

Establishment of the United Nations Organization

S. Mary Judit

Department of History, Holy Cross College(Autonomous), Nagercoil - 629004.

Affiliated to Manonmaniam Sundaranar University, Tirunelveli - 627012.

Email: maryjudit@holycrossngl.edu.in.

ABSTRACT

The United Nations Organization came into existence on October 24, 1945. When the United Nations Charter had been ratified by a majority of the original 51 Member States. The day is now celebrated each year around the world as United Nations Day. The purpose of the United Nations Organization is bring all nations of the world together to work for peace and Development, based on the principles of justice, human dignity and the well-being of all people. It allows countries to balance global interdependence and national interests when addressing international problems. The League of Nations had been established by the European powers after the First World War in order to maintain permanent peace in the world and to prevent the danger of war. But this great organization utterly failed to achieve its ultimate aim due to the selfishness of different countries. The League of Nations was solely based upon the idea of international cooperation. But this idea failed and the Second World War raised its hydra-headed hood. It was the greatest failure of the League of Nations.

Keywords: *Charter Member State United Nations Security Council International Peace International Court of Justice*

Introduction

The Second World War proved to be more destructive than the First World War. It brought in its train several destructive and disastrous results to the whole mankind. The destruction of both the material wealth and the human life was wrought during the course of the Second World War on the large scale. The people of the whole world were scared of the consequences of this war and, therefore, they wanted to get rid of the war for ever. Although they had failed in their first experiment which had been made to establish permanent peace in the world, yet they were not disappointed at their failures. In spite of the League of Nations, the politicians were hopeful that the world peace could only be established by the idea of mutual cooperation, harmony and the feeling of internationalism. This idea gave birth to the United Nations Organization. In the words of Prof. Mookerjee:

“..... in spite of past failures man’s optimism is irrepressible and he has looked forward even in the midst of moral perils of this hideous war, to the prospect of realizing the ideal of one ‘World State’ in which all nations may dwell together in unity. It is this ideal which gave birth to the United Nations Organization.”

The Atlantic Charter

On the 14th day of August in 1941, Roosevelt, the President of the United States of America, and Churchill, the Prime Minister of Great Britain met together on a ship in the Atlantic Ocean near Newfoundland. Both of them made a very important declaration, which contained the aims and fundamental principles for thereconstruction of the post-war world. It was called the ‘Atlantic Charter’ in which an idea was expressed with the hope of a better future for the world. In this charter, they made the declaration:

“We want to establish peace in the world, we accept the principle of self-determination and the formation of a state by every nation and we want the freedom of international trade for every nation. In the end, the hope was expressed that every state by renouncing the war adopt peaceful means to settle the national disputes and conflicts.”

The Atlantic Charter contained eight principles, which were as follows:

No territorial changes would be made without the freely expressed wishes of the peoples concerned.

Every nation would have the right to choose its own form of government.

The rights of sovereignty and self-government would be restored to those countries which were deprived thereof.

All people would be guaranteed a life free from fear of external aggression and efforts would be made to enable all citizens to live freely within the boundaries of their respective nations.

No country would be allowed to take any advantage from the war, i.e., the policy of the renunciation of aggrandisement – territorial or economic – would be adopted.

All nations would have the right to get raw materials from any part of the world.

All countries would have the right to enjoy the freedom to traverse the high seas and oceans without hindrance. Efforts would be made regarding the abandonment of the use of force. These principles were accepted by twenty-six nations in the beginning. The representatives of these nations signed on this document on January 2, 1942. This document was known as the Declaration of the United Nations.

Establishment of the United Nations Organization

In this way, the Atlantic Charter of 1942 embodied a common programme of purposes and principles. It had suggested that an international organization must be established

after the war in order to preserve peace in the world. The Allies also thought it necessary to form a comprehensive organization for the maintenance of peace. For this purpose, the Foreign Ministers of four big powers, i.e., U.S.S.R., China, Great Britain and U.S.A. met at Moscow in November 1943. In this conference, they decided to establish at the earliest possible of sovereign equality of all those states which believed in peace.

