

## Contents

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1. International Court of Justice                              | 11. UNITAR   |
| 2. United Nations Economic and Social Council                  | 12. UNESCAP  |
| 3. UNESCO  | 13. Food and Agriculture Organization                |
| 4. World Health Organization (WHO)                             | 14. International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)        |
| 5. United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) | 15. International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) |
| 6. UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (UNDP)                 | 16. International Labour Organization (ILO)          |
| 7. United Nations Environment Programme                        | 17. International Maritime Organization (IMO)        |
| 8. United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (UN-HABITAT)    | 18. International Monetary Fund (IMF)                |
| 9. UNICRI  | 19. FactBox: Washington Consensus                    |
| 10. UNIDO  | 20. International Telecommunication Union            |
|  | 21. World Bank Group                                 |

## INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE

International Court of Justice was established in 1945 via the UN Charter and its jurisdiction is worldwide. It is located in "The Hague" in Netherlands and has **193 state parties**. Current President is **Hisashi Owada** since February 2009. The major functions of the International Court of Justice are to settle legal disputes submitted to it by states and to provide advisory opinions on legal questions submitted to it by duly authorized international organs, agencies, and the UN General Assembly.

### Presidency of the ICJ

- ★ The President and the Vice-President are elected by the **Members of the Court every three years** by secret ballot. The election is held on the date on which Members of the Court elected at a **triennial election** are to begin their terms of office or shortly thereafter.
- ★ An **absolute majority is required** and there are **no conditions with regard to nationality**. The President and the Vice-President may be re-elected.

The **President presides at all meetings** of the Court; he/she directs its work and supervises its administration, with the assistance of a Budgetary and Administrative Committee and of various other committees, all composed of Members of the Court. During judicial deliberations, the **President has a casting vote** in the event of votes being equally divided. In The Hague, where he/she is obliged to reside, the President of the Court takes precedence over the doyen of the diplomatic corps.

### Judges of the ICJ

- ★ The ICJ is composed of **fifteen judges elected to nine year terms** by the **UN General Assembly** and the **UN Security Council** from a list of persons nominated by the **national groups** in the **Permanent Court of Arbitration**.
- ★ Judges serve for nine year terms and may be re-elected **for up to two further terms**.
- ★ Elections take place every three years, with one-third of the judges retiring (and possibly standing for re-election) each time, in order to ensure continuity within the court.
- ★ All **States parties** to the **Statute of the Court** have the **right to propose candidates**.
- ★ Judges must be elected from among persons of high moral character, who possess the **qualifications** required in their respective countries for appointment to the highest judicial offices, or are jurisconsults of recognized competence in international law.
- ★ The Court may **not include more than one national** of the same State. Moreover, the Court as a whole must represent the main forms of civilization and the principal legal systems of the world.

### Jurisdiction of ICJ

- ★ The International Court of Justice acts as a world court.
- ★ The Court has a **dual jurisdiction**: it decides, in accordance with international law, disputes of a legal nature that are submitted to it by States. This is called **jurisdiction in contentious cases**. The ICJ gives advisory opinions on legal questions at the **request** of the organs of the **United Nations or specialized agencies** authorized to make such a request. This is called **advisory jurisdiction**.

### How does ICJ work?

As mentioned above, The International Court of Justice entertains two kinds of cases viz. legal disputes between States submitted to it by them (contentious cases) and requests for advisory opinions on legal questions referred to it by United Nations organs and specialized agencies (advisory proceedings).

- ★ Only States (States **Members of the United Nations** and other States which have become **parties to the Statute of the Court** or which have accepted its jurisdiction under certain conditions) may be parties to contentious cases.
- ★ The Court is competent to entertain a dispute only if the **States concerned have accepted its jurisdiction by entering into a special agreement to submit the dispute to the Court** or by **virtue of a jurisdictional clause**, i.e., typically, when they are parties to a treaty containing a provision whereby, in the event of a dispute of a given type or disagreement over the interpretation or application of the treaty, one of them may refer the dispute to the Court. The country can also enter into its jurisdiction through the reciprocal effect of declarations made by them under the Statute whereby each has accepted the jurisdiction of the Court as compulsory in the event of a dispute with another State having made a similar declaration. A number of these declarations, which must be deposited with the United Nations Secretary-General, contain reservations excluding certain categories of dispute.
- ★ **Advisory proceedings** before the Court are open solely to **five organs of the United Nations** and to 16 **specialized agencies** of the United Nations family.
- ★ The United Nations **General Assembly** and **Security Council** may **request** advisory opinions on **"any legal question"**. **Other** United Nations organs and specialized agencies which have been authorized to seek advisory opinions can only do so with respect to **"legal questions arising within the scope of their activities"**.

### Sources of international law

When deciding cases, the Court applies international law as summarised in **Article 38 of the ICJ Statute** provides that in arriving at its decisions the Court shall **apply international conventions, international custom, and the "general principles of law recognized by civilized nations"**.

- ★ It may **also refer to academic writing** ("the teachings of the most highly qualified publicists of the various nations") and **previous judicial decisions** to help interpret the law, although the Court is not formally bound by its previous decisions under the doctrine of stare decisis. Article 59 makes clear that the common law notion of precedent or stare decisis does not apply to the decisions of the ICJ.
- ★ The Court's **decision binds only the parties to that particular controversy**. Under 38(1)(d), however, the Court may consider its own previous decisions. In reality, the ICJ rarely departs from its own previous decisions and treats them as precedent in a way similar to superior courts in common law systems. Additionally, international lawyers commonly operate as though ICJ judgments had precedential value.

## UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

ECOSOC was established under the United Nations Charter as the principal organ to coordinate economic, social, and related work of the 14 UN specialized agencies, functional commissions and five regional commissions. The Council also receives reports from 11 UN funds and programmes.

### Functions of ECOSOC

The Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) serves as the central forum for discussing international economic and social issues, and for formulating policy recommendations addressed to Member States and the United Nations system.

It is responsible for:

- ★ promoting higher standards of living, full employment, and economic and social progress;
- ★ identifying solutions to international economic, social and health problems;
- ★ facilitating international cultural and educational cooperation; and
- ★ Encouraging universal respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms.

It has the power to make or initiate studies and reports on these issues. It also has the power to assist the preparations and organization of major international conferences in the economic and social and related fields and to facilitate a coordinated follow-up to these conferences. With its broad mandate the Council's purview extends to over 70 per cent of the human and financial resources of the entire UN system.

### President

The current president of ECOSOC is Ambassador Lazarous Kapambwe of Zambia. The president is elected for an one-year term and chosen among the small or middle powers represented on ECOSOC.

### Members

The Council has 54 member states which are elected by the United Nations General Assembly for overlapping three-year terms. Seats on the Council are based on geographical representation with fourteen allocated to African States, eleven to Asian States, six to Eastern European States, ten to Latin American and Caribbean States, and thirteen to Western European and other States.

### How does it work?

The Council holds several short sessions and many preparatory meetings, round tables and panel discussions with the members of civil society throughout the year, to deal with the organization of its work. It holds a four-week substantive session in July, alternating between New York and Geneva, which is organized in four segments (High-level, Coordination, Operational Activities, Humanitarian Affairs and General Segments). At the High-level Segment, national cabinet ministers and chiefs of international agencies and other high officials discuss major economic, social and environmental policy issues. A Ministerial declaration is generally adopted on the theme of the High-level Segment, which provides policy guidance and recommendations for action. The official languages of the Economic and Social Council are Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish. The year-round work of the Council is carried out in its subsidiary and related bodies.

