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The Yearbook of the United Nations

The authoritative reference work on the UN System

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The *Yearbook of the United Nations*—published by the Department of Public Information—stands as the authoritative reference work on the activities and concerns of the Organization. Based on official UN documents, the *Yearbook* provides comprehensive coverage of political and security matters, human rights issues, economic and social questions, legal issues, and institutional, administrative and budgetary matters. Each of the sixty-four volumes of the *Yearbook*, dating back to the 1946-47 edition, includes the texts of all major General Assembly, Security Council and Economic and Social Council resolutions and decisions, and places them in a narrative context of UN consideration, deliberation and action. The latest edition, the *Yearbook of the United Nations, 2010* (Vol. 64), has just been published in December 2014.

The history of the *Yearbook* is itself representative of the history of the United Nations, from the First General Assembly of representatives of 51 Member States held in 1946 until the Organization today made up of 193 Member States. The structure and subject matter of the *Yearbook* have evolved with the values and concerns of the international community, and its willingness to engage collectively in maintaining international peace and security, developing friendly relations among countries and promoting social progress, better living standards and human rights. This is evidenced, for example, by the initial appearance of and then increasing number of references in the *Yearbook* over time to subjects such as climate change, peacekeeping, sustainability and women's rights and gender equality among many others. In the 1968 *Yearbook*, as another example, the environment first became the topic of an independent chapter in the section on Economic and social questions. Although the status of women has been an abiding concern of the United Nations since its inception, the mention of women has grown ten-fold in the *Yearbook* since its first edition. Peacekeeping and related operations have been another major focus whose increasingly complex and multidimensional nature, especially since the 1990s, has been directly reflected in *Yearbook* chapters on questions of policy and practice in international peace and security. The key role played by the United Nations in advancing decolonization, principally through the work of the Trusteeship Council, through which many nations gained independence, predominates in the *Yearbooks* of the 1960s. More recently, significant developments in the worldwide promotion and protection of human rights led to the creation of an entire *Yearbook* section devoted to a topic that, until the 1995 edition, was treated in a single chapter.

As an exceptional singular publication, the commemorative *Special Edition UN Fiftieth Anniversary 1945-1995* (The Hague/Boston/London 1995) of the *Yearbook*, through a combination of excerpts from past editions and newly written narrative, highlights milestones in the first 50 years of United Nations history, and gives an outlook on potential future developments based on international consensus of the time.

While the *Yearbook* is regularly published only in English, the 1946-47 *Yearbook* was translated into French (*Annuaire des Nations Unies*, Paris 1948). It remains the only fully translated edition. The recently inaugurated online-only *Yearbook Express*, however, provides chapter introductions in all six UN official languages, beginning with more recent *Yearbooks*. Further added from its original print format, the *Yearbook of the United Nations*—of which an increasing number of editions are also available as an ebook—can be found on Twitter, where @UNYearbook provides a unique historical perspective on current UN issues by linking these to their background in related published *Yearbook* coverage. The new *Yearbook Pre-press* section found on the website also affords readers and researchers access to draft chapters and detailed chapter research outlines of *Yearbooks* currently in production.

Logo



URL

<http://unyearbook.un.org/content/about-yearbook/>

Subject

Social sciences - Yearbooks

Accessibility

Free

Language

Multilingual (English, Arabic, Chinese, Espanol (Spanish), Francais (French) and Russian)

Publisher

Department of Public Information , United Nations

Brief History

The history of the yearbook itself is representative of the history of the United Nations that spans from the first General Assembly of representatives of 51 Member States held in 1946 until the organization today made up of 193 Member States.

The structure and subject matter of the yearbook have evolved with the values and concerns of the international community. This is evident, for example, by the initial appearance and then increasing number of references in the Yearbook over time to subjects such as climate change, peacekeeping, sustainability, and women's rights and gender equality, among many others.

More recently, significant developments in the worldwide promotion and protection of human rights led to the creation of an entire yearbook section devoted to a topic that, until the 1995 edition, was treated in a single chapter.

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The recently inaugurated online-only Yearbook Express, however, provides chapter introductions in all six UN official languages, beginning with more recent yearbooks.

