

## BRIEF PRESENTATION OF THE OBJECTIVES OF SOME UNITED NATIONS ORGANISMS

**Specialized Agencies** (Autonomous organizations who are working with the Organization of United Nations and who cooperate together in the frame of the Economic and Social Council of the UNO):

**FAO** Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations  
Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'Alimentation et l'Agriculture  
Organización de las Naciones Unidas para la Agricultura y la Alimentación

Created in 1945 - Seat in Rome

Objective: to alleviate poverty and hunger, while encouraging the agricultural development, for the improvement of the nutrition and ensuring enough food for all.

The FAO acts as an independent forum where all countries used to meet on an equal basis.

This is the main rural development body in the UN system

Its activities are financed by the contributions of Member Nations, which are fixed during the FAO Conference, take place every two years.

The World Food Day is celebrated every year on October 16<sup>th</sup>.

The Director-General is for the time being M. Jacques Diouf from Senegal

**ILO** International Labour Organization  
Organisation Internationale du Travail  
Organización Internacional del Trabajo

Created in 1919 - Seat in Geneva.

Objective: to seek the promotion of social justice and internationally recognized human and labour rights.

The ILO functions with a tripartite structure, which gathers representatives of workers and employers equally with representatives of the governments.

The International Labour Conference gathers delegacies of all Member States. Each Member State is represented by 2 government delegates, one worker delegate and one employer delegate.

Its main function is to establish and adopt conventions and recommendations, which fix international labour standards. The ratification and adoption of the conventions creates constraining obligation for the States; as for the recommendations, they are simply made to orient the national policy, legislation and practice.

The Director-General is M. Juan Somavia from Chile

**WHO** **World Health Organization**  
Organisation Mondiale de la Santé  
Organización Mundial de la Salud

Created in 1948 – Seat in Geneva

Objective: to attain the highest possible level of health for all people.

Its 2 main functions are the technical assistance for the development of health systems in the Member States and the co-ordination of world sanitary activities.

The directive body of the WHO is the World Health Assembly where all the Member States of the UN are represented. The organization conducts annual assembly to evaluate its activities and plan its policy and program.

The Director-General, appointed in 2003, for a 5 years mandate, is M. Lee Jong-wook from the Republic of South Korea.

<b>UNESCO</b>	UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization Organisation des N.U. pour l'Education, la Science et la Culture Organización de las NU para la Educación, la Ciencia y la Cultura
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Created in 1946 – Seat in Paris

Objective: to contribute for the maintenance of world peace, while promoting collaborations in between the nations through education, science and culture.

Its main activity is education for all. The cultural activities are mainly the safeguard of the cultural patrimony.

The general Conference of the UNESCO is composed of representatives of the Member States and use to have meetings every 2 years to fix its program and policy.

The Director-General, since 1999, is M. Koïchiro Matsuura from Japan.

<b>WB</b>	World Bank Banque Mondiale Banco Mundial
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Created in 1944 – Seat in Washington.

This is not exactly a bank. This body re-groups 4 institutions; one of them is the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) and another one is the International Development Association (IDA)

The common objective of those institutions: to reduce poverty and to improve the living conditions of the populations, while favouring an economic growth and a sustainable development.

184 States are members of the WB. They are responsible for the financing of the institution as well as the way those funds are utilised.

The resources come from international capitals. The WB can proceed to some emissions to get capitals and to rent it with low interests.

It's obligatory to be a member of the IMF to get affiliation to the WB.

M. Paul Wolfowitz from the USA is the President of the World Bank since 2005.

<b>IMF</b>	International Monetary Fund Fonds Monétaire International Fondo Monetario Internacional
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Created in 1944 – Seat in Washington

Objective: to secure the international financial system, to prevent crisis while encouraging the countries, to adopt sound economic policies and help sometimes to the countries which are facing difficulties to balance their accounts.

184 countries are member of the IMF.

Its resources mainly come from the contributions paid by the countries to get affiliation in the IMF as well as the contributions adapted regularly during the general revision. This contribution depends of the weight of each country in the global economy. It is calculated in regards with some economical criteria's like for example the IGP. The contribution also determines the number of voice which is attributed to each country for the votes.

For example: USA = 17,5, Japan = 6,3, Germany = 6,1, France = 5, China = 3, etc.

We can thus see that with 17,5 % of the votes, USA has a blocking power on the most important decisions as the voting proposals are adopted with minimum 85% of the votes.

The Director-general appointed in May 2004 is M. Rodrigo de Rato from Spain.

**Programmes & Funds** (Organizations that depend directly of the General Assembly of the United Nations and that have direct links with the social and economic Council of the UNO):

<b>UNCTAD</b>	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development Conférence des N.U. sur le Commerce et le Développement Conferencia de las NU sobre Comercio y Desarrollo
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Created in 1964 - Seat in Geneva

Objective: to provide a technical assistance to the developing countries to increase their trade and development possibilities.

