.
- • The UN system is a major purchaser of goods and services, totalling over \$6.4 billion a year. UNICEF buys half the vaccines produced worldwide.
- • UN relief agencies together provide aid and protection to more than 23 million refugees and displaced persons worldwide.

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- • The UN system defines technical standards in telecommunication, aviation, shipping and postal services, which make international transactions possible.
 - • UN campaigns for universal immunization against childhood diseases have eradicated smallpox and reduced cases of polio by 99 per cent.
 - • The World Food Programme, the UN's front-line food aid organization, ships over 5 million tonnes of food annually, feeding some 113 million people in 80 countries.



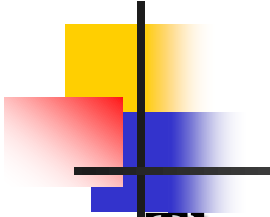
Which UN body has responsibility for human rights?

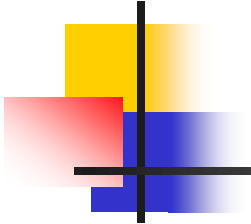
- **The Human Rights Council** was established in June 2006 to replace the Human Rights Commission which operated from 1946 to 2006.
- Unlike the Commission, the new Council is a subsidiary body of the General Assembly. This makes it directly accountable to the full membership of the United Nations.
- The Council is the main United Nations forum for dialogue and cooperation on human rights. It is administered by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.



How does the UN protect human rights?

- **The UN promotes respect for human rights in several ways, including:**
- **Monitoring the human rights records of nations. It has set up the Human Rights Council which has the authority to recommend that the General Assembly suspend the rights and privileges of any Council Member that it decides has persistently committed gross and systematic violations of human rights. This process of suspension would require a two-thirds majority vote by the General Assembly.**

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- **Through its six committees, which may call upon the Governments to respond to allegations; they may also adopt decisions and make them public, along with criticisms or recommendations;**
 - **Appointing experts known as special rapporteurs or representatives who gather facts, visit prisons, interview victims, and make recommendations on how to increase respect for human rights;**
 - **Establishing working groups to investigate such issues as arbitrary detention. When their reports highlight human rights violations, they help to mobilize international attention;**

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- **Providing technical assistance to strengthen national and regional institutions, such as courts and school systems.**
 - **Holding international conferences to discuss human rights issues and ask Governments to commit themselves publicly on human rights issues.**



Can individuals complain about violations of their rights?

- **Yes. Optional protocols to some UN treaties allow individuals to lodge complaints if the Government in question has ratified the protocols.**
- **Under a confidential communications procedure, allegations of gross and systematic violations of human rights can also be submitted to the UN if domestic remedies have been exhausted.**