In October 1944, another conference was convened at Dumbarton Oaks, a place in the city of Washington. Representatives of Great Britain, Russia, China and America took part in this conference. They placed a comprehensive scheme of an international organization before other nations of the world. This scheme was fully discussed in the conference of San Francisco in which the delegates of fifty countries took part. This conference was convened in April 1945. After a long discussion, the delegates accepted the scheme and they published the United Nations Charter. About 48 nations signed on this charter. Thus, the United Nations Organization came into existence on October 24, 1945.

Member States

Currently made up of 193 Member States, the UN and its work are guided by the purposes and principles contained in its founding Charter. The UN has evolved over the years to keep peace with a rapidly changing world.

Aims of the United Nations Organization

The fundamental aims of the U.N.O were clearly explained in the preamble of the United Nations Charter. The founder nations of the U.N.O., indeed, intended to preserve peace and security in the whole world, to establish friendship and mutual cooperation among all nations, to solve the problems of different countries on the basis of international cooperation, to rectify the international disputes in a peaceful manner and to recognize the fundamental rights and freedom of all people without having any discrimination of caste, religion, sex, language and culture. However, it was not intended to intervene in the internal matters of any country. In the words of an eminent historian:

“The United Nations is an association of states which have pledged themselves, through signing the charter, to maintain international peace and security and to cooperate in establishing political, economic and social conditions under which this task can be surely achieved. Nothing is contained in this charter which shall authorize

the Organization to intervene in matters which are essentially within the domestic jurisdiction of any state”.

In brief the fundamental aims of the U.N.O. as set forth in the Charter were:

To maintain and preserve international peace and security.

To develop friendly relations and harmony among the countries.

To grant equal rights and self-determinations to all countries.

To solve economic, social, cultural and humanitarian problems through international cooperation.

To promote respect for human rights, dignity and freedom.

Not to intervene in the matters which are directly related with the domestic jurisdiction of any country.

Structure of the United Nations

The main parts of UN structure are;

The General Assembly.

The Security Council.

The Economic and Social Council.

The Trusteeship Council.

The International Court of Justice.

The Secretariat.

All were established in 1945 when the UN was founded.

The General Assembly

It is a deliberative body of the United Nations organization. It may also be regarded as a parliament of nations. This body consists of five representatives of each member-state. But each member-state has only one vote. For ordinary matters, a simple and bare majority is enough for decision but on important questions, a majority of at least two-third vote is necessary. The main function of this organ is to consider over the questions relating to international peace and security and to discuss other important international problems. It has no decisive power. It can only put its recommendations before the Security Council. The decisive power has been granted to the Security Council under the constitutions of U.N.O. Its general convention is convened in the month of September each year. But the General Secretary has a right to call a special convention on the request of the Security Council. The General Assembly is also an electing body. It has been empowered to elect the temporary members of the Security Council and all members of the Trusteeship Council and the Economic and Social Council. The

General assembly approves the yearly budget of the United Nations Organization and thus, it controls finances of this great institutions.

The Security Council

It is the chief executive body of the U.N.O. It consists of eleven members-five permanent and six temporary. The 'Big Five' (Russia, China, U.S.A., France and great Britain) are the permanent members of the Security Council of U.N.O. The temporary members are elected by the General assembly for two-year term approved by a majority of two-third vote. Each member of the Council has only one vote. It is the most powerful organ of the U.N.O. Its main function is to preserve peace and security in the world. It has the right to final decision regarding every matter. It has been empowered to enquire and rectify international disputes, to prevent the possibility of war and to take effective steps against the aggressor. It can take diplomatic and economic steps against those nations which violate the constitution of U.N.O. But in special condition, it can also take military action against such nations. The decisions of the Security Council require the affirmative vote of any seven members of the council, but in case of substantive matters, the affirmative vote of all the five permanent members must be included in the majority of seven. In other words, none of its decisions can be implemented till it has the support of all the five permanent members. It is called the veto power that has been granted to the 'Big Five'. The big powers misused the veto power on several occasions and, therefore, this factor has more or less made the Security Council ineffective. Moreover, it has also divided the world into two camps.

