



Role of UNO in Covid-19 Pandemic

DR. P. B. Tiwary

E-mail: tiwarypb@gmail.com

Received- 21.08.2021, Revised- 24.08.2021, Accepted - 01.09.2021

Abstract: *Seventy-five years ago, the most violent, for-flung and devastating war the world has ever seen was brought to an end. Millions fought, suffered, and died and millions more were uprooted with no homes to return to, no jobs and no idea where the next meal would come from. It was from this desperate crucible that, 75 years ago, the United Nations was born. The United Nations may be described in general in terms of 1. Its purpose, 2. Its organs and 3. Its functions.*

Key words- violent, for-flung, devastating, brought, Millions fought.

According to the charter, the United Nations is an organization for keeping the peace by suppressing outbreaks of international violence and by encouraging and facilitating and peaceful settlement of international disputes.

The next most important purpose in the development of friendly relations among nations. The third purpose is cooperation in the solution of economic, social and cultural problems and promotion of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. In addition, the United Nations serves as a centre for harmonizing the actions of nations as they seek attainment of these ends.

There are six principal organs established for the United Nations by the charter (article 7). They are:-

1. The General Assembly.
2. The Security Council.
3. The Economic and Social Council.
4. The Trusteeship Council.
5. The International Court of Justice.
6. The Secretariat.

In the same article of the charter, provision is made for establishing "Such subsidiary organs as may be found necessary: -

The General Assembly - The United Nations General Assembly is composed of all the members, each of whom is authorized to have not more than five representatives.

The Security Council- Originally eleven members of the United Nations made up the security council, divided into two classes, permanent members, and other members. The permanent member is named in the charter (Article-23). They are the Republic

Associate Professor- Department of Botany, S.M. College Chandausi-Sambhal (U.P.), India

Corresponding Author/Joint Authors

of China, France, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. The United Kingdom of Great Britain and the Northern Ireland and the United States of America. The other members are elected by the General Assembly.

The Economic and Social Council-

There are twenty-seven members made by a charter amendment adopted in 1965 elected for staggered three years terms, nine retiring each year (Article-61).

The Trusteeship Council- The membership of the United Nations trusteeship council is based on the principle of parity. The total number of members is equally divided between those members which administer trust territories and those which do not.

The International Court of Justice-

An international court of Justice is established by Article-7 of the charter as a principal organ of the United Nations. The membership of the international court of Justice comprises fifteen natural persons, independent judges elected regardless of their nationality.

The Secretariat - The secretariat is composed of individuals who are not representatives of states but are officials of the United Nations. Included are a secretary-general with such staff as the organization may require. Besides this, the specialized agencies are also there like World Health Organization, International Labour Organization, Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN etc. UNO and its specialized agencies work together to make UNO's purpose uniformly.

The UNO has done valuable work in the political field. During its existence it has successfully maintained peace either by avoiding war or by preventing its (war's) outbreak on different occasions. It is the only because of the UNO that no Third World War has been broken so far.

So for the role of the UNO in the social field is concerned, it has done great work through its various specialized agencies. The WHO is doing a lot of work for the protection of the health of mankind. UNICEF has rendered



useful services to poor and orphan children. The world bank and IMF have been giving monetary help to the backward countries. UNESCO is doing a wonderful Job in the field of education and culture.

In Environmental area UN has conducted the conference of environment and development at Rio-de Janeiro in 1992. In this conference, all countries adopted Agenda 21 "a blueprint to promote economic development and protect natural resources. The UNO established the International Research and Training Institute for Women. The UN Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) and the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW) have supported programs and projects to improve the quality of life for women in over 100 countries.

UNO work in Combating Covid-19 Pandemic- After the last world war, the world has found itself yet again in a globule battle. This time, all of humanity is on the same side against corona various disease, or covid-19. The pandemic has swiftly taken hundreds of thousands of live, infected millions of people, upended the global economy and caused pervasive fear for the future.

In the scenario UN Secretary General Guterrs called on the UN Security Council. He pointed and that all states are stragglng with the devastating consequences of the Corona Various epidemic. The UN General Assembly approved Resolution 74/270 on April 2, 2020, calling for "International Cooperation "and multilateralism" in the fight against covid-19. The UN resolution stress the centre role of the body in the global health and economic crisis. It was adopted under a silence procedure, as the UN General Assembly is not holding meetings due to the pandemic. After this UNO passes a three-point response.

