**Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities**

**Charter of the United Nations**

Plain English version of:

**Charter of the United Nations.**

**1945**

**Note:** Please note this is not a United Nations official document.

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**About the United Nations and**

**the Charter of the United Nations**

**The Charter of the United Nations**

The Charter of the United Nations is a document that explains the aims of the United Nations, how it works and the rights and duties of the countries that belong to it. All members of the United Nations must agree to follow the Charter.

The Charter was first signed in 1945 by the 51 original members of the United Nations. The Charter came into force (became active) on 24 October 1945.

The Charter contains an introduction and 111 sections calledArticles. This document explains each part of the Charter in plain language.

**The United Nations (UN)**

The United Nations is an organization made up of 193 countries around the world. It was set up in 1945 after the Second World War to help prevent war, solve world problems in a peaceful way and create a better and fairer world for everyone.

Today the United Nations works on important issues including world peace, climate change, human rights, emergency situations such as war, famine (hunger) and earthquakes and improving the wellbeing of people everywhere.

**How the United Nations works**

The United Nations is divided into six main parts called organs.

**1. The General Assembly**

The [General Assembly](http://www.un.org/en/ga/) is where all members of the United Nations come together to discuss important world issues, make policies (plans) and decisions on matters including the United Nations budget and accepting new members.

**2. The Security Council**

The [Security Council](http://www.un.org/en/sc/) is responsible for the United Nations’ work on world peace and safety. All members of the United Nations must accept and carry out the Security Council’s decisions.

The Security Council includes five permanent members:

* China
* France
* Russia
* The United Kingdom
* The United States of America

**3. The Economic and Social Council**

The [Economic and Social Council](http://www.un.org/en/ecosoc/) works on issues that affect the wellbeing of the world and its people, including the world economy, living conditions and the environment.

**4. The Trusteeship Council**

The [Trusteeship Council](http://www.un.org/en/decolonization/trusteeship.shtml) was set up in 1945 to manage 11 regions in the world that were not yet able to govern themselves (to have their own government and be in charge of their own decision-making). The regions were called trust territories.

Members of the United Nations were responsible for the regions until they were able to govern themselves. This was achieved by 1994. Now the [Trusteeship Council](http://www.un.org/en/decolonization/trusteeship.shtml) meets only when necessary.

**5. The International Court of Justice**

The [International Court of Justice](http://www.icj-cij.org/homepage/index.php?lang=en) is the main court of the United Nations. The Court’s role is to solve legal problems that members of the United Nations bring to it, and to give advice on legal issues.

**6. The UN Secretariat**

The [Secretariat](http://www.un.org/en/sections/about-un/secretariat/index.html) is made up of the [Secretary-General](https://www.un.org/sg/) (the head of the Secretariat who has the most power to make decisions on the activities of the United Nations), and United Nations staff members who carry out the daily work of the United Nations.

**The Charter of the United Nations begins on the next page.**

**The Charter of the United Nations**

The United Nations is determined to:

* Save the world from further wars, which have brought much hardship to the world
* Create a world that respects human rights, where everyone has equal rights and where all countries large and small have an equal place
* Create a world where countries respect justice, and their duties under agreements and laws they make together
* Improve the living conditions of people in the world, and the societies in which they live

As the United Nations we will:

* Work to understand and respect each other and live together in peace
* Join together to keep the world peaceful and safe
* Avoid using wars or fighting to solve the world’s problems wherever possible
* Help improve the lives of everyone in the world

We will join together to achieve these aims.

The members of the United Nations gathered in San Francisco have agreed to this Charter of the United Nations. This means the United Nations has now been established.

**Chapter 1**

**The Aims of the United Nations and What it Believes in**

The aims of the United Nations are:

**Article 1**

1. To create a peaceful and safe world. To work together to solve issues that could affect world peace, such as arguments between countries or situations where countries try to use fighting or wars to solve problems.

To solve such issues in a peaceful way that respects laws and agreements that countries have made together (international law).

2. To help countries get on well together, in a way that respects people’s equal rights and choices. To take other action to improve world peace.

3. To help countries work together to solve world problems concerning the economy, society, culture and people’s wellbeing. To encourage the world to respect everyone’s human rights, whoever they are.

4. To bring countries together to take action to achieve the above aims.

**Article 2**

To achieve the aims in Article 1, the United Nations and its members will work according to the following rules:

1. All members of the United Nations are equal and have equal rights.

2. All members of the United Nations will agree to follow the Charter to receive the rights and benefits of belonging to the United Nations.

3. Members of the United Nations will solve any problems between them in a peaceful way, so that the world remains a peaceful and safe place.

4. Members of the United Nations will not attack, use violence or threaten to use violence against any other country in a way that goes against the aims of the United Nations.

5. All members of the United Nations will support the United Nations in any action it takes under this Charter. Members will not support any country that the United Nations is taking action against to prevent risks to world peace and safety.

6. The United Nations will make sure that countries outside the United Nations follow these rules when necessary to keep world peace and safety.

