

International Organizations

[UPSC Notes]

What are International Organizations?

International organizations are institutions drawing membership from a minimum of three states. They have activities in several states, and it includes members from more than one nation. There are very large international organizations as well as small organizations as well. Some of the organizations have specific purposes, such as conservation of species, etc.

Types of International Organizations

There are two types of international organizations: Governmental and non-governmental

- International Governmental Organizations (IGOs) are the associations of states established by treaty that aims to pursue the goals of the member states.
- Non-Governmental Organization(NGOs) operates independently of any government. They address social or political issues. NGOs don't enter into treaties or other international agreements.

International Organizations and their Headquarters

We have provided the international organization list and their headquarters below.

International organizations	Headquarters
United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)	New York, USA
UN Women	New York, USA
United Nations Security Council (UNSC)	New York, USA

United Nations Organisation	New York, USA
United Nations Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF)	New York, USA
International Monetary Fund (IMF)	Washington DC, United States
World Bank Group (WBG)	Washington DC, United States
International Committee of the Red Cross	Geneva, Switzerland
World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)	Geneva, Switzerland
International Organization for Standardization	Geneva, Switzerland
World Meteorological Organisation (WMO)	Geneva, Switzerland
World Trade Organisation	Geneva, Switzerland
International Labour Organisation	Geneva, Switzerland
UNAIDS	Geneva, Switzerland
World Health Organisation (WHO)	Geneva, Switzerland
United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)	Vienna, Austria

International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)	Vienna, Austria
United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO)	Paris, France
Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)	Paris, France
Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC)	Vienna, Austria
Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC)	Queenstown, Singapore
Transparency International	Berlin, Germany
International Renewable Energy Agency	Abu Dhabi (UAE)
Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO)	Rome, Italy
North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO)	Brussels, Belgium
Universal Postal Union	Berne, Switzerland
Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)	Jakarta, Indonesia
International Maritime Organisation (IMO)	London, United Kingdom
Amnesty International	London, United Kingdom
Commonwealth of Nations	London, United Kingdom

South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation	Kathmandu, Nepal
International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry	North Carolina
Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons	The Hague, The Netherlands
United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)	Vienna, Austria
Organization of Islamic Cooperation	Jeddah, Saudi Arabia
Indian Ocean Rim Association for Regional Cooperation	Ebene, Mauritius
Worldwide Fund for Nature	Gland, Switzerland
United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)	New York, USA
International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)	Gland, Switzerland
International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS)	Paris, France
United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI)	Turin, Italy
UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR)	Geneva, Switzerland
International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)	Montreal, Canada

United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)	Nairobi, Kenya
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)	Geneva, Switzerland
International Olympic Committee	Lausanne, Switzerland
World Economic Forum	Cologny-Geneva, Switzerland
International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)	Rome, Italy
United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO)	Madrid, Spain
United Nations University (UNU)	Tokyo, Japan
UN-OHRRLS	New York, USA
Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)	Geneva, Switzerland
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)	Geneva, Switzerland
International Telecommunication Union (ITU)	Geneva, Switzerland
UN-Habitat	Nairobi, Kenya
World Food Programme (WFP)	Rome, Italy
International Court of Justice (ICJ)	The Hague, Netherlands

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)	Geneva, Switzerland
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International Organizations list which India is Member

The international organizations that India maintains with the other countries around the world, highly contributed to the international organizations that the country is associated with. That's why UPSC aspirants must remember the International organizations of which India is a part.

International Organization	Headquarters
FAO - Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations	Rome, Italy
IBRD - International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (World Bank)	Washington DC, US
ASEAN Regional Forum - The Association of Southeast Asian Nations	Jakarta, Indonesia
BIMSTEC - Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation	Dhaka, Bangladesh
BIS - Bank for International Settlements	Basel, Switzerland

AG - Australia Group	Brussels, Belgium
CERN - European Organization for Nuclear Research	Geneva, Switzerland
AALCO - Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization	New Delhi
ADB - Asian Development Bank	Manila, Philippines
AfDB - African Development Bank (non-regional members)	Tunis, Tunisia
CP - Colombo Plan	Colombo, Srilanka
EAS - East Asia Summit	Colombo, Sri Lanka
BRICS - Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa	Shanghai, China
CoN - Commonwealth of Nations	London, UK
ICAO - International Civil Aviation Organization	Montreal, Canada

ICC - International Chamber of Commerce	Paris, France
IDA - International Development Association	Washington DC
G-15 - Group of 15	Geneva, Switzerland
G-20 - Group of 20	Cancun, Mexico
G-77 - Group of 77	New York
IAEA - International Atomic Energy Agency	Vienna, Austria
IEA - International Energy Agency	Paris, France
IFAD - International Fund for Agricultural Development	Rome, Italy
IFC - International Finance Corporation	Washington DC, US
ILO - International Labour Organization	Geneva, Switzerland

IMF - International Monetary Fund	Washington DC, US
UNAIDS - United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS	New York
UNESCO - United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation	London, Uk
ITUC - International Trade Union Confederation (the successor to ICFTU (International Confederation of Free Trade Unions) and the WCL (World Confederation of Labour))	Brussels, Belgium
MTCR Missile Technology Control Regime	Japan
SCO - Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (member)	Beijing, China
UN - United Nations	New York
IMO - International Maritime Organization	London, UK
IMSO - International Mobile Satellite Organization	London, UK
Interpol - International Criminal Police Organization	Lyon, France

PIF - Pacific Islands Forum (partner)	Suva, Fiji
SAARC - South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation	Kathmandu, Nepal
SACEP - South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme	Colombo, Sri Lanka
IPEEC - International Partnership for Energy Efficiency Cooperation	Paris, France
IOC - International Olympic Committee	Lausanne, Switzerland
NAM - Non-Aligned Movement	Jakarta, Indonesia
OPCW - Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons	Hague, Netherland
PCA - Permanent Court of Arbitration	Hague, Netherland
ISO - International Organization for Standardization	Geneva, Switzerland
ITSO - International Telecommunications Satellite Organization	Washington DC

ITU - International Telecommunication Union	Geneva, Switzerland
WHO- World Health Organization	Geneva, Switzerland

United Nations

United Nations is an important intergovernmental organization that aims to maintain international security and peace, achieve international cooperation, develop friendly relations among the nations, and be the centre for harmonizing the actions of nations. It was founded on 24 October 1945 and is headquartered in New York, United States. The other work of the United Nations are as follows:

- Protect Human rights
- Deliver Humanitarian Aid
- Uphold International Law
- Enhance sustainable development and climate action

Tricks to Remember the Important International Organizations and their Headquarters

The world organizations and their headquarters is an important GK topic and it holds relevance in the UPSC Exam. To make things easier for the candidates we have provided tricks to remember the international organization's list and their headquarters below.

- The international institutions starting with 'World' and ending with 'Organization' is headquartered in Geneva for example- WHO, and WMP. WIPO.
- The international organizations related to petroleum, industrial development, and atomic research have their headquarters in Vienna such as UNIDO, OPEC, and International Atomic Energy Agency.
- The international institutions related to money are headquartered in Washington DC- World Bank and International Monetary Fund.
- World organizations related to economy and education are headquartered in Paris, e.g. ICOMOS, UNESCO, and OECD.