

05

International Relations

It could be seen that a self-sufficient economic system prevailed in many countries in the past. It is a feature of a self-sufficient economic system to produce one's own needs by himself for his own consumption. However, with the growth of population the needs of people become more and more complex. As a result of this demand for goods was increased.

Products of a country are determined by the factors such as geographical location, climatic and weather conditions, and distribution of natural resources. Yet, no country is capable of producing all the goods it requires by itself due to diversity of available resources. Hence each country produces goods that can be easily produced by itself and import other goods from other countries.

New inventions and improvements in exploration activities developed relationships and transactions among countries. Building up relationships with European and Western countries by the rest of the world was developed as a result of them. With the Industrial Revolution, production of goods and services in Europe increased rapidly. Accordingly raw materials as well as a market to sell the products were required. Asia, Africa, Latin America were their targets to fulfil these requirements.

Europe adopted Colonialism as a strategy to achieve this target. European countries who occupied colonies became developed countries. Capital and the technological power of these countries reached to a higher level. Countries which had been colonies for a long period of time gained improvement in their economies whereas their technological power remained undeveloped or underdeveloped. Hence developing countries became dependent on developed countries. As a result of this, international relations were developed.

Cooperation among countries is essential for the development of human beings. No country in the world can exist in isolation due to rapid growth of population, complexity of human needs, and lack of ways to fulfil those needs.

Mutual cooperation and goodwill among countries help to achieve development targets. Many countries have improved their economic, social and cultural status as a result of the cooperation among nations. Therefore International relationships have become a very important topic at present.

We will now look at some definitions on International Relations.

Definitions on International Relations

- I. International Relations mean all types of relations that exist among nations.
- II. State level relationships are maintained by officers authorized by the state.

Accordingly, international relations mean the relationship that exist between two or more countries or, if not between states or international organizations or between states and persons. You can easily understand this idea by looking at the following illustration.

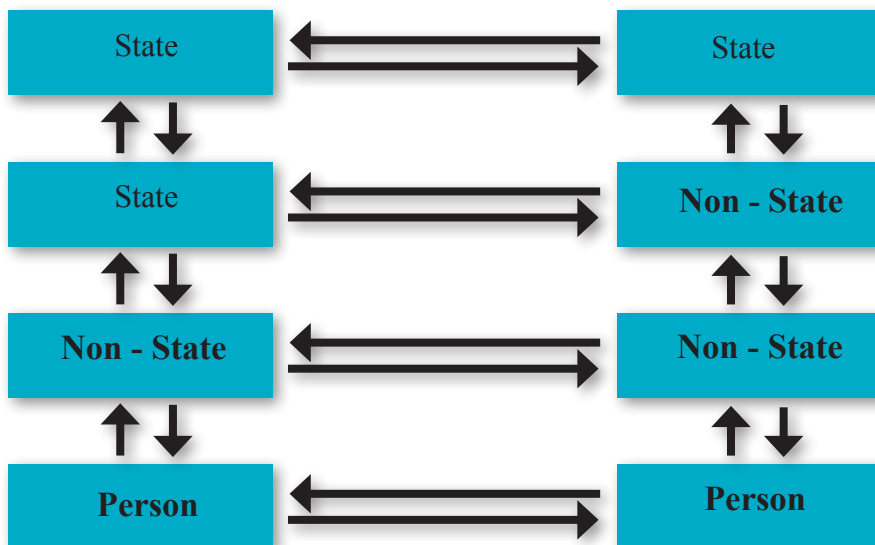


Diagram 5.1

Importance of International Relations

Mutual relationships that exist between two or more states or else between states and organizations or if not between states and persons are identified as international relations. These relationships can prevail between states and states and also between states and various organizations, or between states and other organizations or with persons. Let's now look at the reasons for maintaining relationships of this form.

They are,

1. Obtaining something which the country by itself cannot fulfil.

As stated above, isolation that prevailed among countries disappeared due to factors like the increasing rate of growth of the population and the complexity of human needs. As a result, no country is able to satisfy all their needs by the resources existing in their own countries. Since resources available in countries differed from one country to another goods and services produced by using those resources also differed. Hence, the world community realized the fact that development of international relationship is beneficial for a country to sell its excess production and also to obtain the goods that are scarce in that country.

2. Ability to expand relationships on political, economic, cultural and social grounds.

Almost all the countries in the world, differ more or less on political, economic, cultural and social grounds. There are favourable as well as unfavourable effects of this but international relations are important in order to develop favourable effects further. How does this support favourable effects? As an example, India and Sri Lanka had developed international relations several thousands of years ago.

In the same manner, many countries in the world develop relations based on political, economic, cultural and social factors. The relations that had developed in the past in this way have been developing gradually up to now and we can see that it helped to develop mutual friendships among countries.

3. Protection from the influences exerted by powerful countries

Modern countries in the world have become powerful on the basis of factors like economic and military powers. Specially, economically strong and militarily powerful countries put pressure on relatively less powerful countries in various ways. This situation developed after these countries were liberated from Colonialism. Powerful countries put pressure on them politically by means of giving loans and aids, providing weapons and other military assistance in civil wars. Development of international relations of less powerful countries to a certain extent helped to protect themselves from threats posed on them by the powerful countries. If that does not happen less powerful countries may become a victim of powerful countries in the international community.