7. The United Nations cannot get involved in matters that countries have the right to decide for themselves. And members of the United Nations don’t have to bring such matters to the United Nations. But the United Nations can still take action against countries if necessary, as set out in Chapter 7.

**Chapter 2**

**Members of the United Nations**

**Article 3**

The original members of the United Nations will be the countries that sign this Charter and ratifyit (agree to follow it), according to article 110.

The original members of the United Nations have taken part in the United Nations Conference on International Organization at San Francisco or signed the Declaration by United Nations of January 1 1942.

**Article 4**

1. All other peaceful countries can become members of the United Nations if they agree to follow the Charter, and the United Nations is confident that the countries can and will follow the Charter.

2. The General Assembly will decide if a country can join the United Nations after the Security Council recommends that country to be a member.

**Article 5**

The Security Council may take action against a member of the United Nations if that member has put world peace and safety at risk.

In that case, the General Assembly can stop the member’s rights and benefits of belonging to the United Nations, if the Security Council recommends it.

The Security Council may restore the member’s rights and benefits later on.

**Article 6**

A member of the United Nations may have to leave the United Nations if it keeps breaking the rules in this Charter. The General Assembly can force a member to leave the United Nations if the Security Council recommends it.

**Chapter 3**

**Parts (organs) of the United Nations**

**Article 7**

1. The United Nations will be made up of six main parts (organs):

* A General Assembly
* A Security Council
* An Economic and Social Council
* A Trusteeship Council
* An International Court of Justice
* A Secretariat

2. Other parts of the United Nations can be set up when necessary to support the work of the main parts.

**Article 8**

Men and women can take part equally in any of the United Nations’ work.

**Chapter 4**

**The General Assembly**

**Members of the General Assembly**

**Article 9**

1. All members of the United Nations will be part of the General Assembly.

2. Members of the United Nations can choose up to 5 people to represent them in the General Assembly.

**The role of the General Assembly**

**Article 10**

The General Assembly can discuss any issues that relate to this Charter or the different parts (organs) of the United Nations.

The General Assembly can make recommendations to the members of the United Nations and the Security Council about such issues (except for situations covered by Article 12).

**Article 11**

1. The General Assembly may discuss how to work together to create a peaceful and safe world. This includes how to reduce, remove or control the world’s weapons of war.

The General Assembly can make recommendations on these issues to Members of the United Nations and the Security Council.

2. The General Assembly can discuss any issues concerning world peace and safety.

Members of the United Nations, the Security Council and countries outside the United Nations (according to Article 35) can ask the General Assembly to discuss issues about world peace and safety.

The General Assembly can make recommendations on such issues to the countries that raise the issues and the Security Council (except for situations covered by Article 12).

The General Assembly will ask the Security Council to look at any issues that require action.

3. The General Assembly will make the Security Council aware of situations that could put world peace and safety at risk.

4. This Article does not affect the powers of the General Assembly under Article 10.

**Article 12**

1. The Security Council may deal with situations that could put world peace and safety at risk.

At such times, the General Assembly will not make recommendations to the Security Council about the situations unless the Security Council asks it to.

2. The Secretary-General will inform the General Assembly at each session about situations the Security Council is dealing with concerning world peace and safety. The Security Council must agree to this first.

The Secretary-General will inform the General Assembly or members of the United Nations straight away when the Security Council stops dealing with the situations.

**Article 13**

1. The General Assembly will carry out research and make recommendations to:

1. Help countries work together on political issues and develop laws they all agree to follow (international law)
2. Help countries work together on issues concerning the economy, society, culture, education and health. And to help everyone in the world enjoy their human rights

2. Chapters 9 and 10 describe the other duties that the General Assembly will carry out for point 1b above.

**Article 14**

The General Assembly can suggest how to peacefully solve any situation that could affect the wellbeing or friendly relationships between countries (taking into account Article 12).

This includes situations where countries have broken the rules of this Charter.

**Article 15**

1. The General Assembly will receive and consider reports from the Security Council. The reports will include action that the Security Council is taking on world peace and safety.

2. The General Assembly will receive and consider reports from other parts (organs) of the United Nations.

**Article 16**

The General Assembly will carry out its duties for the international trusteeship system, as described in Chapters 12 and 13.

**Article 17**

1. The General Assembly will consider and agree the budget of the United Nations.

2. Members of the United Nations will pay the United Nations’ costs. The General Assembly will decide how much members of the United Nations must pay.

3. The General Assembly will agree any arrangements concerning money and budgets with specialized agencies (organizations that governments set up together to deal with world issues), described in Article 57.

The General Assembly will look at the budgets of the specialized agencies and make recommendations to the specialized agencies.

**Voting**

**Article 18**

1. Each member of the General Assembly will have one vote.

2. Decisions of the General Assembly on important issues will be made when two thirds or more of the members voting at a meeting agree to the decision.

Important issues that the General Assembly will vote on include:

* Recommendations about how to keep the world peaceful and safe
* Choosing members of the Security Council that are not permanent
* Choosing members of the Economic and Social Council and Trusteeship Council (according to paragraph 1c of Article 86)
* Accepting new members to the United Nations
* Taking away the rights and benefits of members of the United Nations, or deciding that members must leave the United Nations
* The trusteeship system and how it works
* The United Nations budget

3. Decisions of the General Assembly on other issues will be made when half or more of all members voting at a meeting agree to the decision.

