The United Nations is an organization of 193 sovereign States. These states have voluntarily joined the UN to coordinate efforts for a safer world for this and future generations, promote friendship among all nations and support economic and social progress.

Cooperating in these efforts are specialized agencies, programmes, funds, special committees, subcommittees and other bodies, known together as the UN System. The Organization works on a broad range of fundamental issues, from sustainable development, environment and refugee protection, disaster relief, counter terrorism, disarmament and non-proliferation, to promoting democracy, human rights, gender equality and the advancement of women, governance, economic and social development and international health, clearing landmines, expanding food production, and more.

Learn more: www.un.org

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<th>UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon</th>
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“The currents of change are transforming our human and physical geography. They are driving not just incremental but exponential change. They are deeply connected and increasingly complex. To ensure that our generation and future generations benefit from the opportunities presented by this changing reality and are able to mitigate increased risks, the global community will need to work together in unprecedented ways”. Learn more: www.un.org/sg
Currently, over two dozen United Nations peacekeeping and special political missions are working to provide security and stability, facilitate political processes, protect civilians, help refugees return, support elections, demobilize and reintegrate former combatants, and promote human rights and the rule of law.

UN Peacekeeping began in 1948 when the Security Council authorized the deployment of UN military observers to the Middle East. Since then, 67 peacekeeping operations have been deployed by the UN, 54 of them since 1988.

By October 2014, UN Peacekeeping operations had more than 103,000 military, police and civilian staff serving in 16 UN peacekeeping operations and one special mission, UNAMA (United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan), led by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO).

The nature of conflicts has changed over the years. UN Peacekeeping, originally developed as a means of dealing with inter-State conflict, is increasingly being applied to intra-State conflicts and civil wars. Today, peacekeeping operations are multidimensional and are called upon not only to maintain peace and security, but also to facilitate the political process, protect civilians; assist in the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of former combatants; support the organization of elections; protect and promote human rights; and assist in restoring the rule of law.

Learn more: www.un.org/en/peacekeeping/

Standing up for Human Rights
The United Nations sets international standards for the rights of minorities, women and children; monitors abuses; and generates international pressure on governments to improve their human rights records. Since the General Assembly adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948, the Organization has helped to enact dozens of comprehensive agreements on political, civil, economic, social and cultural rights, such as:

- UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
- UN Convention on the Rights of the Child
- International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families
- UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

Learn more: www.un.org/en/rights/
Learn more about UN High Commissioner for Human Rights: www.ohchr.org/
Learn more about the UN Human Rights Council:
http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/Pages/HRCIndex.aspx
Promoting Women’s Rights

One of the United Nations’ long-term goals is to improve the condition of women. The UN made history as UN Women, the new UN entity dedicated to gender equality and the empowerment of women, officially began its work in 2011. UN Women emerged from an agreement by UN Member States – backed by strong advocacy from the global women’s movement – recognizing that more must be done so that all women can claim equal rights and opportunities.

Learn more: www.unwomen.org/

Combating Terrorism

The United Nations has put in place the legal framework to combat international terrorism. Global conventions negotiated under UN auspices include treaties against hostage-taking, airplane hijacking and terrorism financing.

Learn more: www.un.org/terrorism/
Learn more about the UN Office on Drug and Crime: http://www.unodc.org/

Protecting the Environment

The United Nations brings governments together to work on climate change, air and water pollution, depletion of natural resources, and many other environmental concerns.

Learn more about the UN Environment Programme: www.unep.org

In 2012, more than 40,000 people – including parliamentarians, mayors, UN officials, chief executive officers and civil society leaders – attended the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, also known as Rio+20, from 20-22 June. The outcome document, entitled “The Future We Want,” represents countries’ renewed political commitment to sustainable development. It calls for a wide range of actions, including detailing how the green economy can be used as a tool to achieve sustainable development; promoting corporate sustainability reporting measures; taking steps to go beyond gross domestic product to assess the well-being of a country; developing a strategy for sustainable development financing; and, adopting a framework for tackling sustainable consumption and production.


