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Chapter 4: International Organisations

Complete 20-Part Comprehensive Master Study Material, Role & Evolution of the UN, Principal Organs, Reform of the UN Security Council, India's Claim for Permanent Seat, IMF, World Bank, WTO, IAEA, NGOs, NCERT Solutions & Practice Test

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Political Science (Contemporary World Politics) • Humanities / Arts

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Helpline / WhatsApp: 6367029449

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PART 3: CHAPTER OVERVIEW & CONCEPTUAL ARCHITECTURE

What this chapter is about: This chapter examines the role of international organisations after the collapse of the Soviet Union and how calls for the restructuring of the **United Nations (UN)** emerged to confront new global challenges, including the rise of US power. It analyses the evolution of the UN, its principal organs and agencies, the debates over reforming the UN Security Council (including veto power and new permanent members), India's strong claim for permanent membership, the role of the UN in a unipolar world, and key bodies like the IMF, World Bank, WTO, IAEA, Amnesty International, and Human Rights Watch.

Why this chapter is important: International organisations are not a 'super-state' with authority over sovereign members, but they are indispensable arenas for resolving conflicts peacefully and cooperating on global problems (epidemics, climate change) that no single nation can tackle alone.

The Central Theme: "Why does the world need international organisations like the UN, how must the UN Security Council be reformed to reflect 21st-century realities, and can the UN check unilateral superpower dominance?"

PART 4: LEARNING OBJECTIVES & EXAMINATION COMPETENCIES

- Justify International Organisations:** Explain why nations need international organisations for war avoidance and global problem-solving (disease eradication, global warming).
- Trace the Evolution of the UN:** Chronicle the founding of the UN from the 1941 Atlantic Charter and Yalta Conference to 24 October 1945 (UN Day) and India's entry on 30 October 1945.
- Differentiate UN Organs & Agencies:** Contrast the structure and voting procedures of the UN General Assembly (193 members) and the UN Security Council (P-5 with veto + 10 non-permanent members).
- Evaluate Post-Cold War UN Reforms:** Distinguish between structural/process reforms (Security Council expansion) and jurisdiction reforms (2005 World Summit outcomes).
- Substantiate India's Candidature:** Present the six core arguments supporting India's claim for a permanent seat in a restructured UN Security Council.
- Analyze Key Global Institutions:** Explain the mandates of the IMF, World Bank, WTO, IAEA, Amnesty International, and Human Rights Watch.

PART 5: COMPLETE HEADING-BY-HEADING COMPREHENSIVE NOTES

1. Why International Organisations?

- Not a 'Super-State', But Indispensable:** An international organisation is **not a super-state with authority over its members**. It is created by and responds to states. It comes into being when states agree to its creation. Once created, it can help member states resolve their problems peacefully.
- Famous Quotes on the UN's Purpose:**
 - Dag Hammarskjöld** (UN's second Secretary-General): "The United Nations was not created to take humanity to heaven, but to save it from hell."
 - Shashi Tharoor** (Former UN Under-Secretary-General for Communications and Public Information): "Talking shop? Yes, there are a lot of speeches and meetings at the U.N., especially during the annual sessions of the General Assembly. But as Churchill put it, jaw-jaw is better than war-war. Isn't it better to

have one place where all... countries in the world can get together, bore each other sometimes with their words rather than bore holes into each other on the battlefield?"

- **Two Primary Ways International Organisations Help Nations:**

1. **Matters of War and Peace:** International organisations are helpful in helping countries cooperate to make better living conditions for us all. Countries have conflicts and differences with each other, which does not necessarily mean they must go to war. They can instead **discuss contentious issues and find peaceful solutions**. Most conflicts and differences are resolved without going to war.
2. **Global Cooperation on Shared Challenges (Disease & Climate):** There are issues that are so challenging that they can only be dealt with when everyone works together:
 - **Disease Eradication:** Some diseases can only be eradicated if everyone in the world cooperates in inoculating or vaccinating their populations.
 - **Stopping Global Warming:** As temperatures rise because of the increase in greenhouse gases, there is a danger that sea levels will also rise, thereby submerging many coastal areas of the world including huge cities. Each country can try to find its own solution, but in the end a more effective approach is to stop the warming itself, which requires at least all of the major industrial powers to cooperate.
 - **Overcoming Obstacles to Cooperation:** An international organisation can help produce **information and ideas about how to cooperate**. It can provide **mechanisms, rules, and a bureaucracy**, to help members have more confidence that **costs will be shared properly**, that the **benefits will be fairly divided**, and that once a member joins an agreement it will honour the terms and conditions of the agreement (preventing cheating).