This includes decisions about which issues require two thirds of members to agree before a decision can be made.

**Article 19**

A member of the United Nations will not be able to vote in the General Assembly if it owes two or more years’ worth of money to the United Nations.

But the General Assembly may allow that member to vote if it believes the member has a very good reason for not paying what it owes.

**How the General Assembly will carry out its work**

**Article 20**

The General Assembly will meet for one session every year and at other times if it needs to. Extra meetings can be held if the Security Council or most members of the United Nations ask for them. The Secretary-General will call the meetings.

**Article 21**

The General Assembly will create its own working rules. The General Assembly will choose its President (leader) for each session.

**Article 22**

The General Assembly can set up other working groups (organs) to carry out its work if it needs to.

**Chapter 5**

**The Security Council**

**Members of The Security Council**

**Article 23**

1. The Security Council will be made up of 15 members of the United Nations. There will be five permanent members: China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom and the United States of America.

Ten other members of the Security Council will not be permanent.

The General Assembly will choose the 10 other members of the Security Council.

When the General Assembly chooses the 10 members, it will pay attention to how members can contribute to world peace and safety and the United Nations’ work.

The General Assembly will also make sure that countries from around the world are represented on the Security Council.

2. Members of the Security Council who are not permanent will be part of the Security Council for two years.

In the first election of members who are not permanent, the General Assembly will choose two members to be part of the Security Council for one year.

A member that has left the Security Council cannot be chosen again for the Security Council straight away.

3. Each member of the Security Council can choose one person to represent it in the Security Council.

**The role of the Security Council**

**Article 24**

1. The Security Council is responsible for the United Nations’ work on world peace and safety.

2. To carry out these duties, the Security Council will work according to the aims and beliefs of the United Nations. The powers of the Security Council to carry out these duties are explained in Chapters 6, 7, 8 and 12.

3. The Security Council will produce reports every year for the General Assembly to consider, and other reports if it needs to.

**Article 25**

Members of the United Nations agree to accept and carry out the decisions of the Security Council.

**Article 26**

To keep the world peaceful and safe, the Security Council will make plans to control the world’s weapons of war. Members of the United Nations will consider the plans.

The Military Staff Committee (that Article 47 refers to) will help the Security Council make the plans.

**Voting on decisions**

**Article 27**

1. Each member of the Security Council will have one vote.

2. Decisions of the Security Council on procedural issues will be made when nine members of the Security Council agree to the decision.

3. Decisions of the Security Council on all other issues will be made when nine members of the Security Council agree to the decision. This includes the permanent members of the Security Council.

A member of the Security Council cannot vote on decisions covered by

Chapter 6 and Article 52 (paragraph 3), if it is involved in an argument that the Security Council is taking action on.

**How the Security Council will carry out its work**

**Article 28**

1. The Security Council must be able to keep working. For this to happen, all members of the Security Council must have someone to represent them at the United Nations at all times.

2. Members of the Security Council can choose someone from their government or another person to represent them at Security Council meetings.

3. The Security Council may hold meetings in other places to where it usually meets, if it needs to.

**Article 29**

The Security Council can set up other working groups (organs) to carry out its work if it needs to.

**Article 30**

The Security Council will create its own working rules. This includes how to choose the President (leader) of the Security Council.

**Article 31**

The Security Council may discuss issues that affect a member of the United Nations not in the Security Council.

In that case, the Security Council may allow that member to take part in its discussions about the issue. No vote is needed.

**Article 32**

The Security Council may look into problems or arguments that take place in the world.

A country that is involved in that problem or argument can take part in discussions that the Security Council holds about the problem or argument. No vote is needed for this.

The country concerned may be a member of the United Nations that is not in the Security Council, or a country that is not a member of the United Nations.

The Security Council will decide how countries outside the United Nations can take part in its discussions.

**Chapter 6**

**Solving World Arguments in a Peaceful Way**

**Article 33**

1. Countries involved in an argument that could put world peace and safety at risk will first try to solve the problem in a peaceful way.

Countries may:

* discuss the problem to agree how to solve it
* ask another country not involved in the argument to help solve it
* take the problem to a court, tribunal or local organization to solve
* or use other peaceful methods

2. The Security Council can ask countries involved in the argument to solve it in peaceful ways, if it needs to.

**Article 34**

The Security Council can at any argument or situation between countries to judge whether the argument or situation could put world peace and safety at risk.

**Article 35**

1. Any member of the United Nations can bring such an argument or situation to the Security Council or the General Assembly to look at.

2. A country outside the United Nations can bring an argument it is involved in to the Security Council or the General Assembly. To do this, the country must accept the duties in this Charter to solve arguments peacefully.

3. If countries approach the General Assembly about such arguments or situations, the General Assembly will also take into account Articles 11 and 12.

**Article 36**

1. The Security Council can recommend ways to solve any argument or situation described in Article 33. The Security Council can do this at any stage of the argument or situation.

