

## Chapter 05

### International Relations

#### Introduction

Since man in the past fulfilled all his requirements from the country it self, relationships with other countries were very much limited. As time went on due to the growth of population and the needs becoming complex, relationships among nations began to develop. Man started showing an interest in voyages of exploration, responding to the influence of the industrial revolution discovering new lands and maintaining relationships with them. Particularly as a result of the industrial revolution based on the need to obtain raw materials and to market the finished goods, relationships have begun to develop among countries. Depending on their targets powerful nations were able to build colonies and spread their political power to such colonies. Those nations also attempted to spread their religion through trade.

With the conclusion of the Second World War the relationships among nations grew rapidly. These relationships grew through various spheres.

- \* Diplomatic relations
- \* Trade relations
- \* Cultural relations
- \* Technological relations

Based on these relations the world began to shrink. With modern technological advancement in particular, a vast development has occurred in the field of communication, and the world has turned into a global village. On account of this it is impossible for any nation today, to separate itself from other countries and have an isolated existence. International links are very much dependent on mutual survival.

This inter dependence is built to a great extent based on multiplicity of relationships such as political, economic, social and cultural processes. The interactions that occur among nations based on these processes determine their closeness or remoteness. That means that there may be either friendly or antagonistic relations. The nature of such relationships are determined by the type of political vision followed by each nation.

In addition, differences between and within nations as well as those differences that occur at world scale level may affect the determination of the nature of international relationships. This means that changes of the government within nations and changes in national aspirations may change the nature of international relationships.

A few interpretations of international relationships presented by several scholars are given below.

International relationships are all types of relationships that exist among nations.

State level relationships maintained by officers who are authorized or permitted by the states.

International relations are all types of relations that exist among nations and all types of human movements that occur beyond the national boundaries as well as those movements that occur as regards ideas, thoughts and goods and services.

(Fredrin H.Hartman)

International relations mean all types of relations various nations maintain beyond their national boundaries. Whether they are economic, legal, political or of any other types or whether they are relationships at private or state level, they are all types of relations that stretch from one end of a country to the other exerting influence between these limits.

(Trinvie Mattheison)

Thus, it is clear that all types of relationships such as diplomatic, economic, cultural, political and social prevailing among modern states are international relations.

International relations are maintained along two main aspects namely,

1. Diplomatic relations
2. Military relations

Diplomatic relations means the relations that are developed among nations through peaceful media. These are maintained through the diplomatic officials namely Ambassadors and High Commissioners. In addition, through missions and the engagement of special emissaries these relations are maintained. The nature of the foreign policies of nations govern these relations. Peaceful relations are also maintained through meetings with heads of states, foreign ministers, by international conferences, International agreements and international organizations. Specific needs of various states are discussed and looked into at such instances.

By relations pertaining to war strategies are meant the relations maintained between nations on matters of war. These relations pertaining to war strategies become necessary in order to safeguard the state's supreme power and to heal external influences. Accordingly, through this, collection of arms, providing training in the art of war and also expert knowledge on matters pertaining to war are undertaken. On the other hand relations on war strategy are essential for the maintenance of the

balance of power in the world. This is reflected by the invisible conflict among nations. An example of this is the situation of “Cold War” that has arisen after the Second World War. In a situation leading to the production of nuclear weapons in particular, the attempts to quell power through power itself can be identified. Although there is no such situation in modern times, the perpetuation of the state of expansion of power exists unchanged. Safeguarding the balance of power in such a background is the basis of the relation on war strategies.

Hence, the basic theme of international relations is the maintenance of diplomatic and war strategic relations. In other words all types of activities and interactions that occur in the international world as well as the forces that control them and also all the governmental or non-governmental relations are reflected in international relations.

## **Factors that form the basis of International Relationship**

### **Exchange of goods**

On the basis of matters such as the geo-political location of a country and the distribution of resources of a state, its productive activities are determined. No country has the capacity to produce all its requirements. Hence each country followed the practice of producing only those goods which could be produced easily without much effort and to import the other requirements from other countries. Food items can be cited as an example. Since the essential food items were exchanged among countries cooperation among them grew.

On the other hand, on account of the Industrial Revolution that occurred in Western Europe, since the products of European countries had to be marketed these relationships grew. The raw material necessary for industrial products were obtained from adjoining states, and there arose the need for a market to sell products. For

this purpose the European powers selected Asian, African and Latin American countries. Through this, European countries became nations with developed economies. Relative to this the undeveloped countries came to depend on technically advanced nations. They had to obtain technical knowledge and know how from those countries. Due to this the nations that existed as colonies were compelled to obtain the technical knowledge, capital, and advanced machinery of developed countries.

Today almost the entire world is accustomed to a market economic pattern and accordingly we can notice an inter-nation dependence. It is through international co-operation that all the countries try to meet all their needs, not only the basic needs such as food and clothing.

### **Exchange of technology**

Developing countries attempt to borrow advanced techniques from developed industrial nations. If any achievement had been made in the spheres of agriculture and industry, it is through international co-operation. International assistance and cooperation has helped the development of all the spheres, namely, apparel industry, naval, air and over land transport, health, education and construction etc..

### **Communication systems**

The advancement in modern communication systems has helped in the development of international co-operation. The expansion of the internet system can be cited as an example. Under this system any person, stationed anywhere in the world now enjoys the facility of knowing anything that happens in the world, instantly.

Modern man now has the ability of knowing immediately not only of new inventions and technology, but also of obtaining medical advice. Thus, the rapid development of the field of communication, has lead to a vast upsurge internationally. On account of this nations are found joined at any moment of time. The influence of the communication system today is so advanced that nothing can he done secretively. Hence the media has developed today to such an extent that no individual race or country can exist in isolation.

### **International aid and assistance**

Most countries of the world are constantly subject to natural disasters. Most countries have to face situations such as earthquakes, floods, droughts, famines, earth slips, cyclones and catastrophes such as Tsunami. When such large scale devastations occur, the various nations find it difficult to face them alone, on their own. When a country faces such a calamity the international community comes forward to help it. For example, how the international community reacted during the Tsunami catastrophe of 26 December 2004 that affected several nations including Sri Lanka, can be cited. Here the international community provided assistance not only in material such as food medicine, and clothing, but also they sent across teams of relief workers as well as medical practitioners.