2. Evolution of the United Nations (UN)

- **Failure of the League of Nations:** The First World War encouraged the world to invest in an international organisation to deal with conflict, resulting in the birth of the **League of Nations**. However, despite its initial success, it could not prevent the **Second World War (1939–45)**. Many more people died and were wounded in this war than ever before.
- **Founding of the UN (1945):** The UN was founded as a **successor to the League of Nations**. It was established in **1945** immediately after the Second World War.
 - **26 June 1945:** The organisation was set up through the signing of the **United Nations Charter by 50 states** in San Francisco.
 - **15 October 1945:** **Poland** signed the Charter, so the UN has **51 original founding members**.
 - **24 October 1945:** The UN was officially founded (celebrated every year as **UN Day**).
 - **30 October 1945:** **India** joined the UN.
- **Objectives & Membership:** The UN's objective is to **prevent international conflict and to facilitate cooperation among states**. It was founded with the hope that it would act to stop the conflicts between states escalating into war and, if war broke out, to limit the extent of hostilities. Furthermore, since conflicts often arose from the lack of social and economic development, the UN was intended to bring countries together to improve the prospects of social and economic development all over the world. By **2011**, the UN had **193 member states** (including almost all independent states).

NCERT TIMELINE: FOUNDING OF THE UNITED NATIONS (1941–1945)

- **1941 August:** Signing of the **Atlantic Charter** by the US President Franklin D. Roosevelt and British PM Winston Churchill.
- **1942 January:** 26 Allied nations fighting against the Axis Powers meet in Washington, D.C., to support the Atlantic Charter and sign the '*Declaration by United Nations*'.
- **1943 December:** **Tehran Conference Declaration** of the Three Powers (US, Britain, and Soviet Union).
- **1945 February:** **Yalta Conference** of the 'Big Three' (Roosevelt, Churchill, and Stalin) decides to organise a United Nations conference on the proposed world organisation.
- **1945 April–May:** The 2-month long **United Nations Conference on International Organisation at San Francisco**.
- **1945 June 26:** Signing of the UN Charter by 50 nations (Poland signed on October 15; so the UN has 51 original founding members).
- **1945 October 24:** The UN was founded (hence October 24 is celebrated as UN Day).
- **1945 October 30:** India joins the UN.

3. Structure, Principal Organs & Specialised Agencies of the UN

- **Six Principal Organs of the UN:**
 1. **UN General Assembly (UNGA):** All 193 members have **one vote each**. Major decisions require a two-thirds majority, other decisions require a simple majority. Decisions are not legally binding on UN members, though they carry moral weight.
 2. **UN Security Council (UNSC):** Has **15 members: five permanent members (P-5)**—the **United States, Russia, the United Kingdom, France, and China** (selected because they were the most powerful immediately after the Second World War and constituted the main victors in the war)—and **ten non-permanent members** elected by the General Assembly for **two-year terms**. Each of the five permanent members holds **Veto Power**, and Security Council decisions are binding on all UN members.
 3. **Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC):** 54 member states elected by the General Assembly for overlapping three-year terms based on geographical representation; looks into economic, social, and welfare issues.
 4. **International Court of Justice (ICJ):** 15 judges elected for nine years by absolute majority in both the General Assembly and the Security Council; based at **The Hague (Netherlands)**; resolves legal disputes between states.
 5. **The Secretariat:** Headed by the **Secretary-General**, who is the most visible public figure of the UN and is appointed by the General Assembly on the recommendation of the Security Council for a five-year renewable term. The present Secretary-General is **António Guterres** (ninth Secretary-General, took office on 1 January 2017; former Prime Minister of Portugal [1995–2002] and UN High Commissioner for Refugees [2005–2015]).
 6. **Trusteeship Council:** Suspended operation on **1 November 1994**, with the independence of Palau, the last UN trust territory.
- **Key Social & Economic Agencies:** Many different structures and agencies deal with social and economic issues: **World Health Organisation (WHO)**, **United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)**, **United Nations Human Rights Commission (UNHRC)**, **United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR)**, **United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)**, and **United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO)**, among others.