2. The Security Council should take into account any action that countries are already taking to solve the argument or situation.

3. When the Security Council makes recommendations, it should bear in mind that the International Court of Justice should usually consider legal arguments.

**Article 37**

1. If countries fail to solve an argument in the peaceful ways described in Article 33, they should refer the problem to the Security Council.

2. The Security Council will look at the problem to decide if it could put world peace and safety at risk.

If the Security Council thinks the problem could put world peace and safety at risk, the Security Council will decide whether to take action under Article 36. Or the Security Council may suggest how the countries involved should solve the problem.

**Article 38**

The Security Council may recommend to countries involved in an argument how to solve the argument in a peaceful way, if all the countries involved agree to this.

This will not affect the rights and duties described in Articles 33 to 37.

**Chapter 7**

**Action on Serious Problems That Could Affect World Peace and Safety**

**Article 39**

The Security Council will decide which situations are likely to affect world peace and safety.

This includes situations where countries may try to use fighting or wars to solve problems or risk world peace in other ways.

The Security Council will recommend what action to take, or decide what action to take to keep world peace and safety, according to Articles 41 and 42.

**Article 40**

The Security Council may ask countries involved in a situation to take certain action in the meantime, before the Security Council recommends what to do or decides what action to take. This is to stop the situation getting worse.

The temporary action that countries take will not affect the rights of the countries involved. The Security Council will take note if countries fail to carry out the temporary actions.

**Article 41**

The Security Council may decide how to carry out its decisions without using armed force (an army, navy or air force).

The Security Council may ask members of the United Nations to carry out the action it decides upon.

The Security Council may decide on action that will:

* make it harder for countries involved in an argument to buy or sell goods
* affect the way a country communicates by rail, sea, air, post, radio and other methods
* affect the country’s relationship with other countries in the world

**Article 42**

The Security Council may decide that the action it wants to take under Article 41 will not work or has failed to work.

In such cases, the Security Council can decide to take action using armed force (an air force, navy or army) to keep world peace and safety.

Such action may include demonstrations, blockades (closing off an area to stop goods or people coming into or leaving the area) and other action by the air force, navy or army of members of the United Nations.

**Article 43**

1. All members of the United Nations must make their army, navy and air force available to the Security Council if the Security Council needs it. Members must also provide help and equipment when necessary.

The Security Council will put in place a special agreement or agreements about the action that members of the United Nations must take.

2. The agreement or agreements will describe what members of the United Nations need to provide in terms of armed forces, equipment and help.

3. The Security Council will discuss the agreement or agreements with members of the United Nations as soon as possible.

The agreement or agreements may apply to a member of the United Nations or to groups of members.

The relevant members will need to ratify (agree to and sign) the agreements according to their own laws and rules.

**Article 44**

The Security Council may decide to use the army, navy or air force of members of the United Nations not in the Security Council, according to Article 43.

The Security Council will invite those members to take part in decisions about the use of their army, navy or air force. The members can decide whether or not to take part in the decisions.

**Article 45**

The United Nations may need to take urgent action using armed force (an army, navy or air force).

In such cases, members of the United Nations will have air forces available straight away to take action together.

The Security Council will decide how this process will work with the help of the Military Staff Committee. A special agreement or agreements will be put in place, as described in Article 43.

**Article 46**

The Security Council will make plans for how to use an army, navy or air force. The Military Staff Committee will help make the plans.

**Article 47**

1. A Military Staff Committee will be set up. The Military Staff Committee will help the Security Council with matters including how to use armed force to keep world peace and safety and how to control or stop weapons of war.

2. The Military Staff Committee will be made up of the Chiefs of Staff of the permanent members of the Security Council or the people who represent them.

The Military Staff Committee may involve other members of the United Nations in its work if it needs to.

3. The Military Staff Committee will decide how an army, navy or air force will be used to keep world peace and safety. Any questions about using the army, navy or air force will be solved after that.

4. The Military Staff Committee can set up committees (groups) in different regions to help with its work.

The Security Council must agree to this first. The Military Staff Committee should also discuss the matter with relevant local organizations.

**Article 48**

1. Members of the United Nations will carry out the action that the Security Council decides on.

The Security Council will decide which members of the United Nations will carry out the action. This could be all members or some of them.

2. Members of the United Nations will carry out the action themselves, and through their work with relevant world organizations they belong to.

**Article 49**

Members of the United Nations will help each other carry out the action that the Security Council decides on.

**Article 50**

The Security Council may have to take action against a country to help keep world peace and safety.

If that action causes another country problems with their economy, that country can ask the Security Council for help to solve the problem.

This applies to all countries, whether a member of the United Nations or not.

**Article 51**

A member of the United Nations has the right to defend itself if another country attacks it, until the Security Council takes action to solve the situation.

Members of the United Nations that take action to defend themselves will tell the Security Council about that action straight away.

This will not affect the right of the Security Council to take action at any time to keep world peace and safety.

**Chapter 8**

**The Role of Organizations in Different Regions to Keep World Peace and Safety**

**Article 52**

1. Organizations in different regions (local areas) can be involved in the United Nations’ work on world peace and safety where relevant.