4. Prevention of obstacles caused by protectionist policies

We can observe now that many countries of the world follow protectionist policies, in their economic activities, for example, purchasing of garment on the basis of quotas, imposition of a guaranteed price through various agreements can be stated.

Activity 5.1



- Define international relations briefly and explain the importance of it.

Main aspects of maintaining international relations

You know that international relations are the relationships that take place between countries in almost every field such as political, social, and cultural spheres. By now you have also studied the importance of maintaining those relations.

Next, it is important to pay attention to the main aspects of international relations. We can identify two main aspects of maintaining international relations. They are:

1. State strategic relations
2. Military strategic relations

1. State strategic relations

Peaceful relationships maintained by countries among themselves can be identified as state strategic relations. Diplomatic relations developed at official levels through ambassadors and state emissaries can be considered as state strategic relations. These state strategic relations are directed by government foreign policy. The foreign policy of a government shows with whom the country should maintain strategic relations and how it should be carried out. Especially strategic state relations are established through international conferences, bilateral meetings of leaders of the states, specially through foreign missions and foreign ministers.

2. Military strategic relations

Relationships build up on defence matters can be considered as military strategic relations. Especially a country builds up military or defence relations with another country or countries when its security is threatened militarily. For example we can show the military bases established during the First and Second World Wars.

Through military strategic relations military training and specialist support, supply of military weapons, use of military forces and humanitarian assistance (like medicine Providing medicine) take place. Military strategic relations are important particularly in maintaining balance of power among states this will reduce tendency of one country or several countries becoming a threat to other countries by expanding military power.

Different spheres in which international relations are developed

Even though international relations prevailed in the past it was confined to a greater extent to a few spheres. Particularly, we can identify that these relations have been generated on the basis of trade and cultural factors. For example, the relations that existed between Sri Lanka and India were based on cultural factors. Relationship between India and Arabia were based on trade. However, we can identify that these relations at present have spread to various other spheres. Accordingly, we can show that diplomatic relations now prevails on the basis of on areas like technical relations and educational relations.

With the development in the field of science and technology and the revolution that is taking place in the fields of communication and transportation the world has become a global village. In modern science, specially in the construction of high speed aeroplanes and supersonic jets and also development in road systems international relations have contributed a lot. International relations have been developed very fast as a result of improvement in facilities like reading books and journals through the internet (E-Library). These developments in various fields of technology have made the global village very much closer today.



Fig 5.1 - High-speed Aircraft



Fig 5.2 - High-speed Rail

Factors that contributed to the development of international relations

By now you have realized very well the spheres in which international relations have been developed. Accordingly, it is worth to consider the factors that have influenced the growth of international relations.

- **Resource disparity or the differences in the availability of resources in each country.**

Example : fossil fuel is abundant in Middle East countries while it is not available in many other countries in the world.

- **Inability of a country to produce all its needs within the country itself.**

Example : Importing wheat flour and sugar by Sri Lanka

One of the main problems a country faces today is its inability to produce all the goods and services necessary for the people of the country within itself. Therefore, since a country always has to depend on another country it has to build up relations internationally.

- **Sale of excess production**

When the goods and services are produced using resources available abundantly in a country they may exceed the requirements of that country. International relations develop when that country sells the excess production to another country for which those goods are scarce.

- **Development in transport and communication**

Transportation and communication are two spheres in which rapid developments are taking place at present. As a result, the world has become a global village. Specially, due to easy access to travelling facilities and also fast flow of information, international relations have been developing very fast.

- **Necessity of obtaining advanced technological knowledge**

Many countries in the world have benefited from the development of science and technology but these developments did not reach other countries in the same speed. As a consequence of this, a gap was created between developed countries and less developed countries. In comparison to the development of technology in the developed countries, the level of development in less developed countries remains at a minimum level. Due to this fact, there was a scarcity of advanced technological skills in these countries. As a result, less developed countries are required to obtain new technological discoveries, instruments, specialist support and knowledge, from developing countries.

- **Obtaining support in emergencies and other disaster situations**

A country has to obtain help and support from another country in emergency situations. Tsunami, whirlwinds, tornados, floods, landslides, volcanoes and similar natural disasters are a few examples of such situations. In such situations, countries come forward to provide humanitarian assistance only if they have built up positive international relations.

- **Development of political, economic, social and cultural relations**

International relations are important in developing various political ideologies, economic policies, social and cultural relationships followed by countries. While friendship among these countries are improved through this they volunteer to provide support services like foreign aids, loans and supply of various equipments essential for social development. Not only motivation necessary to acheive the optimum level politically but guidance is also provided. In certain occasions representation of the country internationally on behalf of certain political rights and ideologies also takes place. This factor has a greater impact on developing international relations.

Present aspect of international relations

It seems that in the past international relations were maintained in order to satisfy a limited number of objectives but now international relations are formed with the intention of achieving various aims and objectives.

In recent times it is possible to identify how the powerful countries influence less powerful countries. It is a significant fact that powerful countries pose pressure not only economically, politically and by military force but also technologically on less powerful countries.

