

The UN - a Debating Club?

What the UN brings to a BPW member

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International Theme 2014-2017:

" Empowering Women To Realise The SDGs "

Founding of the UN

- UN Charter was signed in June 1945 in San Francisco by 50 States
- Succeeded the ineffective League of Nations
- Organization came into existence on the 24th of October 1945
- UN has today 193 Member States
- Switzerland has been a member since 2002

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Tasks

- Maintaining worldwide peace and security
- Developing friendly relations among nations
- Achieving international co-operation between nations in order to solve economic, social, cultural, or humanitarian international problems
- being a center for harmonizing the actions of nations
- Today also connecting the private sector with the UN and receive funding by the private sector for specific tasks

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Principal Organs



- *General Assembly* (all members of the UN, each Member State max. 5 representatives, only 1 vote – Legislative, chaired by a president who is elected for one year)

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Principal Organs



- *Security Council* (15 Member States, China, FR, RU, UK with Northern Ireland and USA permanent members - Executive)

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Principal Organs



- *Economic and Social Council*
(54 Member States, elected by the GA)

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Principal Organs



- *Trusteeship Council* (suspended operation 1994 – Palau, the last remaining UN Trust Territory became independant)

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Principal Organs



- *International Court of Justice*

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Principal Organs



- *Secretariat* (Secretary General with Departments and Offices)

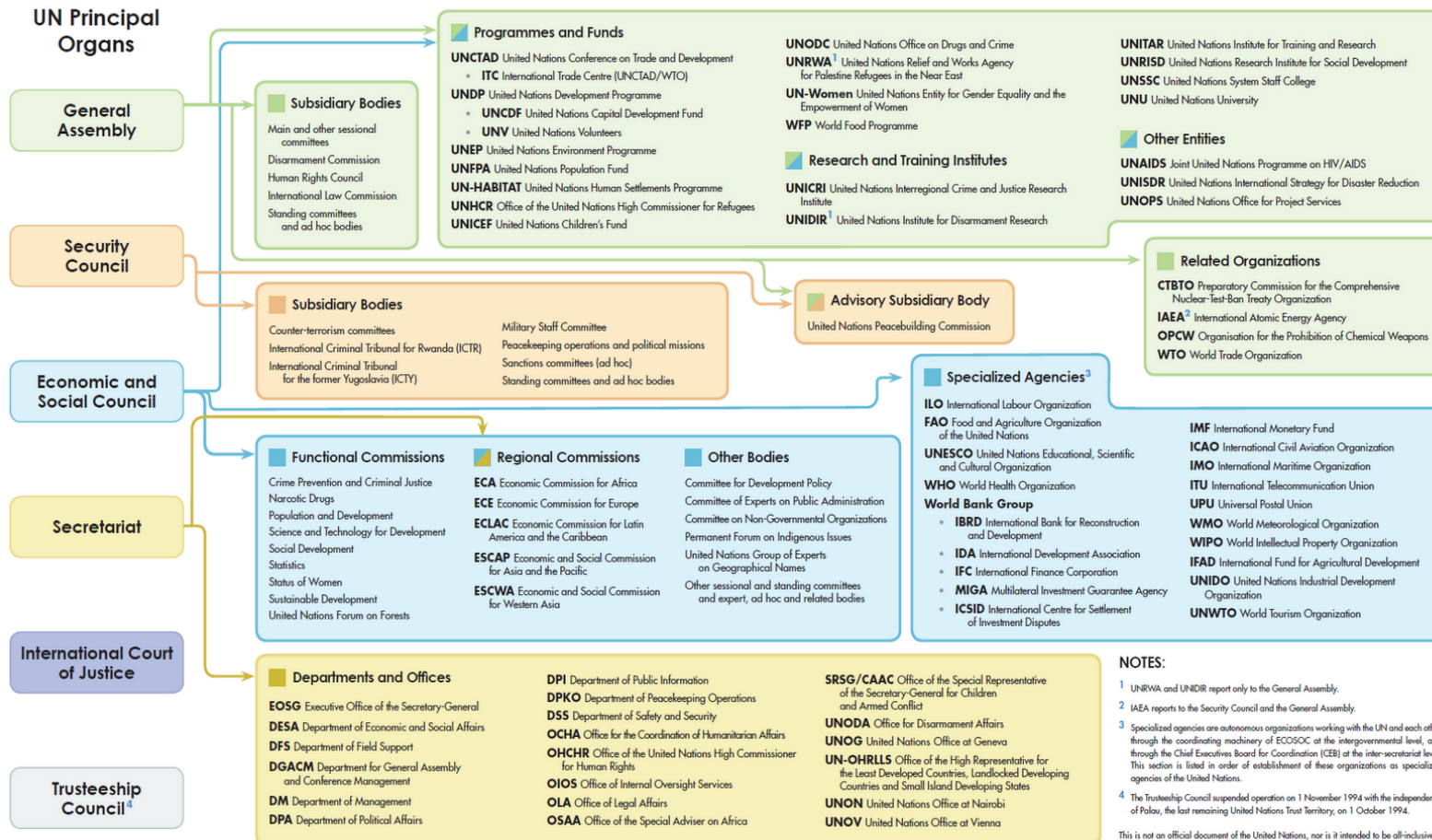
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The United Nations System



