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The environment plays a pivotal role in lifting people out of poverty, in ending hunger, in growing our economies, in building peaceful, just and inclusive societies, and in promoting the health of our people and this planet. In this vain the United Nations which is the largest, most familiar, most internationally represented and most powerful intergovernmental organization that aims to maintain international peace and security, develop friendly relations among nations, achieve international cooperation and be a centre for harmonizing the actions of nations is saddled with the responsibility to come up with plans and rules that will guide countries towards its effort of making the planet a more habitable place for years to come.

The effect that humanity is having on the environment is becoming ever-more important. Through our actions we are destroying habitats and endangering the lives of future generations. Due to these various environmental issues such as Ozone Depletion, Greenhouse Effect and Global Warming, Desertification, Deforestation, Loss of Biodiversity, Disposal of Wastes have caused for serious questioning on the handling of environmental protection rules. Over the years bodies have been created with the responsibility of Environmental Protection and they include High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD), Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), UN Forum on Forests.

The creation, implementation and enforcements of duties by these bodies are enabled by the different organs in the United nations. The UN has six principal organs but our focus will be on the Five (5) specific organs which are concerned primarily with environmental protection, and they include the General Assembly; the Security Council; the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC); the International Court of Justice; and the UN Secretariat.

**General Assembly**

The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA or GA) serving as the main deliberative, policy-making, and representative organ of the UN. All [193 Member States](http://www.un.org/en/members/) of the UN are represented in the General Assembly, making it the only UN body with universal representation. Decisions on important questions, such as those on peace and security, admission of new members and budgetary matters, require a two-thirds majority of the General Assembly. Here also decisions based on environmental protection and climate change are discussed and decisions on other questions are by simple majority.  The General Assembly, each year, elects a [GA President](http://www.un.org/pga/) to serve a one-year term of office. The agenda for each session is planned up to seven months in advance and its resolutions are finalised by voting but are not enforceable unless on budgetary manners

**Security Council**

The [Security Council](https://www.un.org/securitycouncil/) has primary responsibility, under the UN Charter, for the maintenance of international peace and security.  It has 15 Members ([5 permanent and 10 non-permanent members](https://www.un.org/securitycouncil/content/current-members)). Each Member has one vote. Under the Charter, all Member States are obligated to comply with Council decisions. The Security Council takes the lead in determining the existence of a threat to the peace or act of aggression. It calls upon the parties to a dispute to settle it by peaceful means and recommends methods of adjustment or terms of settlement. In some cases, the Security Council can resort to imposing sanctions or even authorize the use of force to maintain or restore international peace and security. its powers include establishing peacekeeping operations, enacting international sanctions, and authorizing military action it could be regarded as the executive arm of the United Nations. The Security Council has a [Presidency](https://www.un.org/securitycouncil/content/presidency), which rotates, and changes, every month.

**Economic and Social Council**

The [Economic and Social Council](http://www.un.org/en/ecosoc/) is the principal body for coordination, policy review, policy dialogue and recommendations on economic, social and environmental issues, as well as implementation of internationally agreed development goals. It serves as the central mechanism for activities of the UN system and its specialized agencies in the economic, social and environmental fields, supervising subsidiary and expert bodies.  It has [54 Members](http://www.un.org/en/ecosoc/about/members.shtml), elected by the General Assembly for overlapping three-year terms. It is the United Nations’ central platform for reflection, debate, and innovative thinking on [sustainable development](http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/).

**International Court of Justice**

The [International Court of Justice](http://www.icj-cij.org/homepage/index.php?lang=en) is the principal judicial organ of the United Nations. It settles disputes between states and gives [advisory opinions](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Advisory_opinions) on international legal issues referred to it by the UN. Its opinions and rulings serve as [sources of international law](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sources_of_international_law). Its seat is at the Peace Palace in the Hague (Netherlands). It is the only one of the six principal organs of the United Nations not located in New York (United States of America). The Court’s role is to settle, in accordance with international law, legal disputes submitted to it by States and to give advisory opinions on legal questions referred to it by authorized United Nations organs and specialized agencies. Matters of breach in climate treaties between nations and its penalties are settled here. The ICJ is composed of fifteen judges elected to nine-year terms by the [UN General Assembly](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_Nations_General_Assembly) and the [UN Security Council](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_Nations_Security_Council) from a list of people nominated by the national groups in the [Permanent Court of Arbitration](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Permanent_Court_of_Arbitration). This can be regarded as the Judiciary arm of the United nations.

**Secretariat**

The [Secretariat](https://www.un.org/en/sections/about-un/secretariat/index.html) comprises the [Secretary-General](https://www.un.org/sg/) and tens of thousands of international UN staff members who carry out the day-to-day work of the UN as mandated by the General Assembly and the Organization's other principal organs.  The Secretary-General is [chief administrative officer](https://www.un.org/sg/en/content/role-secretary-general) of the Organization, appointed by the General Assembly on the recommendation of the Security Council for a five-year, renewable term. UN staff members are recruited internationally and locally, and work in duty stations and on peacekeeping missions all around the world.  But serving the cause of peace in a violent world is a dangerous occupation.