

**IMF** - The International Monetary Fund, like the World Bank, also came out of the Bretton Woods accords. Today it works closely with the World Bank. Its original mandate was to bring stability to currency exchange rates and discipline to the international monetary system, among other things. Today it oversees the economic policies of member states, promotes international coordination in setting economic policy, provides economic and financial advice, and gives short- and medium-term financial assistance to countries facing balance of payment problems. It is funded by the contributions of its members, pro-rated according to GDP.

**OAS** - Organization of American States

**Platform of Action** - A statement of principles, and therefore not binding upon member states. It may, however, influence jurisprudence if judges consider it to be "general principles of law."

**Pre-school** - Ages 3 to 5.

**Southern Cone** - Chile, Argentina, Paraguay and Uruguay

**SOWC** - State of the World's Children Report, produce on an annual basis by UNICEF

**Treaty** - Legislature that is theoretically legally binding on member states. In ratifying a treaty or convention, states are required to change their national laws so that they reflect the provisions of the treaty, and to develop appropriate structures in society that echo these legal changes.

**UDHR** - Universal Declaration of Human Rights

**World Bank** - Otherwise known as the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD), the World Bank was a product of the 1944 Bretton Woods Agreement. The World Bank was set up to help post-World War II Europe's economic recovery. This focus has since shifted to providing loans and technical help, especially to developing nations. Today the World Bank Group comprises four bodies: the IBRD, the International Finance Corporation (IFC), the International Development Association (IDA) and the Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA). The Bank is the World's largest supplier of development aid. The Bank is funded by contributions from member states in the industrialized world and is composed of 181 country members.

**Youth** - The United Nations General Assembly defined 'youth' during the International Youth Year in 1985, as those persons falling between the ages of 15 and 24 years inclusive. Within the category of "youth", it is also important to distinguish between teenagers (13-19) and young adults (20-24), since the sociological, psychological and health problems they face may differ. Outside the UN, the definition of youth however varies from country to country.