NOTES:

- ¹ UNRWA and UNIDIR report only to the General Assembly.
 - ² IAEA reports to the Security Council and the General Assembly.
 - ³ Specialized agencies are autonomous organizations working with the UN and each other through the coordinating machinery of ECOSOC at the intergovernmental level, and through the Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB) at the inter-secretariat level. This section is listed in order of establishment of these organizations as specialized agencies of the United Nations.
 - ⁴ The Trusteeship Council suspended operation on 1 November 1994 with the independence of Palau, the last remaining United Nations Trust Territory, on 1 October 1994.
- This is not an official document of the United Nations, nor is it intended to be all-inclusive.

Revised by the United Nations Department of Public Information, DPA/24/2011-10/001331, April 2011

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UNO Headquarters and Main Offices in New York, Geneva, Nairobi and Vienna



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Specialised Agencies: FAO, UNESCO



UNESCO, Paris



FAO, Rome

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Regional Offices Economic Commission for Africa – Addis Abeba

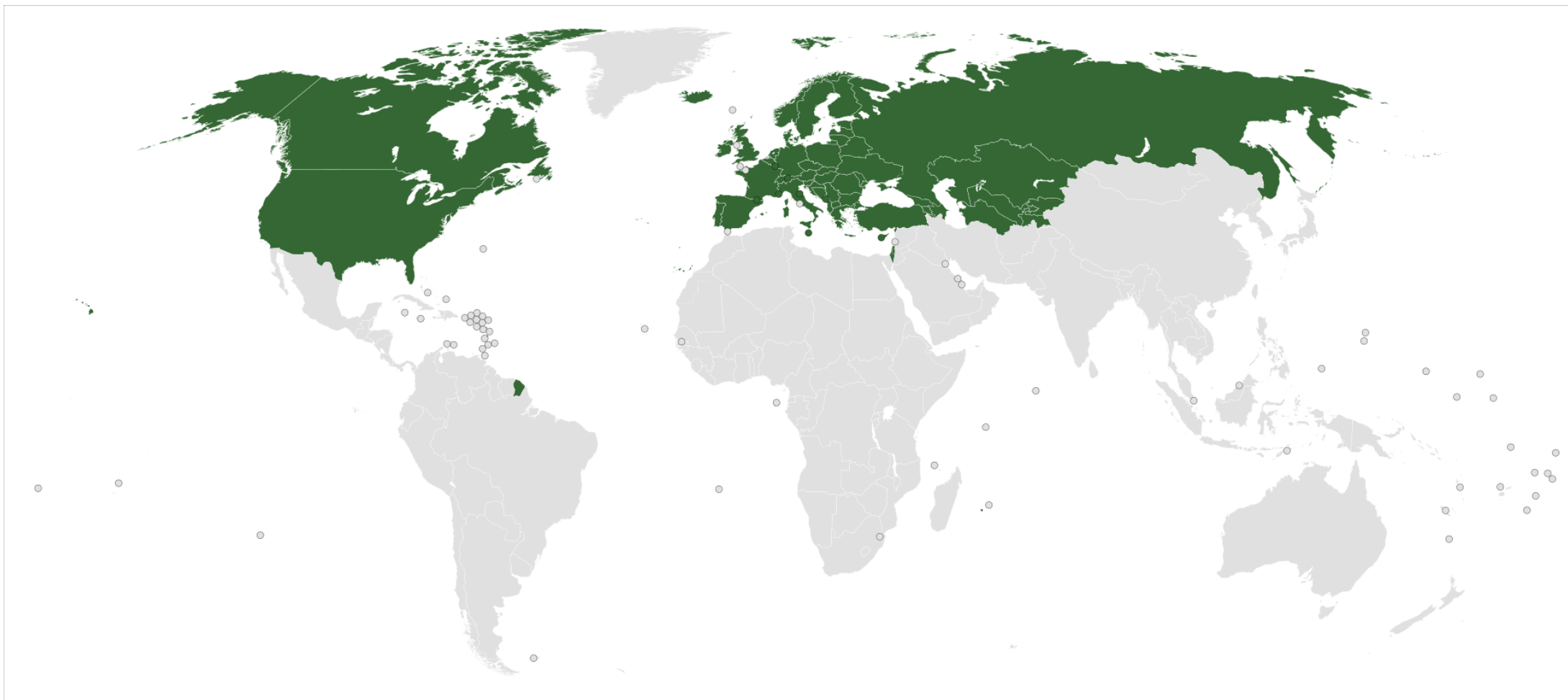


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Economic Commission for Europe in Geneva



