UNITED NATIONS ORGANIZATION

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Abstract: The tumultuous history of mankind, marked by a series of conflicts, especially armed conflicts, has led to the establishment of an international organization to support economic and social development in peace, being known as the United Nations Organization. Its actions are in the direction of maintaining peace, promoting human rights, promoting technology and economic development.
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Short presentation of the UN

Founded by the governments of a world consumed by wars, the UN was meant to defend peace and support social and economic progress. Even if it does not have global authority, it has made significant progress.

The history of humanity is full of conflicts and injustices. The attempts to stop them have only been partially successful, both in the 20th century and in earlier times. The destructive capacities of modern weaponry and the scale of the wars have made the need for commitments to ensure that world peace becomes a much more stringent subject than in previous years.

The real turning point was the First World War. The carnage was so scary that many people decided to never repeat it. The idea was also encouraged by governments, claiming that they would "lead a war that would end to all wars." And when the US saw themselves involved in the conflict, one of the Fourteen Points presented in January 1918 by US President Woodrow Wilson was the establishment of a "General Association of Nations." As a result, after the end of the war, the League of Nations was established in 1919. The League has had good results as a humanitarian organization but has failed to prevent aggression and to maintain world peace. Its authority was weakened from the start by the absence of the United States, where Wilson's political proposals were rejected by an isolationist Congress. Then, in Italy, Germany and Japan there were militarist regimes installed. They defied internationalism and the democratic powers wanted to avoid another war at all costs. The League could not do much to penalize Japan's aggression against China or the Italian invasion of Abyssinia (1935). When Adolf Hitler embraced expansionist policy, at the beginning (1936 - 1939) the United Kingdom and France stood quiet, and then (1939) declared war on Germany without informing the League.

In the course of the subsequent world conflagration, the Allies presented themselves as fighters for peace, freedom, and decency against barbaric fascism. In 1941, after a naval meeting in the middle of the ocean, Winston Churchill and Franklin D. Roosevelt issued the Atlantic Charter, a set of

principles that many other states joined in the course of time. The number of allied states is always changing, and reference is made to them as the "United Nations," and with the nearing end of the war that name means a new association of states that would take on the League of Nations' tasks.

In February 1945, Roosevelt, Churchill and Stalin reached an agreement. In April next year, an international conference began in San Francisco to start drafting the United Nations Charter, and on 24 October 1945 the United Nations Organization was established.

Among the goals set out in the Charter were those to end the war and to fight for human rights, tolerance, economic and social progress. None of these, nor the UN core organization, have changed significantly since 1945. The "Parliament" of the UN is the General Assembly in which each member state is represented and has one vote. Except in cases of urgency, the general meeting convenes only once a year, most of the tasks being solved by the committees. Weak points of view are made public through resolutions.

The Security Council

Member states have often ignored the resolutions criticizing their actions. The decision to implement a resolution depends on the Security Council, consisting of 5 permanent members (USA, UK, France, China, and Russia) and a selection of other states that are changing, consisting of non-permanent members. When problems are purely legal, disputes between members can be resolved at the International Court of Justice in The Hague.

The members of the General Assembly and the Security Council represent their own countries but there is also a Secretariat made up of people working directly for the United Nations who take into account the interests of this body. At their head is the Secretary-General elected by the General Assembly, he travels tirelessly around the world to troubled areas to investigate, negotiate, or draw up reports.

The United Nations structure also includes several committees and agencies that are headed by the UN Economic and Social Council, or linked to it in one way or another. The best known are UNESCO, UNICEF and WHO (World Health Organization). These and other bodies have worked intensively for decades to address a wide range of issues, including the repatriation of refugees, the eradication of diseases such as smallpox, disaster relief, the fight against illiteracy and the use of children for work, human rights violations, and lately people's awareness of environmental issues. The UN achievements in these areas are sometimes overlooked, especially when new problems appear faster than the old ones are removed.

More attention has always been paid to the role of the UN peacekeeping, which has been judged very severely. After 1945, there was no world war, only smaller conflicts appeared all over the world, and weapon arsenals were stored,

capable of destroying the entire life of the planet. The UN mediated several conflicts, but virtually failed to stop them or even impose the adoption of a solution. In fact, this is not surprising. The UN has no funds or forces: the United Nations troops are formed with the support of the member states whose contributions (often paid late or even unpaid) finance the organization's activities, so the UN cannot achieve only what its members allows it to. Throughout its existence, there was deep split-ups between them.

The largest split took place during the Cold War. The rivalry for power between the two blocks has spread all over the world, with only a few subjects attracting everyone's adhesion. This has paralyzed the work of the Security Council because, according to its rules of procedure, any major decision having the support of the majority could be blocked by a single veto vote given by a single permanent member.