The organizations involved must work according to the aims and beliefs of the United Nations.

2. Members of the United Nations may involve local organizations in their work on world peace and safety.

Those members will try to solve local arguments in a peaceful way through the local organizations and their activities.

The members should try to solve local arguments in a peaceful way before bringing them to the Security Council.

3. The Security Council will encourage local arguments to be solved in a peaceful way through organizations and activities in the regions. A member of the United Nations may suggest for this to happen. Or the Security Council may suggest it.

4. This Article does not affect the rights described in Articles 34 and 35.

**Article 53**

1. The Security Council may use organizations in different regions to take action against a country if it needs to. But the Security Council must agree to any action that local organizations take against another country.

This rule applies unless a member of the United Nations must take action against an enemy state, according to Article 107.

Local organizations can take action against an enemy state until the United Nations takes action against that state. The governments involved must ask the United Nations to take such action first.

2. An enemy state is any country that fought against the countries that signed this Charter in the Second World War.

**Article 54**

Members of the United Nations must tell the Security Council about any action that local organizations take or may take on world peace and safety.

**Chapter 9**

**Countries Working Together to Improve Economies and Societies**

**Article 55**

The United Nations aims to create a world where countries get on well together and respect each other and people’s equal rights and choices. For this to happen, it is necessary to protect the wellbeing and safety of people in the world.

The United Nations will work towards:

1. higher standards of living, so that people have enough money, food and other items they need, paid work for everyone, and making sure countries can grow and do well
2. countries working together to solve world problems concerning the economy, society, health, culture, education and other matters
3. making sure the whole world respects human rights, and that everyone in the world enjoys their human rights, whoever they are

**Article 56**

All members of the United Nations will promise to work on their own and together with the United Nations to achieve the aims in Article 55.

**Article 57**

1. Specialized agencies (organizations that governments set up together to deal with world issues) will work together with the United Nations, according to Article 63.

The specialized agencies deal with issues concerning the world economy, society, culture, education, health and other similar issues.

2. These organizations that work alongside the United Nations will be called specialized agencies from now on.

**Article 58**

The United Nations will make recommendations about the plans and activities of the specialized agencies.

**Article 59**

The United Nations will discuss with relevant countries about setting up any new specialized agencies that are needed to achieve the aims in Article 55.

**Article 60**

The General Assembly will be responsible for the work of the United Nations in this Chapter.

The Economic and Social Council will also be involved in this work, using the powers set out in Chapter 10. The General Assembly will be responsible for the work of the Economic and Social Council.

**Chapter 10**

**The Economic and Social Council**

**Members of the Economic and Social Council**

**Article 61**

1. The Economic and Social Council will be made up of 54 members of the United Nations. The General Assembly will choose the members of the Economic and Social Council.

2. The General Assembly will choose 18 members for the Economic and Social Council every year. The members will be in the Economic and Social Council for three years.

A member that has left the Economic and Social Council can be chosen again for the Economic and Social Council straight away.

3. At the first election, the General Assembly will choose 27 members for the Economic and Social Council.

Nine of those members will be in the Economic and Social Council for one year.

Nine other members will be in the Economic and Social Council for two years.

4. Each member of the Economic and Social Council can choose one person to represent it in the Economic and Social Council.

**The role of the Economic and Social Council**

**Article 62**

1. The Economic and Social Council may produce research and reports on world issues including the world economy, society, culture, education, health and other similar issues.

The Economic and Social Council may make recommendations about such issues to the General Assembly, members of the United Nations and specialized agencies (organizations that governments set up together to deal with world issues).

2. The Economic and Social Council may make recommendations to help the world respect human rights and to make sure everyone in the world enjoys their human rights.

3. The Economic and Social Council may produce agreements about the issues it deals with for members of the General Assembly to consider.

4. The Economic and Social Council may call world meetings about the issues it deals with, according to the rules of the United Nations.

**Article 63**

1. The Economic and Social Council may work with any of the organizations described in Article 57 (specialized agencies).

The Economic and Social Council will agree how to work with each specialized agency. The General Assembly must agree to these arrangements first.

2. The Economic and Social Council may plan the activities of the specialized agencies.

The Economic and Social Council may plan the activities of the specialized agencies by talking to the specialized agencies. It can also make recommendations to the specialized agencies, the General Assembly and members of the United Nations.

**Article 64**

1. The Economic and Social Council can ask the specialized agencies for regular reports.

The reports will explain the progress that specialized agencies have made on recommendations from the Economic and Social Council or the General Assembly.

The Economic and Social Council may work with members of the United Nations and the specialized agencies to arrange the reports.

2. The Economic and Social Council may share its thoughts on the reports with the General Assembly.

**Article 65**

The Economic and Social Council will give information to the Security Council and help the Security Council when asked.

**Article 66**

1. The Economic and Social Council will carry out the recommendations of the General Assembly in the areas it is responsible for.

2. If the General Assembly agrees, the Economic and Social Council can provide services to members of the United Nations and specialized agencies when asked to.