Helping in Emergencies

The United Nations organizes humanitarian relief and food supplies for millions of refugees, who are victims of famine, natural disasters and conflicts. The mission of the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), with 35 offices around the world, is to mobilize and coordinate effective and principled humanitarian
action to alleviate human suffering in disasters and emergencies; advocate for the rights of people in need; and facilitate sustainable solutions. Humanitarian teams in 20 countries are currently aiming to reach some 62 million people. For example, as of October 2014, the conflicts in Syria, Iraq, Central African Republic and South Sudan, were all of major concern to the efforts of OCHA.
Learn more: http://ochaonline.un.org/

**Fighting Poverty**
The UN Development Programme (UNDP) works to make real improvements in people’s lives and in the choices and opportunities available to them. Guided by the Millennium Declaration and its key benchmarks for measuring progress – the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) - UNDP promotes inclusive development and works to reduce poverty in all its dimensions. UNDP is on the ground in 177 countries, working with countries to devise their own solutions to development.
Learn more: www.undp.org
Learn more about MDGs: http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/

**Harmonizing Actions**
The United Nations helps countries coordinate and set rules promoting safe air travel, the protection of copyrights and patents, the determination of satellite positions and radio frequencies, and international postal regulation.
Learn more: www.un.org/en/law/

**Preventing Nuclear Proliferation**
Through the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the United Nations has helped minimize the threat of a nuclear war by inspecting nuclear reactors in more than 145 countries, in order to ensure that nuclear material is not used for military purposes. Three main pillars underpin the IAEA’s mission: safety and security; science and technology; and safeguards and verification. IAEA tracks compliance with the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), a landmark international treaty whose objective is to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons and weapons technology, to promote cooperation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, and to further the goal of achieving general and complete disarmament.
Learn more about IAEA: www.iaea.org
Learn more: www.un.org/disarmament/

**Building Democracy**
The United Nations helps countries conduct free and fair elections. The Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) is an inter-governmental advisory body that supports peace efforts in countries emerging from conflict, and is a key addition to the capacity of the international community in the broad peace agenda. In war-torn societies, the UN works to build lasting peace and strengthen states. A clear example is the Comprehensive Peace Agreement between the Government of Sudan and the Sudan People’s Liberation Movement (SPLM) ending more than 20 years of war. A key part of the agreement was a referendum in January 2011, for which the UN provided technical assistance, whereby the people of southern Sudan voted for either unity with Sudan or secession. In July 2011, the UN General Assembly admitted South Sudan as the 193rd member of the UN.
Learn more: www.un.org/peace/peacebuilding/
**WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP**

Get involved – Volunteer your time
As a volunteer, you could help contact lawmakers, raise funds, organize meetings and find partners for joint projects. You could even organize or participate in UN-related events in schools and in other settings. United Nations Associations (UNAs), set up in many countries to build support for the work of the United Nations, coordinate some of these efforts. Similarly, National Committees for UNICEF function as non-governmental organizations, to help mobilize greater support for UNICEF.

Learn about UNA-USA, which is now a part of the UN Foundation: www.unausa.org/
Learn about UNICEF National Committees: www.unicef.org/about/structure/index_natcoms.html
Learn about the UN Volunteers programme: www.unv.org

Non-governmental Organizations (NGOs)
As an inter-governmental body, the UN relies primarily on Member States but also welcomes grassroots initiatives to promote its work and ideas. Hundreds of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) rally support for the UN and influence legislation at the national level. Among these are organizations such as Amnesty International, Doctors without Borders, Lions Clubs and Rotary International. Find an organization working on issues you care about and get involved.

Donate Money
Almost 80% of United Nations resources are directed at promoting peace, building democracy, achieving higher standards of living and fostering economic and social progress. On the next page we have compiled a list of some of the organizations that will benefit from your help.

