

THE NGO ACADEMY'S

Advocacy Algorithm



with Karen Judd Smith

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Module IV: Lesson 17

Members of the United Nations

Who Are Members?

- Permanent Missions
- Permanent Observers
- Non-Member States
- Intergovernmental Organizations
- Other Entities

How Become A Member?

“is open to all peace-loving States that accept the obligations contained in the United Nations Charter and, in the judgment of the Organization, are able to carry out these obligations...”

The UN Charter
Chapter II, Article 4

How Does A New State Get Recognized?

States are admitted to membership in the United Nations by decision of the General Assembly upon the recommendation of the Security Council.

The procedure is briefly as follows:

1. The State submits an application to the Secretary-General and a letter formally stating that it accepts the obligations under the Charter.

How Does A New State Get Recognized?

The Security Council considers the application.

- Any recommendation for admission must receive the affirmative votes of 9 of the 15 members of the Council, provided that none of its P5 — China, France, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America — have voted against the application.

How Does A New State Get Recognized?

3. If the Security Council recommends admission, —> General Assembly for consideration. This requires a 2/3 majority vote to succeed.
4. Membership becomes effective the date the resolution for admission is adopted.



What Are Countries Joining?

The United Nations is:

- Neither a State nor a Government
- Is an organization of independent States
- May admit a new State to its membership and/or accept the credentials of the representatives of a new Government.

Members of the Security Council

Permanent Members (5)

- Non-Permanent Members (10)
 - 2-year terms
 - Terms expire on 31st December of the year their term ends

Members of ECOSOC

- 54 Members
- Elected for 3-year terms by the General Assembly
- Terms expire on 31st December of the year their term ends

Members of The International Court of Justice

- 15 Members
- Elected for 9-year terms by the General Assembly & the Security Council
- Terms expire on 31st December of the year their term ends

Members of The International Court of Justice

President

- Hisashi Owada (Japan)

Vice-President

- Peter Tomka (Slovakia)

Judges

- Abdul G. Koroma (Sierra Leone)
- Awn Shawkat Al-Khasawneh (Jordan)
- Bruno Simma (Germany)
- Ronny Abraham (France)
- Kenneth Keith (New Zealand)
- Bernardo Sepúlveda-Amor (Mexico)
- Mohamed Bennouna (Morocco)
- Leonid Skotnikov (Russian Federation)
- Antônio A. Cançado Trindade (Brazil)
- Abdulqawi Ahmed Yusuf (Somalia)
- Christopher Greenwood (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland)
- Xue Hanqin (China)
- Joan E. Donoghue (United States of America)

Registrar

- Philippe Cuvreur (Belgium)

Membership Dues

“The expenses of the Organization shall be borne by the Members as apportioned by the General Assembly of the Organization, are able to carry out these obligations...”

The UN Charter
Article 17. Paragraph 2

Membership Dues

The Committee on Contributions meets annually for 3 to 4 weeks, usually in June of each year and advises the General Assembly on:

- Apportionment under Article 17
- Assessments for new Members
- Appeals by Members for a change of assessments
- Action to be taken with regard to Article 19
- Will hold it's next sessions 6 to 24 June 2011

Permanent Observers

Other entities having received a standing invitation to participate as observers in the sessions and the work of the General Assembly and maintaining permanent offices at Headquarters

- International Committee of the Red Cross
- International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
- Inter-Parliamentary Union
- Sovereign Military Order of Malta

Permanent Observers

Intergovernmental organizations having received a standing invitation to participate as observers in the sessions and the work of the General Assembly and maintaining permanent offices at Headquarters

- African Union
- Asian-African Legal Counsel
- Caribbean Community (CARICOM)
- Central American Integration System
- Commonwealth Secretariat

Permanent Observers

Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf

- European Community
- International Criminal Court (ICC)
- International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL)
- International Development Law Organization
- International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance

Permanent Observers

International Organization for Migration

- International Organization of la Francophonie
- International Seabed Authority
- International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea
- International Development Law Organization

Permanent Observers

- International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources
- League of Arab States
- Organization of Islamic Conference
- Partners in Population and Development

Today's Homework ...

How does the UN compare with other membership organizations that perhaps you are a part of?

What are the similarities and the differences?

Given that the UN is not a “government” what are your thoughts about there being a “world government”?

Given that the UN is an agreement of nations to work together for peace, security and good neighborliness, what do you think could make it “work better”?

