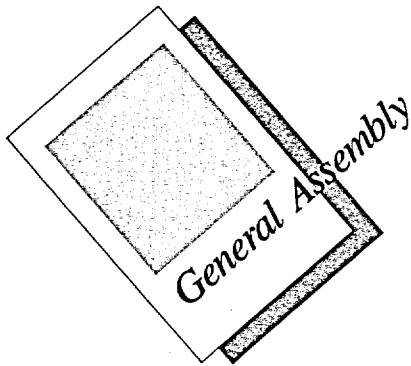


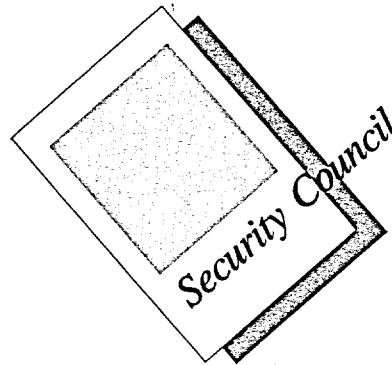
OPERATING MANUAL

The mechanism that the United Nations has set up to facilitate cooperation between its Member States consists of six principal organs: the General Assembly, the Security Council, the Economic and Social Council, the Trusteeship Council, the International Court of Justice and the Secretariat.

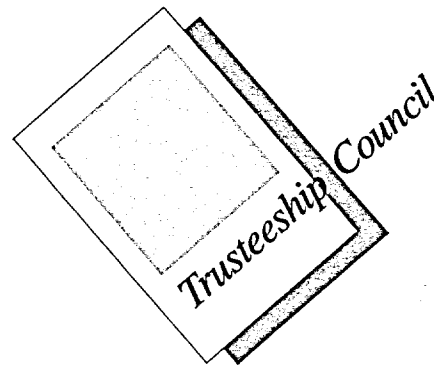


The closest thing the world has to a parliament, the General Assembly consists of representatives of all countries in the United Nations. Every country, whether small or large, rich or poor, has a single vote. Since 1946, when it first met in London, the membership of the Assembly has grown from 51 to 159. It holds its sessions now at UN headquarters in New York. Over the years, though many of its resolutions on important issues have not been implemented, the work of the Assembly has undoubtedly shaped international affairs. The Assembly has:

- been the only world forum to consider every major international issue.
- been the world's main source of new international law.
- declared a broad set of international standards, including the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and adopted binding covenants to implement them.
- created such bodies as the United Nations Childrens Fund (UNICEF), the office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) which have helped millions of people all over the world.
- focused international attention on global problems like the arms race, population growth, environmental deterioration, the human habitat, water and food supplies, raw materials and economic development.
- acted to improve the status of women, the young, the aged and the disabled.



Under the Charter, the Security Council is the central authority to maintain world peace and security. It has five permanent members (China, France, Soviet Union, United Kingdom, and United States, each with the power to veto action) and 10 elected members serving two-year terms. The Council can, under the Charter, adopt binding resolutions and implement them by means ranging from negotiation and arbitration to economic sanctions and, if necessary, the use of armed force provided by the membership. Unfortunately, in the political circumstances that developed in the post-war period, it has been difficult for the Council to function as planned. Over the last four decades, however, it has been extremely useful in helping adversaries to maintain contact, in providing a forum for verbal rather than armed exchange, and in encouraging the resolution of disputes, sometimes with the use of peace-keeping forces. The Council is the only intergovernmental body of the United Nations to be permanently in session. Representatives of countries in the Council must be on call 24 hours a day and be prepared to meet in the event of major international crises.



Established to look after the interests of "Trust Territories" under foreign administration, the Trusteeship Council is the only United Nations organ which has seen a steady diminution of its agenda and membership. The only remaining Trust Territory is that of Micronesia, a scattered group of Pacific Islands under United States administration. The 10 other territories originally under the Council's supervision have achieved independence or have merged with adjoining countries. At present the Trusteeship Council consists of the five permanent members of the Security Council.