With the fall of Power Base Ideology after the World War II, an environment was created for all the countries to maintain a neutral foreign policy. It can be noticed that powerful countries attempt in various ways to influence the less powerful countries even in such a background. Some such influencing areas are given below.

- International Trade
- Offering loans and aids
- Economic development
- Defense spheres
- Provision of employments

Next we will examine how Sri Lanka is influenced by the international community on the above grounds.

The influence of international relations on Sri Lanka

When we look at the present status of international relations we can see the aspect that powerful countries put pressure on weaker countries. These influences can be identified under the spheres such as economic, political, military spheres.

Particularly, the influences put on Sri Lanka do not take uniform outlook. The nature of the pressure put on Sri Lanka by the world community changes with the nature of the government in power. However, here the influences caused on Sri Lanka in relation to the following grounds are discussed.

International Trade

As a low price prevails in the world market for the primary goods exported from Sri Lanka its import income remains at a minimum level. As some developed countries purchase some products of Sri Lanka and re-export them we lose a large sum of money that our country should get.

Because of this Sri Lanka has taken steps to get a stable price for the exports by forming various trade agreements with the international community. In the same way in exporting garments agreement have been signed in order to supply garments to American buyers.

However, since some trade agreements have been abolished during the past period a certain amount of pressure is put on Sri Lanka through the international trade.

Example:- **GSP+** concession

Provision of loans and grants

Provision of Loans and aids to Sri Lanka by the donor countries put great pressure on Sri Lanka. As an example, we can show that in issuing loans and aids various conditions are imposed on Sri Lanka by the donor countries. These conditions are imposed not only by the powerful countries but by various international financial institutions as well.

As examples World Bank, International Monetary Fund can be stated. Some such conditions are given below.

- Employment of the loan or aid on the nominated project only
- A short duration of time is given for interest payment and repayment of the loan.
- Physical/human resources of the donor country are utilized in the relevant project.

Economic sphere

In handling its economic activities Sri Lanka faces severe problems during certain periods of time. Particularly, the abolishing of the apparel quota system, rising prices of fuel oil are significant among them. In such situations Sri Lanka has to make a greater effort to maintain stability of the economy. Specially obtaining loans and aids, issuing of treasury bonds, raising bank interest rates are some of them. In such situations the Central Bank of Sri Lanka and Government Treasury perform a commendable service.

National Security

A country has to make a great effort to maintain its national security. Specially, during the time of civil war Sri Lanka made a greater effort for its national security. Here advanced technical knowledge and military equipments have to be obtained from developed countries. Maintenance of national security is challenged when weapons are supplied unofficially to terrorist groups; weapons are sold to the country at higher prices and even when those countries avoid giving military specialist knowledge to the country. Establishment of national security a situation that should be carried out internally as well as externally and for this the three military forces and the police should be kept alert.

Provision of employments

Middle East and South Korea enjoy an important place in creating a job market for Sri Lanka. It generates a large sum of foreign exchange for the country and make a great contribution to the economy of Sri Lanka.

However, in obtaining the labourers for the job market some countries pose a greater influence on Sri Lanka by placing restriction on the number of jobs supplied, imposing minimum qualifications for the jobs, imposing conditions

on the remittances of their earnings as well as torture and ill treatment on the labourers. Yet many countries have built up the job market under very good friendly relationships.

Regional Organizations

When we discuss about international organizations we should pay attention to another sub category of international organizations operating at regional level. These organizations are formed based on geographical regions that can be seen in the world. For example, we can identify several such organizations by studying the world map given below.

Further we can also identify the existence of sub regions within these geographical regions. As an example we can state the existence of South Asian sub geographical region within the Asian geographical region. We can see how regional organizations are established within such sub regions. These organizations are also recognized by the common name as Regional Organizations.

When we pay attention to how regional organizations are formed we see that they have been established on two main objective. They are,

- Regional organizations based on military objectives
- Regional Organizations based on economic cooperation

Next we will discuss about regional organizations established on military objectives.

After the World War II many countries in the world were unified around two main power bases. That is , power base headed by United States of America and the other is the power base headed by the Soviet Union.

Based on these two power bases regional organizations were formed on military objectives. Accordingly, the first regional military organization established was the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). The main reason for the establishment of NATO was to establish the collective security of the West European countries.

Subsequently, Warsaw Treaty Organization was established by the countries headed by Soviet Union for the protection of the East European countries. The

main reason for the establishment of Warsaw Treaty Organization was to retaliate any invasions posed by the NATO organization. However, with the fall of the East European Bloc headed by Soviet Union the Warsaw Treaty Organization, too, was abolished and now only NATO operates.

In recent times in World Politics we can see a trend of establishing regional organizations based on economic objectives. Particularly, formation of state organizations based on these objectives was originated in Europe for the first time. The European Economic Community formed in 1957 was the first regional organization established for the purpose of economic cooperation. After that, European Union, Latin American Free Trade Association were formed.

In the Asian Region ASEAN or Association of South East Asian Nations was established in 1967. Asia Pacific Economic Co-operation Forum was established in 1989. South Asian Association for Regional Co-operation (SAARC) was established in 1985 by the South Asian countries on economic and social activities of the region. Next we will study about SAARC organization.