Further, the co-operation forthcoming from the international community to provide the basic needs of regions in the world engrossed in conflicts should be appreciated. We notice today how the international community offers assistance through the direct interference of states as well as through the interference of international government organizations and non-governmental organizations in areas such as safeguarding human rights, and providing relief to the victims of conflicts.

## Promotion of human resources

One also notices how the international community provides assistance not only with material resources but also through human resources. Particularly through the sphere of education, international educational exchange programmes are undertaken in the tasks of training experts, providing expertise etc.

## Co-operation

Relations among nations are essential for the progress of mankind. In situations such as population growth, complexity of needs and the limitation of resources, no nation can stand in isolation. Working with mutual co-operation and co-existence is a perfect support for development. Most nations of the modern world have reached an advanced state economically, socially, culturally technologically as well as politically through international co-operation. Devoid of international relations no nation will ever be able to achieve international peace. Hence, it could be seen that international relations have become an essential factor for the survival of the world.

### Activities



1. Prepare an article suitable for a wall newspaper on the topic “ The importance of International Relations”

## Countries that exert influence and the possible influences on Sri Lanka

Within the modern international context, how countries exert influence on other countries in various ways can be seen. Particularly in economic, political and military fields, countries that are powerful in those areas exert their influence at various levels on those that are weaker in those aspects.

The nations that possess nuclear power, and are economically powerful and whose military strength is advanced are capable of exerting influence on other nations.

Powerful nations exert influence on other nations in the following aspects.

1. International trade
2. Provision of loans and aid
3. Peace process
4. Economic activity
5. Defense affairs

Let us now consider the influence exerted by powerful nations on Sri Lanka in the above spheres. The location of Sri Lanka has caused the nations of the east and west to exert influence on her.

## **International Trade**

International Trade is dominated by developed nations. The developing countries mostly export only primary products. These primary products do not fetch a stable price in the world market. Therefore the foreign exchange earnings of these countries too are low.

In addition, in international trade the transport services are mainly handled by developed countries. The majority of the vessels transporting goods belong to the developed countries. Therefore developing countries are compelled to pay large sums of money to developed countries as freight and insurance.



Moreover, the protectionist policies followed by developed nations also influence international trade. The quota system now being followed to control the imports by developed countries is an example. Termination of the garment (apparel) quota of Sri Lanka by America is one such instance. This causes problems in the marketing of finished goods of developing countries.

### **Provision of Loans and Aid**

Through the provision of loans and aid too, the developed countries exert their influence on the developing countries. In the case of Sri Lanka in particular, the imposing of various conditions by donor countries when they issue their donations can be cited as examples. Instances when Sri Lanka is required to obtain goods equivalent to the value of loans, when loans are granted donor countries deciding the projects the time period of repayment, and interest rates can be mentioned.

### **Peace Process**

The United Nations Organizations performs a vast role in maintaining World Peace and Security. Those who function as the leaders of this organization are the members of its Security Council. In conflicts between nations or within nations, or when there is a request, the Security Council intervenes. Influences are made in ways such as imposing economic sanctions (restrictions), and compelling nations to resolve their issues through discussion. In addition it assists in the resolution of problem through the engagement of Peace Keeping Forces.

In Sri Lanka, considering the situation of civil war, the Security Council as well as powerful states are compelling Sri Lanka to resolve her disputes through discussion.

The influence exerted by nations such as America, Japan and Norway can be cited as examples.

## **Economic Activity**

In the conduct of economic affairs of a country one may notice the way influence is exerted on it. Especially the countries in the OPEC organization exert a vast influence on Sri Lanka. Most of the production activities of the country depend on fuel. Hence a vast amount of money is spent on petroleum as it is a necessity and also because of its high price.

## **Defense Affairs**

In defence affairs, weak nations are influenced by the powerful nations. Technical knowledge as well as the ownership of most technological equipment pertaining to defense are in the hands of powerful nations. When these countries impart that technical knowledge and equipment to other countries they impose various conditions.

## **Providing Employment**

Countries in the Middle Eastern Region and those in the European Union prominent in the Labour Market that provide employment in Sri Lanka. These countries exert influence with regard to limiting provision of employment, enforcing minimum qualifications, and laying down conditions for remittances.

### **Activity 1**



Collect data on beneficial and harmful influences on Sri Lanka through various spheres in international affairs

## International Organizations

### Introduction

Organizations formed among several nations are called international organizations. Generally three or more nations forming an organization according to some agreement in order to fulfill several objectives, is called an international organization. Such organizations are formed at inter- state level as well as non-state level. Organization on state level are called government organizations while those formed at personal level are called non-governmental organizations.

The special feature found in international relations is forming international organizations

A distinct feature of international relations during the period beginning with the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century is the growth of international organizations. This has exerted a strong influence on international politics as well as on the internal behaviour of nations. When the United Nations Organizations was officially inaugurated on 24.10.1945 there were only a few international organizations in the world. That is only the international Postal Union established under the Berlin Agreement on 09.10.1824 and the International Labour Organization established under the Peace of Versailles of 1919. However since 1945 international organizations are seen expanding continuously. Accordingly today we see thousands of international organizations in action. When the world stepped into the 21<sup>st</sup> century the number of International Organizations exceeded 2978 and the non-governmental organizations numbered nearly 5000. In future this number will increase further. The number of international organizations so formed can be divided into three main categories.

1. Organizations established on the basis of the entire world population.  
Eg: the United Nations Organization and its affiliated agencies.
2. Organizations established under a regional basis.  
These organizations can be divided into two types.
  - i. Military organizations established for regional collective security.  
eg: NATO, Warsaw Pact, SEATO, CENTO, Some of these organizations are now defunct.
  - ii. Organizations built for regional economic, social, political co-operation.  
eg: European Economic Union, ASEAN (Association of South East Asian Nations)  
SAARC (South Asian Association for Regional Co-operation)
3. Various international summits  
eg: Commonwealth, Non-aligned Movement.

In addition to these organizations, there are other types of international organizations, that function without the participation of states, but which exert an influence within international politics and are organized on a voluntary basis. Examples for such types are International Peace Corps, International Red Cross (ICRC)

Similarly, there are international non-governmental organizations established with the objective of economic and social development of nations. On the whole international organizations help the nations of the world at various levels, for the benefit of the community. On the other hand, they exert influence on them too. Hence, in a study of international relations, the study of international organizations is important.

