

Work Groups of the U.N.

The U.N. is divided into six main working groups, also known as organs of the U.N. The General Assembly and the Security Council are two of these work groups. The remaining four organs are:

- 1) **The Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC):** consists of 54 members, which are elected every three years by the General Assembly. The president is elected every year and is usually selected amongst the small or middle powers. The ECOSOC was established to help the General Assembly promote development in economic and social affairs. The ECOSOC established a network of specialized agencies or organizations to help and support it carry out its functions. Its main responsibilities are:
 - To promote economic and social progress, which results in higher standards of living and employment rates increasing
 - To come up with solutions to international economic, social, and health problems
 - To increase international cooperation in cultural and educational affairs
 - To promote respect for human rights and ensure basic freedoms

- 2) **The Trusteeship Council:** was established after World War II to place certain territories that had not yet gained self-government or independence. These territories were placed under the Trusteeship Council to ensure that these territories are administered in the interest of its inhabitants and of world peace. There were 11 trust territories: 7 in Africa and 4 in Pacific Ocean, known as Oceania. All the territories have attained independence. The last one to attain it was Palau in October 1994. With all the trust territories having gained their independence, a decision came out on 1st November, 1994 to suspend the activity of the Trusteeship Council, as it fulfilled all its responsibilities.

- 3) **The International Court of Justice:** this represents the legal court of the U.N, which is known as the judicial body of the U.N. It is also sometimes called the World Court. The headquarters of the International Court of Justice is at the Peace Palace in the Hague in the Netherlands. It consists of 15 judges from different countries, which are elected every nine years by the General Assembly and the Security Council. It started working in April 1946. The President and Vice President are elected by secret ballot every three years and there are no conditions as to their nationality. The only condition is that an absolute majority be reached. The International Court of Justice deals with two kinds of cases:
 - a) Contentious Issues: these are disputes that need to be settled and are brought before it by countries, which agree to accept the Court's decision
 - b) Advisory Opinions: which are brought forward to it by the five organs and specialized agencies for it to give them advice on matters of international law

Name _____

Date _____

Work Groups of the U.N. (Cont'd)

- 4) **The Secretariat:** represents the actual staff carrying out the daily operations of the U.N. The staff members are from different nationalities. They perform administrative duties, prepare studies, survey trends, and provide information to the U.N. organs. They also carry out duties as decided by the Secretary General. The Secretary General is the head of the Secretariat and is the spokesperson of the U.N. The Secretary General is elected by the General Assembly after being recommended by the Security Council. The Secretary General holds a position for five years and the term can be renewed. Amongst his responsibilities are to discuss matters which threaten peace and security, and to report on the work of the organization to the General Assembly.

Work Groups of the U.N. Questions

Multiple Choice:

1. The Secretary General is elected every:
 - a. Two years
 - b. Three years
 - c. Five years
 - d. Nine years

2. Contentious cases are:
 - a. Disputes that are brought forward by the countries in order for the International Court of Justice to settle them
 - b. Disputes that are brought forward by the countries in order for the Secretary General to settle them
 - c. Advisory opinions that are brought forward by the five organs and specialized agencies for the International Court of Justice to give them advice on matters of international law
 - d. None of the above

3. The Trusteeship Council was suspended on 1st November 1994 because:
 - a. It was not doing a good job
 - b. It did not serve the best interests of the territories that were under its charge
 - c. All the trust territories under its charge gained self-independence
 - d. All of the above

Matching:

- | | |
|---|--|
| _____ 4. The Economic and Social Council | a. Represents the Judicial organ of the U.N. |
| _____ 5. The Trusteeship Council | b. Work to increase international cooperation in cultural and educational affairs |
| _____ 6. The International Court of Justice | c. Survey trends and prepare reports and studies for other U.N. organs |
| _____ 7. The Secretariat | d. Had 11 territories under its charge to ensure best interests of its inhabitants |

Work Groups of the U.N. Answers

Multiple Choice:

1. The Secretary General is elected every:

- a. Two years
- b. Three years
- c. **Five years**
- d. Nine years

2. Contentious cases are:

- a. **Disputes that are brought forward by the countries in order for the International Court of Justice to settle them**
- b. Disputes that are brought forward by the countries in order for the Secretary General to settle them
- c. Advisory opinions that are brought forward by the five organs and specialized agencies for the International Court of Justice to give them advice on matters of international law
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