

Introduction

When representatives of 50 countries met at San Francisco towards the end of the Second World War, their primary concern was to create an organization whose main purpose would be to maintain international peace and security. As former colonies became independent and entered the United Nations, the freedom of peoples and territories that had not yet achieved independence became an additional major concern; and, as the new member states increased in numbers, they stepped up the pressure for political change, and simultaneously focused attention on the role of the United Nations in promoting economic development. Developing countries, whether long-established or newly-independent, now constitute a strong majority in the organization and increasingly look to United Nations machinery for help in bringing about fundamental changes in international economic relations. While the principles and purposes expressed in the Charter remain valid, the organization has had to adopt new directions and priorities, in accordance with the needs and aspirations of its greatly-enlarged membership. Since the conditions of international life will undoubtedly continue to change, the United Nations will have to be a dynamic organization if it is to continue to play a constructive role in world affairs; indeed, it cannot remain static if it is to survive.