### ECOSOC Bureau

The Bureau of ECOSOC includes one Government from each of five world regions – Latin America and the Caribbean, Africa, Asia, East Europe, and West Europe and the other developed countries. Each year, a representative from a different region is chosen to head the Council as its President. Information about the ECOSOC Bureau for 2010 is posted.

## UNESCO

### Historical Background: ICIC as successor to UNESCO

International Committee on Intellectual Co-operation (ICIC) was the predecessor of UNESCO. The International Committee on Intellectual Co-operation (ICIC) was officially created on 4 January 1922, as a consultative organ composed of individuals elected based on their personal qualifications. ICIC along with the international Bureau of Education (IBE) began work as a non-governmental organization in the service of international educational development. However, the work of these predecessor organizations was largely interrupted by the onset of the Second World War.

During the final leg of WWII, on 30 October 1943, the necessity for an international organization was expressed in the **Moscow Declaration**, agreed upon by China, the United Kingdom, the United States of America and the USSR. This was followed by the Dumbarton Oaks Conference proposals of 9 October 1944. In 1945, the United Nations Conference on International Organization (UNCIO) was held in San Francisco and later a United Nations Conference for the establishment of an educational and cultural organization (ECO/CONF) was convened in London 1–16 November 1945. At the ECO/CONF, the Constitution of UNESCO was introduced and signed by 37 countries, and a Preparatory Commission was established. The Preparatory Commission operated between 16 November 1945, and 4 November 1946. On 4 November 1946, the UNESCO's Constitution came into force with the deposit of the twentieth ratification by a member state. The first General Conference took place from 19 November to 10 December 1946, and elected Dr. Julian Huxley to the post of Director-General.

### Purpose of UNESCO

United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) fosters values by multiplying and reinforcing educational, scientific and cultural relations, pursuing two closely linked objectives: development which, beyond the simple demands of material progress, must also respond to a full range of human aspirations without jeopardizing the heritage of future generations; and establishment of a Culture of Peace, based on education for responsible citizenship and full participation in democratic processes.

- ✓ UNESCO is an specialized agency of the United Nations.

UNESCO's purpose is to contribute to peace and security by promoting international collaboration through education, science, and culture in order to further universal respect for justice, the rule of law, and human rights along with fundamental freedoms proclaimed in the UN Charter. Projects sponsored by UNESCO include literacy, technical, and teacher-training programmes; international science programmes; the promotion of independent media and freedom of the press; regional and cultural history projects; the promotion of cultural diversity; international cooperation agreements to secure the world cultural and natural heritage (World Heritage Sites) and to preserve human rights, and attempts to bridge the worldwide digital divide. It is also a member of the United Nations Development Group. UNESCO implements its activities through the five programme areas of Education, Natural Sciences, Social and Human Sciences, Culture, and Communication and Information.

### Director-General of UNESCO

Elections for the renewal of the position of Director-General took place in Paris from 7 September to 23 September 2009. Eight candidates ran for the position, and 58 countries voted for them. The Executive Council gathered from 7 September to 23 September, the vote itself beginning on the 17th. Irina Bokova was elected the new Director-General.

### UNESCO Offices

UNESCO has offices in many locations across the globe; its headquarters are located at Place de Fontenoy in Paris. UNESCO's field offices are categorized into four primary office types based upon their function and geographic coverage: cluster offices, national offices, regional bureaux and liaison offices.

**Members:**

It is successor of the League of Nations' International Commission on Intellectual Cooperation. UNESCO has 196 Member States including Palestine that was given its membership in November 2011 and eight Associate Members. ?

**Important Notes on UNESCO for Examinations**

- ★ In 1956, South Africa withdrew from UNESCO claiming that some of the Organization's publications amounted to "interference" in the country's "racial problems. South Africa rejoined the Organization in 1994 under the leadership of Nelson Mandela.
- ★ The earliest UNESCO project in field of education was in Marbial Valley, Haiti, started in 1947, Afghanistan in 1949.
- ★ In 1948, UNESCO recommended that Member States should make free primary education compulsory and universal.
- ★ Arid Zone programming, 1948–1966, is another example of an early major UNESCO project in the field of natural sciences.
- ★ In 1968, UNESCO organized the first intergovernmental conference aimed at reconciling the environment and development, a problem which continues to be addressed in the field of sustainable development. The main outcome of the 1968 conference was the creation of UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere Programme.
- ★ In 1990 the World Conference on Education for All, in Jomtien, Thailand, launched a global movement to provide basic education for all children, youths and adults.
- ★ The 2000 World Education Forum held in Dakar, Senegal, led member governments to commit to achieving basic education for all by 2015.
- ★ UNESCO launched its Nubia Campaign in 1960 to move the Great Temple of Abu Simbel to keep it from being swamped by the Nile after construction of the Aswan Dam. During the 20-year campaign, 22 monuments and architectural complexes were relocated. This was the first and largest in a series of campaigns.
- ★ Other campaigns of UNESCO include Mohenjo-daro (Pakistan), Fes (Morocco), Kathmandu (Nepal), Borobudur (Indonesia) and the Acropolis (Greece).
- ★ In 1972, Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage was adopted due to efforts of UNESCO in the field.
- ★ In 1976, The World Heritage Committee was established and the first sites inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1978. Since then important legal instruments on cultural heritage and diversity have been adopted by UNESCO member states in 2003 (Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage) and 2005 (Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions).
- ★ In 1954, European Council for Nuclear Research (CERN) was established as an outcome of the decisions taken at intergovernmental meeting of UNESCO in Paris in December 1951.
- ★ UNESCO Chairs is an international network of 644 UNESCO Chairs, involving over 770 institutions in 126 countries.
- ★ Education for All Global Monitoring Report is published by UNESCO.
- ★ UNESCO ASPNet is an international network of 8,000 schools in 170 countries

- ★ Seville Statement on Violence was a statement adopted by UNESCO in 1989 to refute the notion that humans are biologically predisposed to organised violence.
- ★ **International Network of Geoparks** or **Global Geoparks Network** (GGN) is a UNESCO programme established in 1998. Managed under the body's Ecological and Earth Sciences Division, the GGN seeks the promotion and conservation of the planet's geological heritage, as well as encourages the sustainable research and development by the concerned communities. A GEOPARK is a nationally protected area containing a number of geological heritage sites of particular importance, rarity or aesthetic appeal. These Earth heritage sites are part of an integrated concept of protection, education and sustainable development. There are 54 Geoparks worldwide. **No Geopark is located in India.**
- ★ In 2007, UNESCO launched the **City of Literature** title and **first city to be given this title was Edinburgh**, the site of Scotland's first circulating library. In 2008, Iowa City, Iowa became the City of Literature. The other cities of literature are Dublin, Ireland (2010) and **Reykjavik, Iceland (2011).**
- ★ In 1998, the decade 2001–2010 was declared by UN as International Decade for the Promotion of a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence for the Children of the World.
- ★ **May 3**, each year is declared by UNESCO as **World Press Freedom Day** to promote freedom of expression and freedom of the press as a basic human right and as crucial components of any healthy, democratic and free society.
- ★ Since 1998, UNESCO and the Free Software Foundation have jointly funded this project cataloguing free software known as Free Software Directory.
- ★ Botany 2000 is a UNESCO programme supporting taxonomy, and biological and cultural diversity of medicinal and ornamental plants, and their protection against environmental pollution.