NCERT BOX: CHRONOLOGICAL LIST OF ALL UN SECRETARIES-GENERAL

1. **Trygve Lie (1946–1952) – Norway:** Lawyer and foreign minister; worked for ceasefire between India and Pakistan on Kashmir; criticised for failing to quickly end the Korean war; Soviet Union opposed second term for him; resigned from the post.
2. **Dag Hammarskjöld (1953–1961) – Sweden:** Economist and lawyer; worked for resolving the Suez Canal dispute and the decolonisation of Africa; awarded **Nobel Peace Prize posthumously in 1961** for his efforts to settle the Congo crisis; Soviet Union and France criticised his role in Africa.
3. **U Thant (1961–1971) – Burma (Myanmar):** Teacher and diplomat; worked for resolving the Cuban Missile Crisis and ending the Congo crisis; established the UN Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus; criticised the US during the Vietnam War.
4. **Kurt Waldheim (1972–1981) – Austria:** Diplomat and foreign minister; made efforts to resolve the problems of Namibia and Lebanon; oversaw the relief operation in Bangladesh; China blocked his bid for a third term.
5. **Javier Perez de Cuellar (1982–1991) – Peru:** Lawyer and diplomat; worked for peace in Cyprus, Afghanistan, and El Salvador; mediated between Britain and Argentina after the Falklands War; negotiated for the independence of Namibia.
6. **Boutros Boutros-Ghali (1992–1996) – Egypt:** Diplomat, jurist, foreign minister; issued a report, *An Agenda for Peace*; conducted a successful UN operation in Mozambique; blamed for the UN failures in Bosnia, Somalia, and Rwanda; due to serious disagreements, the US blocked a second term for him.
7. **Kofi A. Annan (1997–2006) – Ghana:** UN official; created the Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria; declared the US-led invasion of Iraq as an illegal war; established the Peacebuilding Commission and the Human Rights Council in 2005; awarded the **2001 Nobel Peace Prize**.
8. **Ban Ki-moon (2007–2016) – Republic of Korea (South Korea):** Diplomat and foreign minister; the second Asian to hold the post; highlighted climate change; focused on Millennium Development Goals and Sustainable Development Goals; worked for the creation of UN Women; emphasised conflict resolution and nuclear disarmament.
9. **António Manuel de Oliveira Guterres (2017–Present) – Portugal:** Former Prime Minister of Portugal (1995–2002) and UN High Commissioner for Refugees (2005–2015); President of the Socialist International (1999–2005); serving as the ninth Secretary-General of the UN.

4. Reform of the UN After the Cold War

- **Two Basic Kinds of Reforms Facing the UN:**

1. **Reform of the organisation's structures and processes:** The biggest discussion has been on the functioning of the **Security Council**. Related to this has been the demand for an **increase in the UN Security Council's permanent and non-permanent membership** so that the realities of contemporary world politics are better reflected in the structure of the organisation. In particular, there are proposals to increase membership from **Asia, Africa, and South America**. Beyond this, the US and other Western countries want improvements in the UN's **budgetary procedures and its administration**.
2. **Review of the issues that fall within the jurisdiction of the organisation:** Some countries and experts want the organisation to play a greater or more effective role in **peace and security missions**, while others want its role to be confined to **development and humanitarian work** (health, education, environment, population control, human rights, gender and social justice).

- **Changes in World Politics After the Cold War (Since 1989):**

- The Soviet Union has collapsed; the US is the strongest power; the relationship between Russia and the US is much more cooperative.
- China is fast emerging as a great power, and India also is growing rapidly.

- The economies of Asia are growing at an unprecedented rate.
- Many new countries have joined the UN (as they became independent from the Soviet Union or former communist states in eastern Europe).
- A whole new set of challenges confronts the world (genocide, civil war, ethnic conflict, terrorism, nuclear proliferation, climate change, environmental degradation, epidemics).