## The United Nations

It is a known fact that the First World War occurred during 1914-1918 and the Second World War occurred during 1939-1945. These two World Wars caused large scale destruction of resources. Human lives were lost in thousands. Certain human races and cultures were totally eliminated from the earth. Although the powerful nations of the world made attempts to prevent the occurrence of such situations they were unable to prevent war.

After the First World War the need to maintain world peace was strongly felt. Hence the President of the United States of America Woodrow Wilson stressed the need for a collective effort of the nations of the world towards bringing world peace. The outcome of this was the inauguration of the League of Nations in 1920 with the participation of 27 member states.

The weaknesses of, and the drawbacks associated with, the League of Nations, made it rather difficult to maintain world peace. The Second World War that occurred during the period from 1939 to 1945 flared up because the League of Nations was not a strong body. During the Second World War the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in Japan were reduced to ashes within seconds due to the hurling of atomic bombs. Moreover, millions of Jews in Hitler's Nazi camps in Germany were brutally massacred. Because of this the Second World War was the most fierce war in world history. It resulted in the loss of life of over 50 million people. Millions of others were rendered disabled. Vast amounts of wealth and property unassessable even to date were destroyed.

The lesson the world community learnt from this fierce devastation was the determination to avoid the possibility of a Third World War. The world community thereby realised the need for a strong and powerful international organization in order to achieve this objective. Accordingly, the international organization established for the purpose of preventing the occurrence of a Third World War and to establish world peace is the United Nations Organization.

The conference on the establishment of this international organization was held on 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> of April 1945 at San Francisco under the leadership of Franklin Roosevelt the President of the United States of America, Winston Churchill, Prime Minister of Britain and Joseph Stalin the Head of the Soviet Union. 50 Nations participated in it. Hon. J.R.Jayawardhane participated in it to represent Sri Lanka. After the ratification of the Charter by the Heads of State of the five great powerful states United States of America, Soviet Union, Great Britain, France and China, the United Nations Organization was born. Thereafter, the 24<sup>th</sup> of October is celebrated every year as the United Nations Day

The United Nations Organization is known as the United Nations today (UNO) This can be called the largest international organization representing the most number of nations on earth. This started with 50 members but by 2007 this has a membership of 192 nations.

Expansion of membership of the United Nations System

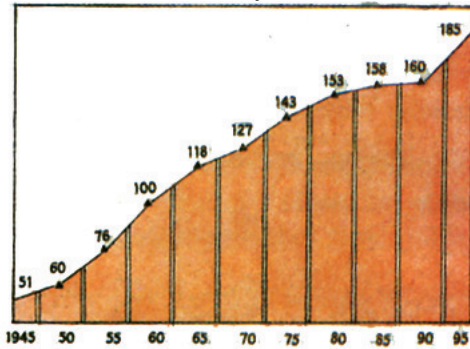


Diagram 5.1

24<sup>th</sup> of October is the United Nations Day

## Purposes and Principles of the United Nations

### Purposes

1. To maintain international peace and security.
2. To develop friendly relations among nations.
3. To co-operate in solving international economic, social, cultural and humanitarian problems.
4. To promote respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms

The following principles are followed in order to achieve the above purposes

### Principles

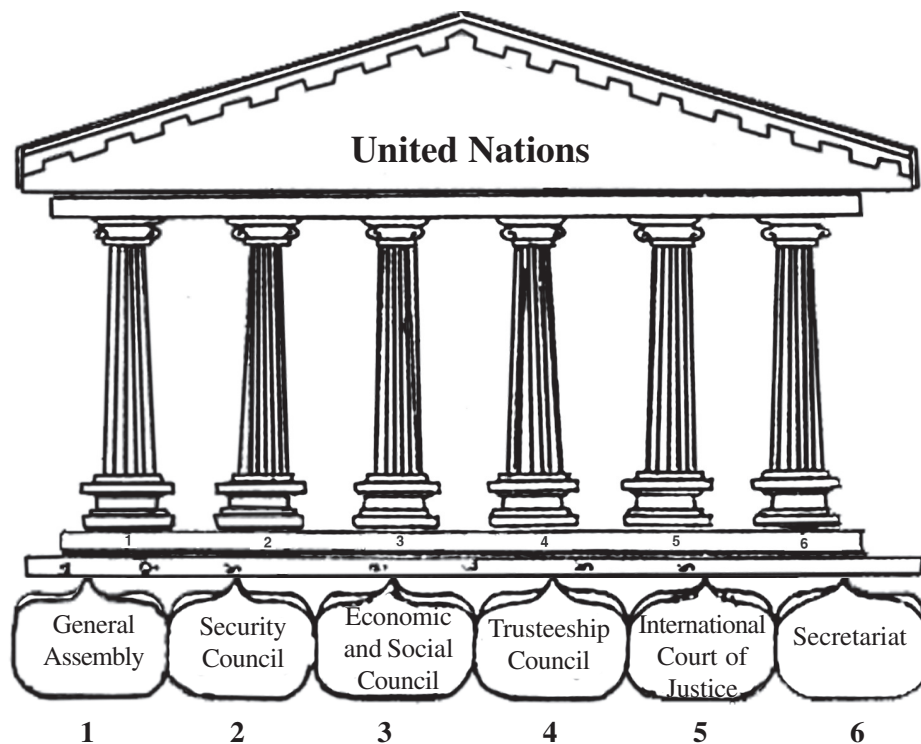
1. To treat all members equally
2. All members to fulfill in good faith their charter obligations.
3. All members to settle their disputes without endangering international peace and security
4. To refrain from the threat or use of force against any other state that has obtained international relationship.
5. To give the United Nations every assistance in the actions it takes or to refrain from helping any nation which the United Nations has imposed sanctions or preventive measures.
6. Not to authorize the United Nations to intervene in matters which are essentially within the domestic jurisdiction of any state.



## Structure of the United Nations

Membership of the United Nations is open to all peace loving nations which accept the obligations of the Charter and are able to carry out these obligations. The General Assembly admits new member states on the recommendation of the Security Council. The official languages of the United Nations are Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish. Arabic too has been named as an official language of the General Assembly, the Security Council and the Economic and Social Council. The United Nations has six principal organs.

