

**PENANG SANGAM HIGH SCHOOL
SOCIAL SCIENCE
YEAR 10**

Week- 8

HOW DOES A COUNTRY JOIN THE UNITED NATIONS

To become a member of the United Nations - a country must be:

1. peace-loving, willing to accept the aims and the rules of the charter and be judged by the United Nations as able to carry out these aims;
2. Recommended by the Security Council;
3. Confirmed by the General Assembly with a 2/3 majority vote.

HOW IS THE UNITED NATION FUNDED?

The United Nation is funded by the member countries with members paying a share of the UN budget according to the size of their economy along with other factors.

The United States of America is the biggest contributor to the United Nation budget.

THE STRUCTURE OF THE UNITED NATIONS ORGANIZATION

There are six main organs of the UN:

1. The General Assembly
2. The Security Council
3. The Secretariat
4. The International Court of Justice
5. The Trusteeship Council
6. The Economic and Social Council

1. **The General Assembly**

This is a meeting together of all representatives from all the member nations; each nation can send up to five representatives, though there is only one vote per nation. It meets once a year, starting in September and remaining in session for about three months, but special session can be called in times of crisis by the members themselves or by the Security Council.

Its function is to discuss and make decisions about international problems, to consider the UN budget and what amount each member should pay, to elect the Security Council members, and to supervise the work of many other UN bodies.

There are six official languages of the UN which are English, French, Russian, Chinese, Spanish and Arabic. All speeches and debates during the General Assembly meetings are translated into these languages.

2. **The Security Council**

This sits in permanent session and its function is to deal with crises as they arise, by whatever action seems appropriate, and if necessary, by calling on members to take economic or military action against an aggressor. The Council began with eleven members, five of them permanent (China, USA, USSR and Britain), and the other six elected by the General Assembly for two-year terms.

In 1965 the number of non-permanent members was increased to ten. Decisions need at least nine of the fifteen members to vote in favour, but these must include all five permanent members.

This means that any one of the permanent members can veto a decision and prevent any action being taken. In practice it has gradually been accepted that abstention by a permanent member does not count as a veto, but this has not been written into the charter.

Activity

1. How can a country join the United Nations?

2. How is the United Nations Funded?

3. Name any two organs of the United Nations Organisation.

4. Identify two functions of the General Assembly.

5. State two official languages of the United Nations.

6. Discuss two functions of the Security Council.

7. List the permanent members of the Security Council.

3. The Secretariat

This is the 'office staff' of the United Nation, and it consists of more than 50,000 employees.

They look after the administrative work, preparing minutes of meetings, translation and information.

It is headed by the Secretary General, who is appointed for a five year term by the Assembly on the recommendation of the Security Council. In order to ensure some degree of impartiality, he or she is not from one of the major powers.