

SUBJECT: POLITICAL SCIENCE III
COURSE: BA LLB SEMESTER III
TEACHER: MS. DEEPIKA GAHATRAJ
MODULE: MODULE 10, UNITED NATIONS

Structure:

- Aims and objectives of United Nations

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF UNITED NATIONS

The main functions performed by the various UN agencies relate to achieving peace and human rights, justice and respect for obligations, and the economic and social development services.

These UN organisations are open to nearly all the nations of the world. They have a sufficiently strong permanent machinery; stress is placed on making new rules and decisions, and on implementations as well as administrations of policies. However, in actual practice these organisations are observed to be limited mainly to the exchange of views and knowledge, the making of studies, the drafting of recommendations and rendering of technical assistance to governments requesting it. They cannot legislate. Neither do these agencies have the power to tax, nor do most of them have any effective powers of sanctions. Although the old principle of unanimity has been replaced in these organisations by majority voting, their decisions do not bind any individual government until it has ratified them. Only some technical agencies have a limited rule making power; -thus Air Safety Standards set by ICAO, and regulations of World Health Organisation (WHO) to prevent the spread of epidemics, become binding on their member-nations unless they give notice to the contrary within a specific time.

The United Nations came into being in 1945 with the major purpose, as stated in Article 1 of its Charter, of maintaining international peace and security. It has assumed, over time, greater responsibilities which cover almost every aspect of political, social, cultural, economic and humanitarian problems of the people of every nation of the world. Besides acting as determinant in policy-making of the Sovereign nations who are members of the UN, there are some broad areas of policy-making by the international agencies. These can be enlisted as below:

- i) International Peace and Security;
- ii) Disarmament;
- iii) Economic and Social Development;
- iv) Environmental Problems;
- v) Social and Humanitarian Assistance;
- vi) Human Rights; and

vii) Independence of Colonial People

i) International Peace & Security

The heart of United Nations' capacity to act in matters relating to peace and security is the Security Council. The Charter speaks of the U.N. Assembly as making recommendations; it empowers the Council to take decisions.

The crucial dilemmas of world politics are realistically reflected in the voting procedures of the Council. The Council has five permanent members (the United States, the USSR, The United Kingdom, France & China), and 10 non-permanent members elected by the Assembly for two-year terms. The functioning of the council hinges on the unanimity of the five permanent members, as each one of these five members has a veto right. It has been manifestly impossible to coerce either the United States or the Soviet Union to do anything important against its will; and it is also clear that Britain, France and China are similarly uncoercible. But if these five powers can agree they can muster enough force to stop quickly any war or-threat of war anywhere in the world. The age old problem of stopping or controlling the war-like propensities of all people of all states is thus replaced by the much smaller problem of discovering ways of producing coordination among only five countries-a problem which, though still very difficult, seems more manageable. This is one of the major impacts of the UN organisation, although threat of war could not be totally got rid of.

ii) Disarmament

The concerted efforts made by the UN at both multilateral and bilateral levels, as well as on a regional basis, have led to a body of important agreements, treaties, and conventions committing the parties to various arms limitations and disarmament measures. The important treaties concluded so far include the 1959 Antarctic Treaty which put into practice, for the first time, the concept of nuclear-weapon-free zone, later applied also to Latin America and the South Pacific, 1963 Treaty Banning Nuclear Weapon Tests in the Atmosphere, in outer space and under water, 1968 Treaty on guaranteeing all countries access to nuclear technology for peaceful purposes, 1972 convention on the prohibition of the development, production and stock piling of bacteriological (biological) and toxic weapons and on the destructions of such weapons etc.

Over the same period, bilateral negotiations between the USSR and US have produced a number of agreements between the two countries. These actions are mainly directed towards limitation on testing and stockpiling of nuclear weapons and agreement to formulate policies to guarantee stability and peace.

iii) Economic and Social Development

Since its very birth the United Nations system has an impressive record of promoting the development of poor countries. For example, IBRD has advanced loans, first to the war-devastated countries and later, to the economically poor countries for development of various sectors of their economies. These endeavours were, however, not free from problems. There is a general impression that the Bank is biased in favour of the US and other major contributors, because it seems to be promoting the interests of the multinationals. Moreover it imposes conditions for its loans, which are not always in favour of the interests of the underdeveloped countries.

The WHO had, from the very start, programmes of assisting countries with experts, equipments and training in the field of health development.

UNCTAD, which is another development agency, has, to its credit, negotiated an increase in exports from developing countries through the Generalised System of Preferences (GSP) under which the industrial countries give preferential tariff to products from developing countries.

Another important development agency that has assisted the trade and development of all countries, particularly the poor countries, is GATT. It has helped in reducing both tariff and non-tariff barriers in many cases, but here again, flouting of these rules through new forms of protection by the importing countries could not be totally stopped.

The ILO's development involvement has been through the establishment of improved conditions of work for the world's work force. One of its limitation is that the recommendations are based mainly on industrial conditions in the industrial countries and are not applicable to the work force of the poor countries.

REFERNCES:

<http://egyankosh.ac.in/bitstream/123456789/12981/1/Unit-7.pdf>

<http://egyankosh.ac.in/bitstream/123456789/19363/1/Unit-18.pdf>