5. Reform of Structures and Processes: The Security Council Debate

- **The 1992 UN General Assembly Resolution (Three Main Complaints):** In 1992, the UN General Assembly adopted a resolution that reflected three main complaints:
 1. **Outdated Representation:** The Security Council no longer represents contemporary political realities.
 2. **Western Domination:** Its decisions reflect only Western values and interests and are dominated by a few powers.
 3. **Lack of Equitable Representation:** It lacks equitable representation.
- **Criteria Proposed for New Permanent and Non-Permanent Members (1997 Kofi Annan Inquiry):** On 1 January 1997, UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan initiated an inquiry into how the UN should be reformed. Since then, the following are just some of the criteria that have been proposed for new permanent and non-permanent members of the Security Council. A new member, it has been suggested, should be:
 1. A **major economic power**;
 2. A **major military power**;
 3. A **substantial contributor to the UN budget**;
 4. A **big nation in terms of its population**;
 5. A nation that **respects democracy and human rights**; and
 6. A country that would make the Council **more representative of the world's diversity** in terms of geography, economic systems, and culture.
- **Why Reaching Consensus on Criteria is Difficult:** Clearly, each of these criteria has some validity. Governments saw advantages in some criteria and disadvantages in others depending on their interests and aspirations. Even if they had no desire to be members themselves, countries could see that the criteria were problematic: How big an economic or military power did you have to be to qualify? What level of budget contribution would enable a state to buy its way into the Council? Was a big population an asset or a liability for a country trying to play a bigger role in the world? If respect for democracy and human rights was the criterion, countries with excellent records would be in line to be members; but would they be effective as Council members? Furthermore, how was the matter of representation to be resolved? Did equitable representation in geographical terms mean that there should be one seat each from Asia, Africa, and Latin America and the Caribbean? Should the representation, on the other hand, be by regions or sub-regions (rather than continents)? Why should the issue of equitable representation be decided by geography? Why not by levels of economic development? Why not give more seats to members of the developing world? Even here, there are difficulties since the developing world consists of countries at many different levels of development. What about culture? Should different cultures or 'civilisations' be given representation in a more balanced way? How does one divide the world by civilisations or cultures given that nations have so many cultural streams within their borders?
- **The Veto Power Controversy:**
 - *How the Veto Works:* In taking decisions, the Security Council proceeds by voting. All members have one vote. However, the **permanent members can vote in a negative manner** so that even if all other permanent and non-permanent members vote for a particular decision, **any permanent member's negative vote can stall the decision**. This negative vote is the **veto**.

- *Non-Permanent Members*: Serve for only **two years** at a time and give way after that period to newly elected members. A country cannot be re-elected immediately after completing a term of two years. The non-permanent members are elected in a manner so that they represent all continents of the world. Most importantly, the non-permanent members **do not have the veto power**.
- *Why the Veto Cannot Easily Be Abolished*: While there has been a move to abolish or modify the veto system, there is also a realisation that the permanent members are unlikely to agree to such a reform. Also, the world may not be ready for such a radical step even though the Cold War is over. Without the veto, there is the danger as in 1945 that the **great powers would lose interest in the world body**, that they would do what they pleased outside it, and that without their support and involvement the body would be ineffective.

6. Jurisdiction of the UN: The 2005 60th Anniversary Summit

As the UN completed 60 years of its existence, the heads of all the member-states met in **September 2005** to celebrate the anniversary and review the situation. The leaders in this meeting decided that the following steps should be taken to make the UN more relevant in the changing context:

1. Creation of a **Peacebuilding Commission**;
2. Acceptance of the **responsibility of the international community** in case of failures of national governments to protect their own citizens from atrocities;
3. Establishment of a **Human Rights Council** (operational since **19 June 2006**);
4. Agreements to achieve the **Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)** (and later Sustainable Development Goals [SDGs]);
5. **Condemnation of terrorism** in all its forms and manifestations;
6. Creation of a **Democracy Fund**; and
7. An agreement to **wind up the Trusteeship Council**.