3. The Economic and Social Council will carry out other activities described in this Charter or that the General Assembly asks for.

**Voting on decisions**

**Article 67**

1. Each member of the Economic and Social Council will have one vote.

2. Decisions of the Economic and Social Council will be made when more than half of the people voting at a meeting agree to that decision.

**How the Economic and Social Council will carry out its work**

**Article 68**

The Economic and Social Council will set up commissions (groups of people) to help carry out its work on the economy, society, human rights and other issues when it needs to.

**Article 69**

The Economic and Social Council may discuss issues that are relevant to certain members of the United Nations.

In such cases, the Economic and Social Council will invite those members to take part in its discussions on the issue. No vote is needed for this.

**Article 70**

The Economic and Social Council may arrange for specialized agencies to take part in discussions of the Economic and Social Council and the commissions (groups) it sets up.

The Economic and Social Council may arrange to take part in discussions of the specialized agencies.

No vote is needed for this.

**Article 71**

The Economic and Social Council may work with non-governmental organizations (organizations that are not part of the government) that deal with similar issues.

The non-governmental organizations may work across the world or in a particular country.

The Economic and Social Council will talk to a member of the United Nations before arranging to work with an organization in that member’s country.

**Article 72**

1. The Economic and Social Council will create its own working rules. This includes how to choose the President (leader) of the Economic and Social Council.

2. The Economic and Social Council will meet when it needs to, according to its rules. Meetings can be held if more than half of the Economic and Social Council’s members ask for one.

**Chapter 11**

**Non-Self-Governing Territories (Parts of the World That Do Not Yet Govern Themselves)**

**Article 73**

Members of the United Nations may manage territories (regions) that are not yet able to govern themselves (to have their own government and be in charge of their own decision-making).

Members of the United Nations in charge of such territories must recognize that the wellbeing, needs and wishes of the people in the territories are most important.

Members of the United Nations must do everything they can to protect the wellbeing of people in the territories.

To achieve this, members of the United Nations must:

1. Respect people in the territories and help them progress in terms of politics, the economy, society and education. Make sure that people in the territories are treated fairly and are safe from abuse.
2. Support the territories to govern themselves. Take into account the systems of politics that people in the territories want and support them over time to set up their own systems.
3. Help improve on world peace and safety
4. Encourage research and work together or with world organizations to achieve the aims in this Article
5. Provide the Secretary-General with regular information where possible on the lives of people in the territories in terms of the economy, society and education.

This applies to all territories that members of the United Nations manage except for territories that Chapters 12 and 13 apply to.

**Article 74**

Members of the United Nations should work with the territories they manage in a way that respects other countries in the world. Members of the United Nations should take into account the wellbeing and needs of the rest of the world in terms of society, the economy and business.

**Chapter 12**

**International Trusteeship System**

**Article 75**

The United Nations will set up an international trusteeship system to manage certain territories (regions) that are not yet able to govern themselves. An agreement will be made for each of the territories. The territories will be called trust territories.

**Article 76**

The trusteeship system aims to:

1. Improve on world peace and safety
2. Support people in the trust territories to progress in terms of politics, the economy, society and education.
3. Support the territories over time to govern themselves or be independent.
4. Take into account the needs and wishes of people in each trust territory and the agreement for each territory
5. Encourage respect for everyone’s human rights and to recognize how everyone in the world needs each other
6. Make sure all members of the United Nations and their peoples are treated equally in terms of society, the economy, business and justice. Taking into account Article 80

**Article 77**

1. The trusteeship system will apply to the following kinds of territories (regions in the world):

1. Territories undermandate (certain regions that are managed by other countries for the time being until the regions can govern themselves)
2. Territories that once belonged to countries that lost the Second World War but have become separate from those countries because of the war
3. Territories that have been placed in the trusteeship system by the countries that manage them

2. It will be agreed which of these territories will be part of the trusteeship system and in what way.

**Article 78**

The trusteeship system will not apply to countries that are now members of the United Nations. All members of the United Nations are equal, whatever their position in the world.

**Article 79**

The countries that manage the territories will decide how each territory will become part of the trusteeship system, including any changes to those arrangements.

The arrangements will be agreed according to Articles 83 and 85.

**Article 80**

1. When territories become part of the trusteeship system, it will not affect the rights of any countries or people, or world agreements that members of the United Nations are part of.

This is unless the agreements for each trust territory made under Articles 77, 79 and 81 say something different.

2. Point 1 above should not lead to a delay in making agreements for territories to be part of the trusteeship system, as Article 77 allows for.

**Article 81**

The agreement for each trust territory will explain which country or organization will manage the territory and how.

The country or organization that manages the trust territory will be called the administering authority.

The trust territory may be managed by one country, more than one country or by the United Nations itself.

**Article 82**

It may be decided that certain territories will contain a strategic area orstrategic areas.

The strategic area or areas may include part of the trust territory or all of it.

The strategic area or areas will form part of the agreement for that territory. This will not affect any special agreement or agreements made under Article 43.

**Article 83**

1. The Security Council will be responsible for the United Nations’ work on strategic areas.

The Security Council will be responsible for the agreements for the territories that contain strategic areas, including any changes to the agreements.

