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CHEMICAL ENGINEERING

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1. List and explain briefly, five specific organs of the united nation that are concerned primarily with environmental protection.

The **United Nations (UN)** is an intergovernmental organization that aims to maintain international peace and security, develop friendly relations among nations, achieve international cooperation, and be a center for harmonizing the actions of nations. It is the largest, most familiar, most internationally represented and most powerful intergovernmental organization in the world.

The UN has six principal organs: **The General Assembly; the Security Council; the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC); the Trusteeship Council; the International Court of Justice; and the UN Secretariat.** The UN System includes The United Nations and its subsidiary bodies (such as the separately-administered funds and programs, research and training institutes, and other subsidiary entities), specialized agencies, and affiliated organizations. Some of the specialized agencies are the World Bank Group, the World Health Organization, the World Food Programme, UNESCO, and UNICEF. [1]

The UN leads environmental policy development through the work of some key bodies which are:

1. World Meteorological Organization (WMO)
2. United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
3. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)
4. United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF)
5. United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD)

World Meteorological Organization (WMO)

This is an intergovernmental organization with a membership of 193 member states and Territories. It followed on from the International Meteorological Organization, founded in 1873, a non-governmental organization. It formally became the World Meteorological Organization on 17 March 1951, and was designated as a specialized agency of the United Nations. The organization is headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland[2]. Its strategic plans include:

- Disaster risk reduction
- The Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS)
- The WMO Integrated Global Observing System (WIGOS)
- Aviation meteorological services
- Polar and high mountain regions
- Capacity development
- Governance[2]

United Nations Environment Program (UNEP)

In the 1970s, the need for environmental governance at a global level was not universally accepted, particularly by developing nations. Some argued that environmental concerns were not a priority for nations in poverty.

The need of the developing laws led to the 1972 United Nations Conference on the Human Environment (the Stockholm Conference) to tackle the pollution caused by the industrial revolution during the 1960s and 1970s. In this conference, various topics including marine life, protection of resources, environment change, disasters related to nature, and biological change were discussed.” This conference resulted in a Declaration on the Human Environment (Stockholm Declaration) and the establishment of an

environmental management body, which later was named United Nations Environment Program (UNEP)". The Headquarters were established in Nairobi, Kenya.[3]

This body is responsible for coordinating the UN's environmental activities and assisting developing countries in implementing environmentally sound policies and practices and aims to help the world meet the 17 Sustainable Development Goals. Over the last thirty years, it has increasingly focused on climate change, helping create or implement environmental treaties and institutions such as Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change(IPCC) in which it joined the World Meteorological Organization in 1988.As a program of the United Nations, UN Environment is funded solely by voluntary contributions.[3]

Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change is a specialized expert body to review scientific research and report to policy makers. It was established jointly by the UN Environmental Programme (UNEP) and World Meteorological Organization (WMO) in 1988, and endorsed by General Assembly resolution 43/53 of 6 December 1988.[4]

Network of scientists and experts who review scientific research on the climate change and prepare reports for policy makers; the reports aim to provide the world with a clear scientific view on the current state of knowledge in climate change and its potential environmental and socio-economic impacts. Five assessment reports have been completed in 1990, 1995, 2001, 2007 and 2013.[4]

United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF)

The UN Forum on Forests is a subsidiary of ECOSOC; it took over the tasks of two predecessor bodies (The Inter-governmental Forum on Forests, IFF and the Ad hoc Inter-governmental panel on Forests, IPF). It was established by ECOSOC resolution 2000/35 of 18 Oct. 2000 with the main objective to promote "... the management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests and to

strengthen long-term political commitment to this end...” based on some key milestones of international forest policy. The Forum meets annually and reports to the Economic and Social Council. [4];[5]

The functions of the organization include:

- To facilitate implementation of forest-related agreements and foster a common understanding on sustainable forest management.
- To provide for continued policy development and dialogue among Governments, international organizations, including major groups, as identified in Agenda 21 as well as to address forest issues and emerging areas of concern in a holistic, comprehensive and integrated manner.
- To enhance cooperation as well as policy and programme coordination on forest-related issues.
- To foster international cooperation .
- To monitor, assess and report on progress of the above functions and objectives.
- To strengthen political commitment to the management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests.[5]

United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD)

This body is a subsidiary of ECOSOC with primary responsibility for environmental questions. It was established by the UN General Assembly in December 1992 to ensure effective follow-up of United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), also known as the Earth Summit. From its inception, the CSD was highly participatory in structure and outlook, by engaging in its formal proceedings a wide range of official stakeholders and partners through innovative formulae. Since its establishment in 1992, the Commission has greatly advanced the sustainable development agenda within the international community.[6]

The Commission met annually and reported to the Economic and Social Council and often served as the preparatory body for major conferences on environmental issues. It was superseded by the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, in accordance with General Assembly resolution.[4]

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