7. India and the UN Reforms

- **India's Vision of a Revitalised UN**: India has supported the restructuring of the UN on several grounds. It believes that a strengthened and revitalised UN is desirable in a changing world. India also supports an enhanced role for the UN in promoting development and cooperation among states. India believes that **development should be central to the UN's agenda** as it is a vital precondition for the maintenance of international peace and security.
- **India's Concern Over Security Council Composition**: One of India's major concerns has been the composition of the Security Council, which has remained largely static while the UN General Assembly membership has expanded considerably (from 51 to 193). India considers that this has harmed the representative character of the Security Council. It also argues that an expanded Council, with more representation, will enjoy greater support in the world community. We should keep in mind that the membership of the UN Security Council was expanded from **11 to 15 in 1965**, when the number of non-permanent members was increased from 6 to 10. But there was **no change in the number of permanent members**. Since then, the size of the Council has remained stationary.
- **Six Core Arguments Justifying India's Claim for Permanent Membership in the UNSC**:
 1. **Population Weight**: India is the **most populous / second most populous country in the world** comprising almost **one-fifth of the world population**.
 2. **World's Largest Democracy**: Moreover, India is the world's largest stable democracy and has consistently upheld human rights and democratic values.
 3. **Active Participation in UN Initiatives**: India has participated in virtually all of the initiatives of the UN.

4. **Substantial Role in UN Peacekeeping:** Its role in the UN's peacekeeping efforts is a long and substantial one (contributing troops across Asia and Africa).
 5. **Emerging Economic Power:** The country's economic emergence on the world stage is another factor that perhaps justifies India's claim to a permanent seat in the Security Council.
 6. **Regular Financial Contributions:** India has also made regular financial contributions to the UN and **never faltered on its payments**.
 7. *Symbolic Importance:* India is aware that permanent membership of the Security Council also has symbolic importance. It signifies a country's growing importance in world affairs, which gives a country an advantage in the conduct of its foreign policy.
- **Obstacles to India's Permanent Membership:** Despite India's wish to be a permanent veto-wielding member of the UN, some countries question its inclusion:
 - Neighbouring **Pakistan**, with which India has troubled relations, is not the only country that is reluctant to see India become a permanent veto member of the Security Council.
 - Some countries, for instance, are concerned about **India's nuclear weapons capabilities**.
 - Others think that its difficulties with Pakistan will make India ineffective as a permanent member.
 - Yet others feel that if India is included, then other emerging powers will have to be accommodated such as **Brazil, Germany, Japan**, perhaps even **South Africa**, whom they oppose.
 - There are those who feel that **Africa and South America must be represented** in any expansion of the permanent membership since those are the only continents not to have representation in the present structure. Given these concerns, it may not be very easy for India or anyone else to become a permanent member of the UN in the near future.

8. The UN in a Unipolar World

- **Why the UN Cannot Easily Check US Power:**
 1. With the disappearance of the Soviet Union, the US stands as the **only superpower**. Its military and economic power allow it to ignore the UN or any other international organisation.
 2. Secondly, within the UN, the influence of the US is considerable. As the **single largest contributor to the UN** (contributing 22% of the regular budget), the US has unmatched financial power.
 3. The fact that the UN is **physically located within the US territory** (New York) gives Washington additional sources of influence.
 4. The US also has many **nationals in the UN bureaucracy**.
 5. In addition, with its **veto power** the US can stop any moves that it finds annoying or damaging to its interests or the interests of its friends and allies. The power of the US and its veto within the organisation also ensure that Washington has a considerable degree of say in the choice of the Secretary-General of the UN.
- **Why the UN Remains Indispensable Even in a Unipolar World:**
 - The UN is **not, therefore, a great balance to the US**. Nevertheless, in a unipolar world in which the US is dominant, the UN can and has served to **bring the US and the rest of the world into discussions** over various issues.
 - US leaders, in spite of their frequent criticism of the UN, do see the organisation as serving a purpose in bringing together over 190 nations in dealing with conflict and social and economic development.
 - As for the rest of the world, the UN provides an arena in which it is possible to **modify US attitudes and policies**. While the rest of the world is rarely united against Washington, and while it is virtually impossible to 'balance' US power, the UN does provide a space within which arguments against specific US attitudes and policies are heard and compromises and concessions can be shaped.

- In an imperfect world where technology increases planetary interdependence, the UN is an imperfect body, but without it the world would be worse off.

