

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

ITS FUNCTION

The General Assembly is the plenary organ of the United Nations and comprises representatives of all the member countries.

The Assembly's formal functions are:

To consider and make recommendations on the principles of international cooperation in the maintenance of peace and security, including the principles governing disarmament and the regulation of armaments;

To discuss any problem affecting peace and security and, except where a dispute or situation is currently being discussed by the Security Council, to make recommendations on it;

To discuss and, with the same exception, to make recommendations on any question within the scope of the Charter or affecting the powers and functions of any organ of the United Nations;

To initiate studies and make recommendations to promote international political cooperation, the development of international law and its codification, the realization of human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, and international collaboration in economic, social, cultural, educational and health fields;

To receive and consider reports from the Security Council and other organs of the United Nations;

To make recommendations for the peaceful settlement of any situations regardless of origin, which might impair friendly relations among nations;

To supervise, through the Trusteeship Council, the execution of the Trusteeship agreements for all areas not designated as strategic;

To elect the ten non-permanent members of the Security Council, those members of the Trusteeship Council who are elected; to take part with the Security Council in the election of judges of the International Court of Justice; and, on the recommendation of the Security Council, to appoint the Secretary-General; to elect members of the Economic and Social Council. (At present, the Council comprises 27 members. But a resolution at the 26th General Assembly recommended that the membership be increased to 54. This enlargement will take place once two thirds of the membership of the UN, including the Permanent Members of the Security Council, have ratified the amendment to the Charter.)