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**Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
(ECLAC)
Santiago de Chile**



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UN ESCWA in Beirut

Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia



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UN ESCAP in Bangkok

Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific



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The UN in Geneva



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The UNO in Geneva

- 2/3 of all UN Conferences take place in Geneva
- 9'400 employees – die highest density of employees at the UN

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United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)

- In 1947 founded by the Economic and Social Council, one of the five regional commissions of the UN.
- The goal of UNECE is to further the pan-european economic integration. UNECE consists of 56 Member States in Europe, North-America and Asia.

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)

- Subsidiary body of the General Assembly of the UN.
- UNCTAD is governed by its 195 member states and is the UN body responsible for dealing with development issues, particularly international trade. It produces analyses that form the bases for recommendations to economic policy makers. It is also a forum where all country representatives can discuss ways to establish a better balance in the global economy.

Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) concluded in 1979

- The committee consists of 23 independent experts
- Its aim is to supervise the implementation of the convention of 1979.
- The member states have to submit every 4 years a report about the progress of the increase of women's rights. (Cities for CEDAW initiative)
- NGOs – shadow report
- 3 sessions of 3 weeks per year

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The Human Rights Council (UNHRC)

- The Human Rights Council is an inter-governmental body within the United Nations system made up of 47 States responsible for the promotion and protection of all human rights around the globe.
- The HRC is responsible for promoting universal respect for the protection of all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, without distinction of any kind and in a fair and equal manner.
- It is mandated to consider violations of human rights, including gross und systemic violations, and to make recommendations.
- The HRC also promotes the effective coordination and mainstreaming of human rights within the UN system.
- 3 Sessions at three weeks year in Geneva. Evaluation of the situation in the member states including the reports of civil society.

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International Labour Organisation (ILO)

- The only tripartite UN agency, since 1919 the ILO brings together governments, employers and workers of 187 member States to set
- labour standards
- develop policies
- devise programs promoting decent work for all women and men.
- The main aims of the ILO are to promote rights at work, encourage decent employment opportunities, enhance social protection and strengthen dialogue on work-related issues.
- General Assembly: 2 weeks at the end of May/beginning of June

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World Health Organization (WHO)

- WHO works worldwide to promote health, keep the world safe, and serve the vulnerable.
- Its goal is to ensure that a billion more people have universal health coverage, to protect a billion more people from health emergencies, and provide a further billion people with better health and well-being.
- The Executive meets in January, the General Assembly takes place in May

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Lena Madesin Phillips (1881-1955)

Aim:

- Equality of Women, especially economic equality
- President of IFBPW until 1947

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The Role of IFBPW at the United Nations

Since 1947 IFBPW has consultative status at the UN through the Economic and Social Council – ECOSOC.

- IFBPW can make oral and written statements before and during the Commission on Status of Women (CSW)
- IFBPW can make oral and written statements at any conference where civil society gets time to talk

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The Role of IFBPW at the UN

- UNO NGO representatives are usually invited by their countries to share opinions and priorities before important conferences (e.g. Commission on Status of Women – CSW) and to meet the government delegation – influence on national level
- As an organization which is present in over 110 countries, IFBPW can help the affiliates to write so called shadow reports
- IFBPW can voice its concerns alone or together with other NGOs in specific statements

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The Role of IFBPW at the UN

- In a case of mobbing, abuse at the workplace etc. IFBPW can help its members through its activities at the Human Rights Council in making complaints against e.g. a multinational company.

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The Role of IFBPW at the UN

- Through partnerships e.g. with the International Trade Center (ITC) IFBPW can help its members to position them better in the business world.

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The Role of IFBPW at the UN



Project Fistula Women in Burkina Faso – UNFBA donates car

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The Role of IFBPW at the UN

- Specific projects in developing countries can get support through the UN (e.g. Fistula women)

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The Role of IFBPW at the UN

- IFBPW is member of several NGO groups (NGO CSW, NGO HR and the umbrella organization CONGO) with which it organizes conferences on gender issues.

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Conferences open to BPW Members



Registration: www.bpw-un.org/unforumbhr

Until September 30, 2019

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Conferences for IFBPW members



CSW64 (2018) in New York: 9 to 20 March 2020.

Topic: Review at the occasion of the 25th anniversary
the implementation of the Beijing Platform of Action

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The UN – a debating Club ?

- Up to a certain extent, **b u t**
- Member States exposed to a large variety – also very progressive – cultures.
- In reporting they are critically questioned and have to explain behaviour that is not acceptable --» change of mentality over time
- A platform where Member States can peacefully exchange ideas
- A platform where also civil society can have an influence



Thank you for your attention!

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