They are,



5.3 picture

The six principal organs of the United Nations

## **The Principal organs, their structure and roles**

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

### **1. The General Assembly**

- This is composed of representatives of all member states. (By October 2006 the total membership stood at 192)
- This meets once a year. Special meetings can be convened at the request of a majority of members.

### **Powers and Functions**

- Admission of new members.
- To consider and make recommendations on the principles of co-operation in the maintenance of international peace and security, including the principles governing disarmament and arms regulation.
- To consider and approve the annual budget.
- To draw the attention of the Security Council to matters that may obstruct international peace and security.
- To appoint the Secretary General on the recommendation of the Security Council.

### **2. Security Council**

- The Security Council has the primary responsibility for the maintenance of international Peace and security.
- The council has 15 members composed of the five permanent members namely China, France, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom and the United

States, and 10 members elected by the General Assembly for two year terms, and who are not permanent members.

- Each member has one vote.
- Decisions are made by an affirmative vote of at least 9 of the 15 members.
- In voting, the power given to each Government powers to prevent the passing of a resolution is called “Veto”. If a permanent member does not fully agree with a proposed resolution, but does not wish to obstruct it, has the right to refrain from voting.

### **Powers and functions**

- To maintain international peace and security in accordance with the principles and purposes of the United Nations.
- To investigate any dispute or situation which might lead to international friction.
- To recommend methods of adjusting such disputes.
- To take military action against an aggressor.
- To draw up plans to establish a system of arms control.
- To call on members to follow economic sanctions and take other measures to prevent aggression.
- To recommend to the General Assembly the admission of new members to the United Nations.
- To recommend to the General Assembly the appointment of the Secretary General.

### **3. Economic and Social Council**

- This consists of 54 members who serve for three year terms. Once in every three years the tenure of office of 18 members expires and 18 new members are appointed in their place.
- This is the principal organ to co-ordinate the economic, and social activities of the United Nations affiliated institutions.

## **Powers and Functions**

- To promote respect for, and observance of, human rights and fundamental freedom.
- Discussing international economic and social issues of common interest.
- To study, report, and make recommendations on international economic, social, cultural and educational subjects.
- Drawing up contracts with the specialized agencies of the United Nations.
- Seek advice of non-governmental organizations on matters pertaining to the council.

## **4. Trusteeship Council**

### **Powers and Functions**

- To supervise the administration of territories coming under trusteeship.
- To look into the welfare of the people in trust territories and familiarizing them to attain self-government or independence.
- To effect the political, economic, social and educational advancement of the people of trust territories.
- To examine petitions from the trust territories.
- To organize missions to the trust territories.
- At the inception there were 11 territories entrusted to the trusteeship Council. By 1994 only one island remained as a trust territory. ( Palau, a Pacific Island) Since it too became an independent state in 1994, the membership of the Trusteeship Council too has been reduced.

## **5. International Court of Justice**

- This is the principal judicial organ of the United Nations. It is composed of 15 judges elected by the General Assembly and the Security Council voting independently.

- The tenure of office of a Judge is 09 year.
- Court has its session at the Hague in Netherlands.

### **Powers and Functions**

- The court exercises judicial powers over all questions that member states refer to the International Court of Justice.
- On special occasions, states may bind themselves in advance to accept the jurisdiction of the court either by signing a treaty or convention that provides obligation to the court, or by making a declaration to that effect.

### **6. The Secretariat**

- This is the principal administrative office of the United Nations.
- The secretary General is its Chief administrative Officer. He is appointed by the General Assembly on the recommendation of the Security Council for a five year renewable term.
- He is entrusted with vast responsibilities.
- He has the authority to refer to the Security Council any matter which he deems could be a threat to international Security.
- He also serves as the spokesman of the international community as well as the servant of member countries.

### **Specialized Agencies of the United Nations**

There are several agencies affiliated to the United Nations. They are,

1. International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) or World Bank.
2. International Monetary Fund (IMF)
3. United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)

4. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
5. United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
6. World Health Organization (WHO)
7. International Labour Organization (ILO)
8. International Development Association (World Range Group) (IDA)
9. International Finance Corporation (World Bank Group ) (IFA)
10. International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)
11. Universal Postal Union (UPU)
12. International Telecommunication Union (ITU)
13. World Meteorological Organization (WMO)
14. International Maritime Organization (IMO)
15. World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)
16. International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)

Let us now divert our attention to some of these affiliated agencies.

### **United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)**

Established in : 1946

Headquarters : Paris, France

The birth of the UNESCO is spelt as follows,

## **Objectives:**

The role of UNESCO can be described as bringing about and maintaining world peace through international intellectual co-operation, and developing a friendly human society on a cultural basis with knowledge, determination and an exemplary education. Towards this end, the UNESCO directs its foremost attention on helping in the advancement of literacy, providing the basis necessary to spend leisure time meaningfully, preservation of health, utilization and conservation of natural resources and advancement of household life.

UNESCO has further stressed that education is imperative for human development, and that education helps in the maintenance of peace.

- Following is the Logo of UNESCO



## Assistance rendered to Sri Lanka

UNESCO has assisted in the inauguration and development of a large number of institutions helpful for the advancement of the educational and cultural sectors of Sri Lanka.

Some of them are indicated below

- Providing aid for the development of formal education in Sri Lanka
- Establishment and development of the Open University of Sri Lanka, University of Moratuwa, National Institute of Education, Energy Authority, Mahaweli Community Radio station and Arthur C. Clarke Centre
- Providing assistance for the restoration of sites of cultural importance, under the Cultural Triangle Scheme.



## United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)

Inauguration : 1946

Headquarters : New York, United States of America

Original background : To secure the future of millions of children who were orphaned and became destitute as a consequence of the Second World War.

At the implementation this organization was known as the "United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund"



### Objectives:

- Promotion and consolidation of children's rights. Accordingly the General Assembly ratified a declaration on Children's Rights in 1954. Its theme was the binding on the part of adults to give the child the maximum that can be given to him.
- Effecting a total child development
- Providing aid for training programmes in health, specialist services and nutritious food.

