

The United Nations (UN)

“The United Nations was created more than 60 years ago to save succeeding generations from war, protect human rights, establish conditions for justice, and promote social progress and better standards of life. These fundamental objectives remain as critical as ever.

At the same time, over these six decades, new challenges have emerged – from international terrorism to climate change, to the spread of infectious diseases to other threats that transcend national borders.

These global problems can never be resolved by any one country acting alone. As the world’s only truly universal institution, the United Nations offers the best – if not the only – forum to galvanize global action to meet the challenges ahead.”

Ban Ki-moon,

Secretary General of the United Nations

The United Nations Charter says that the UN will seek to maintain peace and security in the world, develop friendly relations between nations, cooperate in solving economic, social, cultural and humanitarian problems, promote respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms and also be harmonising centre for the actions of nations trying to achieve these aims.

The UN sends peacekeeping forces into regions where there is possible conflict and it can agree to support nations in their actions to avoid a world threat. This was the case on the 8th November, 2002 when the fifteen members of the UN Security Council unanimously agreed to support the UN weapons inspectors going to Iraq to look for weapons of **mass destruction**.

The UN is involved in all kinds of other activities including the UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF) and **conservation** of historical sites such as Český Krumlov (UNESCO).

- The first article of the UN Charter states that its main purpose is “to maintain international peace and security”. The Charter provides the terms of reference for the various elements of the UN, and for regional arrangements and agencies in fulfilling this responsibility.
- Although the Charter makes no specific reference to PSO, the three chapters which most relate to PSO are: Chapter VI which deals with the peaceful settlement of

disputes. Chapter VII which refers to the enforcement of actions and measure, and Chapter VIII which deals with regional arrangements.

- Since within the UN, the Security Council (UNSC) is the body responsible for maintaining international peace and security, PSO are, therefore established through resolutions of the UNSC. IN certain circumstances the General Assembly may establish a PSO e. g. Korea, Guatemala, Alliance support of or involvement in PSO must be within the provisions of the UN Charter.
- Since the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989, the UN has undergone a number of significant changes in the way it performs peacekeeping operations. Moving from predominantly unarmed or lightly armed observer and peacekeeping missions, it has used the opportunities presented by the new strategic environment to deploy multi-dimensional, multi-national forces to expand its role in promoting peace and stability.
- Experiences over the past several years, however, have resulted in a review of methods and capabilities. Additionally, the UN recognises that for many complex operations, it may need to seek the assistance of regional or other organisations or authorities, with specific capabilities. The structure and responsibilities of the UN are covered in Annex D.

I) Read the following statements and decide if they refer to the NATO or the UN:

- 1) The main purpose of the organization is to safeguard freedom and security.
- 2) It has the Security Council whose main responsibility is maintaining peace and security.
- 3) The organization has 19 members.
- 4) It has expanded its role in promoting peace and stability.
- 5) It has its Headquarters in Brussels.
- 6) The security approach is based on dialogue, cooperation and maintenance of a collective defence.
- 7) For complex operations it may seek assistance of other organizations and authorities.
- 8) It helps the member countries to realise their security objectives through joint efforts.
- 9) The Military Committee supervises various military commands.
- 10) It has the department of Peace Keeping Operations.

II) Match a word in A with a word in B to get phrases that were in the text about the UN:

A

- 1) to maintain
- 2) peaceful
- 3) to refer to
- 4) to deploy
- 5) to establish through
- 6) alliance
- 7) involvement in
- 8) to deal with
- 9) to result in

B

- a) a review of methods and capabilities
- b) multi-dimensional forces
- c) the peaceful settlement of disputes
- d) PSO
- e) support
- f) international peace and security
- g) enforcement actions and measures
- h) settlement
- i) resolutions

III) Use appropriate expressions and fill the gaps in the sentences:

- 1) The main purpose of the UN is international peace and security.
- 2) One of the PSO chapters the peaceful settlements.
- 3) The other chapter enforcement actions and measures.
- 4) PSO are resolutions of the UNSC.
- 5) Experiences a review of methods and capabilities.
- 6) Chapter VI the peaceful settlement of disputes.
- 7) UN multi-dimensional, multi-national forces to expand its role in promoting peace and stability.

IV) Insert the correct prepositions:

over in of (2x) through for (2x) within with

- 1) The Chapter provides the terms of reference the various elements the UN.
- 2) The Chapter deals regional arrangements.
- 3) the UN the Security Council is the body responsible maintaining international peace and security.
- 4) PSO are established resolutions of the UNSC.
- 5) The UN has undergone a number significant changes.
- 6) Experiences the past several years have resulted a review of methods and capabilities.

V) Complete the text with the correct form of the verbs in brackets:

Ban Ki-moon is the eighth and current Secretary-General of the United Nations. In 1944, at the United Nations. In 1944, at the end of the Japanese rule of Korea, he 1) (be) born in a small farming village in North Chungcheong. His family 2) (move) to the nearby town of Chungju where he was raised. During Ban's childhood, his father

3) (run) a warehouse business, but the warehouse 4) (go bankrupt) and the family 5) (lose) its middle-class standard of living. When Ban was six, his family 6) (flee) to a remote mountainside for the duration of the Korean War. After the war his family 7) (return) to Chungju. In secondary school Ban 8) (become) a star pupil. In 1952, he was selected by his class to prepare a message to the UN Secretary-General Dag Hammarskjöld. But it is unknown if the message was ever sent. In 1962, Ban 9) (win) an essay contest sponsored by the Red Cross and earned a trip to the United States where he lived in San Francisco with a host family for several months. As part of the trip, Ban 10) (meet) U.S. President John F. Kennedy. When a journalist at the meeting asked Ban what he wanted to be when he grew up, he said, "I want to become a diplomat."