Actually the UNCTAD is somehow marginalized after the formation of the WTO. Nevertheless this body is still having a space for critical expression, not especially on the principle of globalisation, but at least as it offers this space for the Southern countries.

The UNCTAD has a general meeting every four years to define its priorities and orientations and to debate on the main issues regarding economy and development.

All member countries of the UNO are legitimately member of UNCTAD that is much more a debating space than a decision body like the WTO.

The last Conference was hold in Sao Paulo (Brazil) in June 2004.

On September 1<sup>st</sup> of 2005, M. Supachaï Panitchpakdi from Thailand, former Director General of WTO during the last 3 years, has been appointed as General Secretary of the UNCTAD.

<b>UNHCHR</b>	UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Haut-Commissariat des Nations Unies aux Droits de l'homme Alto Comisionado de las NU para los Derechos Humanos
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Created in 1993 - Seat in Geneva.

Objective: To promote the creation of a better world while encouraging the international community and its Member States to respect the international norms recognized in the frame of Human Rights.

This body gives support to the Human Right Commission and its mechanisms. It also ensures the secretariat of the Committees, which monitor the way how States are realizing their involvement and promises regarding the main treaties on Human rights issues.

The organization collaborates directly with NGO's to promote and protect Human Rights.

Ms Louise Arbour from Canada is the High Commissioner since July 2004.

<b>UNHCR</b>	UN Refugee Agency Agence des Nations Unies pour les Réfugiés Agencia de la ONU para los Refugiados
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Created in 1951 – Seat in Geneva

Objective : to ensure an international protection to the refugees, to seek sustainable solutions to their situations and to provide them a humanitarian assistance.

The organization tries to facilitate the volunteer-return to the native country, or the integration of the persons in the host country or the integration in another country.

The resources of the HCR are totally depending on the volunteer contributions for its protection and assistance programs.

Since June 2005, the High Commissioner for Refugees is M. Antonio Guterres from Portugal.

**WFP** World Food Programme  
Programme Alimentaire Mondial  
Programa Mundial de Alimentos

Created in 1953 – Seat in Rome

Objective: to distribute food aid and to fight against hunger, in collaboration with the FAO.

This aid goes to the victims of natural catastrophes (i.e. tsunami), to displaced persons or refugees (i.e. Darfour) and to all persons suffering from hunger and malnutrition (i.e. Niger).

The financing is exclusively provided by volunteer contributions of the States. The donations can be financial or as in foodstuffs. The preference goes to financial support that gives the possibility to the States to utilize it in the best way possible and to avoid mediatic propaganda.

As the WFP doesn't have independent financing source, it is necessary to add transportation costs for all donations to reach the beneficiaries.

**UNDP** UN Development Programme  
Programme des Nations Unies pour le Développement  
Programa de las NU para el Desarrollo

Created in 1965 – Seat in New York

Objective: to coordinate the operational activities for development lead by the UN system.

Principal organization for giving assistance to development through its network of 136 bureaus in the world. UNPD collaborates with governments, organisations of the civil society and population in the developing countries.

Its resources come from the volunteer contributions of the UN Member States or UN organisms.

UNDP publishes every year the « Report on Human Development » that allows an evaluation on development level in the world.

**UNICEF** UN Children's Fund  
Fonds des Nations Unies pour l'Enfance  
Fondo de las NU para la Infancia

Created in 1946 - Seat in New-York.

Objective: The protection, survival and development of children in the frame of the Convention related to Child Rights.

The UNICEF supports programs made to improve the situations of children in the world, especially those who are living in developing countries. The organization has 242 offices in 133 countries. It's income, for 30%, comes from private sectors or non governmental sector.

The Director General is Ms Carol Bellamy from the USA.

**Bodies in collaboration**, the ones who have special agreements with UN but are not member of the UN system.

<b>WTO</b>	World Trade Organization Organisation Mondiale du Commerce Organización Mundial del Comercio
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Created in 1995 - Seat in Geneva

Objective: to promote the free commercial exchanges in the international market, while opening the borders and shifting the tariff barriers. This means, everything that can be an obstacle to free circulation of the merchandises between the countries.

It counts today 148 Member States. Decisions are reached by consensus, each country. But, all the countries do not have the same human, technical and financial resources to be present, to attend all meetings and influence the decisions.

Amongst the commercial agreements of the WTO, we can find the AoA (Agreement on Agriculture). The objective of the AoA is to reduce the export barriers and to prevent the direct and indirect supports to production.

The last Ministerial Conference of WTO took place in Hong Kong in December 05.

M.Pascal Lamy, from France, is the Director General of the organization since September 01<sup>st</sup> of 2005.