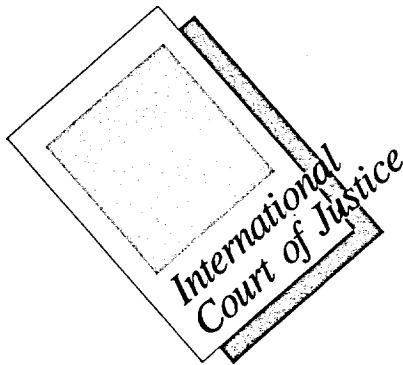
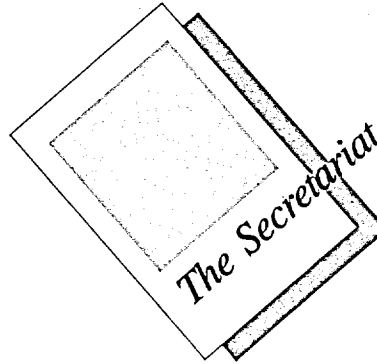


The 54-member Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) meets in two month-long sessions every year (the first in New York and the second in Geneva), working under the authority of the General Assembly to coordinate the work of the Organization in areas which account now for over 80 per cent of all its staff and financial resources. ECOSOC receives reports from the specialized agencies and institutions constituting the United Nations family of organizations and it is authorized to make recommendations to them. ECOSOC has set up a number of specialized subsidiary bodies, including Commissions on Human Rights, Status of Women, and Population. It has five Regional Commissions, focusing on the concerns of Africa, Asia and Pacific, Western Asia, Europe, and Latin America. To allow opinions other than those of States to be heard at the United Nations, ECOSOC provides what is known as consultative status for non-government organizations.



The International Court of Justice consists of 15 judges elected jointly by the General Assembly and the Security Council. Chosen to represent all the main forms of civilization and the principal legal systems of the world, they constitute the highest international judicial authority. Amid the tension and mistrust that have characterized the international situation over the last four decades, the Court has been unable to play an active role as was envisaged by those who created the UN. However, it has been able to hand down a number of significant Judgments, setting precedents and clarifying the legalities of important questions.



The Secretariat consists of a Secretary-General and staff recruited from all over the world. In addition to carrying out the directives of the other principal organs of the Organization, the Secretary-General has the public role of chief spokesman for the exemplar of the United Nations. The Secretary-General also has an important political role in identifying and helping to solve international disputes that threaten the world's peace and security. Members of the United Nations Secretariat are not supposed to accept direction from any authority outside the Organization. Governments, for their part, are pledged in the United Nations Charter to respect the exclusively international character of the Secretariat.

With the tripling of the membership of the Organization and the steadily increasing agenda of global concerns, the work-load of the Secretariat has grown enormously. It must now plan, implement and co-ordinate programmes that include some 2,000 individual elements or projects, reflecting the decisions of some 50 intergovernmental bodies. The regular budget of the Organization is now about \$750 million a year, and over 15,000 staff members work at 163 duty stations around the world.