The Economic and Social Council

This council is composed of eighteen members (there are twenty-seven members at present). All members of this council are elected by the General Assembly. It is directly responsible to the General Assembly and works under the direction of this organ. The fundamental principle of this body is to build a world of greater stability and well-being, to create a spirit of universal respect for human rights and to promote a higher cultural educational standard. Its main function is to raise the standard of living of the people, to assure them of the human rights and employment, to promote social and economic standard and to encourage the spirit of fundamental rights and freedom. This organ believes in that a better atmosphere can only be created for the maintenance of world peace when the people enjoy a high economic and social standard of living. In

this way, it has nothing to do with politics, but its work is to remove social and economic causes of the war in future.

The Social and economic Council works through the cooperation of several special committees and commissions, such as , the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (U.N.E.S.C.O.), the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration (U.N.R.R.A.), Food and Agricultural Organization (F.A.O.), International Labour organization (I.L.O.), International Bank, World Health Organization (W.H.O.) etc. The Council also appoints special committees and commissions work under the guidance of the Social and Economic Council. They study the social and economic problems of the world and put their reports and recommendations before the Council. The Social and Economic Council places these reports and recommendations before the General Assembly and also before different nations. This organ has rendered undoubtedly great services to the mankind in the course of the last few years.

The Trusteeship Council

This Council is composed of the representatives of permanent members of the Security Council, representatives of all those states which hold the administration of colonies and some other representatives elected by the General Assembly. The main function of the Trusteeship Council is to preserve the interests of the territories handed over to it and to help the General Assembly in the administration of those countries over which the U.N.O. holds Trusteeship. This council is directly related with those territories. which were formerly held under the Mandate system of the league of Nations; which have been snatched away from the enemy states as a result of the Second World War; which were voluntarily placed under the Trusteeship Council by the states responsible for their administration. Its main object is to raise the standard of administration of the colonial countries. The colonial countries place the administrative report of their respective colonies before the Trusteeship Council. This Council also listens to the complaints of the colonies. But it has no power to take any effective step to remove those complaints.

The International Court of Justice

It is the judicial organ of the U.N.O. It is the same organization which successfully worked as an integral part of the League of Nations. It is composed of fifteen judges elected by the General Assembly and the Security Council for nine years. Its main function is to solve the legal difficulties that arise between different states and to give

advisory opinions on any legal question referred to it by the General Assembly and the Security Council.

The Secretariat

It consist of the working staff of the U.N.O. The chief controlling officer of the Secretariat is called the Secretary General who is appointed by the General Assembly on the recommendation of the Security Council. The function of this body is to assist all bodies of the U.N.O. The Secretary General is required to make an annual progress report of the U.N.O. and place it before the General Assembly. He has also the right to draw the attention of the Security Council to any specific matter which, in his opinion, may create danger for world peace and security.

Conclusion

Since the inception of the U.N.O., these bodies have been doing their work with great interest and devotion, and though the U.N.O. may not have achieved any spectacular political success, these other organizations have made real contribution in their respective fields. In the political field, the United Nations was cooperation between big nations, specially between America and Russia. But this cooperation has been day by day going down and with it the utility of the United Nations Organization.

References

1. K.L.Khurana, *World History (1815-1966 A.D.)*, Lakshmi Narain Agarwal, Educational publishers, Agra, 2014 - 2015.
2. Piyush Ranjan, *Modern International Relations And Diplomacy*, Swastik Publications, Delhi, 2012.
3. Thomas G.Weiss, *The United Nations and Changing World Politics*, New York, 2017.
4. Joseph E. Schwartzberg, *Transforming the United Nations System: Designs for a workable World*, United Nations University Press, 2013.
5. Karen A. Mingst, Margaret P. Karns, Alynna J. Lyon, *The United Nations in the 21st Century*, Published by Routledge, 2022.
6. Arjun Dev. Indra Arjun Dev, *History of the World*, Published by Orient Black Swan, 2009.
7. Gaddis J.L., *International Relations Theory and the end of the Cold War: International Security*, 1992.
8. Paleri, Prabhakaran, *National Security: Imperatives and Challenges*, New Delhi: Tata McGraw-Hill. 2008.
9. Smith, Athony D., *Nationalism and Modernism: A Critical Survey of Recent Theories of Nations and Nationalism*, London: Routledge, 2009.