### UNESCO Prizes

UNESCO currently awards 22 prizes in education, science, culture and peace. Important among them are:

- ★ Félix Houphouët-Boigny Peace Prize
- ★ L'Oréal-UNESCO Awards for Women in Science
- ★ UNESCO/King Sejong Literacy Prize
- ★ UNESCO/Confucius Prize for Literacy
- ★ UNESCO/Kalinga Prize for the Popularization of Science
- ★ UNESCO/Sultan Qaboos Prize for Environmental Preservation
- ★ Michel Batisse Award for Biosphere Reserve Management
- ★ UNESCO/Bilbao Prize for the Promotion of a Culture of Human Rights
- ★ UNESCO Prize for Peace Education
- ★ UNESCO-Madanjeet Singh Prize for the Promotion of Tolerance and Non-Violence
- ★ UNESCO/International José Martí Prize
- ★ UNESCO/Avicenna Prize for Ethics in Science
- ★ UNESCO/Juan Bosch Prize for the Promotion of Social Science Research in Latin America and the Caribbean
- ★ Sharjah Prize for Arab Culture
- ★ IPDC-UNESCO Prize for Rural Communication
- ★ UNESCO/Guillermo Cano World Press Freedom Prize
- ★ UNESCO/Jikji Memory of the World Prize

## WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION (WHO)

The World Health Organization (WHO) is a specialized agency of the United Nations that acts as a coordinating authority on international public health. Established on 7 April 1948, it succeeded the Health Organization, which was an agency of the League of Nations. It is a member of the United Nations Development Group and its headquarters are located at Geneva.

### Director-General

The head of the organization is the **Director-General (DG)**, appointed by the **World Health Assembly**. The current DG is Margaret Chan, who was appointed on 9 November 2006.

### WHO Flag:

- ★ WHO flag features the Rod of Asclepius as a symbol for healing.

### World Health Day

Jawaharlal Nehru had given an opinion to start WHO. The World Health Organization (WHO) came into existence on first **World Health Day**, (**7 April 1948**), when it was ratified by the 26th member state.

### Functions:

WHO coordinates international efforts to control outbreaks & sponsors programs to prevent and treatment of infectious diseases such as SARS, malaria, tuberculosis, influenza, and HIV/AIDS, the WHO also such diseases. The WHO supports the development and distribution of safe and effective vaccines, pharmaceutical diagnostics, and drugs, such as through the Expanded Program on Immunization. After over two decades of fighting **smallpox**, the WHO declared in 1980 that the disease had been eradicated – the **first disease in history to be eliminated by human effort**. The WHO aims to eradicate polio within the next few years.

### Publications:

Bulletin of the World Health Organization

Eastern Mediterranean Health Journal

Human Resources for Health, journal published in collaboration with BioMed Central

Pan American Journal of Public Health

World Health Report, series of global health policy reports

### Members:

The WHO has 193 Member states, including 192 members of the UN (all except Liechtenstein), the Cook Islands and Niue. Non-state territories of UN Member States may join as **Associate Members** (with full information but limited participation and voting rights) if approved by an Assembly vote: Puerto Rico and Tokelau are Associate Members. Palestine, Holy See, Order of Malta and Republic of China (Taiwan, under the name of "Chinese Taipei") are observers. Non-members of the WHO are Liechtenstein and the rest of states with limited diplomatic recognition.

### Regional offices:

- ✓ Africa; HQ: Brazzaville, Congo
- ✓ Americas; HQ: Washington, DC, USA
- ✓ Europe; HQ: Copenhagen, Denmark
- ✓ Eastern Med.; HQ: Cairo, Egypt
- ✓ **South East Asia; HQ: New Delhi, India**
- ✓ Western Pacific; HQ: Manila, Philippines

The above 6 Regional Offices of the WHO enjoy remarkable **autonomy**. Each Regional Office is headed by a **Regional Director** (RD), who is **elected by the Regional Committee for a once-renewable five-year term**. The name of the RD-elect

is transmitted to the WHO Executive Board in Geneva, which proceeds to confirm the appointment. It is rare that an elected Regional Director is not confirmed.

### **UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT (UNCTAD)**

The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) was established in 1964. It was meant for the **integrated treatment of trade and development** and related issues in the areas of investment, finance, technology, enterprise development and sustainable development. There are 193 members.

#### **Functions:**

- ★ UNCTAD functions as a forum for intergovernmental deliberations, supported by discussions with experts and exchanges of experience, aimed at consensus building.
- ★ It undertakes research, policy analysis and data collection for the debates of government representatives and experts.
- ★ It provides **technical assistance** tailored to the specific requirements of **developing countries**, with special attention to the needs of the least developed countries and of economies in transition. When appropriate, UNCTAD cooperates with other organizations and donor countries in the delivery of technical assistance.

#### **Secretary General**

- ★ The Secretary-General of UNCTAD is Dr. Supachai Panitchpakdi (Thailand), who took office on 1 September 2005. Prior to this, he was the Director-General of the World Trade Organization from September 1, 2002 to September 1, 2005. He was succeeded by Pascal Lamy.

#### **Reports Published:**

- ❖ The Trade and Development Report
- ❖ The Trade and Environment Review
- ❖ The World Investment Report
- ❖ The Economic Development in Africa Report
- ❖ The Least Developed Countries Report
- ❖ UNCTAD Statistics
- ❖ The Information Economy Report
- ❖ The Review of Maritime Transport
- ❖ The International Accounting and Reporting Issues Annual Review

#### **Important Notes:**

- ★ UNCTAD is an **organ** of **UN General Assembly**.
- ★ UNCTAD Objective is to **maximize** the trade, investment and development **opportunities of developing countries** and assist them in their efforts to integrate into the world economy on an equitable basis.
- ★ UNCTAD grew from the view that existing institutions like GATT (now WTO), the International Monetary Fund (IMF), and World Bank were not properly organized to handle the particular problems of developing countries.

#### **UNCTAD Conferences:**

- ★ The Conference ordinarily meets once in four years. The first conference took place in Geneva in 1964, second in New Delhi in 1968, the third in Santiago in 1972, fourth in Nairobi in 1976, the fifth in Manila in 1979, the sixth in Belgrade in 1983, the seventh in Geneva in 1987, the eighth in Cartagena in 1992 and the ninth at Johannesburg (South Africa) in 1996. The Conference has its permanent secretariat in Geneva. Next UNCTAD conference will take place in Doha, Qatar in 2012.

#### **UNCTAD and GSP**



- ★ One of the principal achievements of UNCTAD has been to conceive and implement the **Generalised System of Preferences (GSP)**. It was argued in UNCTAD, that in order to promote exports of manufactured goods from developing countries, it would be necessary to offer **special tariff concessions** to such exports. Accepting this argument, the developed countries formulated the GSP Scheme under which manufacturers' exports and some agricultural goods from the developing countries enter duty-free or at reduced rates in the developed countries. Since imports of such items from other developed countries are subject to the normal rates of duties, imports of the same items from developing countries would enjoy a competitive advantage.