There was only one exception to this situation: the USSR left the Security Council because China continued to be represented in the Council by the defeated nationalists instead of the Communists who, in fact, ruled the country. Thus, when, in 1950, North Korea invaded South Korea, the Security Council made mostly of western countries could authorize military action to halt the aggression of the North. The United Nations forces, mainly formed by American troops, rejected the North Koreans but then invaded the North - an operation that seemed to be a western contract rather than a United Nations peacekeeping operation, but neither the proposed objective was reached because China was drawn into a war that lasted two years and ended with an impasse. The whole episode was daunting for those who hoped the UN would become a world authority.

Realignment

For a few years, most UN members supported the West, later, after the decolonization led to the emergence of new states, the third world often aligned with the communist bloc and the US, were those who vetoed some actions, such as the situation in the Middle East. In the meantime, the United Nations could not prevent aggressions, such as the suppression of the Hungarian rebellion (1956) and the "Spring of Prague" (1968) reforms by the soviets, and actions against communist dictatorships or racist regimes (such as those in South Africa) were weakened by the fears of the West that their collapse could lead to the communists taking over the power.

Even when there were agreements between the major powers regarding some measures, there were very strict limits on the measures that the UN forces could take. It was agreed that no active intervention should be undertaken in the internal affairs of the member states, however repressive the government was. When the UN forces were required as peacekeepers, they were supposed to use force only as a form of defence. Budget and other considerations made

their number smaller, and the states contributing with units of their armed forces wanted to avoid massive losses. Peacekeeping operations were practically carried out only until the two sides involved in the conflict agreed to stand apart. When the Turkish forces invaded the Greek territories in Cyprus (1974), the UN forces guarding the border had nothing to do but to set aside, and whenever hostilities broke out between India and Pakistan, Kashmir's peacekeeping forces were just as helpless until a new armistice.

In other words, a world formed of independent and sovereign states could not be the world in which the UN has a decisive influence. It "failed," but only in the sense that most people were making unrealistic assumptions about the achievements they could have achieved. Looking more realistically, one can admit that the UN could not do much to prevent conflicts. The UN offers opportunities and negotiating opportunities and tries to prevent, limit or end hostilities, representing a real force in the service of good, in a violent world.

In the late 1980s, with the collapse of communism and the end of the cold war and the division of the world into armed camps, new hopes emerged. The "rebound" effect of these events was also very important, leading to the collapse of the single-party states, undermining the dictators to whom anti-communism no longer guaranteed the US support and depriving civil war combatants of the support of one or both super powers.

As a result, the UN undertook a feverish activity in the field of armistice negotiation and election supervision. The elections in Namibia, formerly led by South Africa, have been eradicated. In 1991, the UN set up a system of amnesty that allowed the return of exiles and lifted the international ban on cultural and sports ties with South Africa. Promising peace agreements have been concluded, even if still fragile, in the troubled countries - Angola, Mozambique, El Salvador and Cambodia. And above all, during the Gulf crisis of 1990-1991, the world community seemed ready and capable of acting decisively.

The new world order

During this period, the US President George Bush often referred to "the new world order," and some began to hope that the UN could become involved in world governance. This optimistic approach, however, overlooked the exceptional circumstances of the Gulf War in which the West was strongly motivated to intervene in force.

The UN boundaries have become even more evident in the conflicts in the former Yugoslavia. The UN forces have been sent to protect minorities and valuable initiatives have been taken, but both the US and the EC, although prepared to face air strikes, have avoided engaging in the dangerous confrontation of the three belligerents.

The events of the 1990s in Angola, Haiti, Liberia and elsewhere have again demonstrated the UN's difficulties in imposing its own decisions, but the

willingness to act persists. In 1992, the US troops preceded an UN intervention in the troubled Somali, but risked involvement in an "armed duel" with the local warriors. The massive withdrawal of the UN troops in June 1995 left the country in turmoil. Secretary General Boutros-Ghali (1992-1996) made some very clear proposals to strengthen the organization, such as the creation of a UN weapon and more funding, but it was up to the member states to agree.

The UN International Court of Justice has made the important beginning of trials in war crimes cases in former Yugoslavia (1993) and Rwanda (1995). Their failure to arrest the military and political suspects threatened the credibility of this important aspect of the UN.

History makers

After Javier Perez de Cuellar, Boutros Boutros-Ghali became UN Secretary-General between 1992-1996. Born in an important family of politicians from Egypt, he became law professor at the University of Cairo in 1949. After a university and diplomatic career, he joined the Egyptian government (1977) and was involved in negotiating the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty (1979). He was the first Arab and African General Secretary. He led a process of major reformation of the UN and promoted the strengthening of the UN's influence on the world stage.

References
- *UN Charter*

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