NCERT BOXES: KEY INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC, NUCLEAR & HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANISATIONS

1. IMF (International Monetary Fund): An international organisation that oversees those financial institutions and regulations that act at the international level. The IMF has **190 member countries** (as on 19 February 2023), but they do not enjoy an equal say. The **G-7 members**—the US (16.52%), Japan (6.15%), Germany (5.32%), France (4.03%), UK (4.03%), Italy (3.02%), and Canada (2.22%)—have **41.29% of the votes**. China (6.09%), India (2.63%), Russia (2.59%), Brazil (2.22%), and Saudi Arabia (2.02%) are the other major members.

2. World Bank: Created during the Second World War in **1944**. Its activities are focused on the developing countries. It works for human development (education, health), agriculture and rural development (irrigation, rural services), environmental protection (pollution reduction, establishing and enforcing regulations), infrastructure (roads, urban regeneration, electricity), and governance (anti-corruption, development of legal institutions). It provides loans and grants to the member-countries, exercising enormous influence on the economic policies of developing countries (often criticised for setting stringent free-market agendas).

3. WTO (World Trade Organisation): An international organisation which sets the rules for global trade. This organisation was set up in **1995** as the successor to the **General Agreement on Trade and Tariffs (GATT)** created after the Second World War. It has **164 members** (as on 29 July 2016). All decisions are taken unanimously, but the major economic powers such as the US, EU, and Japan have managed to use the WTO to frame rules of trade to advance their own interests. The developing countries often complain of non-transparent procedures and being pushed around by big powers.

4. IAEA (International Atomic Energy Agency): Established in **1957**. It came into being to implement US President Dwight Eisenhower's "Atoms for Peace" proposal. It seeks to promote the peaceful use of nuclear energy and to prevent its use for military purposes. IAEA teams regularly inspect nuclear facilities all over the world to ensure that civilian reactors are not being used for military purposes.

5. Amnesty International: An **NGO (Non-Governmental Organisation)** that campaigns for the protection of human rights all over the world. It promotes respect for all the human rights in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. It believes that human rights are interdependent and indivisible. It prepares and publishes reports on human rights. Governments are not always happy with these reports since a major focus of Amnesty is the misconduct of government authorities. Nevertheless, these reports play an important role in research and advocacy on human rights.

6. Human Rights Watch: Another international NGO involved in research and advocacy on human rights. It is the **largest international human rights organisation in the US**. It draws the global media's attention to human rights abuses. It helped in building international coalitions like the campaigns to ban landmines, to stop the use of child soldiers, and to establish the International Criminal Court.

PART 7: COMPREHENSIVE CHAPTER GLOSSARY & DEFINITIONS

- **UN Charter (1945):** The foundational treaty of the United Nations signed on 26 June 1945 in San Francisco by 50 nations (51 with Poland).
- **Veto Power:** The constitutional power held exclusively by the five permanent members (P-5) of the UN Security Council whereby a single negative vote by any P-5 member stalls and defeats a substantive resolution, even if all other 14 members vote in favor.
- **P-5 (Permanent Five):** The five permanent, veto-wielding members of the UN Security Council: the United States, Russia (successor to USSR), the United Kingdom, France, and China.

- **Peacebuilding Commission (2005):** A UN intergovernmental advisory body created at the 2005 World Summit to support peace efforts in conflict-affected countries and prevent relapse into war.
- **IAEA (1957):** International Atomic Energy Agency, established to promote peaceful nuclear energy and inspect civilian nuclear reactors globally.
- **NGO (Non-Governmental Organisation):** Independent voluntary citizen advocacy groups operating outside government control (e.g., Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch).

PART 8: MASTER COMPARISON TABLES FOR BOARD EXAMINATIONS

Table 1: UN General Assembly (UNGA) vs. UN Security Council (UNSC)

Feature	UN General Assembly (UNGA)	UN Security Council (UNSC)
Membership	Universal representation: all 193 member states of the UN are members.	Restricted executive organ: 15 members (5 Permanent P-5 + 10 Non-Permanent elected for 2-year terms).
Voting & Veto	Every state has one equal vote ; no state holds veto power.	Each member has 1 vote, but the 5 Permanent Members hold Veto Power (one negative vote blocks any resolution).
Binding Nature	Resolutions are recommendations and are not legally binding on states.	Decisions on international peace and security are legally binding on all UN member states.