### Activities Undertaken in Sri Lanka

- Providing aid for the development of infant health.
- Taking steps to eradicate disease

- Taking steps to develop literacy.
- Taking steps to reduce the infant mortality rate.
- Providing aid for the protection of infant health, and development of education in rural and estate areas.
- Providing assistance for the protection of family health conditions in the new settlements of the Accelerated Mahaweli Scheme.
- Taking necessary steps to eradicate malnutrition.
- Taking steps to combat child abuse.

## United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)

Established in 1964

Headquarters : Geneva, Switzerland

### Objective:

- To conduct world trade so as not to obstruct economic development.
- To develop international trade in developing countries.
- To analyse policies that assist in accelerating economic development in developing countries.
- Assisting discussions and agreements with member states.
- Assisting technological co-operation

### Activities undertaken in Sri Lanka

- Assisting in the organization of international trade.
- Computerising the import clearance systems in the Colombo port from January 1994.

- Inclusion of Katunayake Airport in the automatic customs data system.
- Computerising the Operation Division of Sri Lanka Customs.
- Supplying loan relief to developing countries.

## **International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD)**

Established in 1946

Headquarters : Bretton Woods, Washington. DC. U.S.A.

This institution is also known as World Bank. This comprises of the International Development Association (IDA), International Finance Corporation (IFC), Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA), and International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID). Its membership exceeds 175.

### **Objectives:**

The basic objectives of the World Bank are eradication of poverty, strengthening the economy of poor countries and improving the standard of living of people in those countries through economic development.

- The World Bank performs three functions:
  - Providing loans.
  - Providing economic advice and technical assistance for sustainable development.
  - Functioning as an institution guiding others, on investment in developing countries.
- Some of the schemes implemented in Sri Lanka with the loans provided by World Bank
  - Colombo Development Scheme.

- Poverty Alleviation Scheme
- General Education Scheme
- Colombo Transport Scheme.
- Health and Population Scheme.
- Private Finance Development Scheme.
- National Irrigation Rehabilitation Scheme.
- Economic Restructuring Scheme.
- Telecommunication Scheme.
- Electricity Scheme.

In addition it is noticed that a large number of various development projects have been undertaken. Through this the World Bank has contributed towards the development effort of Sri Lanka.

### **World Health Organization (WHO)**

Established in 1948

Headquarters : Geneva, Switzerland

The prime objective of the World Health Organization is to improve people's health facilities, taking health as an essential aspect of economic and social development of member countries.

### **Objectives:- “Prevention is better than cure”**

- To guide the development of the sphere of health.
- To assist in the planning and administration of national health programmes.
- To exchange information and technical equipment related to health.

At the Conference on Primary Health held at Alma Ata in Russia in 1978, attention was focused on a programme of eight points. These eight points are Health Education, Food and Nutrition, Pure Water and Sanitation, Child Health and Family Planning, Maternal Health Care, Prevention of Epidemics, Treating Diseases and Supply of Medicine. At this programme particular attention was directed towards developing countries.

- The latest challenge for the World Health Organization is to take measures to eradicate. HIV/AIDS.
- World wide programmes are now being implemented to save children from diseases such as Diphtheria, Measles, Polio, Tetanus, Whooping Cough and Tuberculosis.

### **Support Rendered to Sri Lanka**

Sri Lanka too was able to reap the benefits of the above programmes, and the following actions too were taken.

- Human resource development for the health service.
- Development of research on health.
- Providing information on health subjects and education.
- Preservation and promotion of the health of special groups of persons such as mothers, children, labourers and elderly persons.
- Preservation and promotion of mental health.

- Food security.
- Prevention and cure of infectious diseases.
- General health care and promotion.

Measures have been taken to improve the health situation of Sri Lanka through these programmes.

## **International Labour Organization (ILO)**

Established in 1919. It was in 1946 that this body became a specialized agency of the United Nations.

Headquarters: Geneva in Switzerland.

### **Objectives:**

- Safeguarding Labour rights.
- Enhancement of the service conditions of labour in member states.
- Improvement of the working condition and the state of houses of the working class through out the world.
- Drawing up programmes for the upliftment of labour.
- Formulation of educational and training programmes of the workers.
- Entering into international contracts on matters such as the freedom of association of workers, their wages, number of working hours, workmen's compensation, service conditions, social insurance, leave and security and effecting some equality through these measures.

## **Programmes implemented**

- Development of labour relations in the Caribbean region of Africa, and the implementation of programmes for labour social security.
- Through the Programmes on Manpower Planning in Asia, taking steps to settle labour problems.

- Paying special attention to the aspects of labour administration, labour relations, social insurance, employment policies, job security, labour accidents and the employment of women and children.
  - Training programmes for technical assistance in education, research and gathering information.
  - Undertaking international programmes for eliminating child labour.
- ◆ Work undertaken in Sri Lanka.
- Implementation of programmes for rehabilitation of Sri Lankan labourers returning home after their assignments in the Middle East.
  - Training in hotel and tourist industry, assisting the Sri Lanka Design Centre in the development of the handicraft sectors.

ILO has assisted Sri Lanka in obtaining more and more foreign employment.

### Activities:



1. Describe the measures taken by the United Nations to promote world peace.

## Regional Organizations

### Introduction

Looking at the international organizations operating in the world, Regional International Organizations can be identified as one type of such special organizations. These represent international relations built in at state level. These organizations are termed as regional organizations since each of them represent a particular geographical area. Boundaries that can be isolated geographically have been identified in modern times. For example, regions have been identified as Europe, Asia, Africa and Latin America. As their sub-divisions, regions have been identified as, Black Africa, Pacific Region, the Caribbean, Middle East and South Asia. These are termed not as mere geographical boundaries but also geographical regions. In geographical regions there are sub regions. In these sub regions too there are regional organizations. But they are not called sub regional organizations, but, regional organizations. The SAARC organization is an example for this type of organization.

### Regional Military Organizations

The history of regional organizations runs as far back as the Second World War. After the Second World War, the world powers divided themselves into two blocs. These power blocs are known as West and East European Nations headed by America and by the Soviet Union, respectively. This was the origin of regionalism.