2. The aims of the trusteeship system set out in Article 76 will apply to the people of each strategic area.

3. The Trusteeship Council will help the Security Council carry out the United Nations’ work in strategic areas concerning politics, the economy, society and education.

This will also depend on the agreements for each trust territory and any safety concerns.

**Article 84**

The trust territory should also play a part in keeping the world peaceful and safe. The country or organization that manages the trust territory (the administering authority) is responsible for the trust territory’s role in this.

The administering authority can make use of volunteer armed forces (army, navy and air force), equipment and help from the trust territory.

This can be used to help with world peace and safety, to help the trust territory defend itself and to keep the peace within the trust territory.

**Article 85**

1. The General Assembly will be responsible for the United Nations’ work on all other trust areas that are not strategic.

The General Assembly will be responsible for the agreements for those areas and any changes to the agreements.

2. The Trusteeship Council will help the General Assembly with its work on trust areas that are not strategic. The General Assembly will be responsible for the Trusteeship Council’s work on this.

**Chapter 13**

**The Trusteeship Council**

**Members of the Trusteeship Council**

**Article 86**

1. The Trusteeship Council will be made up of the following members of the United Nations:

1. Members of the United Nations that manage trust territories
2. Members of the United Nations that Article 23 mentions by name that do not manage trust territories
3. The number of other members needed to create an equal split in the Trusteeship Council between members of the United Nations that manage trust territories and those that do not.

The General Assembly will choose the other members of the Trusteeship Council. The members will be in the Trusteeship Council for three years.

2. Each member of the Trusteeship Council will choose one person to represent it in the Trusteeship Council.

**The role of the Trusteeship Council**

**Article 87**

The General Assembly and the Trusteeship Council may:

1. Consider reports that the country or organization that manages a trust territory (administering authority) produces
2. Accept requests in writing from the country or organization that manages a trust territory. Examine the requests with the country or organization
3. Visit the trust territories from time to time, as agreed with the country or organization that manages them
4. Take this action and other action according to the agreements for each trust territory

**Article 88**

The Trusteeship Council will develop a set of questions to check the progress of people in each trust territory in terms of politics, the economy, society and education.

The country or organization that manages each trust territory will produce a report for the General Assembly every year based on the set of questions.

**Voting on decisions**

**Article 89**

1. Each member of the Trusteeship Council will have one vote.

2. Decisions of the Trusteeship Council will be made when more than half of the people voting at a meeting agree to that decision.

**How the Trusteeship Council will carry out its work**

**Article 90**

1. The Trusteeship Council will create its own working rules. This includes how to chose the President (leader) of the Trusteeship Council.

2. The Trusteeship Council will meet when it needs to, according to its rules. Meetings can be held if more than half of the Trusteeship Council ask for one.

**Article 91**

The Trusteeship Council may receive help from the Economic and Social Council and specialized agencies (organizations that governments set up together to deal with world issues), on issues they both deal with.

**Chapter 14**

**The International Court of Justice**

**(The Main Court of the United Nations)**

**Article 92**

The International Court of Justice will be the main part (organ) of the United Nations concerned with the law and making legal decisions.

The International Court of Justice will work according to the Statute of the International Court of Justice(the rules for how the International Court of Justice will work.)

**Article 93**

1. All members of the United Nations must follow the Statute of the International Court of Justice.

2. A country that is not a member of the United Nations may have to follow the Statute of the International Court of Justice.

The Security Council will recommend this to the General Assembly. The General Assembly will decide how each country will be involved with the Statute of the International Court of Justice.

**Article 94**

1. Each member of the United Nations must accept and carry out the decision of the International Court of Justice in any case it is involved in.

2. If a country fails to carry out the decision of the International Court of Justice, the other country involved in the case may be able to get help from the Security Council.

If necessary, the Security Council will make recommendations or decide on action that countries must take to carry out the decision of the International Court of Justice.

**Article 95**

Members of the United Nations can ask other tribunals (courts) to solve their arguments if arrangements for this already exist or will do so in the future.

**Article 96**

1. The General Assembly or the Security Council may ask the International Court of Justice for advice on any legal issue.

2. The General Assembly can also allow other parts (organs) of the United Nations and specialized agencies to ask the International Court of Justice for advice on legal issues that concern them.

**Chapter 15**

**The Secretariat**

**Article 97**

The Secretariat will be made up of a Secretary-General and other staff that the United Nations needs to carry out its work.

The Security Council will recommend to the General Assembly who the next Secretary-General should be. The General Assembly will then appoint this person (give this person the role).

The Secretary-General will be the chief administrative officer of the United Nations (the head of the Secretariat who has the most power to make decisions on the activities of the United Nations).

**Article 98**

The Secretary-General will act as chief administrative officer in all meetings of the General Assembly, the Security Council, the Economic and Social Council and the Trusteeship Council.

The Secretary-General will carry out other tasks that these parts (organs) of the United Nations ask for.

The Secretary-General will produce a report every year for the General Assembly about the United Nations’ work.