SAARC Organization

The organization which was established by the Countries belonging to South Asian Region is identified as SAARC organization or South Asian Association for Regional Co-operation. This organization was established for the economic corporation of the countries in the South Asian region. There are 8 countries which belong to the SAARC organization. Given below is the map showing those countries.

- India
- Sri Lanka
- Pakistan
- Bangladesh
- Nepal
- Bhutan
- Maldives
- Afghanistan



Fig 5.3 -

Except Afghanistan the other countries got the membership at the time of its establishment. Afghanistan which is the latest member of the organization obtained the membership recently.

The leaders of the member countries put their signature to the SAARC Charter on 08th December 1985 at Dhaka in Bangladesh. The Charter was signed in Dhaka in Bangladesh in memory of the former Bangladesh leader Ziaur Rahman who was assassinated while he was taking initiatives to establish this organization.

Given below is the official logo of the SAARC organization. It symbolizes the cooperation of the member countries.



Fig 5.4 -

The Figure 5.5 depicts the national flags of the member countries of the SAARC Organization.



Fig 5.5 -

Objectives of the SAARC Organization

- Promoting the welfare of the people of South Asia and to improve their quality of life.
- Accelerate economic growth, social progress and cultural development in the region and to
- Provide all individuals the opportunity to live in dignity and to realize their full potential.
- Promote and strengthen collective self-reliance among the countries of South Asia.
- Contribute to mutual trust, understanding and appreciation of one another's problems.
- Promote active collaboration and mutual assistance in the economic, social, cultural, technical and scientific fields.
- Strengthen cooperation with other developing countries;
- Strengthen cooperation among themselves in international forums on matters of common interest.

Functions of the SAARC Organization

SAARC Charter states that the Heads of State or Government shall meet once a year or more often as and when considered necessary by the Member States. The highest committee of this organization is the Meeting of Heads of States. Other than that there are the Council of Ministers and the Standing Committee of Foreign Secretaries. The SAARC Secretariat which coordinates and monitors the implementation of SAARC activities was established in Kathmandu.



Fig 5.6 - SAARC Secretariate

Present status of the SAARC Organization

When we compare with the other international and regional organizations we cannot see any strong relationships among the member countries of the SAARC Organization. It is quite essential for any country to take measure for the Promotion of sectors like Agricultural development,



Fig 5.7 - SAARC Summit

exports, cultural activities, sports, health activities, welfare facilities. Main reason for this is that all the SAARC countries are developing countries. In the same manner internal political conflicts and also war situations are common problems faced by many of the member countries. It has become quite essential for the member countries to make extra effort to control the drug menace and terrorist groups.

The member states should take steps to create a free market among the member countries, connect with the modern world through the exchange of technological knowledge, improve tourism taking steps for the protection of environmental sustainability,

In the same way it is essential to prepare programme of work to minimize natural disasters in order to fulfill the development targets. It is also important to pay attention to prepare a specific economic policy in order to protect from various influences posed by the western countries.

Trade Agreements entered into by SAARC countries

1. SAPTA Preferential Trading Arrangement (SAPTA)
2. South Asian Free Trade Area (SAFTA)

1. SAARC Preferential Trading Arrangement (SAPTA)

Objectives :

- Development of Trade in the Region
- Deployment of resources
- Implement a preferential trade policy limited to South Asia
- provide tariff relief

2. South Asian Free Trade Area (SAFTA)

Objectives :

- To create free trade zone among regional countries
- To strengthen economic cooperation among the SAARC nations
- To speed up local economic growth of each country
- To improve production process of regional countries
- To expand opportunities labour market
- To promote conditions of fair competition and manufacturing high quality end products

Relationships SAARC organization has formed with international and regional organizations

SAARC organization has developed relationships with such regional and international organizations .These relationships will bring the opportunity of getting regional and international cooperation. Given below are some of international and regional organizations which have developed relationships in that manner.

SAARC – U NCTAD

SAARC – UNICEF

SAARC – United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

SAARC – Colombo Plan

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations, or ASEAN

Establishment : 1967

Secretariat : Jakarta in Indonesia

Member States : Indonesia, Singapore, Thailand, Philippines, Malaysia, Viet Nam, Brunei, Myanmar, Lao PDR

Objectives :

- Implementation of a consolidated economic system in the member states based on cooperation
- Develop research sector
- Be united for productivity in agricultural and industrial fields
- Develop trade activities of the member states and developing opportunities of studying the problems arising in international commercial activities
- Raise the standard of life of the people

Colombo plan

The cooperative venture for the economic and social advancement of the people of South and Southeast Asia is called as Colombo Plan. It was conceived at the Commonwealth Conference on Foreign Affairs held in Colombo. The initiative was taken under the leadership of J.R. Jayewardene, then Finance Minister and Percy Spender; Delegate from Australia. The Logo of the Colombo Plan is given below.



Fig 5.8 -

The organization initiated with the participation of seven commonwealth countries which later increased upto twenty seven countries taking the membership.