### **UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (UNDP)**

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is the UN's global development network, an organization advocating for change and connecting countries to knowledge, experience and resources to help people build a better life. UNDP got birth after the merging of the *United Nations Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance*, created in 1949, and the *United Nations Special Fund*, established in 1958. **UNDP** was **established** in 1965 by the **General Assembly** of the United Nations.

#### **Focus Areas**

UNDP operates in 177 countries, **working with nations on their own solutions** to global and national development challenges. UNDP's work is concentrated on four **main focus areas**:

- ✓ Poverty Reduction and Achievement of the MDGs
- ✓ Democratic Governance
- ✓ Crisis Prevention and Recovery
- ✓ Environment and Energy for Sustainable Development

UNDP provides expert advice, training, and grant support to developing countries, with increasing emphasis on assistance to the least developed countries. To accomplish the MDGs and encourage global development, UNDP focuses on poverty reduction, HIV/AIDS, democratic governance, energy and environment, social development, and crisis prevention and recovery. UNDP also encourages the protection of human rights and the empowerment of women in all of its programs.

Today 128 countries are receiving UNDP support for democratic governance, while 60 countries receiving election assistance from UNDP. 95% of UNDP's partners consider the organization to be a "critical partner" in contributing to the MDGs. 103 countries receiving support from UNDP for anti-corruption efforts.

#### **Position in UNGA**

- ★ **UNDP is an executive board within the United Nations General Assembly.**

The UNDP Administrator is the third highest ranking official of the United Nations after the United Nations Secretary-General and Deputy Secretary-General. **UNDP is at the centre of the UN's efforts to reduce global poverty.** At the global level, **UNDP chairs the United Nations Development Group (UNDG)**, which includes the UN's key players in international development. UNDP is also helping to reinforce **joint action** on development in such forums as the Economic and Social Council, and the General Assembly of the United Nations. At the country level, UNDP plays two important roles, one as a partner for development work and the other as manager of the Resident Coordinator system. **UNDP coordinates the development activities** of the United Nations. It plays a key role in helping to **reform the UN** as part of the United Nations Development Group (UNDG). UNDP is also helping to reinforce joint action on development in such forums as the Economic and Social Council, and the General Assembly of the United Nations. **UNDP's support for the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) makes it an important international organization.**

### **UNDP Headquarters:**

Headquartered in New York City, the UNDP is funded entirely by voluntary contributions from member nations. The organization has country offices in 177 countries, where it works with local governments to meet development challenges and develop local capacity. Additionally, the UNDP works internationally to help countries achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

### **Human Development Report**

UNDP Human Development Report Office publishes an annual Human Development Report (since 1990) to measure and analyse developmental progress.

The annual Human Development Report is UNDP's flagship independent publication.

- ★ Its editorial autonomy is guaranteed by a special resolution of the General Assembly (A/RES/57/264), which recognizes the Human Development Report as “an independent intellectual exercise” and “an important tool for raising awareness about human development around the world”. The reports focus the global debate on key development issues, providing new measurement tools, innovative analysis and often controversial policy proposals. They are guided by the belief that development is ultimately a process of enlarging people's choices, not just raising national incomes. The independent teams of experts who write the reports draw on a worldwide network of leaders from academia, government and civil society who contribute data, ideas, and best practices.

### **Current Head: Helen Clark**

Helen Clark became the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme on 17 April 2009, and is the first woman to lead the organization.

## **UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME**

UNEP, established in 1972, is the voice for the environment within the United Nations system. UNEP acts as a catalyst, advocate, educator and facilitator to promote the wise use and sustainable development of the global environment. To accomplish this, UNEP works with a wide range of partners, including United Nations entities, international organizations, national governments, non-governmental organizations, the private sector and civil society.

### **Headquarters:**

- ★ The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) was founded as a result of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment in June 1972 and has its headquarters in Nairobi, Kenya. UNEP also has six regional offices and various country offices.

### **Executive Director:**

- ★ UNEP's current Executive Director is Achim Steiner, who succeeded previous director Klaus Töpfer in 2006.

### **Functions:**

- ★ The activities of UNEP cover a wide range of issues regarding the atmosphere, marine and terrestrial ecosystems, environmental governance and green economy.
- ★ It has played a significant role in developing international environmental conventions, promoting environmental science and information and illustrating the way those can be implemented in conjunction with policy, working on the development and implementation of policy with national governments, regional institutions in conjunction with environmental Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs).
- ★ UNEP has also been active in funding and implementing environment related development projects.

UNEP has aided in the formulation of guidelines and treaties on issues such as the international trade in potentially harmful chemicals, transboundary air pollution, and contamination of international waterways.

- ★ The World Meteorological Organization and UNEP established the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) in 1988. UNEP is also one of several Implementing Agencies for the **Global Environment Facility (GEF)** and the Multilateral Fund for the Implementation of the **Montreal Protocol**, and it is also a **member of the United Nations Development Group.**

UNEP work encompasses:

- Assessing global, regional and national environmental conditions and trends
- Developing international and national environmental instruments
- Strengthening institutions for the wise management of the environment
- Facilitating the transfer of knowledge and technology for sustainable development
- Encouraging new partnerships and mind-sets within civil society and the private sector.

UNEP also hosts several environmental convention secretariats including the **Ozone Secretariat** and the **Montreal Protocol's Multilateral Fund**, CITES (the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora), the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Convention on Migratory Species, and a growing family of chemicals-related agreements, including the **Basel Convention** on the Transboundary Movement of Hazardous Wastes and the recently negotiated **Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs).**

### **UNITED NATIONS CENTRE FOR HUMAN SETTLEMENTS (UN-HABITAT)**



It was established in 1978 and has its headquarters at the UN office in Nairobi, Kenya. It is the United Nations agency for human settlements. It runs two major worldwide campaigns – the **Global Campaign on Urban Governance**, and the **Global Campaign for Secure Tenure**. Through these campaigns and by other means the agency focuses on a range of issues and special projects which it helps implement. Its regional centres are called 'United Nations Centre for Human Settlements' (Habitat)/(UNCHS),[3][4] and are situated at Nairobi, Rio de Janeiro, and Fukuoka. The World Urban Campaign is a collaborative project between UN-Habitat and its many partner organizations. It was launched at the World Urban Forum 5 in Rio de Janeiro, 2010.



### **UNICRI**

United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute is one of the five United Nations Research and Training Institutes. Its headquarters are located at Turin, Italy.

United Nations Inter-regional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI) acts with its partners in the international community to advance understanding of crime-related problems, foster just and efficient criminal justice systems, support the respect of international instruments and other standards and facilitate international law enforcement cooperation and judicial assistance.

UNICRI supports other international organizations, national and local governments, non-governmental organizations, academic and educational institutions and the communities at the large. As part of the United Nations Organization, UNICRI sets its activities in accordance with the priorities indicated by the United Nations Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice. The Institute maintains close working relations with UN bodies and agencies, particularly with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).