The first regional organization was the North Atlantic Treaty Organization or the NATO. The main reason for the establishment of this organization was the consensus arrived at by the member states of this organization about their collective security. An important characteristic of a regional organization is the cooperation of several



nations on common agreement and common objectives, and the location of those states in a single geographical region. Accordingly, America, Britain, France, Italy, Canada, Norway, Belgium, Denmark, Netherlands, Luxembourg, Portugal and Iceland formed the NATO. Later Greece, Turkey and West Germany too joined it.

Similar to this the East European countries or the communist countries headed by the Soviet Union formed an organization called the Warsaw Treaty Organization in order to ensure their security. The main reason for the formation of this organization was the fear that Western European nations would attack the Soviet Union once again since West Germany obtained membership in the NATO. The Soviet Union, Bulgaria, Hungary, Rumania, Czechoslovakia and Poland were members of the Warsaw Organization. This organization was the second military organization formed in the European geographical zone. Now only the NATO functions.

### **Regional Economic Organizations**

The formation of regional organizations based on economic development began in Western Europe. The inaugural organization in this sphere was the European Economic Community formed in 1957. In addition to the “Marshall Plan” launched by America in order to resurrect the economics of European nations that had collapsed due to the Second World War, a regional organization called the European Coal and Steel Community was established in 1952 for the purpose of developing trade in the countries of the region. Another organization by the name of European Atomic Energy Community was formed. The member nations of both these organization were France, West Germany, Italy, Belgium, Netherlands and Luxemburg. With the objective of developing further, the success and regional cooperation achieved by the above organizations, the European Union was formed. Today, this organization has become the foremost force unifying the whole of Europe.

In addition to these, various regional organizations emerged in Latin America, Africa and among the countries in the Asian region. The main objective of such organizations was the achievement of economic development among the nations of the region. The Latin America Free Trade Association was one such organization. After 1980 this came to be known as the Latin America solidarity organization. In the African region too, several such organizations emerged and the organization for African Unity can be described as one successful organization out of them. Although this organization was established in 1963 with political motives it is nevertheless important with regard to the development of economic resources.

Among the Asian nations too, similar organizations were formed and the most successful of such organizations was ASEAN or the Association of South East Asian Nations. This organization formed in 1967 comprised Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia, Philippines and Singapore. Later in 1982 Brunei too joined it. Its prime objective was the maintenance of regional peace and solidarity, and later it drew its attention towards economic cooperation. After 1987, the nations belonging to ASEAN formed an organization called the Asia Pacific Economic Co-operation Forum. Australia, Canada, Japan, New Zealand, South Korea and America too were included in it. This organization was established solely for the purpose of achieving economic cooperation in the Asia-Pacific region.

Although there existed a tendency for the emergence of regional organizations on the basis of economic affairs, peace and security the South Asian region enters this trend only in 1985, that, is with the formation of SAARC, or the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation.

## **SAARC**

This organization is popularly known by the acronym SAARC.(South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation)

The member nations of SAARC are the countries in the sub-geographical region known as South Asia, namely, India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Bhutan, Nepal, Maldives and Afganistan.

Since 2007 April, Afganistan can be considered, officially as the new member of SAARC.



## Objectives of SAARC

1. Uplifting the welfare and the standard of living of the people of the South Asian region.
2. Accelerating the regional economic growth, social progress and cultural development and providing everybody with the opportunities to live with self-respect and to realise their total capabilities.
3. Promoting and strengthening collective trust and faith among South Asian nations.

4. Understanding each others questions by propagating mutual understanding and trust within the region.
5. Promoting active cooperation and mutual help in the economic, social, cultural, technical and scientific spheres.
6. Strengthening the cooperation maintained with other developing countries.
7. Working on a regional basis internationally on common issues.
8. Working in collaboration with other international and regional organizations having similar targets and aims.



## The Principal Institutions of SAARC

- Summit of Heads of States
- Board of Foreign Ministers
- Standing Committee comprising Foreign Secretaries
- Technical Committee
- The Secretariat

The Summit of Heads of states should be convened annually. At this summit decisions are taken on important matters recommended and submitted by the Board of Foreign Ministers.



The National Flags of SAARC Nations

This flag is used to express the identity of the SAARC countries. Apart from this a symbol is used in respect of each regional organization and in order to symbolize the SAARC organization, the following logo is used.



Diagram 5.9

The SAARC emerges with the signing of the SAARC Charter by the Heads of State of SAARC countries on 08th December 1985. Zia-Ur-Rahman who was then President of Bangladesh was the pioneer of the SAARC movement. He constantly stressed the need for a regional organization for South Asia and its final outcome was the emergence of SAARC.

#### Heads of states who signed the treaty

Country	Head of State
India	Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi
Pakistan	President Zia Ul Haq
Bangladesh	President Hussain Mahmud Ershad
Sri Lanka	President Junius Richard Jayawardena
Nepal	King Birendra Bis Bikram Shadav
Bhutan	King Jigme Singya Vanchuk
Maldives	President Maumoon Abdul Gayum

#### Measures adapted by SAARC to alleviate poverty in member countries:

- Agricultural development
- Development of education, culture and sports.
- Health population and children's welfare.

- Working towards scientific and technological development.
- Developing the transport sector.
- Taking necessary action to uplift trade in the region.
- Exchange of technical knowledge among nations.
- Taking necessary measures for environmental development.
- Accelerating rural development activities
- Promoting tourism
- Maintaining a food reserve for use during emergency situations in member nations.

## SAPTA

SAPTA stands for SAARC Preferential Trading Arrangement.

The proposal for the SAPTA programme was presented by the Sri Lanka at the SAARC Summit of Heads of States held in Sri Lanka in 1991. It was discussed at this summit that for the more effective working of economic cooperation among South Asian nations, trading activities in the region should be developed, and this could be achieved only by reducing customs duties and other charges in the trade transactions within the region, while not affecting adversely the local products and manufacturers from it. Consequent to this at the seventh SAARC Summit held in Dakar in April 1993, the SAARC Preferential Trading Agreement was signed. This agreement came into operation on 07<sup>th</sup> December 1995.

In terms of this agreement tariff concessions have been granted in respect of 226 items produced in the region. By 1996, the number of items which were granted tariff concessions was increased to 1971. Out of this SAARC countries the highest tariff concessions have been granted by India.

