

NAME: ABAI OMOLOLA MARY

DEPARTMENT: Chemical Engineering

MATRIC NUMBER: 15/ENG01/001

COURSE CODE: CHE 584

COURSE NAME: ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION AND CONTROL

ANSWER

GENERAL ASSEMBLY (unga):

The General Assembly is composed of all member states of the United Nations, each state having one vote. Article 13 UN Charter states that one of the functions of the UN General Assembly is to initiate studies and make recommendations for the purpose of 'promoting international co-operation in the economic, social, cultural, educational and health fields and assisting in the realisation of human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion'. Accordingly, the UNGA adopted the Universal Declaration on Human Rights (UDHR) on 10 December 1948 and, since then, a number of other human rights instruments.

Most human rights issues that the UNGA deals with are laid out in reports of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) or in resolutions adopted by the UNGA at earlier sessions. The UNGA refers most issues regarding human rights to its Third Committee, which is responsible for social, humanitarian and cultural issues. The Sixth Committee (Legal Committee) also deals occasionally with human rights issues.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL:

In contrast to the UNGA, the Economic and Social Council consists of only 54 members. ECOSOC was established under the UN Charter as the principal organ to coordinate economic, social, and

related work of the fourteen UN specialised agencies, functional commissions and five regional commissions. The Council also receives reports from eleven UN funds and programmes. Article 62 of the UN Charter states that the ECOSOC 'may make recommendations for the purpose of promoting respect for and observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms for all'. The ECOSOC may also submit draft conventions to the UNGA and organise international conferences. Under the provisions of Article 68, the ECOSOC can set up commissions in economic and social fields and for the promotion of human rights. Article 64 empowers the ECOSOC to make arrangements with the UN member states and its Specialised Agencies to obtain reports on the steps taken to put its own recommendations and those of the UNGA into effect.

The ECOSOC has established a number of important commissions in the sphere of human rights: a) the former UN Commission on Human Rights and its Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights; b) the Commission on the Status of Women; c) the Commission for Social Development; and d) the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice.

In carrying out its mandate, ECOSOC consults with academics, business sector representatives and more than 2,100 registered non-governmental organisations.

UN HUMAN RIGHT COUNCIL:

The Human Rights Council (the Council) is the principle UN intergovernmental body responsible for human rights. It was established by UNGA resolution 60/251 on 15 March 2006. The Council replaced the Commission on Human Rights (the Commission), assuming most of its mandates, mechanisms and responsibilities. The Commission was increasingly criticized for being politicised and selective and some members used the body to avoid criticism for human rights violations instead of for the promotion and protection of human rights. The former UN Secretary-General, Kofi Annan, claimed that the Commission suffered a credibility deficit which cast a shadow on the reputation of the UN system as a whole. He therefore instituted a comprehensive reform of the body.

HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL ADVISORY COMMITTEE:

The Human Rights Council Advisory Committee is a subsidiary body of the Council. It serves mainly as a think tank, providing expertise focusing on studies and research on thematic issues pertaining to the promotion and protection of human rights. The Advisory Committee can make suggestions to the Council to enhance its own procedural efficiency and to further research proposals within the scope of its work but has no power to adopt resolutions or decisions. The 18

Advisory Committee members serve in their personal capacity for a period of three years and are eligible for The United Nations re-election only once. Membership consists of 5 members from Africa, 5 from Asia, 2 from Eastern European states, 3 from Latin America and Caribbean States and 3 from Western Europe and other states. The Advisory Committee convenes twice each year for a total of up to 10 working days, and can hold additional ad hoc sessions with the Council's approval. The Human Rights Advisory Committee replaced the Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights.

THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE OFFICE OF THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS (OHCHR):

The High Commissioner is the principal UN official with responsibility for human rights and is accountable to the Secretary-General. The position of the High Commissioner for Human Rights was created in 1993.

The High Commissioner for Human Rights has the rank of Under-Secretary-General and reports directly to the Secretary-General. The mandate (UNGA Resolution 48/141) entails, inter alia:

- a) Promoting and protecting the effective enjoyment by all of all civil, cultural, economic, political and social rights;
- b) Carrying out the tasks assigned to him/her by bodies of the United Nations system in the field of human rights and making recommendations to them with a view to improving the promotion and protection of all human rights;
- c) Promoting and protecting the realisation of the right to development and enhancing support from relevant bodies of the United Nations system for this purpose;
- d) Providing, through the Centre for Human Rights and other appropriate institutions, advisory services, technical, and financial assistance at the request of the state concerned and, where appropriate, the regional human rights organisations, with a view to supporting actions and programmes in the field of human rights;
- e) Co-ordinating relevant United Nations education and public information programmes in the field of human rights;
- f) Playing an active role in removing the current obstacles and in meeting the challenges to the full realisation of all human rights and in preventing the continuation of human rights violations throughout the world, as reflected in the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action;
- g) Engaging in a dialogue with all Governments on the implementation of his/her mandate with a view to securing respect for all human rights;

- h) Enhancing international co-operation for the promotion and protection of all human rights;
- i) Co-ordination of the human rights promotion and protection activities throughout the United Nations system;
- j) Rationalisation, adaptation, strengthening and streamlining of the United Nations machinery in the field of human rights with a view to improving its efficiency and effectiveness