### **UNIDO**

The United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) helps **developing countries** and countries with economies in transition in their **fight against marginalization in today's globalized world.** It mobilizes knowledge, skills, information and technology to promote productive employment, a competitive economy and a sound environment. Dr. Kandeh K. Yumkella is the Director-General of UNIDO. UNIDO was set up in 1966 and became a specialized agency of the United Nations in 1985. As part of the United Nations common system, UNIDO has responsibility for promoting

industrialization throughout the developing world. As of December 2011, It has 173 States as Members of UNIDO. Its headquarters are in Vienna, and it is represented in 35 developing countries. In 2010, UNIDO created **two** new flagship **publications**, Making It: Industry for Development and UNIDO Times.

### UNITAR

United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNIT-AR) was established in 1965. It is an autonomous body within the United Nations with the **purpose** of **enhancing** the **effectiveness** of the **Organization** through appropriate training and research. UNITAR is governed by a Board of Trustees and is headed by an Executive Director. UNITAR's headquarters are based in Geneva, Switzerland. It has two regional offices in New York, U.S.A and in Hiroshima, Japan.

### UNESCAP



UNESCAP Members: Source wikipedia.

The **regional arm** of the United Nations **Secretariat** for the **Asian** and **Pacific region** is the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP). It is located in **Bangkok, Thailand**. Noeleen Heyzer (Singapore) is the ninth Executive Secretary of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP). The functions of UNESCAP have been defined as follows:

follows:

1. Promoting economic and social development through regional and subregional cooperation and integration
2. Serving as the main economic and social development forum within the United Nations system for the UNESCAP region.
3. Formulating and promoting development assistance activities and projects commensurate with the needs and priorities of the region while acting as an executing agency for relevant operational projects
4. Providing substantive and secretariat services and documentation for the Commission and its subsidiary bodies
5. Carrying out studies, research and other activities within the terms of reference of the Commission
6. Providing advisory services to governments at their request
7. Developing and executing programmes of technical cooperation
8. Coordinating UNESCAP activities with those of the major departments/ offices of the United Nations at Headquarters and specialized agencies and intergovernmental organizations.
9. Sustainable Agricultural Development in Asia was the focus of a twoday meeting organized by UNESCAP regional institution Centre for Alleviation of Poverty through Secondary Crops' Development in Asia and the Pacific in Bogor, Indonesia.

### FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION

#### Important Notes:

- ★ Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) is a **children organization** of **ECOSOC** and was established on 16 October 1945 in Quebec City, Canada. Currently it is located in Rome, Italy, in the former seat of the Department of Italian East Africa. One of the most notable features of the building was the **Axum Obelisk** which stood in front of the agency seat, although just outside of the territory allocated to FAO by the Italian Government. It was taken from Ethiopia by Benito Mussolini's troops in 1937 as a war chest, but was returned to Ethiopia on 18 April 2005.

- ★ Its motto is in Latin *Fiat Panis* ("Let there be bread")
- ★ Its current head is Jacques Diouf.
- ★ Objective is to lead international efforts to defeat hunger.
- ★ Serving both developed and developing countries, FAO acts as a neutral forum where all nations meet as equals to negotiate agreements and debate policy.
- ★ FAO has 191 members' states along with the European Union, Faroe Islands and Tokelau which are associate members.
- ★ Regional offices are located in Accra, Ghana; Santiago, Chile; Bangkok, Thailand; Cairo, Egypt and Budapest, Hungary
- ★ The **Special Programme for Food Security** is FAO's flagship initiative for reaching the goal of halving the number of hungry in the world by 2015 (currently estimated at close to 1 billion people), as part of its commitment to the Millennium Development Goals. Through projects in over 100 countries worldwide, the programme promotes effective, tangible solutions to the elimination of hunger, under nourishment and poverty. Currently 102 countries are engaged in the programme and of these approximately 30 have begun shifting from pilot to national programmes. To maximize the impact of its work, FAO strongly promotes national ownership and local empowerment in the countries in which it operates.
- ★ FAO's **Global Information and Early Warning System (GIEWS)** monitors world food supply/demand and provides the international community with prompt information on crop prospects and the food security situation on a global, regional and country-by-country basis. In case of impending food emergencies, the system dispatches rapid crop and food supply assessment missions, often jointly with the World Food Programme, and sometimes as a precursor to further intervention and assistance.
- ★ *Codex Alimentarius* is a FAO programme for protecting consumer health, ensuring fair trade and promoting coordination of all food standards work undertaken by intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations. Under this programme, food standards, guidelines and texts such as codes of practice under the Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme are formulated and implemented.
- ★ In 1997, FAO launched **TeleFood, a campaign of concerts, sporting events and other activities** to harness the power of media, celebrities and concerned citizens to help fight hunger.
- ★ In May 2010, FAO launched a worldwide communication and media campaign entitled "**The 1billionhungry project**", which encourages people "to get angry at the fact that around a billion people suffer from hunger".
- ★ FAO hosts **DAD-IS, the Domestic Animal Diversity Information System**, a communication and information tool for the management of animal genetic resources which provides the user with searchable databases of breed-related information, management tools, and contacts for the Regional and National Coordinators for the Management of Animal Genetic Resources programme.

### **INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY (IAEA)**

#### **Important Notes:**

- ★ International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) seeks to promote the peaceful use of nuclear energy, and to inhibit its use for any military purpose, including nuclear weapons. It was established as an autonomous organization on 29 July 1957.
- ★ IAEA was established via its own independent treaty. IAEA as an autonomous organization is not under direct control of the UN, but the IAEA does report to both the UN General Assembly and Security Council.

- ★ Its headquarters are in Vienna, Austria and two "Regional Safeguards Offices" are located in Toronto, Canada, and in Tokyo, Japan.
- ★ IAEA has three laboratories located in Vienna and Seibersdorf, Austria, and in Monaco.
- ★ IAEA and its former Director General, Mohamed ElBaradei, were jointly awarded the Nobel Peace Prize that was awarded on October 7, 2005. The
- ★ IAEA's current Director General is Yukiya Amano. On July 2, 2009, Mr. Yukiya Amano of Japan was elected as the Director General for the IAEA, defeating Abdul Samad Minty of South Africa and Luis E. Echávarri of Spain.
- ★ The IAEA has three main bodies: the Board of Governors, the General Conference, and the Secretariat
- ★ Its main functions are:
  - the inspection of existing nuclear facilities to ensure their peaceful use,
  - providing information and developing standards to ensure the safety and security of nuclear facilities, and as a hub for the various fields of science involved in the peaceful applications of nuclear technology.
- ★ In 2004, the IAEA developed a Programme of Action for Cancer Therapy (PACT). PACT responds to the needs of developing countries to establish, to improve, or to expand radiotherapy treatment programs. The IAEA is raising money to help efforts by its Member States to save lives and to reduce suffering of cancer victims.
- ★ The IAEA has 151 member states. Most UN members and the Holy See are Member States of the IAEA. India is a member of IAEA.
- ★ It has been criticized on several grounds as follows:
  - It recommends safety standards, but member states are not required to comply; it promotes nuclear energy, but it also monitors nuclear use; it is the sole global organization overseeing the nuclear energy industry, yet it is also weighed down by checking compliance with the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).
  - The journal Nature has reported that the IAEA response to the Fukushima I nuclear accidents in Japan was "sluggish and sometimes confusing", drawing calls for the agency to "take a more proactive role in nuclear safety".
  - It was alleged that IAEA did not learn from the 1986 Chernobyl disaster. He has accused the IAEA and corporations of "wilfully ignoring lessons from the world's worst nuclear accident 25 years ago to protect the industry's expansion".

### INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANIZATION (ICAO)

#### Important Points:

- ★ International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) is a specialized agency of the United Nations.
- ★ The forerunner to the ICAO was the International Commission for Air Navigation (ICAN). It held its first convention in 1903 in Berlin, Germany but no agreements were reached amongst the eight countries that attended. At the second convention in 1906, also held in Berlin, 27 countries attended. The third convention, held in London, United Kingdom in 1912 allocated the first radio call signs for use by aircraft. The ICAN existed until 1945, when the Provisional International Civil Aviation Organization (PICAO) was established. The PICAO became the ICAO in 1947.
- ★ It codifies the principles and techniques of international air navigation and fosters the planning and development of international air transport to ensure safe and orderly growth.

- ★ Its headquarters are located in the Quartier International of Montreal, Quebec, Canada.
- ★ The ICAO Council adopts standards and recommended practices concerning air navigation, its infrastructure, flight inspection, prevention of unlawful interference, and facilitation of **border-crossing procedures** for international civil aviation. In addition, the ICAO defines the **protocols for air accident investigation** followed by transport safety authorities in countries signatory to the Convention on International Civil Aviation, commonly known as the **Chicago Convention**.
- ★ ICAO members are 191 of the United Nations members and the Cook Islands. The non-member states are Dominica, Liechtenstein, Niue, Tuvalu, Vatican City and the states with limited recognition.[3][4]
- ★ ICAO defines an International Standard Atmosphere (also known as **ICAO Standard Atmosphere**), a model of the standard variation of pressure, temperature, density, and viscosity with altitude in the Earth's atmosphere. This is useful in calibrating instruments and designing aircraft.
- ★ ICAO standardizes machine-readable passports worldwide. ICAO publishes Doc 9303, Machine Readable Travel Documents, the technical standard for machine-readable passports. A more **recent standard** is for **biometric passports**. These contain biometrics to authenticate the identity of travellers.
- ★ Both ICAO and IATA have their own airport and airline code systems. ICAO uses 4-letter airport codes (vs. IATA's 3-letter codes).

### **INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANIZATION (ILO)**

- ★ ILO deals with labour issues pertaining to international labour standards. The ILO was established as an agency of the League of Nations following the Treaty of Versailles, which ended World War I.
- ★ Its headquarters are in Geneva, Switzerland. Its secretariat — the people who are employed by it throughout the world — is known as the International Labour Office.
- ★ ILO received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1969.
- ★ International Labour Organization has a **tripartite governing structure** — representing governments, employers and workers.
- ★ Its Governing Body decides the agenda of the International Labour Conference, adopts the draft programme and budget of the organization for submission to the conference, elects the director-general, requests information from member states concerning labour matters, appoints commissions of inquiry and supervises the work of the International Labour Office.
- ★ The ILO organizes the **International Labour Conference** in Geneva every year in June, where conventions and recommendations are crafted and adopted. The conference also makes decisions on the ILO's general policy, work programme and budget.
- ★ By July 2011, the ILO has adopted 189 conventions. Adoption of a convention by the International Labour Conference allows governments to ratify it, and the convention then becomes a treaty in **international law** when a specified number of governments have done so. But **all adopted ILO conventions are considered international labour standards regardless of how many governments have ratified** them.
- ★ In 1998, the 86th International Labour Conference adopted the Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work. This declaration identified four "principles" as "core" or "fundamental", asserting that all ILO member States on the basis of existing obligations as members in the Organization have an obligation to work towards fully respecting the principles embodied in the relevant (ratifiable) ILO Conventions. The fundamental rights concern freedom of association and collective bargaining, discrimination, forced labour, and child

labour. The ILO Conventions which embody the fundamental principles have now been ratified by most member states.

- ★ The ILO's International Programme on the **Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC)** was created in 1992 with the overall goal of the **progressive elimination of child labour**, which was to be achieved through strengthening the capacity of countries to deal with the problem and promoting a worldwide movement to combat child labour. IPEC currently has operations in 88 countries, with an annual expenditure on technical cooperation projects that reached over US\$74 million, €50 million in 2006. It is the largest programme of its kind globally and the biggest single operational programme of the ILO.
- ★ **INDUS (India-US) Child Labour Project** is a US\$40 million initiative between the **ILO-IPEC**, Government of **India**, and the **US** Department of Labour. Started in 2004, the project covered an estimated 80,000 children across 21 districts in 5 major states. The project came to a conclusion in March 2009. INDUS aimed to **eliminate child labour in selected districts in 5 states** viz. Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and Delhi among 10 hazardous sectors.
- ★ The ILO is a major **provider of labour statistics**. Labour statistics are an important tool for its member states to monitor their progress toward improving labour standards. As part of their statistical work, ILO maintains several databases, such as **Laborsta**. This database covers 11 major data series for over 200 countries.
- ★ To eliminate the worst forms of child labour ILO has given an **ILO Road Map** for Achieving the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour by 2016. ILO will convene the **Third Global Conference Against Child Labour** to take place in **Brazil in 2013**.

### **INTERNATIONAL MARITIME ORGANIZATION (IMO)**

- ★ The International Maritime Organization (IMO), formerly known as the Inter-Governmental Maritime Consultative Organization (IMCO), was established in Geneva in 1948 and came into in 1959. The IMCO name was changed to IMO in 1982.
- ★ It is headquartered in **London**, United Kingdom
- ★ It has 169 Member States and three Associate Members. Associate members are: Faroe Islands, Hong Kong and Macao. Non-members are generally the Landlocked countries.
- ★ IMO's primary purpose is to **develop and maintain a comprehensive regulatory framework for shipping** and its remit today includes safety, environmental concerns, legal matters, technical co-operation, maritime security and the efficiency of shipping.
- ★ IMO is governed by an Assembly of members and is financially administered by a Council of members elected from the Assembly. The work of IMO is conducted through five committees and these are supported by technical subcommittees.

### **INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND (IMF)**

#### **Important Points**

- ★ International Monetary Fund (IMF) works to foster **global monetary cooperation**, **secure financial stability**, facilitate international **trade**, **promote high employment** and **sustainable economic growth**, and **reduce poverty** around the world.
- ★ The organization's stated objectives are to promote international economic cooperation, international trade, employment, and exchange rate stability, including by making resources available to member countries to meet balance of payments needs.
- ★ Its headquarters are in Washington, D.C.



