



THE UNITED NATIONS

UN Beginnings:

1. **United Nations Conference on International Organization**, made up of representatives from 50 countries, met in San Francisco: April - June 26 1945
2. **UN Charter signed** by 50 nations in San Francisco on June 26, 1945 with Poland signing on October 15 as one of the 51 Member States
3. **United Nations officially** came into existence on 24 October 1945, when the Charter was ratified by China, France, Soviet Union, United Kingdom, United States and by a majority of other signatories. United Nations Day is celebrated on 24 October annually.

193 nations, South Sudan is the most recent in 2011

8 Secretary-Generals to date (2015) Current Secretary General Ban Ki Moon; 25,000 persons from 150 countries working at the UN at the Secretariat / 29 affiliated organizations;

General Assembly: includes all 193 members, 1 nation 1 vote

- 2/3 majority needed on important issues
- Simple majority need on routine matters
- Convenes every year in September for 3 months
- Approves the budget for 2 year periods and apportions expenses
- Nation may lose their vote if in arrears over 2 years

SECURITY COUNCIL: 15 members

- Permanent members: China, France, Russia, United Kingdom, United States
- Other 10 elected by General Assembly for 2 year terms, 5 elected each year:
 - Chad, Chile, Jordan, Lithuania, Nigeria -- term end 2015
 - Angola, Malaysia, New Zealand, Spain, Venezuela – term ends 2016
- 9 votes needed on procedural matters
- 9 votes must include all permanent members on all matters

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL: 54 members

- Elected by the General Assembly for 3 year terms, 18 each year

TRUSTESHIP COUNCIL: no longer any trusteeships

INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE (WORLD COURT): 15 judges elected by the General Assembly and the Security Council to 9-year terms; may be re-elected

BUDGET: set by General Assembly for 2 year periods, funded by member states