The member states of colombo Plan

● Sri Lanka	● Fiji	● Papua New Guinea
● Britain	● Republic of Korea	● Islamic Republic of
● Canada	● Australia	● Afghastan
● New Zea land	● Pakistan	● Cambodia
● Lao PDR	● United States of America	● India
● Myanmar	● Nepal	● Vietnam
● Japan	● Philippines	● Indonesia
● Malaysia	● Singapore	● Thailand
● Maldives	● Islamic Republic of Iran	● Bhutan
		● Bangladesh

The member states of this organization assist in development projects of the developing countries by providing capital aids. Providing specialist services in the fields of agriculture, communication, energy, education, health services and awarding scholarships for training, supplying instruments essential for research activities are the services carried out by this programme.

In order to bring economic and social development in Sri Lanka this programme has contributed not only by providing machinery, vehicles, train engines, agricultural instruments, fishing implements, educational instruments but also giving knowledge of technical skills, training of specialists, and awarding scholarships.

BIMSTEC

Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation

Establishment :- 1988

Head Office :- Dhaka in Bangladesh

Member States :- It constitutes seven Member States: five deriving from South Asia, including Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, Sri Lanka, and two from South-east Asia, including Myanmar and Thailand.

Objectives : Integrated economic cooperation and exchange of the number states

International Organizations

It is essential for us, as members of the society, to have the help and support of others and their corporation in order to maintain our day to day activities. In the same manner it is essential for the countries of the world to have help and support as well as corporation of other countries in their various activities for the fulfillment of their various needs and requirements. As a result of this several countries get together and reach agreements through the formation of conventions in order to fulfill their requirements and this can be regarded as the origin of international organizations.

There are a large number of international organizations in the world. Through them each and every country gets mutual support and benefits. Specially, the United Nations Organization (United Nations) fulfills a great service to every member country. Here you will get the opportunity of understanding the functions of the United Nations and its affiliated institutions as well as several other regional organizations.

The United Nations (UN)

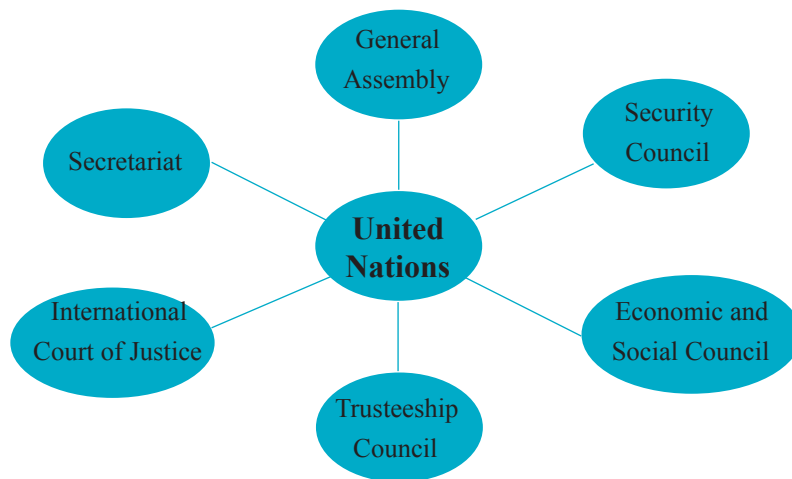
With the end of the Second World War, the United Nations Organization was established in order to prevent the occurrence of another World War because a large number of human lives were destroyed, a large number of people were disabled and became handicapped. Inestimable amount of property was destroyed in this war. Therefore, the world leaders paid attention to prevent countries going into such a destructive state of another war again. The United States of America, Great Britain and Soviet Russia, and other leading countries of the time took the initiative. As a result of this in 1945, a conference was held in the city of San Francisco in the

United States of America with the participation of 50 countries in order to establish this international organization. The United Nations Convention was ratified by the countries after signing it on 26th of June 1945.

Objectives of the United Nations

- To promote world peace and protection
- To promote better relations among countries
- To support in conflict resolution in social, economic, humane and cultural problems
- To protect human rights
- To function as a coordinating centre for the purpose of fulfilling the above objectives

The structure of the United Nations



The General Assembly

- The General Assembly consists of all the members of the United Nations
- Each member is entitled to one vote
- It holds its meetings once a year. special meetings can be held with the request of the majority.

Powers and Functions

- Present recommendations on any factor relevant to the United Nations Charter.
- Consider and make recommendations on the general principles of cooperation for maintaining international peace and security, including disarmament;
- Discuss any question relating to international peace and security and, except where a dispute or situation is currently being discussed by the Security Council, make recommendations on it;
- Consider reports from the Security Council and other United Nations organs
- Consider and approve the United Nations budget and establish the financial assessments of Member States;
- Elect the non-permanent members of the Security Council and the members of other United Nations councils and organs and, on the recommendation of the Security Council, appoint the Secretary-General;

The Security Council

- Total number of members is 15. Five out of them are permanent members. They are:
 - China
 - The United States of America
 - Britain
 - France
 - Soviet Russia
- Ten non-permanent members are elected for a period of two years by the General Assembly
- Decisions are taken by the agreement of at least 9 members including all the permanent members.
- Only permanent members hold the power of veto.