A three-point United Nations Response- Since the beginning of the pandemic, the United Nations has pursued strategy based on three pillars: -

1. A large-scale, coordinated and comprehensive health response, guided by the World Health Organization (WHO) and its Strategic Preparedness and Response Plan. As Part of this response, the United Nations is supporting efforts to accelerate work towards a Covid-19 vaccine, diagnostic and treatment that are affordable and available to everyone, everywhere.
2. A wide-ranging effort to address the devastating socio-economic, humanitarian and human rights aspects of the crisis, with a focus on saving lives, keeping vital services accessible, households afloat, businesses solvent, supply chains functioning, institutions strong, public services delivering and human rights at the forefront. This includes the immediate humanitarian response to support the most vulnerable people in the most vulnerable countries with life-

saving assistance through a Global Humanitarian Response Plan.

3. A recover process that builds back better. Emerging from this crisis is an opportunity to address the climate crisis, inequalities, exclusion, gap in social protection systems and the many other fragilities and injustices that have been exposed.

The United Nations system is not only shaping the response but it is supporting delivery of the response also: -

- * The entire UN system has mobilized behind the WHO-led health response to distribute medical supplies, train health workers, build testing and tracing capacities; prevent spread of the virus.
- * The Secretary General is using his convening power and advocacy to mobilize world leaders on critical issues such as cooperation on a vaccine, financing and dept relief. Peacekeeping missions are putting in place a serves a series of mitigation measures to continue helping to protect vulnerable communities.
- * Humanitarian agencies already support more than 100 million people around the world and are placing high priority on continuing to provide lifesaving help for those people, while also supporting the wider UN system's response to the pandemic.
- * UN agencies are supporting government and partners with recommendations and guidance on public health measures, aviation, shipping, tourism food supply, technology and a host of other policy areas impacted by the pandemic.

Not only in first phase but in second and third phase also UNO work is remarkable. Secretary General Gutierrez stated, "Covid-19 is the greatest test' since World War second. It is more than a health crisis. It is a human crisis."

Limitation- The United Nation, which was given the primary responsibility for protecting and ensuring international peace and security, in incapable of responding to covid-19, as with many issues. The WHO, the specialised organization of the UN, has



declared the covid-19 disease caused by a new corona virus as a pandemic. Criticism have been raised that the WHO made this declaration too late and that it has not been able to take effective measures.

It has also been a great disappointment that the UNO has remained extremely passive in the fight against covid-19. The insistence of the UNO on using 'Chinese virus and wuhan virus' discovered for Covid-19 was challenged by China and Russia and delayed the meeting of the security council. Although the permanent member of the security council account for almost 50% of current Covid-19 case in the world disagreements among them on the issue prevent a decision tracing taken on combating Covid-19, UNO response to covid-19 pandemic has been extensively criticised. The main points related to the UNO that have come under criticism are as follows: -

1. Over/underestimation of threat.
2. Conflict of interest and political bias.
3. Problems related to the IHR implementation.
4. Slow response.
5. Lack of financial resources.
6. The UNO is seen as a more political and less cooperative world institution.
7. The UNO pandemic preparedness plans are ill-equipped to foresee and solve unique ethical challenges that may arise during different infection disease outbreaks.

Besides this, the data which was given by UNO has a lack of scientific knowledge about the virus and the disease due to uncertain rapidly evolving situation. The situation created lack of trust in UNO.

Although there are many lackiness in UNO working process. But this is the organization which in is the light of hope. The recommendation to improve the UN capacity to prevent and control pandemic are as follows: -

1. Continue the ongoing reform of the UNO.
2. Member States should ensure stable financing for the organization.
3. The UNO should work on increasing its credibility, paying special attention to ensuring the organization's transparency, political and business neutrality, and adapting evidence-based decisions and policies.

4. The member states should develop political trust, and the organization should be unbiased, distance itself from politics, and focus on its technical functions.

5. Concentrate efforts on developing basic health infrastructure and strength health systems in countries most vulnerable to pandemics. In response to the Covid-19 pandemic, the UNO has been working in line with its core functions related to pandemic control overall, given the situation of uncertainty and lack of knowledge, about Covid-19 the UNO has taken appropriate steps. Many experts agree on the necessity to provide the UNO with more resources and stable financing and extend its mandate. The people of all over the world expects the UNO to play a stronger leadership and coordinate role.

REFERENCES

1. The United Nations at work, edited by Research Board, Published by Research Publication in Social Sciences, 2/44, Ansari Road, Daryaganj, Delhi-6
2. United Nations and the global challenge Somar Sem, Kanishka publishers, distributors, New Delhi-02
3. <https://www.un.org>
4. <https://www.abdn.ac.uk/low/blog/role.of-the-united-nations-in-responding-to-covid-19>
5. <https://www.frontiersin.org/article/10.3389/fpubh.2020.000470/full>
6. <https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/opinion/the-uns-role-in-times-of-coronavirus/article31216051.ece/amb/>
7. Ten challenges for the UN in 2021-2022/crisis crous"<https://www.crisisgroup.org/ib006-ten-challenges-un-2021-2022>
