

The Work of the United Nations

Work Area	Example Committees	Example Topics
<p>Peace & Security</p> <p>The first purpose of the UN is “to maintain international peace and security,” also referred to as collective security.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General Assembly First Committee: Disarmament and International Security (DISEC) • General Assembly Fourth Committee: Special Political and Decolonization (SPECPOL) • UN Security Council (UNSC) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nuclear Disarmament • Terrorism • Small Arms • Drug Trafficking • Peacekeeping • Israel-Palestine • Syria • Ukraine • Central African Republic
<p>Development</p> <p>Most of the UN’s work surrounds international development, specifically helping the world’s poorest and eradicating extreme poverty.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General Assembly Second Committee: Economic and Financial (ECOFIN) • Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) • United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poverty • Hunger • Education • Preventable Diseases • HIV/AIDS • Water and Sanitation • Environment
<p>Human Rights</p> <p>The UN was founded following the horrors of World War II. In that spirit, its work includes defining human rights and assisting vulnerable groups.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General Assembly 3rd Committee: Social, Humanitarian, and Cultural (SOCHUM) • UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC) • United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Women’s Rights • Children’s Rights • Indigenous People • Civil and Political Rights • Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights • Human Trafficking • Genocide
<p>Humanitarian Affairs</p> <p>The UN helps people suffering from natural disasters, such as earthquakes and hurricanes, and man-made disasters, including civil war and armed conflict.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UN High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) • World Food Programme (WFP) • United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refugees • Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) • Natural Disasters • Food Security
<p>International Law</p> <p>The UN is dedicated to promoting the rule of law as a peaceful way to settle disputes instead of armed conflict. This includes lawsuits between states and prosecuting individuals who have allegedly committed human rights violations.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General Assembly 6th Committee: Legal • International Court of Justice • International Criminal Court 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Croatia v. Serbia (Genocide) • DR Congo v. Uganda (Armed Conflict) • Bolivia v. Chile (Law of the Sea) • The Prosecutor v. Omar Al-Bashir (Darfur) • The Prosecutor v. Joseph Kony (Uganda)

Source: <http://www.un.org/en/>