Powers and Functions

- Maintenance of international peace and security.
- Investigate into any dispute which may lead to an international conflict.
- Present recommendations or resolve those disputes.
- Take steps against any invader of a country.
- Implement plans to control arms.

Economic and Social Council

There are 54 members. Each country remains in office for a period of three years. 18 members are removed every three years and 18 new members are elected in place of them.

Powers and Functions

- Promoting respect for, and observance of, human rights and fundamental freedoms for all.
- Taking internationally important economic and social subject matters in to discussion.
- It may call, in accordance with the rules prescribed by the United Nations, international conferences.
- May enter into agreements with specialized agencies.
- It may consult non governmental organizations on matters falling within its competence.

The Trusteeship Council

- Trusteeship Council consists of those Members administering trust territories, such Members who are not administering trust territories; and other Members elected by the General Assembly.

Powers and Functions

- Monitoring the administration of the areas that come under the Trusteeship Council.
- Provision of welfare to the people living in areas under Trusteeship Council
- Train the people to achieve self determination or independence.
- Initially there were 11 areas under the Trusteeship Council. Now all these countries have become independent states.

The International Court of Justice

- It is the main judicial institution of the United Nations
- All the member countries can submit their complaints to the International Court of Justice
- The Security Council has power to submit certain legal issues to the International Court of Justice
- It consists of 15 judges appointed by the General Assembly and the Security Council
- Only states can appear in the International Court of Justice

Powers and Functions

- Providing legal advice to the United Nations and its affiliated institutions
- Inquiring into the complaints submitted by the member countries
- If the member countries appear for the trials they are bound to accept the determinations delivered by the International Court of Justice

The Secretariat

- It is the main administrative organ of the United Nations.
- The chief administrative officer of the Organization is the Secretary-General

The Secretary-General is appointed by the General Assembly for a period of five years. The maximum number of terms that he can hold the position is two.

- The Secretary-General may bring to the attention of the Security Council any matter which in his opinion may threaten the maintenance of international peace and security.
- The staff is appointed by the Secretary-General.
- In the performance of their duties the Secretary-General and the staff do not seek or receive instructions from any government or from any other authority external to the organization.
- The staff enjoy all the privileges enjoyed by the diplomatic service.

Powers and Functions

- Prepare and present the Annual Report of the Organization
- Controlling the United Nations Peace Forces.
- Mediate as a Peace Missionary in dispute or conflict resolution.
- Calling international conferences relevant to the subject matter of the United Nations.
- Maintenance of Colonization services




Institutions affiliated to the United Nations





There are several institutions affiliated to the United Nations Economic and Social Council which function to carry out the task of protecting human rights through economic and social development. Some of these institutions are given below.





- Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)
- International Labour Organization (ILO)
- United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
- United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)

- United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization(UNESCO)
- International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD)
- International Monetary Fund (IMF)
- United Nations Population Fund or United Nations Fund for Population Activities(UNFPA)
- World Food Programme (WFP)
- World Health Organization (WHO)
- United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

Details about selected affiliated institutions

Affiliated Institution	Objectives	Logo
<p>United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization(UNESCO)</p> <p>Established in 1945</p>	<p>Development of aspects such as education, health, natural sciences, humanities, cultural and communication of the member countries</p> <p>Bring peace through international intelligence</p>	
<p>United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF)</p> <p>Established in 11th December 1946</p>	<p>Promotion and consolidation of Rights of the Children</p> <p>Achievement of complete child development</p> <p>Work collaboratively with the governments of countries, other institutions of the United Nations and nongovernmental organizations for the child development</p>	
<p>United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)</p> <p>Established in 1965</p>	<p>Support in accelerating economic and social development of Developing countries</p> <p>Provide technical support for Developing countries according to their national development plans and priorities</p> <p>Establishment of self reliance and earth development</p>	

Affiliated Institution	Objectives	Logo
<p>United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)</p> <p>Established in 14th December 1950</p>	<p>Provide international protection for refugees</p> <p>Find durable solutions to the problems faced by refugees</p> <p>Consolidating the Refugees in their habitual society and help them to lead their normal way of living again</p>	
<p>United Nations Population Fund or United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA)</p> <p>Established in 1969</p>	<p>Give support to developing countries in problems related to the subject of Population</p> <p>Provide aids to the population programmes in Developing countries</p> <p>Take measures to promote living conditions of the people in Developing Countries</p>	
<p>World Food Programme (WFP)</p> <p>Established in 1963</p>	<p>Alleviation of hunger and poverty</p> <p>Establishment of economic and social development in Developing Countries</p> <p>Give help and support to persons affected by disasters</p>	
<p>International Labour Organization (ILO)</p> <p>Established in 1919(it became an affiliated institution of the United Nations in 1946)</p>	<p>Promotion of social justice for the labour population</p> <p>Implement international policies and programmes that help to improve Service conditions of the labourers and their living conditions</p>	

Affiliated Institution	Objectives	Logo
Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Established in 1945	Promote nutritional level and living conditions of the rural community Intervene in improving agricultural productivity	
World Health Organization (WHO) Established in 1948	Attainment by all people of the highest possible level of health Promoting good physical and mental health conditions without any illness	
International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) Established in 1949	Supporting social and economic development of the People of the member countries of the bank in order to have better living conditions help developing countries reduce poverty, promote economic growth, and build prosperity. (the objective at the beginning was to carry out reconstruction development work in member countries destroyed by World War II)	 The World Bank
International Monetary Fund (IMF) Established in 1944	Maintaining financial stability and formal system of foreign exchange internationally Formation of a multi-party payment system Expansion of international trade and promote provision of facilities.	