Scope and Coverage

The Yearbook of the United Nations is an authoritative reference work on the activities and concerns of the organization. Based on official UN documents, the Yearbook provides comprehensive coverage of political and security matters, human rights issues, economic and social questions, legal issues and institutional, administrative and budgetary matters.

Each of the sixty-four volumes of the yearbook, dating back to the 1946–47 edition, contains the texts of all major General Assembly, Security Council and Economic and Social Council resolutions and decisions, and places them in a narrative context of UN consideration, deliberation and action.

The yearbook has an exceptional singular publication that is its commemorative Special Edition: UN Fiftieth Anniversary 1945-1995 (The Hague/Boston/London 1995) of the Yearbook. It holds a combination of excerpts from past editions and newly written narrative which highlights milestones in the first 50 years of United Nations history and gives an outlook on potential future developments based on international consensus of the time.

An increasing number of editions of the yearbook are also available as an ebook and can be found on Twitter, where @UNYearbook provides a unique historical perspective on current UN issues by linking these to their background in related Yearbook coverage. The new Yearbook Pre-press section found on this website also affords readers and researchers access to draft chapters and detailed chapter research outlines of yearbooks currently in production.

Kind of Information

Each yearbook generally has five parts – Political and Security Matters, Human Rights Issues, Economic and Social Questions. Legal Issues and Institutional, Administrative & Budgetary Matters. The chapters include summary of relevant UN activities, including those of the intergovernmental and expert bodies, Major reports and at times, views of States and Multilateral treaties. The writings on each topic are dense and rich in its detailed analysis and reporting, references, subsections, dates, roster of political missions and offices etc. Each page of the article can be downloaded in pdf format.

An example has been given here for clear understanding. Under the heading of the section “International Peace and Security” (which is a section of Part 1: Political and Security Questions) , the pattern of information found is that, the first few paragraphs depict the positive role of the UN in its peacekeeping measures, the present scenario, new resolution of the organization and its financial position involving the peacekeeping operations. The first subsection of the above heading found to be – Promotion of International Peace and Security, followed by sub sub sections like, Maintenance of International Peace and Security – Security sector reform and Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations consideration. Detailed information on these sub headings has been represented in this yearbook.

Special Features

- ❖ The page is linked to Facebook and Twitter.
- ❖ Direct browsing facility to any chapter of a particular yearbook

is available.

- ❖ The multilingual Yearbook Express features the chapter introductions of recent Yearbooks, along with the report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Organization in those years in all six UN official languages.
- ❖ Yearbook Pre-press helps one gain an understanding of the research work, the editings and much more that goes into the making of the final draft of the book.
- ❖ News regarding the yearbooks is featured in the site.

Arrangement Pattern

The content is structured with broad divisions and arranged as per their order of relevance.

The whole body of work is divided into areas like, table of content, about the edition, about the online yearbook, abbreviation, explanatory notes, report of the Secretary General of the UN and the main content. Within the “main content” there are five broad categories - Political and Security Matters, Human Rights Issues, Economic and Social Questions. Legal Issues and Institutional, Administrative & Budgetary Matters.

Within one of the main headings “Political and Security matters”, subheadings are arranged in the following manner:

Part 1: Political and Security Questions

Chapter 1: International Peace and Security

Chapter 2: Africa

Chapter 3: Americas

Chapter 4: Asia Pacific

Chapter 5: Europe and the Mediterranean

Chapter 6: Middle East

Chapter 7: Disarmament

Chapter 8 : Other Political and Security Questions

At the end of the volume there is appendix on various topics, subject index etc.

Remarks

The comprehensive coverage of the issues that concerns the UN, makes it a handy reference tool. Being widely accepted as the most authentic work in the concerned domain, this yearbook has a unique value to its users.

Comparable Tools

- UN Chronicle(<http://unyearbook.un.org/content/un-chronicle/>)
- The United Nations Demographic Yearbook
(<http://unstats.un.org/UNSD/Demographic/products/dyb/dyb2.htm>)
- The United Nations Statistical Yearbook
(<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/publications/statistical-yearbook>)

Date of Access

May 30, 2016