Amnesty International

The history of Amnesty International

Amnesty International began with one man's outrage and his courage to do something about it. British lawyer Peter Benenson launches a worldwide campaign, "Appeal for Amnesty 1961", with the publication of an article in the *Observer* newspaper. The article, "The Forgotten Prisoners", is written after he learns of two Portuguese students who were imprisoned for raising a toast to freedom. Reprinted in newspapers across the world, his appeal marks the beginning of Amnesty International.

The first international meeting is held in July, with delegates from Belgium, the UK, France, Germany, Ireland, Switzerland and the USA. They decide to establish "a permanent international movement in defence of freedom of opinion and religion".

A small office and library, staffed by volunteers, opens in Peter Benenson's chambers in Mitre Court, London. The "Threes Network" is established, through which each Amnesty International group adopts three prisoners from contrasting geographical and political areas, emphasizing the impartiality of the group's work.

On Human Rights Day, 10 December, the first Amnesty International candle – which would become the organization's iconic symbol – is lit in the church of St-Martin-in-the-Fields, London.

Learn more about the history of Amnesty International, journey through Amnesty International's history and explore 50 years of human rights achievements and challenges. The timeline is packed with links, photos and videos. Find out where we began and where we are going.

http://www.dipity.com/aitimeline/Amnesty-International-at-50_2/

Amnesty International and its current mission

Amnesty International will only be satisfied when it is no longer needed. It represents a worldwide movement, independent of any government, political party, economic interest, or religious belief. The activities focus on the release of prisoners of conscience. These are men and women imprisoned for their beliefs, colour, sex, language, or religion. Amnesty International tries to get fair and early trials for all political prisoners, and oppose the death penalty and torture of all prisoners without reservation.

Amnesty International has been working for over fifty years, and in that time it helped prisoners in over seventy countries. The organization has won several peace prizes, including the Nobel Peace Prize in 1977 and the United Nations Human Rights Prize in 1978. Each year Amnesty International handles, on average, nearly 7,000 individual cases, regardless of the ideology of either the victims or the governments concerned.

1) Fill the gaps with appropriate expressions:

influential struggle imprisoned persecution aim

Amnesty International was started during the early 1960's and its goal is to stop the 1)..... of people who have been imprisoned because of their ideas, race, or religion. Amnesty has offices in 55 countries and its work has helped to release many people who were 2)..... because of their ideology and politics. Hundreds of letters are sent to governments, 3) people in their country involved and also to the prisoner and his family to give them hope for the future. Amnesty has 500,000 members worldwide, who join in the 4) to change oppressive laws without interfering in a country's politics. Their ultimate 5)..... is for all the people in the world to live side by side without the fear of violence or persecution.

The Red Cross

In the Democratic Republic of Congo, a very poor country in Central Africa where there has been armed conflict for many years, the Red Cross is playing an important part in efforts to help the millions of civilians who have suffered in the fighting. Its staff, a mixture of local people and foreigners, distribute medicines and food, reunite family members who have become separated, and give seeds and tools to poor farmers in areas where the fighting has stopped and it is safe for them to return to their land.

This is just one example of the humanitarian work carried out in the world's war zones by the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, a network of non-governmental organizations with offices in more than 180 countries. (They usually use the name Red Cross in countries where Christianity is the main religion, and Red Crescent in Muslim countries.) During armed conflict, the Red Cross and Red Crescent also try to make sure that all sides respect the Geneva Conventions, which are international rules about the way wars should be fought. These rules are not only about the treatment of civilians but also the treatment of soldiers who are wounded or who become prisoners of war.

The story of the Red Cross began in 1859, during the Italian War of Independence, when a Swiss businessman called Henry Dunant arrived in the village of Solferino in Italy as a big battle was taking place nearby. After the battle, Dunant was horrified to see that thousands of wounded soldiers were left without any kind of medical help. Dunant spoke to the local people, however, and managed to get lots of them to help the wounded soldiers. He made sure they followed the principle of neutrality by treating all the soldiers equally, regardless of which side they had fought on. When he returned home, Dunant wanted to create a neutral organization that would help wounded soldiers on all sides during future wars. In 1863 he helped create the International Committee for the Relief of the Wounded, which later became the Red Cross.

The work of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement does not only take place in war zones, however, as it also plays a very important part in relief efforts after natural disasters. A recent example is the terrible earthquake in Haiti in January this year, when local and foreign Red Cross workers distributed medicines, tents and blankets, and helped restore supplies of drinking water.

II) Fill the gaps with appropriate expressions:

international

volunteers

relieve

neutral

The Red Cross is an international voluntary organisation which aims to 1)..... the suffering of victims of war and natural disasters. The founder Henri Dunant believed that soldiers wounded in battle should be able to receive help from a 2)..... party without running the risk of being shot. The Governments of the world agreed and after Geneva Convention of 1864, Dunant's organisation was set up. 3)..... were sent into battle to look after the wounded carrying a flag with a red cross on a white background. The Red Cross developed into an enormous 4)..... network with over 200 million trained members.

Internet - <http://www.insideout.net/elessons/archive>

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<http://www.amnesty.org/en/who-we-are/history>

