

THE UNITED NATIONS

OUR GLOBAL ORGANIZATION

Aims

- Maintain international peace and security
- Promote sustainable development
- Protect human rights
- Uphold international law
- Provide humanitarian assistance
- Facilitate global cooperation



Facts and figures

- **Description:** an international organisation with **193** member states
- **Birthday:** **24 October 1945**, date on which the UN Charter came into force
- **Employees:** **85,000**, fewer than global companies such as McDonald's
- **Peacekeepers:** over **125,000** contributed by **120** countries to serve in **16** missions
- **Cost:** **\$30bn** a year, less than UK households spent on Christmas in 2014
- **Locations:** headquarters in New York; centres in Addis Ababa, Bangkok, Beirut, Geneva, Nairobi, Santiago and Vienna; and offices in over 190 countries



Provides food to 90 million people in 80 countries



Vaccinates 58 per cent of the world's children, saving 3 million lives a year



Assists over 38.7 million refugees and people fleeing war, famine or persecution



Works with 193 countries to combat climate change and make development sustainable



Keeps peace with over 125,000 peacekeepers in 16 operations in four continents



Fights poverty, helping improve the health and well-being of 420 million rural poor



Protects and promotes human rights on site and through some 80 treaties/declarations



Mobilises \$22 billion in humanitarian aid to help people affected by emergencies



Uses diplomacy to prevent conflict: assists some 60 countries a year with their elections



Promotes maternal health, saving the lives of 30 million women a year



Strong UN.
Better World.



In our rapidly changing world, the UN remains humankind's invaluable instrument of common progress. Let us use this anniversary to reflect on the lessons of seven decades, and reaffirm our commitment to serve "we the peoples" and build lives of prosperity, security and dignity for all.

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon



UNA-UK

The United Nations Association – UK is the leading advocate for UK action at the UN, a critical friend to the Organization and a nationwide movement of global citizens.

To find out more and support our work, visit www.una.org.uk

THE UNITED NATIONS:

WORKING FOR US ALL

The world's most pressing challenges – from climate change to terrorism – affect us all. They require global solutions reached through negotiation and compromise. The UN enables states to face these challenges together. By working through it, no country need shoulder the burden or cost of tackling them alone.

Everyone benefits from the UN's work. It has a profound impact on our daily lives, from promoting labour rights and aviation standards to clearing landmines and conserving fish stocks. It stands for the world's seven billion people, giving voice to our hopes and needs, and helping to create a better future for us all.

THE UN SYSTEM

Principal organs

- General Assembly**
 The UN's main deliberative body, where all states, large and small, rich and poor, have one vote. Its decisions are not legally binding but represent the weight of world opinion.
- Security Council**
 Responsible for maintaining peace. It can authorise sanctions, peacekeeping missions and the use of force. It has 15 members. 10 are elected by the General Assembly for two-year terms. Five are permanent and can veto any major proposal: China, France, Russia, the UK and US.
- Economic and Social Council**
 The body tasked with coordinating and producing recommendations on the UN's work on economic, social and environmental issues.
- Trusteeship Council**
 Set up to facilitate decolonisation by supervising "trust territories". It suspended operations in 1994 when the last territory, Palau, became independent.
- International Court of Justice**
 The UN's principal judicial body, tasked with settling legal disputes between states and issuing advisory opinions. It is the only principal organ located outside New York, in The Hague.
- Secretariat**
 The UN's staff members, led by the Secretary-General. This international civil service carries out the day-to-day work of the UN.

Funds and programmes

The funds and programmes have evolved over time in response to different needs and situations. Many of them provide life-saving services, in addition to advising governments. They are financed through voluntary contributions and have their own staff and governing boards.



Specialised agencies

The specialised agencies are autonomous organisations that work with the UN but are distinct from it. They provide technical assistance, research and expertise on particular areas of the UN's work. Some, such as the Universal Postal Union, existed before the First World War. Some, for example, the International Labour Organization, were associated with the League of Nations, the UN's predecessor. Others were founded almost simultaneously with the UN, the World Bank for instance. Others still were created by the UN to meet emerging needs. The International Fund for Agricultural Development is an example.



Other entities

These bodies were created to coordinate and support UN action in certain fields.



People's movement

The World Federation of UNAs is a global non-profit organisation with a membership of over 100 national United Nations Associations, of which UNA-UK is one. WFUNA works to strengthen the UN by engaging global citizens around the world.



Related organisations

Established by separate treaties or negotiations, these organisations maintain a working relationship with the UN system.



The United Nations Association - UK provides independent information and analysis on the UN's work and campaigns for its objectives to be realised. To find out more visit www.una.org.uk

SUPPORT YOUR UNITED NATIONS

The UN was created in our name.
It gives voice to our hopes and helps our governments to look after our needs.
It aspires to build a better future for us all.

This year, world leaders could change the course of history. States have the chance to adopt new development goals and a global climate agreement. We need to remind our governments that the UN is essential to realising these opportunities.

The UN's 70th anniversary is our chance to stand up for our United Nations.

We must show our governments that we care about the UN; that we want them to support it and make it more effective; and that we want them to use it to find the global solutions we need.

In the lead-up to 24 October – the date on which the UN Charter came into force 70 years ago – UNA-UK will be running campaigns and events to help you take action, online and in your community.

We will:

- Call on you to petition the UK on its UN policies
- Invite you to celebrate UN70 in London
- Seek your nominations for the next UN Secretary-General
- Ask you to make a pledge of support
- Collect your local United Nations histories
- Challenge you to get the UN Charter into your school, workplace or town hall



Support your United Nations: www.una.org.uk/UN70