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United Nations Headquarters
New York - NY 10017
Tel: 212-963-4475 • Fax: 212-963-0071
Website: http://visit.un.org
Facebook: UNVisitorsCentre
| **United Nations** | Send contributions to:  
The United Nations accepts financial contributions that are consistent  
with the policies, aims and activities of the Organization.  
United Nations Treasury, Room: S-2011  
New York, NY 10017 |
| **Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS)** | Send contributions to:  
The main advocate for global action on HIV/AIDS, UNAIDS leads,  
strengthens and supports an expanded response to the epidemic.  
UNAIDS, Resource Mobilization  
20, Avenue Appia  
CH-1211 Geneva 27, Switzerland  
www.unaids.org/ |
| **Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)** | Send contributions to:  
OCHA helps to mobilize and coordinate effective and principled  
humanitarian action in partnership with national and international actors  
in order to alleviate human suffering and disasters in emergencies;  
advocates for the rights of people in need; promotes preparedness and  
prevention; and facilitates sustainable solutions.  
United Nations OCHA  
Room M-06020  
New York, NY 10017  
http://ochaonline.un.org/ |
| **United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF)** | Send contributions to:  
UNICEF works for the protection, survival and development of children.  
Two thirds of its funding is provided by government contributions, and  
one third by public support.  
UNICEF House, Programme Funding Officer,  
3 UN Plaza, 12th floor  
New York, NY 10017  
www.unicef.org/ |
| **United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)** | Send contributions to:  
UNDP advocates for change and connects countries to knowledge,  
experience and resources to help people build a better life. UNDP is on  
the ground in 166 countries, working with them to generate their own  
solutions to global and national development challenges.  
UNDP, Division for Resource Mobilization One  
United Nations Plaza  
New York, NY 10017  
www.undp.org/ |
| **United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)** | Send contributions to:  
UNESCO’s Co-Action Programme assists small grass-roots projects in the  
developing world, using funds raised from individuals and groups in  
industrialized nations. The initiatives are on a human scale and change  
the lives of local people.  
UNESCO New York Office  
2 United Nations Plaza  
Room: DC2-900, New York, NY 10017  
www.unesco.org/ |
| **United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)** | Send contributions to:  
UNHCR provides shelter, food and medical assistance to millions of  
refugees worldwide. From Kosovo to Mozambique, UNHCR’s operations  
are almost entirely funded by voluntary contributions.  
UNHCR, Case Postale 2500  
CH-1211 Genève 2 Dépôt, Switzerland  
www.unhcr.org/ |
| **United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)** | Send contributions to:  
UNFPA promotes the right of every woman, man and child to enjoy a life  
of health and equal opportunity. It supports countries in using  
population data for policies and programmes to reduce poverty and to  
sure that every pregnancy is wanted, every birth is safe, and every  
girl and woman is treated with dignity and respect.  
UNFPA Resource Mobilization Branch  
220 East 42nd Street, 23 Floor  
New York, NY 10017  
www.unfpa.org/ |
| **UN Women** | Send contributions to:  
UN Women, the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the  
Empowerment of Women, is a dynamic and strong champion for women  
and girls, providing them with a powerful voice at the global, regional  
and local levels.  
UN Women  
304 East 45th Street, 15th Floor  
New York, NY 10017  
Tel: +1 212 906-6400; Fax: +1 212 906-6705  
www.unwomen.org |
| **World Food Programme (WFP)** | Send contributions to:  
WFP provides relief food to the neediest and supports development  
activities through food for work programmes. It also helps meet  
emergency food needs created by natural disasters such as floods and  
earthquakes.  
Friends of WFP  
1819 L Street, NW, Suite 900  
Washington, D.C. 20036  
www.wfp.org/ |
| **World Health Organization (WHO)** | Send contributions to:  
WHO welcomes contributions from individuals and organizations. You  
may indicate that your contributions be sent “wherever needed most” or  
for specific programmes, such as AIDS, parasitic diseases, diarrhea,  
nutrition, water supply, etc.  
WHO, Regional Office for the Americas  
525 23rd Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20037-2897  
www.who.int/ |