

FACULTY OF JURIDICAL SCIENCES

COURSE: B.A.LL.B. 1II Semester

SUBJECT: Political science-III

SUBJECT CODE: BAL-301

NAME OF FACULTY: Dr. Shiv Kumar Tripathi

Lecture-28



UN Challenges & Reforms

UN Administrative & Financial-Resources Challenges

- **Development Reform: Sustainable Development Goals (Agenda 2030)** will require bold changes to the UN Development System (UNDS) for the emergence of a **new generation of country teams**, centred on a strategic UN Development Assistance Framework and led by an impartial, independent and empowered resident coordinator.
- **Management Reform:** To confront **global challenges and to remain relevant in a fast-changing world**, United Nations must empower managers and staff, simplifies processes, increases accountability and transparency and improves on the delivery of our mandates.
 - There are concerns for improving efficiency, avoidance of duplication, and the minimization of waste in the functioning of the entire UN system.
- **Financial Resources:** Contributions of the Member States should have, as their fundamental underpinning, the capacity to pay principle.
 - The Member States should pay their contributions unconditionally, in full and on time, as delays in payments have caused an unprecedented financial crisis in the UN system.
 - **Financial reforms** hold the key to the future of the world body. **Without sufficient resources**, the UN's activities and role would suffer.

Peace and Security issues

- **Threats to Peace and Security:** The range of potential threats to peace and security that UN has to face, are following-
 - poverty, disease, and environmental breakdown (the threats to human security identified in the **Millennium Development Goals**),
 - conflict between states,
 - violence and massive human rights violations within states,
 - terrorism threats from organized crime,
 - and the proliferation of weapons - particularly WMD, but also conventional.
- **Terrorism:** Nations that support groups that are widely linked to terrorism, such as Pakistan, are not held accountable specifically for these actions. To this date, the UN still does not have a clear definition of terrorism, and they have no plans to pursue one.
- **Nuclear Proliferation:** In 1970, the **nuclear non-proliferation treaty** was signed by 190 nations. Despite this treaty, nuclear stockpiles remain high, and numerous nations continue to develop these devastating weapons. **The failure of the non-proliferation treaty details the ineffectiveness of the United Nations** and their inability to enforce crucial rules and regulations on offending nations.

Security Council reforms

- **Composition of Security Council:** It has remained largely **static**, while the UN General Assembly membership has expanded considerably.
 - In 1965, the membership of the Security Council was expanded from 11 to 15. There was no change in the number of permanent members. Since then, the size of the Council has remained frozen.
 - This has undermined the representative character of the Council. An expanded Council, which is more representative, will also enjoy greater political authority and legitimacy.
 - India has been calling for the reform of the UN Security Council along with Brazil, Germany and Japan (G-4). The four countries support each others' bids for the permanent seats in the top UN body.
 - Any expansion of permanent members' category must be based on an agreed criteria, rather than be a pre-determined selection.
- **UNSC Veto power:** It is often observed that UN's effectiveness and responsiveness to international security threats depends on judiciously use of the UNSC veto.
 - **Veto Power:** The five permanent members enjoy the luxury of veto power; when a permanent member vetoes a vote, the Council resolution cannot be adopted, regardless of international support. Even if the other fourteen nations vote yes, a single veto will beat this overwhelming show of support.
 - There are **proposals on future of Veto power:**
 - limiting the use of the veto to vital national security issues;
 - requiring agreement from multiple states before exercising the veto;
 - abolishing the veto entirely;
 - Any reform of the veto will be very difficult:
 - **Articles 108 and 109** of the **United Nations Charter** grant the P5 (5 permanent members) veto over any amendments to the Charter, requiring them to approve of any modifications to the UNSC veto power that they themselves hold.

Non-Conventional Challenges

- Since its creation, UN is working with goal of safeguarding peace, protecting human rights, establishing the framework for international justice and promoting economic and social progress. New challenges, such as **climate change, refugees and population ageing are new fields** it has to work.
- **Climate Change:** From shifting weather patterns that threaten food production, to rising sea levels that increase the risk of catastrophic flooding, the impacts of climate change are global in scope and unprecedented in scale. Without drastic action today, adapting to these impacts in the future will be more difficult and costly.
- **Growing population:** The world population is projected to increase by more than one billion people within the next 15 years, reaching **8.5 billion in 2030**, and to increase further to 9.7 billion in 2050 and 11.2 billion by 2100.

- The world population growth rate must slow down significantly **to avoid reaching unsustainable levels.**
- **Population Ageing:** It is poised to become one of the most **significant social transformations** of the twenty-first century, with implications for nearly all sectors of society, including labour and financial markets, the demand for goods and services, such as housing, transportation and social protection, as well as family structures and intergenerational ties.
- **Refugees:** The world is witnessing the highest levels of displacement on record.
 - An unprecedented 65.6 million people around the world have been forced from home by conflict and persecution at the end of 2016.
 - Among them are nearly 22.5 million refugees, over half of whom are under the age of 18.
 - There are also 10 million stateless people, who have been denied a nationality and access to basic rights such as education, healthcare, employment and freedom of movement.

MCQ

1. The General Assembly of the United Nations have designated 1992 as:

- A. International Child Year
- B. International Space Year
- C. International year of the Family
- D. International year of Literacy

2. What is the term of United Nations Secretary General?

- 1. 3 years
- 2. 6 years

3. 4 years
4. 5 years

3 Who was the only Secretary General of the UNO to have died while in office?

1. U Thant
2. Dag Hammarskjöld
3. Trygve Lie
4. Kurt Waldheim

4. In which year was the UNO awarded the Nobel Peace Prize?

1. 1975
2. 1999
3. 2001
4. 2006

5. How many member countries did the UNO have on its formation in 1945?

1. 45
2. 48
3. 51
4. 54