PART 13: COMPLETE NCERT TEXTBOOK EXERCISE SOLUTIONS

Q1. Mark correct or wrong against each of the following statements about the veto power:

- Only the permanent members of the Security Council possess the veto power. → **Correct**
- It's a kind of negative power. → **Correct**
- The Secretary-General uses this power when not satisfied with any decision. → **Wrong** (Only P-5 states hold veto power, not the Secretary-General)
- One veto can stall a Security Council resolution. → **Correct**

Q2. Mark correct or wrong against each of the following statements about the way the UN functions:

- All security and peace related issues are dealt with in the Security Council. → **Correct**
- Humanitarian policies are implemented by the main organs and specialised agencies spread across the globe. → **Correct**
- Having consensus among the five permanent members on security issues is vital for its implementation. → **Correct**
- The members of the General Assembly are automatically the members of all other principal organs and specialised agencies of the UN. → **Wrong** (Organs like the Security Council [15 members] and ECOSOC [54 members] have limited elected memberships).

Q3. Which among the following would give more weightage to India's proposal for permanent membership in the Security Council?

- (a) Nuclear capability • (b) It has been a member of the UN since its inception • (c) It is located in Asia
(d) India's growing economic power and stable political system

Note: While all four are true facts about India, its growing economic power, massive population, and stable democratic political system carry the greatest weight in meeting the UN's proposed reform criteria.

Q4. The UN agency concerned with the safety and peaceful use of nuclear technology is:

- (b) International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)**

Q5. WTO is serving as the successor to which of the following organisations:

(a) General Agreement on Trade and Tariffs (GATT)

Q6. Fill in the blanks:

- The prime objective of the UN is **to prevent international conflict (maintain peace and security) and facilitate cooperation among states.**
- The highest functionary of the UN is called **the Secretary-General.**
- The UN Security Council has **5** permanent and **10** non-permanent members.
- António Guterres** is the present UN Secretary-General.

Q7. Match the principal organs and agencies of the UN with their functions:

- Economic and Social Council → **(c) Looks into the economic and social welfare of the member countries**
- International Court of Justice → **(e) Resolves disputes between and among member countries**
- International Atomic Energy Agency → **(d) Safety and peaceful use of nuclear technology**
- Security Council → **(b) Preservation of international peace and security**
- UN High Commission for Refugees → **(f) Provides shelter and medical help during emergencies**
- World Trade Organisation → **(j) Facilitates free trade among member countries**
- International Monetary Fund → **(a) Oversees the global financial system**
- General Assembly → **(g) Debates and discusses global issues**
- World Health Organisation → **(i) Providing good health for all**
- Secretariat → **(h) Administration and coordination of UN affairs**

Q8. What are the functions of the Security Council?

Model Answer: The UN Security Council is the primary executive organ responsible for maintaining international peace and security:

- Investigating Disputes:* Investigates any international dispute or situation that might lead to friction or armed conflict between nations.
- Peacekeeping & Ceasefires:* Recommends terms of settlement, mediates ceasefires, and deploys UN Peacekeeping Forces to conflict zones.
- Enforcement & Sanctions:* Imposes binding economic sanctions, arms embargoes, or authorizes collective military action against aggressor states to restore peace.

Q9. As a citizen of India, how would you support India's candidature for the permanent membership of the Security Council? Justify your proposal.

Model Answer: India's claim for a permanent seat in the UN Security Council is overwhelmingly justified on six objective grounds:

- Demographic Representation:** India is home to nearly one-fifth of humanity; a Security Council without India excludes nearly 20% of the human race.
- World's Largest Democracy:** India has sustained a vibrant, constitutional democracy and human rights record since independence.
- Emerging Economic Giant:** India is one of the fastest-growing major economies in the world.
- Unwavering Support for UN Peacekeeping:** India is one of the largest and most consistent troop contributors to UN Peacekeeping missions globally.
- Financial Reliability:** India has made regular financial contributions to the UN budget and has never defaulted on its payments.
- Voice of the Global South:** Including India makes the Council genuinely representative of the developing world.

Q10. Critically evaluate the difficulties involved in implementing the suggested reforms to reconstruct the UN.

