

Constitution

The U.N. has a written constitution, the Charter of the United Nations, drawn up at the San Francisco Conference in 1945 on the basis of the Dumbarton Oaks Proposals.¹ This constitution is supplemented by resolutions of the nature of constitutional statutes passed by the various organs. Thus the Assembly, the three Councils and the Court each has its rules of procedure. There are staff regulations and financial regulations which have been adopted by the Assembly.

The Constitution of the U.N. is not a rigid document. It is couched in such terms that it is capable of growth from within by the development of custom and precedent, as well as by the adoption of rules and regulations.

Formal amendments of the Charter come into force only when they have been adopted by a vote of two-thirds of the members of the Assembly and ratified by two-thirds of the Members of the U.N., including all the permanent members of the Security Council.

Specialized Agencies

Specialized agencies are bodies which are not established by the Charter of the U.N. but are established by other inter-governmental agreements and have wide international responsibilities in economic, social, cultural, health and related fields. In order that their activities may be coordinated to a common end, they are brought into relationship with the U.N. by agreements negotiated with the agencies by the Economic and Social Council and approved by the General Assembly. Some of these agreements have already been concluded.

The twelve present or contemplated specialized agencies are:

- (1) Universal Postal Union
- (2) International Telecommunication Union
- (3) International Labour Organization
- (4) Food and Agriculture Organization
- (5) International Bank for Reconstruction and Development
- (6) International Monetary Fund

¹The text of the Charter and of the annexed Statute of the International Court of Justice is given in the Canadian report on the San Francisco Conference. (The official title of this report is "Report on the United Nations Conference on International Organization held at San Francisco, 25th April-26th June, 1945. Department of External Affairs, Conference Series, 1945, No. 2.")