

## **The United Nations and Civil Society:** **The History of Shared Values; the Opportunities for Shared Futures**

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**Description:**

Despite much public and media attention that is given to the United Nations Organization, the immense and varied day-by-day work of the UN around the world is little known. The UN's role in political or security dramas, or in health or refugee crises, may bring it into the headlines, but the UN System is vastly broader in scope. To give only a few examples, the UN System's more than 50 agencies, forums, commissions, programmes and other entities have significant responsibilities in promoting children's rights, the law of the sea, the education of girls, trade and development, civil aviation standards, more habitable cities, and of course the Sustainable Development Goals with a perspective until 2030.

From its early days the United Nations System has had an ever-growing partnership with NGOs and Civil Society Organizations, building on shared values enshrined in the UN Charter and in the ideals and ethics of Civil Society. Again just a few illustrations are found in the defence and promotion of human rights, responses to humanitarian needs, rescuing and rehabilitating war victims, promoting democracy and accountability, fostering the rule of law, combatting trafficking and corruption, seeking disarmament and peace.

The 2018 Course will trace the 70-year history of these shared ideals and values, their ups and downs, the obstacles and achievements along the way, with reference to some of the leaders whose vision and drive have made a real difference. The Course will provide building blocks for a discussion of the opportunities that are opening up for the shared futures of the UN and Civil Society, whose cooperation and interaction must further intensify to meet the needs and challenges of today's and tomorrow's world.

The Course can also provide ideas and pointers to students wondering whether, and how, they might embark on an international career.

Sessions will follow the United Nations System chart which is attached below and roles of each organization & office will be discussed:



# The United Nations System



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## UN Principal Organs

General Assembly

Security Council

Economic and Social Council

Secretariat

International Court of Justice

Trusteeship Council<sup>6</sup>

**Subsidiary Organs**  
Main and other seasonal committees  
Disarmament Commission  
Human Rights Council  
International Law Commission  
Standing committees and ad hoc bodies

**Funds and Programmes<sup>1</sup>**  
**UNDP** United Nations Development Programme  
**UNCDF** United Nations Capital Development Fund  
**UNV** United Nations Volunteers  
**UNEP**<sup>2</sup> United Nations Environment Programme  
**UNFPA** United Nations Population Fund  
**UN-HABITAT**<sup>3</sup> United Nations Human Settlements Programme  
**UNICEF** United Nations Children's Fund  
**WFP** World Food Programme (UN/WFP)

**Research and Training**  
**UNIDIR** United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research  
**UNITAR** United Nations Institute for Training and Research  
**UNSSC** United Nations System Staff College  
**UNU** United Nations University

**Other Entities**  
**ITC** International Trade Centre (UN/WTO)  
**UNCTAD**<sup>1,4</sup> United Nations Conference on Trade and Development  
**UNHCR**<sup>1</sup> Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees  
**UNOPS** United Nations Office for Project Services  
**UNRWA**<sup>1</sup> United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East  
**UN-Women**<sup>1</sup> United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women

**Related Organizations**  
**CTBTO Preparatory Commission** Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization  
**IAEA**<sup>1,3</sup> International Atomic Energy Agency  
**ICC** International Criminal Court  
**ISA** International Seabed Authority  
**ITLOS** International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea  
**OPCW**<sup>2</sup> Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons  
**WTO**<sup>1,4</sup> World Trade Organization

**Subsidiary Organs**  
Counterterrorism committees  
International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR)  
International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY)  
Mechanism for International Criminal Tribunals (MICT)  
Military Staff Committee  
Peacekeeping operations and political missions  
Sanctions committees (ad hoc)  
Standing committees and ad hoc bodies

**Advisory Subsidiary Body**  
Peacebuilding Commission

**HLPF** High-level Political Forum on sustainable development

**Functional Commissions**  
Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice  
Narcotic Drugs  
Population and Development  
Science and Technology for Development  
Social Development  
Statistics  
Status of Women  
United Nations Forum on Forests

**Regional Commissions<sup>5</sup>**  
**ECA** Economic Commission for Africa  
**ECE** Economic Commission for Europe  
**ECLAC** Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean  
**ESCAP** Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific  
**ESCWA** Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

**Other Bodies**  
Committee for Development Policy  
Committee of Experts on Public Administration  
Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations  
Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues  
**UNAIDS** Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS  
**UNGEGN** United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names  
**Research and Training**  
**UNICRI** United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute  
**UNRISD** United Nations Research Institute for Social Development

**Specialized Agencies<sup>1,8</sup>**  
**FAO** Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations  
**ICAO** International Civil Aviation Organization  
**IFAD** International Fund for Agricultural Development  
**ILO** International Labour Organization  
**IMF** International Monetary Fund  
**IMO** International Maritime Organization  
**ITU** International Telecommunication Union  
**UNESCO** United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

**UNIDO** United Nations Industrial Development Organization  
**UNWTO** World Tourism Organization  
**UPU** Universal Postal Union  
**WHO** World Health Organization  
**WIPO** World Intellectual Property Organization  
**WMO** World Meteorological Organization  
**World Bank Group**<sup>7</sup>  
= **IBRD** International Bank for Reconstruction and Development  
= **IDA** International Development Association  
= **IFC** International Finance Corporation

**Departments and Offices**  
**EOSG** Executive Office of the Secretary-General  
**DESA** Department of Economic and Social Affairs  
**DFS** Department of Field Support  
**DGACM** Department for General Assembly and Conference Management  
**DM** Department of Management  
**DPA** Department of Political Affairs  
**DPI** Department of Public Information  
**DPKO** Department of Peacekeeping Operations  
**DSS** Department of Safety and Security  
**OCHA** Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs  
**OHCHR** Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights  
**OIOS** Office of Internal Oversight Services  
**OLA** Office of Legal Affairs  
**OSAA** Office of the Special Adviser on Africa  
**PSO** Peacebuilding Support Office  
**SRSO/CAAC** Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict  
**SRSO/SYC** Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict  
**UNISDR** United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction

**UNODA** United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs  
**UNODC** United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime  
**UNOG** United Nations Office of Geneva  
**UN-OHRLLS** Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States  
**UNON** United Nations Office at Nairobi  
**UNOP**<sup>7</sup> United Nations Office for Partnerships  
**UNOV** United Nations Office at Vienna

**Notes:**  
1 All members of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB).  
2 UN Office for Partnerships (UNOP) is the UN's first joint venture with the United Nations Foundation, Inc.  
3 IAEA and OPCW report to the Security Council and the GA.  
4 WTO has no reporting obligation to the GA, but contributes to an ad hoc task force to GA and Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) work on, inter alia, finance and development issues.  
5 Specialized agencies are autonomous organizations whose work is coordinated through ECOSOC (intergovernmental level) and CEB (inter-organizational level).  
6 The Trusteeship Council suspended operations on 1 November 1994, as on 1 October 1994 Palau, the last United Nations Trust Territory, became independent.  
7 International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID) and Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA) are not specialized agencies but are part of the World Bank Group in accordance with Articles 27 and 62 of the Charter.  
8 The secretariats of these organs are part of the UN Secretariat.

**This chart is a reflection of the functional organization of the United Nations System and for informational purposes only. It does not include all offices or entities of the United Nations System.**