- ★ It was conceived on July 22, 1944 in the **Brettonwoods Conference**, New Hampshire, United States, originally with 45 members and came into existence on December 27, 1945 when 29 countries signed the agreement, with a goal to stabilize exchange rates and assist the reconstruction of the world's international payment system. Countries contributed to a pool which could be borrowed from, on a temporary basis, by countries with payment imbalances. The IMF works to improve the economies of its member countries.
- ★ Current members are 187 members of UN and Kosovo. Cuba left it in 1964 and Taiwan was ejected & replaced by China in 1980. The other non-members are North Korea, Andorra, Monaco, Liechtenstein, Nauru, Cook Islands, Niue, Vatican City, and the rest of the states with limited recognition.
- ★ **Executive Board of IMF:** There is a 24-member executive board in IMF, which are the general owners of the IMF and can control major decisions within the organization, but all other member countries are represented on the population, economic scale. Out of the 24 members, 5 are appointed by the five members with the largest quotas and 19 executive directors are elected by the remaining members. All members appoint a governor to the IMF's board of governors.
- ★ Managing Director: On June 28, 2011, Christine Lagarde was named Managing Director of the IMF, replacing Dominique Strauss-Kahn.
  
- ★ The powers of the other countries within the organization are represented on a proportional scale to their population and economic rank in the world.
- ★ Please note that all members of the IBRD are also IMF members, and vice versa.
- ★ As of August 2010, Romania (\$13.9 billion), Ukraine (\$12.66 billion), Hungary (\$11.7 billion), and Greece (\$30 billion) are the largest borrowers of the fund.
- ★ A country which wants to become a member will apply and application will be considered first by the IMF's executive board. After its consideration, the board will submit a report to the board of governors of the IMF with recommendations in the form of a "membership resolution." These recommendations cover the amount of quota in the IMF, the form of payment of the subscription, and other customary terms and conditions of membership. After the board of governors has adopted the membership Resolution, the applicant state needs to take the legal steps required under its own law to enable it to sign the IMF's Articles of Agreement and to fulfil the obligations of IMF membership.
- ★ Any member country can withdraw from the Fund, although that is rare.
- ★ **Member's Quota:** A member's quota in the IMF determines the amount of its subscription, its voting weight, its access to IMF financing, and its allocation of Special Drawing Rights (SDRs).
  - A member state cannot unilaterally increase its quota—increases must be approved by the Executive Board of IMF and are linked to formulas that include many variables such as the size of a country in the world economy.
  - For example, in 2001, China was prevented from increasing its quota as high as it wished, ensuring it remained at the level of the smallest G7 economy (Canada). However, in September 2005 the IMF's member countries agreed to the first round of ad-hoc quota increases for four countries, including China.
- ★ Under existing arrangements, the industrialized countries (including Mexico) hold more than half of the IMF votes.

- But the financial crisis has tilted control away from heavily indebted mature economies, such as the United States and the United Kingdom, in favour of the fast-growing, cash-rich, so-called BRIC economies of Brazil, Russia, India, and China.
- United States has by far the largest share of votes (approx. 17 percent) amongst IMF members.
- ★ **Decision making:** In IMF, major decisions require an **85 percent supermajority**.
- The United States has always been the only country able to block a supermajority on its own.
- ★ **Assistance:** Please note that **IMF lends only to Member countries**.
- Member states with balance of payments problems, which often arise from these difficulties, may request loans to help fill gaps between what countries earn and/or are able to borrow from other official lenders and what countries must spend to operate, including to cover the cost of importing basic goods and services.
- In return, the states are needed to launch so called **Structural Adjustment Programs (SAPs)**, which have often been dubbed the **Washington Consensus**.
- ★ **Criticisms:**
  - Financial aid is always bound to so-called Conditionalties, including SAPs. The **economic performance targets** have been established as **a precondition for IMF loans** and it has been alleged that such conditionalties retard social stability and hence inhibit the stated goals of the IMF, while Structural Adjustment Programs lead to an increase in poverty in recipient countries.
  - Sometimes **IMF favours austerity programmes in** the borrowing countries. The austerity programmes include cutting public spending and increasing taxes even when the economy is weak, in order to bring budgets closer to a balance, thus reducing budget deficits. IMF usually asks the countries to lower their corporate tax rate. Thus, IMF is criticized for its more **monetarist approach** and that the purpose of the fund is no longer valid.
  - Developed countries have a more dominant role and control over less developed countries (LDCs) primarily due to the **Western bias towards a capitalist** form of the world economy with professional staff being Western trained and believing in the efficacy of market-oriented policies.
  - **Fund** worked on **assumption** that all payments **disequilibria** are **caused domestically**. In the aftermath of the **1973 oil crisis**, the then LDCs found themselves with payments deficits due to adverse changes in their terms of trade, with the Fund prescribing stabilisation programmes similar to those suggested for deficits caused by government over-spending. **Faced with long-term, externally-generated disequilibria**, the Group of 24 argued that LDCs should be allowed more time to adjust their economies and that the policies needed to achieve such adjustment are different from demand-management programmes devised primarily with internally generated disequilibria in mind.
  - It has been alleged that effects of Fund policies has been **anti-developmental**. The deflationary effects of IMF programmes quickly led to losses of output and employment in economies where incomes were low and unemployment was high. Moreover, it was sometimes claimed that the **burden of the deflationary effects was borne disproportionately by the poor**.

**FactBox: Washington Consensus**

Washington Consensus is a collective term used for **10 economic policy prescriptions** as a part of a **"standard" reform package** promoted for crisis-wracked developing countries. Washington Consensus was advocated by Washington, D.C.-based institutions viz. International Monetary Fund (**IMF**), **World Bank**, and the **US Treasury Department**. The prescriptions encompassed policies in such

areas as macroeconomic stabilization, economic opening with respect to both trade and investment, and the expansion of market forces within the domestic economy. The term was coined in 1989 by John Williamson. It included the following:

1. Fiscal policy discipline, with avoidance of large fiscal deficits relative to GDP
2. Redirection of public spending from subsidies toward broad-based provision of key pro-growth, pro-poor services like primary education, primary health care and infrastructure investment
3. Tax reform, broadening the tax base and adopting moderate marginal tax rates
4. Market determined interest rates.
5. Competitive exchange rates
6. Liberalization of trade
7. Liberalization of inward FDI
8. Privatization of state enterprises.
9. Deregulation and
10. Legal security for property rights.

Some of these implementations were imposed as a condition for receiving loans from the IMF and World Bank. The results of these reforms are much debated. They have been widely criticized. Most criticism has been focused on trade liberalization and the elimination of subsidies, and criticism has been particularly strident in the agriculture sector. Though, in nations with substantial natural resources, criticism has tended to focus on privatization of industries exploiting these resources. Some critics focus on claims that the reforms led to destabilization. Some critics have also blamed the Washington Consensus for particular economic crises such as the Argentine economic crisis (1999–2002), and for exacerbating Latin America's economic inequalities. The IMF and World Bank started softening their insistence on these policies in the 2000s largely due to political pressures surrounding globalization, but any reference of these ideas as a consensus essentially ended in the wake of the 2008 global financial crisis, as market fundamentalism lost favour. This is called end of Washington Consensus.

### INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION

- ★ International Telegraph Union was founded at Paris in 1865 on the initiative of the French government. Today, it is the specialized agency of the United Nations which is responsible for information and communication technologies.
- ★ ITU coordinates the shared global use of the radio spectrum, promotes international cooperation in assigning satellite orbits, works to improve telecommunication infrastructure in the developing world and establishes worldwide standards.
- ★ The ITU is active in areas including broadband Internet, latest-generation wireless technologies, aeronautical and maritime navigation, radio astronomy, satellite-based meteorology, convergence in fixed-mobile phone, Internet access, data, voice, TV broadcasting, and next-generation networks.
- ★ ITU is based in Geneva, Switzerland, is a member of the United Nations Development Group and its membership includes 193 Member States and around 700 Sector Members and Associates. It is headed by Secretary-General, who is elected to a four-year term by the member states at the plenipotentiary conference.