## SAFTA

The SAFTA arrangement can be defined as a forward step in the SAPTA arrangement. The relevant agreement was signed for the purpose of forming a free trade zone among nations of the region. This is known as the SAARC FREE TRADE AREA.

By creating a free trade area in South Asia, it is anticipated to reinforce economic cooperation among these nations on the one hand, and to accelerate the growth of the domestic economics as well as their production process on the other. In addition it is anticipated to mobilize the labour market and to produce high quality finished goods through competition.

Relationships built by SAARC countries with international organizations and regional organizations.

SAARC countries have developed relationships with international and regional organizations. These relationships are of utmost significance for regional cooperation as well as international cooperation. The following relationships are examples.

1. SAARC – UNCTAD - 1993
2. SAARC – ESCAP -1994
3. SAARC – UNICEF - 1993
4. SAARC – Asia-Pacific Telecommunication – 1994
5. SAARC – UNDE
6. SAARC – United Nations International Drug Control Programme
7. SAARC- Colombo Plan

### Activities:



1. Prepare an article for the class magazine on the theme “The Service rendered by SAARC to uplift the regional economy.”
2. Explain the position of SAARC among international organizations.



## Media of International Relations

### Diplomatic Service

The Diplomatic service can be described as an aspect important for the development and management of international relations. This is essential to maintain cordial and peaceful relations among nations. The diplomatic service is also described as the peaceful methodology adapted to achieve international objectives through the foreign policy of a country.

Through this, it is expected to maintain official relationships with independent states through exploiting and strategies.

Accordingly, the diplomatic service can be defined as a device for maintaining relationships with the international community. Such relationships should be maintained as far as possible in a peaceful and cordial atmosphere. A nation maintains basic relationships with another nation through diplomats and diplomatic missions. The diplomats of Commonwealth countries are known as High Commissioners.

### ❖ Role of Diplomats and Ambassadors

1. Implementing the policies of one's country.
2. Safeguarding the aspirations of the citizens of the country.
3. Transmission of important messages received from the country.
4. Understanding the country's policy.
5. Creating a favourable image of the country.
6. Consolidating the friendship between the two countries.
7. Promoting political, social and intellectual relationships.
8. Representing the country as well as representing the Head of one's country.
9. Having a clear idea of the above matters and maintaining them carefully.

### ✦ The Qualities of a High Commissioner or Ambassador

1. High Commissioners and Ambassadors must act with a clear understanding of the independence of their profession, rules and regulations, strategies, theories and ethics associated with them.
2. They should have an understanding of not only their country, but also of the country in which they serve, as well as the current events in world politics.
3. They should also have a clear knowledge of the art of diplomacy, arbitration, conclusion and negotiation.
4. They should be able to exploit international law and international politics for the advancement of their country.

## Trade

No country in the world is capable of producing within it, all its requirements. These goods that cannot be produced within, are imported from other countries. International trade has emerged in order to fulfill the demands that occur constantly among various countries. The excess products of one country are exported to other countries and its requirements, in return are imported from other countries. On account of this man has got the opportunity of consuming the food items and fruits cultivated in various parts of the world, as well as using textiles and other goods produced elsewhere.

International Trade is made up of two main segments

1. Bi-lateral trade
2. Multi-lateral trade

### ✦ Bi-lateral Trade

The exchange of goods and services between two countries is called Bi-lateral trade. For then the two countries concerned should enter into a written agreement.

The type of goods exchanged, how the financial transactions are settled and similar matters should be included in this agreement. Although the prices of the good or goods negotiated may change in the world market, the price quoted in the agreement cannot be changed. The Indo-Lanka Free Trade Agreement signed between India and Sri Lanka and the Rubber-Rice Pact signed between China and Sri Lanka in 1952 are examples of such trade agreements. This method is advantageous for countries having foreign exchange problems.

### ✪ Multi-lateral Trade

The exchange of goods and services among more than two countries, is called Multi-lateral trade. It is the most widespread system of trade that operates in the Modern World. Under this system the amount of money resulting from trade agreements between countries and the subsequent transaction is not settled directly between countries. One main feature of this system of trade is that it is possible to make payment for a stock of goods imported from one country out of the value of goods exported to another country. For example, let us assume that Sri Lanka imported from New Zealand, a consignment of milk powder worth 1 million US \$. Since New Zealand is not willing to accept payment for this stock of milk powder in Sri Lankan rupees we have to make payment in US \$. Meanwhile Sri Lanka can advise America to pay to New Zealand, the amount of money America has to pay Sri Lanka for a stock of ready made garments worth 1 million US \$. Sri Lanka has exported to America.

In this transaction New Zealand can obtain the said amount of money from the United States of America or goods to the same value. If goods are obtained in exchange there is no exchange of money between the two countries in respect of this transaction, and so it can be covered with an exchange of goods. Hence, the trade that takes place involving more than two countries in this manner is called Multi-lateral trade.

In international trade the types of currency recognized worldwide are US dollars, sterling pounds of U.K., Deutschmark of Germany, and Japanese Yen.

Thus we notice that international relations are strengthened due to international trade transactions.

## War

War can be defined in simple terms as a conflict that occurs when it is not possible to arrive at a solution to conflicting situations between two or more parties.

Accordingly, war can be defined as a conflict among the opposing system of control that is operated by state, nation, or between countries or in one nation or in the same country, between opposing parties with the use of armed forces.

## Factors causing the occurrence of war

### 1. Political factors

Political causes of war are based on the following factors

- Supremacy dominance
- Balance of Power
- Conflicts
- Mutual distrust and suspicion
- Fear of foreign powers

### 2. Psychological Factors

War occurs due to the development of a mental situation of destroying or eliminating a particular party caused by a state of mutual fear in man. Nazism and Facism are glowing examples of such situations. They can be described as two dogmas instrumental in building the psychological atmosphere necessary to provoke people for war.

### **3. Cultural Factors**

Cultural factors are those pertaining to caste/language/religion/ethnic considerations.

### **4. Dogmatic Factors**

In international politics wars have occurred due to various dogmas.

### **5. Economic Factors**

Many wars have occurred in the world on the basis of economic factors such as delivering or obtaining goods and services.

Wars can occur based on any of the above causes. In the 20<sup>th</sup> century alone the number of human lives lost on account of wars has been estimated at 111029000.(111 million) During the First World War 8.4 million soldiers and 1.4 million civilians lost their lives. During the Second World War 16.9 million soldiers as well as 34.3 million civilians lost their lives. The annual death toll during these two World Wars was 8.5 million.

