

The General Assembly

*Main deliberative and policy making body of the United Nations; meets in regular annual session beginning on the third Tuesday of September or in special session or at the request of the Security Council.

*Composed of 193 members, each of which is entitled to send not more than 5 representatives

Current Officers: (Sep. 14, 2011-present)

President : Abdulaziz Al-Nasser (Qatar)

Vice President : Mohammad Khazaee (Iran)

Functions and powers of the General Assembly:

According to the Charter of the United Nations, the General Assembly may:

- Consider and make recommendations on the general principles of cooperation for maintaining international peace and security, including disarmament; (*Deliberative*)
- Discuss any question relating to international peace and security and, except where a dispute or situation is currently being discussed by the Security Council, make recommendations on it;
- Discuss, with the same exception, and make recommendations on any questions within the scope of the Charter or affecting the powers and functions of any organ of the United Nations; (*Supervisory*)
- Initiate studies and make recommendations to promote international political cooperation, the development and codification of international law, the realization of human rights and fundamental freedoms, and international collaboration in the economic, social, humanitarian, cultural, educational and health fields; (*Constituent*)
- Make recommendations for the peaceful settlement of any situation that might impair friendly relations among nations;
- Receive and consider reports from the Security Council and other United Nations organs;
- Consider and approve the United Nations budget and establish the financial assessments of Member States; (*Financial*)
- Elect the non-permanent members of the Security Council and the members of other United Nations councils and organs and, on the recommendation of the Security Council, appoint the Secretary-General. (*Elective*)
 - Each Member State in the Assembly has one vote. Votes taken on designated important issues, such as recommendations on peace and security and the election of Security Council members, require a two-thirds majority of Member States, but other questions are decided by simple majority.
 - The President, after having consulted and reached agreement with delegations, can propose that a resolution be adopted without a vote.

The Secretariat

- Chief administrative organ of UN
- Headed by the United Nations Secretary-General, and assisted by a staff of international civil servants worldwide.
- The United Nations Charter provides that the staff be chosen by application of the "highest standards of efficiency, competence, and integrity," with due regard for the importance of recruiting on a wide geographical basis.
- As of June 30 2010, the Secretariat has some 44,000 staff members around the world

The Secretary-General and the members of his staff are international officers solely responsible to the Organization and are prohibited from seeking or receiving instruction from any government or any other authority external to the United Nations.

Current Secretary-General: since Jan. 1, 2007

Ban Ki-Moon (Korea)

*Entitled to full diplomatic immunities and privileges which only the Security Council may waive.

*The immunities and privileges of other key-officials of the UN may be waived by the Secretary General.

*Secretary General also acts as secretary in all the meetings of the General Assembly, the Security Council and the Trusteeship Council.

*He prepares the budget of the UN for submission to the General Assembly

*He also performs such other functions as may be assigned to him by these organs.

Duties of the Secretariat:

- Administering Peacekeeping Operations
- Mediating International Disputes
- Surveying Economic and Social trends and problems
- Preparing studies on human rights and sustainable development
- Organizing international conferences on issues of worldwide concern
- Informing the world's communications media about the work of UN
- Interpreting speeches and translating documents into the Organization's official languages

UN's 6 Official Languages:

- English
- Chinese (Mandarin)
- Arabic
- French
- Russian
- Spanish