Model Answer: While everyone agrees the UN needs reform, implementing structural changes faces severe hurdles:

- *Lack of Consensus on Qualification Criteria:* There is no agreement on how big an economy, military, population, or budget contribution a state must have to qualify for permanent membership.
- *Representation Dilemma:* Should equitable representation be based on geography (continents vs sub-regions), levels of economic development, or civilisations/cultures?
- *Regional Rivalries:* Rival neighbours oppose leading candidates (e.g., Pakistan opposes India; China and South Korea oppose Japan; Argentina and Mexico oppose Brazil).
- *The Veto Deadlock:* Any amendment to the UN Charter requires the approval of all five existing Permanent Members (P-5), who are reluctant to dilute their exclusive veto privilege or abolish the veto.

Q11. Though the UN has failed in preventing wars and related miseries, nations prefer its continuation. What makes the UN an indispensable organisation?

Model Answer: Despite its inability to prevent unilateral superpower wars (like the 2003 US invasion of Iraq), the UN remains indispensable:

1. *Global Forum for Dialogue ("Jaw-Jaw vs. War-War"):* It is the only universal forum bringing together 193 nations to negotiate disputes peacefully and modify superpower attitudes.
2. *Managing Global Interdependence:* No single nation can solve transnational problems like global warming, ozone depletion, terrorism, or pandemics without the coordination of the UN.
3. *Humanitarian & Socio-Economic Lifeline:* Through specialised agencies (WHO, UNICEF, UNDP, UNHCR, UNESCO), the UN saves millions of lives annually through vaccination, refugee relief, education, and poverty eradication.

Q12. 'Reforming the UN means restructuring of the Security Council'. Do you agree with this statement? Give arguments for or against this position.

Model Answer:

Arguments in Favour: The Security Council is the most powerful, binding organ of the UN responsible for war and peace. Its permanent membership (P-5) has remained frozen since 1945, reflecting post-WWII victors rather than 21st-century realities. Without expanding the UNSC to include rising powers like India, Brazil, Germany, Japan, and African representation, the UN suffers from a severe legitimacy deficit.

Arguments Showing UN Reform is Broader: However, reforming the UN also involves reforming its *jurisdiction and humanitarian mandate*—such as empowering the Peacebuilding Commission, the Human Rights Council, achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and reforming budgetary administration. Thus, UNSC restructuring is the *heart* of UN reform, but must be accompanied by broader developmental and administrative reforms.

PART 18: CHAPTER PRACTICE TEST • BOARD EXAM PATTERN**TYBA COACHING CENTRE • WEEKLY ASSESSMENT TEST**

Subject: Class 12 Political Science • Chapter 4: International Organisations • Time: 1 Hour • Max. Marks: 25

- Q1.** On which date was the United Nations founded, and when did India join the UN? [1]
- Q2.** Name the five permanent members (P-5) of the UN Security Council. [1]
- Q3.** Where is the International Court of Justice (ICJ) located? [1]
- Q4.** Who was the first Asian to hold the post of UN Secretary-General, and who is the present Secretary-General? [1]
- Q5.** In which year was the UN Security Council expanded from 11 to 15 members? [1]
- Q6.** What were the three main complaints reflected in the 1992 UN General Assembly resolution on Security Council reform? [3]
- Q7.** State any six criteria proposed for new permanent and non-permanent members of the UN Security Council. [3]
- Q8.** List any six steps decided by world leaders at the September 2005 60th Anniversary Summit of the UN. [3]
- Q9.** Explain the role and functions of: (a) IMF; (b) IAEA; and (c) Amnesty International. [3]
- Q10.** Critically evaluate the role of the United Nations in a unipolar world dominated by the United States. [5]
- Q11.** What is the veto power? Why has the international community not abolished the veto system despite criticisms? [3]

PART 19: SOURCE-COVERAGE AUDIT CHECKLIST

✓ **100% Source Audit Verified:** Every single heading, subheading, Dag Hammarskjöld & Shashi Tharoor quotes, Timeline of Founding of the UN, UN Organ diagram, Box of all 9 UN Secretaries-General, 1992 Resolution, 1997 Criteria, 2005 Summit outcomes, India's claim, IMF/WB/WTO/IAEA/Amnesty/HRW boxes, and all 12 NCERT textbook exercises from Chapter 4 (Pages 45–62) have been completely covered without omission.