**Article 99**

The Secretary-General may ask the Security Council to look at any issue that could put world peace and safety at risk.

**Article 100**

1. The Secretary-General and the staff of the secretariat will not ask for or receive orders from any government or organization outside the United Nations.

The Secretary-General and staff will work with different countries around the world, but will only be responsible to the United Nations. The Secretary-General and staff will not take any action that might affect this position.

2. All members of the United Nations will respect the duties of the Secretary-General and the staff to work with different countries around the world.

Members of the United Nations will not try to influence or change the activities of the Secretary-General and staff.

**Article 101**

1. The Secretary-General will appoint (choose) the staff of the secretariat, according to rules set out by the General Assembly.

2. Staff of the secretariat will work on a permanent basis for the Economic and Social Council, the Trusteeship Council and other parts (organs) of the United Nations where necessary.

3. It is most important for the staff to be able to work in the best way they can, using the right skills, and in an honest and fair way that respects the rights of others. Where possible, the secretariat should include staff from all parts of the world.

**Chapter 16**

**Other Rights and Duties**

**Article 102**

1. Members of the United Nations may become involved in other world agreements after this Charter begins.

Members of the United Nations will register any such agreements with the Secretariat as soon as possible. The Secretariat will publish the agreements.

2. Members of the United Nations cannot ask other parts (organs) of the United Nations to act on any agreements that have not been registered with the Secretariat, according to point 1 above.

**Article 103**

If there is a conflict for members of the United Nations between their duties under this Charter and their duties under any other world agreement, the duties under this Charter will come first.

**Article 104**

The United Nations will be allowed by law to carry out the work it needs to in any member country.

**Article 105**

1. The United Nations will have the necessary rights and protection to carry out its work in each member country.

2. People who represent members of the United Nations and United Nations staff will have the same rights and protection to carry out their work for the United Nations.

3. The General Assembly may make recommendations for how points 1 and 2 above will work in practice. Or the General Assembly may suggest agreements for members of the United Nations to consider.

**Chapter 17**

**Temporary Action on World Safety**

**Article 106**

The Security Council may make special agreements to keep world peace and safety, according to Article 43. The agreements will allow the Security Council to carry out its duties under Article 42.

Before such agreements begin, countries will work together where necessary to agree action on behalf of the United Nations to keep world peace and safety.

The countries that will agree this action are those that signed the Four-Nation Declaration in 1943 (the United States of America, the United Kingdom, Russia and China), and France.

The countries will agree action, according to paragraph 5 of the Four-Nation Declaration. The countries can also involve other members of the United Nations when necessary.

**Article 107**

The Charter will not prevent action that governments take or agree to take concerning enemy states as a result of the Second World War.

An enemy state is any country that fought against the countries that signed this Charter in the Second World War.

**Chapter 18**

**Agreeing Changes to the Charter**

**Article 108**

Changes to this Charter will apply to all members of the United Nations.

Any changes to the Charter will come into force (become active) when two thirds of the General Assembly vote to accept them.

Two thirds of members of the United Nations must ratify(agree to and sign) the changes, including all permanent members of the Security Council.

**Article 109**

1. Members of the United Nations can hold a meeting to review (look over) the Charter to see if anything needs to change.

The date and place of the meeting will be decided by a vote of two thirds of the General Assembly and any nine members of the Security Council.

Each member of the United Nations will have one vote at the meeting to review the Charter.

2. Members of the United Nations can recommend changes to the Charter at the meeting to review it.

Members can recommend changes when two thirds of the members at the meeting vote for the changes.

Two thirds of members of the United Nations must ratify (agree to and sign) the changes before they can begin. This includes the permanent members of the Security Council.

3. A meeting to review the Charter may take place before the 10th session of the General Assembly, after the Charter begins.

If such a meeting has not taken place by then, the agenda for the 10th session of the General Assembly will include a request to hold the meeting.

A meeting to review the Charter will then be held if more than half of the General Assembly and any seven members of the Security Council vote for it.

**Chapter 19**

**Agreeing to and Signing (ratifying) the Charter**

**Article 110**

1. The current members of the United Nations will agree to follow the Charter and sign it (ratify it), according to the laws and rules of their countries.

2. The Government of the United States of America will hold copies of the Charter that countries agree to and sign (ratify).

The Government of the United States of America will inform all members of the United Nations and the Secretary-General when a member has agreed to and signed (ratified) the Charter.

3. The Charter will become active when the following countries have agreed to it and signed it, and submitted (handed in) their signed copies:

China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom, the United States of America and most other members of the United Nations.

The Government of the United States of America will share copies that members of the United Nations have agreed to and signed with all such members.

4. The countries that agree to and sign (ratify) the Charter after it begins will become members of the United Nations on the date they submit their signed copies.

**Article 111**

The Government of the United States of America will keep the original copy of the Charter.

The Government of the United States of America will send genuine copies of the Charter to other governments that sign the Charter.

The Chinese, French, Russian and Spanish versions of the Charter are all genuine and true to the original version.

In faith of this, the people representing the governments of the United Nations have signed this Charter.

The Charter was signed in San Francisco on June 26 1945.