The Commonwealth

Many British Colonies achieved independence during the latter part of the Second World War. With the reception of independence, British Commonwealth was formed in order to maintain relations with those countries further. At the beginning as countries in the Asian and African region took membership, the

word “British” was dropped and was identified by the name “Commonwealth”. In 1911 Great Britain held a Conference called Empire Conference to discuss the common problems faced by countries which belong to its Empire. Subsequently, in 1944 the Common Wealth was established with the membership of countries which were former colonies of the British Empire.

However, the Durham Commission Report of 1839 influenced the birth of the Common Wealth. It is not necessary for all the former colonies which obtained independence to get the membership of the Commonwealth. The leader of the Common Wealth is the King or Queen of Britain.

Initial Members – 07

Initial Member Countries – Great Britain / Australia / South Africa / Zimbabwe /
Canada / New Zealand / India

Objectives :

- Take action to uphold the international peace and stability which facilitate for the protection and progress of the humankind
- Take steps to develop personal freedom and equal rights of all citizens irrespective of religion, nationality and class.
- Protection and promotion of the right that all persons have to engage in democratic political activities in order to organize the society that one lives in.
- Improve the measures taken to eradicate poverty, illiteracy and diseases, and take action to uplift the living conditions of the people.
- Improve the security among the nations of the state by developing international corporation for the removal of the causes that lead to war situations, instilling patience and doing away with unfairness.
- Develop human dignity and social equality while denouncing racialism and colonialism

Media of international relations

Countries of the world maintain relations in various ways. Specially, through peaceful relationships as well as warfare relationships international relations are built up.

International community performing within peaceful relations is highly favourable. Then it develops mutual trust and corporation and it leads to minimize conflicts.

Next we will consider several main media through which international relations are maintained.

1. Diplomatic Service

The main media through which international relations are maintained peacefully is Diplomatic service. The role played by the diplomatic service in developing international relations is great. While maintaining the foreign policy strongly international objectives are fulfilled through the diplomatic service.

A country may build up official relationships with another country and also with organizations and persons through the diplomatic service. Here the state carries out its foreign policies through diplomats and state missions or emissaries.

The ambassadors of countries that belong to the Commonwealth is called as the High Commissioner. For example, the Indian Embassy in Sri Lanka is identified as the Indian High Commissioner in Sri Lanka.

The function of the Ambassadors and the Emissaries

- Implement the foreign policy of the country into practice
- Safeguard the expectations of the citizens of his country
- Deliver the messages of one's own country to other countries
- Understand the policies of one's own country
- Create a good image about one's own country
- Improve friendship among countries

- Develop political, social, economic and intellectual relationships
- Represent one's own country and the leader of one's own country

The qualities of the Ambassadors and the Emissaries

- Act with proper understanding of one's profession, rules and regulations, strategies and ethics
- Have proper understanding about one's own country as well as the country that one serves in and the nature of the world politics.
- Knowledge about state strategies, Arbitration, Conciliation and Negotiation.
- Utilize international rules and regulations and international political trends for the benefit of one's own country.

2. International Trade

We discussed above the fact that no country in the world can produce all the things that country needs within that country itself. As a result of this import and export activities take place among countries.

For example, Sri Lanka exports tea while United States of America exports wheat flour.

International Trade takes place in two ways.

1. Bilateral Trade

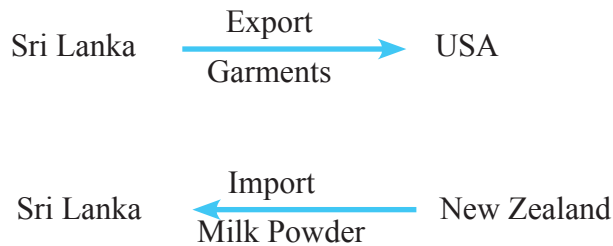
2. Multilateral Trade

Bilateral Trade means the transactions take place between two countries only. As an example, Sri Lanka exports rubber to China while China exports rice to Sri Lanka. When carrying out bilateral trade the two countries have to come to agreements between them.

Multilateral Trade

The trade that takes place among more than two countries is called Multilateral Trade. The specific feature that can be seen in Multilateral Trade is that the value of the

goods imported from one country to another can be settled with the value of the goods exported to that country. Assume that Sri Lanka imports milk powder from New Zealand and exports garments to USA.



In the above transaction the amount that should be paid to New Zealand for the import of milk powder can be instructed to be paid with the income from the USA for the Garments exported to that country. In that situation New Zealand can import another good or service from USA for that value.

Powerful Currencies used in international Trade

- American Dollars
- Sterling Pound
- Euro
- Japan Yen

International Organizations associated with International Trade

- The European Free Trade Association
- UNCTAD Organization
- GATT Organization
- International Monetary Fund

Activity 5.2

- Select two international organizations associated with international trade and arrange the information under the headings such as membership, objectives, etc.