#### How are international telephones dialling codes assigned to countries?

International Telecommunication Union (ITU) recommendation defines the international public telecommunication numbering plan used in the PSTN. It also defines the format of phone numbers. As per these recommendations, numbers can have a maximum of 15 digits and are usually written with a + prefix. CCITT, the predecessor of the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector, developed the first formal list of telephone country codes. It was included in the 1964 CCITT Blue Book. The list was organised by creating nine zones. Zone 1 for US, Canada, Bermuda and other Caribbean nations; Zone 2 for Africa and other Atlantic Islands; Zone 3 for Europe; Zone 4 for Europe; Zone 5 for Mexico, South America, Caribbean, and Central America; Zone 6 for Oceania and South-East Asia; Zone 7 for Russia, former Soviet Union; Zone 8 for East Asia and other special services; Zone 9 for South, Central,

West Asia and Middle East.

### WORLD BANK GROUP

World Bank, which has **official goal of reduction of poverty**, provides loans to developing countries for capital programmes.

- Please note that **World Bank** comprises only two institutions: the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (**IBRD**) and the International Development Association (**IDA**). In contrast, **World Bank Group** comprises **three more** viz. International Finance Corporation (IFC), Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA), and International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID).
- The World Bank is one of five institutions created at the Bretton Woods Conference in 1944. World Bank is part of the United Nations system, but its governance structure is different.
- The first president was Eugene Meyer. The current President of the World Bank, Robert B. Zoellick, chairs meetings of the Boards of Directors and is responsible for overall management of the Bank. By tradition, the Bank president is a U.S. national and is nominated by the United States, the Bank's largest shareholder.

The World Bank's headquarter is situated at Washington DC. Currently, it has 187 members. Total member countries in each institution are as follows:

1. The International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) has 187 members.
  2. The International Development Association (IDA) has 70 members.
  3. The International Finance Corporation (IFC) has 182 members.
  4. The Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA) has 175 members.
  5. The International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID) has 143 members.
- ★ **France was the first recipient of World Bank aid.** Initially the lending of World Bank was low and it increased later on.
  - ★ The **Marshall Plan of 1947** caused lending by the bank to change as many European countries received aid that competed with World Bank loans. The **Marshall Plan or European Recovery Program** was the large-scale American program to aid Europe where the United States gave monetary support to help rebuild European economies after the end of World War II in order to combat the spread of Soviet communism. The plan was in operation for four years beginning in April 1948.
  - ★ After that, the emphasis of World Bank was shifted to non-European countries and until 1968, loans were earmarked for projects that would enable a borrower country to repay loans (such projects as ports, highway systems, and power plants).
  - ★ **From 1968 onwards**, World Bank President Robert McNamara shifted bank policy toward measures such as building schools and hospitals, improving literacy and agricultural reform. This **led to rise in the third world lending**. This system was changed from 1980 by A.W. Clausen.
  - ★ The countries with most voting power in World Bank are now the United States (15.85%), Japan (6.84%), China (4.42%), Germany (4.00%), the United Kingdom (3.75%), France (3.75%), and India (2.91%).
  - ★ Under the changes, known as **'Voice Reform - Phase 2'**, countries other than China that saw significant gains included South Korea, Turkey, Mexico, Singapore, Greece, Brazil, India, and Spain. Most developed countries' voting power was reduced, along with a few poor countries such as Nigeria. The voting powers of the United States, Russia and Saudi Arabia were unchanged.
  - ★ **World Bank** currently manages the **Clean Technology Fund (CTF)**, focused on making renewable energy cost-competitive with coal-fired power as quickly as possible, but this **may not continue** after UN's Copenhagen


climate change conference in December, 2009, because of the Bank's continued investment in coal-fired power plants.

- ★ Another initiative of World Bank is **Clean Air Initiative (CAI)**, that is to advance innovative ways to improve air quality in cities through partnerships in selected regions of the world by sharing knowledge and experiences. It includes electric vehicles.

**Criticisms:**

- ★ So-called free market reform policies which the Bank advocates are often harmful to economic development if implemented badly.
- ★ To attain even modest success, **Western practices are adopted** and traditional economic structures and values abandoned. A second assumption is that poor countries cannot modernize without money and advice from abroad.
- ★ World Bank is deeply implicated in contemporary modes of donor and NGO imperialism, and that its intellectual contributions function to blame the poor for their condition.
- ★ One of the strongest criticisms of the World Bank has been the way in which it is governed. While the World Bank represents 186 countries, it is run by a small number of economically powerful countries. These countries choose the leadership and senior management of the World Bank, and so their interests dominate the bank.

**IDA:**

- ★ The International Development Association (IDA) is the part of the World Bank that **helps the world's poorest countries.**
- ★ Established in 1960, IDA aims to reduce poverty by providing **interest-free credits** and **grants** for programs that boost economic growth, reduce inequalities and improve people's living conditions.
- ★ IDA complements the World Bank's other lending arm—the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (**IBRD**)—which serves **middle-income countries** with **capital investment** and **advisory services.** IDA lends money (known as credits) on concessional terms.
- ★ This means that IDA credits have no interest charge and repayments are stretched over 35 to 40 years, including a 10-year grace period. IDA also provides grants to countries at risk of debt distress. Since its inception, IDA credits and grants have totalled US\$207 billion, averaging US\$14 billion a year in recent years and directing the largest share, about 50 percent, to Africa. 
- ★ IDA's Articles of Agreement became effective in 1960. The first IDA loans, known as credits, were approved in 1961 to Chile, Honduras, India and Sudan.

**International Finance Corporation:**

- ★ Creation of IFC in 1956 represented the first step by the global community to **foster private sector investment in developing nations.**
- ★ IFC fosters sustainable economic growth in developing countries by financing private sector investment, mobilizing capital in the international financial markets, and providing advisory services to businesses and governments IFC helps companies and financial institutions in emerging markets create jobs, generate tax revenues, improve corporate governance and environmental performance, and contribute to their local communities. The goal is to improve lives, especially for the people who most need the benefits of growth.

**Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency**

- ★ As a member of the World Bank Group, MIGA's mission is to promote foreign direct investment (FDI) into developing countries to help support economic growth, reduce poverty, and improve people's lives. Iraq became the 174th signatory country of the Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA), a member of the World Bank Group.
- ★ Mexico is the 175th member.
- ★ Izumi Kobayashi is the MIGA's Executive Vice President. Kevin Lu, Director and Chief Financial Officer of the Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA), has been named a "Young Global Leader" for 2010 by the World Economic Forum.

#### **International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes**

- ★ ICSID is an autonomous international institution established under the Convention on the Settlement of Investment Disputes between States and Nationals of Other States with 157 member States.
- ★ The Convention sets forth ICSID's mandate, organization and core functions. The primary purpose of ICSID is to provide facilities for conciliation and arbitration of international investment disputes. There are currently 157 signatory States to the ICSID Convention.

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