A former President who focused his attention on war situations was John F. Kennedy. He commented on this situation as. “Either the human race should put an end to war or else war will put an end to the human race”.

Based on these factors causing war, one notices how international relations too are maintained. On the one hand war has become a background to exert international influence too. For example, in an atmosphere of war in a country people start emigrating to other countries. They become refugees in another country. This prompts the countries involved to solve such problems through international co-operation. Today the problem of refugees has become ever so serious. In addition

to refugee problem, in a war atmosphere plenty of resources are destroyed. International cooperation is essential in order to repair such damage to resources. Again due to weakening of security measures, countries are compelled to solicit the help of other nations. Countries pressed with the terrorist problem. Develop relations with powerful nations, to obtain arms and ammunition to obtain opportunities for military training and even to get the services of soldiers and other military personnel. These relations are mostly contracted and may subsequently lead to detrimental effects. Similarly resettlement of victims of war, providing them with infrastructure facilities and also other facilities such as education, health and security are issues that cannot be solved by a country single handed. For this, the cooperation of the international community is essential. In this atmosphere, international relations are further enhanced.

## Foreign Aid

Foreign Aid is essential for developing countries. They need the contribution of the international community. For this it is necessary to maintain cordial international relationships.

Developing countries mostly export primary goods. They fetch a low price in the world market. Due to this their foreign earnings too are low. They are compelled to pay a high price for items such as food, clothing, medicine and most machinery. Capital formation in these countries falls due to the constant occurrence of an unfavorable trade balance on account of the rise in import expenditure and the fall in export income. This results in a drop in investment for production activities in the country. This in return leads to a drop in production. Due to a continued drop in production, the assets of the country show a decline. When the assets of a country are allocated for services and maintenance work, the amount of capital that remains will not be sufficient for investment in development projects, planning new production or investment purposes. In this situation such countries are compelled

to obtain aid from foreign countries. Thus the aid or assistance obtained by a country from other countries to cover its balance of payment deficit and to invest in the country's development is called foreign aid.

In the modern world there are several ways of supplying foreign aid. They can be grouped as donations, loans, goods and services.

The Foreign Aid System is a movement that originated after the Second World War. After the conclusion of the Second World War, most nations of Europe experienced a severe economic depression. Community life disrupted and people suffered severe hardship and were rendered poor. In order to resurrect the Europeans from this disastrous situation America came forward and launched a plan to provide aid to Europe. This plan was known as "The Marshall Plan".

### **Donations:**

Donations are provided by a country to another country as well as by an institution to a country. These donations are categorized as financial aid, machinery, buildings and services. Donations are often provided to develop the sectors such as industries agriculture, health, education and fisheries. Donations received by Sri Lanka after the Tsunami catastrophe in December 2004 can be cited as an example here.

### **Loans:**

Loans are provided under various themes. When loans are provided the lending country or institution imposes conditions to the recipient country. Loans are given either free of interest (interest free loans) or charging an interest. Interest free loans are favorable for poor countries. But such loans are given only on a small scale. When loans with interest are provided, the recovery period and the conditions thereof are included in the agreement. Loans are categorized as short term and long term loans depending on the repayment period. When loans are provided, some countries insist that goods should be purchased from their country utilizing the loan granted.

Then the uses of such loans will be limited. It is disadvantageous to the recipient country. Hence, loans bound by conditions will not be of much benefit to the recipient.

## Goods and Services

Machinery and vehicles too are provided as foreign aid. Sri Lanka has received various types of machinery as foreign aid which are of use in the spheres of education, health, agriculture and industry. Furthermore Sri Lanka has received as donations from other countries, buildings for universities and other institutions, houses for those displaced by the Tsunami and village reconstruction. We have also received service of foreign experts for research and training in the fields of medicine, engineering, agriculture and fisheries. Moreover those selected from these fields are awarded scholarships and provided training in the donor countries. Countries as well as various organizations offer these services.

International organizations providing Foreign Aid World Bank/  
International Development Association / Asian Development Bank/  
Colombo Plan/ OPEC

International Organizations Associated with Foreign Trade  
European Union / UNCTAD/ GATT

## Peace & Development

Peace means unity or conflict free situations between man and man. When Peace prevails human rights are properly safeguarded. In the absence of peace human rights are violated. For the preservation of Democracy in a country, prevalence of



peace is essential. For the fulfillment of basic human needs peace should prevail. For man to realize humanity peace should prevail. Accordingly, the government of a country should be able to protect peace in it. As such no country will be able to achieve a respectable standar of living or march towards development without peace.

If there are internal conflicts or clashes within a country, or a continuation of external influences, public life in that country will be distributed. Hence, for public life to be harmonious, satisfied and settled, peace should prevail constantly.

The principal aim of the United Nations was to safeguard world peace. For this the United Nations has performed a tremendous amount of work. The United Nations has provided its assistance from the very inception, to prevent clashes developing into wars, persuading the rival groups to choose the negotiating table in place of armed strength or restoration of peace when clashes occurred. The United Nations has embarked on these peace efforts through its Security Council which is the main body in charge of international peace and the resolution of problems related to security.

International relations are important for a developing country in obtaining peace and development. It is important to decide the most effective methods pertaining to the social, economic and political development of the country.

This will be the basis for stable peace and development.

## Summary

- ❖ With the concept of globalization, the world has become a global village.
- ❖ Nations have developed international relationships targeting various purposes.
- ❖ Exchange of goods, advancement in technology, expansion of communication systems human resource promotion and development of international co-operation are the factors that have lead to the expansion of international relationships.
- ❖ Sri Lanka is subjected to various direct and indirect influences when dealing with import and export trade, obtaining foreign aid, peace building, economic activities, defense activities and providing foreign employment opportunities.
- ❖ The role played by the international organizations is significant when building international relationships.
- ❖ The United Nations Organization being the widest international organizations has a large number of member countries.
- ❖ The SAARC Organization contributes to maintaining international relationships specifically among the countries in the South Asian region.
- ❖ Diplomatic service, trade, foreign aid and grants, building peace and development activities play a major role in fostering international relationships.