War

Another way that international relations are maintained can be considered as war. This is not a peaceful media of maintaining international relations. A conflicting situation that arises between two or more parties can simply be identified as war. (This has been greatly discussed in Chapter V of Grade 10 Citizenship Education Text Book). The best example for war situation between countries can be stated as the two World Wars. Armed struggle that prevailed in Sri Lanka can be stated as a civil war which took place within a country.

Due to wars international relations are threatened. Refugees are a result of wars. International relations can be damaged due to people migrating from one country to another as refugees. However, some countries voluntarily allow refugees to enter their territories.

It is also necessary to obtain donations and aid for the restoration of property and other resources destroyed by war. If this does not happen countries affected by war would become helpless.

Strengthening of international relations is essential in order to establish and maintain national security. It is quite indispensable for countries which are subjected to internal and external risks of war to seek International Corporation for their national security.

Foreign Aid

Existence of strong international relations is essential for the provision of foreign aid. Aid is given by the developed countries as well as those countries which are in a position to provide aid. As an example, the assistance provided by India for the Northern Region railway line development projects can be stated.

Foreign aid is given to developing countries for the improvement of areas such as large scale heavy industries, development of infrastructure facilities, welfare services and other economic sections.



Fig 5.9 -Reservoirs of Mahaveli Development project



Fig 5.9 -Daduru Oya Development project

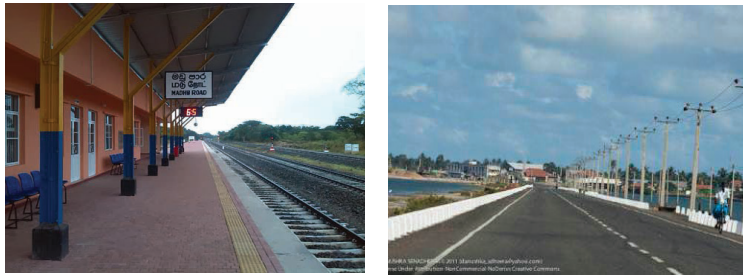
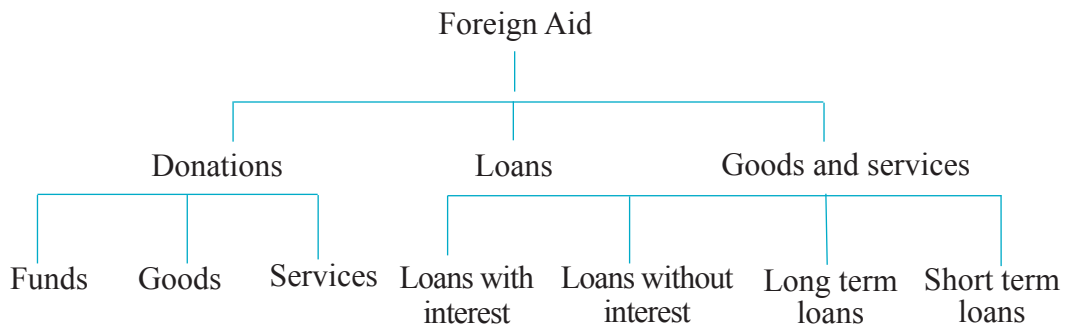


Fig 5.10 -Northern railway and development of high ways

There are several ways of providing foreign aid to a country. They are represented in the following



Given below are countries which provide foreign aid.

- The United States of America
- England
- Japan
- India

Given below are organizations which provide foreign aid.

- World Bank
- Asian Development Bank
- International Monetary Fund

Activity 5.3



- Select three countries and three organizations which provide foreign aid. List separately how each of these countries and organizations performed their services to sri lanka.

Peace

Prevalence of peace in a country brings happiness to all. Peace is essential not only for the protection of human rights but also for the progress of economic, social, cultural, political aspects of a country. All the citizens should work with responsibility for the maintenance of peace in the country. Peace can be developed if we work without being divided on any narrow communal, religious basis or any other grounds. Such a situation does not give way to conflict. The United Nations which was formed for the purpose of creating world peace renders a great service for the protection of peace.

Development

When peace is established in a country development takes place automatically. A country which does not experience peace have to spend a large amount of money to maintain the armed forces of the country, to purchase weapons,

to look after refugees, persons dying at war or the disabled and to reconstruct the destroyed property. Since a large amount of the National Income is spent on the areas mentioned above, the amount of money that is allocated for other development work takes a minimum value. As a result of this, the development of the country is hampered by it or will completely break down.

Therefore, a country in which peace prevails, the money spent of war can be utilized to achieve development targets. Then economic and social development accelerates. New job opportunities are generated. Purchasing power of the people increases. A quality living conditions is created. It generates new investment opportunities and the entire economy becomes strong.

Effects of building up international relations

Following benefits can be achieved by building up international relations.

- Develops international friendship. Due to this all the states follow a friendship policy. Give help and support in emergency situations.
- New job opportunities are created.
- Mutual help is given in emergency situations.
- New technological knowledge can be exchanged
- Support will be given on development activities.

