

# United Nations Milestones

## 10 January 1946

First General Assembly, with 51 nations represented, opens in Central Hall, Westminster, London.

## 17 January 1946

Security Council meets for the first time in London, adopting its rules of procedure.

## 24 January 1946

General Assembly adopts its first resolution. Its main focus: peaceful uses of atomic energy and the elimination of atomic and other weapons of mass destruction.

## 1 February 1946

Trygve Lie of Norway becomes the first Secretary-General.

## June 1948

First UN observer mission is established in Palestine—the UN Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO).

## 10 December 1948

General Assembly adopts the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

## 7 January 1949

UN envoy Ralph Bunche secures ceasefire between the new State of Israel and Arab States.



Laying the cornerstone for UN Headquarters

## 24 October 1949

Cornerstone is laid for the UN Headquarters in New York City.

## 27 June 1950

Security Council, acting in the absence of the Soviet Union, calls on Member States to help the southern part of Korea repel invasion from the north. The Korean Armistice Agreement is signed on 27 July 1953 by the UN Command and the Chinese-North Korean Command.

## 11 December 1950

Ralph Bunche becomes the first United Nations Nobel Peace Laureate.



A peacekeeping soldier escorts an elderly Greek woman across the bridge from the Turkish to the Greek sector in Cyprus.

## 1 November 1956

First Emergency Special Session of the General Assembly meets on the Suez Canal crisis, and on 5 November decides to establish the first UN peacekeeping force—the United Nations Emergency Force (UNEF).

## September 1960

17 newly independent States, 16 from Africa, join the UN—the biggest increase in membership in any one year.

## 18 September 1961

Secretary-General Dag Hammarskjöld dies in an aircraft crash while on mission to the Republic of the Congo (now the Democratic Republic of the Congo).

## 7 August 1963

Security Council votes voluntary arms embargo against South Africa.

## 4 March 1964

Security Council approves dispatch of peacekeeping force to Cyprus.

## 27 October 1966

General Assembly strips South Africa of its mandate to govern South-west Africa (now Namibia).

## 16 December 1966

Mandatory sanctions are imposed against Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe) by the Security Council.

## 22 November 1967

Following the six-day war in June 1967, the Security Council, after lengthy negotiations, adopts resolution 242 (1967) as the basis for achieving peace in the Middle East.

## 12 June 1968

General Assembly approves the Treaty on the Nonproliferation of Nuclear Weapons and calls for its ratification.

## 4 January 1969

International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination comes into force.



China takes seat in the General Assembly, November 1971.

## 25 October 1971

General Assembly votes to seat representatives of the People's Republic of China.

## June 1972

First UN Environment Conference is held in Stockholm, Sweden, leading to the establishment of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), headquartered in Nairobi, Kenya.

## 13 November 1974

General Assembly recognizes the Palestine Liberation Organization as "the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people".

### June-July 1975

International Women's Year is marked by the first United Nations conference on women, held in Mexico City.

### 4 November 1977

Security Council adopts mandatory arms embargo against South Africa.

### 18 December 1979

General Assembly adopts the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, covering political, economic, social, cultural and human rights.

### 8 May 1980

Three years after the last case was reported, World Health Organization (WHO) officially declares smallpox eradicated.



Vaccination for smallpox became a thing of the past in 1980.

### 25 November 1981

General Assembly adopts the Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief.

### 10 December 1982

New UN Convention on the Law of the Sea is signed by 117 States and two entities—the largest number of signatures ever affixed to a treaty on its first day.

### 10 December 1984

General Assembly adopts the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.

### July 1985

Thousands gather in Nairobi to attend the third United Nations conference on women, marking the end of the UN Decade for Women.

### September 1987

UNEP efforts lead to signing of Treaty on the Protection of the Ozone Layer—known as the Montreal Protocol—a follow-up to the 1985 Vienna Convention on the Ozone Layer.

### April 1989

UN Transition Assistance Group (UNTAG) is deployed throughout Namibia to monitor South Africa's withdrawal and provide electoral assistance for the November elections. Namibia becomes independent on 21 March 1990.



### March 1995

World Summit for Social Development, one of the largest gatherings of world leaders in history, meets in Copenhagen, Denmark, to renew the commitment to combating poverty, unemployment and social exclusion.

Boxes of tendered ballots for the Namibian elections in November 1989 await checking at the Windhoek show-grounds.

### 2 September 1990

Convention on the Rights of the Child comes into force. The World Summit for Children convened on 29 September is attended by 71 Heads of State and Government.



Children around the world are protected by the 1990 Convention.

### 31 May 1991

A ceasefire in the 16-year civil war in Angola is negotiated, then administered by the UN Angola Verification Mission (UNAVEM II).

### 31 December 1991

Agreement signed at UN Headquarters, through the Secretary-General's good offices, between the Government of El Salvador and FMLN (National Liberation Front) leads to a ceasefire and peace accord after a 12-year civil war.

### 31 January 1992

Security Council holds its first summit ever at the level of Heads of State and Government.

### June 1992

UN Conference on Environment and Development—the "Earth Summit"—is held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, attended by 104 Heads of State and Government, the largest intergovernmental gathering in history thus far, resulting in Agenda 21, a plan of action for sustainable development.

### May 1993

UN-supervised elections in Cambodia lead to drafting of a new constitution and the establishment of a new government, ending nearly 15 years of strife in the war-torn country.

### June 1993

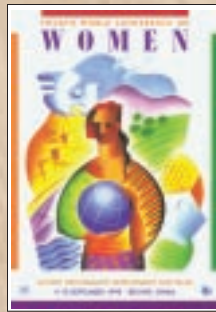
World Conference on Human Rights is held in Vienna, which commemorated the International Year for the World's Indigenous People (1993).

### 13 September 1994

International Conference on Population and Development, held in Cairo, Egypt, adopts a landmark Programme of Action.

### September 1995

Fourth World Conference on Women meets in Beijing, China to continue international efforts to advance the status of women worldwide.



### 10 September 1996

General Assembly adopts the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT), a turning point in efforts towards nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation.

### 11 December 1997

After almost three years of intense negotiations, the Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change is adopted in Kyoto, Japan. Countries commit themselves to reducing emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases, or engage in emissions trading.

### January 1998

Louise Fréchette of Canada becomes the first Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations.

### 17 July 1998

Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC) is established. It is the first-ever permanent, treaty-based international criminal court set up to promote the rule of law and ensure that the gravest crimes do not go unpunished. The Statute enters into force on 1 July 2002.

### 1 March 1999

Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction (Mine Ban Convention), which was opened for signature in Ottawa, Canada in December 1997, enters into force.



Variety of landmines

### 30 August 1999

People of East Timor, now Timor-Leste, vote to begin a process towards independence from Indonesia. The UN Transitional Administration in East Timor (UNTAET) is established on 25 October 1999 to administer the territory and exercise legislative and executive authority.

### 8 September 2000

During the UN Millennium Summit, from 6 to 8 September, Heads of State and Government adopt the United Nations "Millennium Declaration", including eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), which range from halving extreme poverty to halting the spread of HIV/AIDS, to providing universal primary education by 2015.

### 28 July 2000

UN Economic and Social Council establishes by consensus the "Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues" as its subsidiary organ. The Forum raises awareness and promotes the integration and coordination of activities relating to indigenous issues within the United Nations system.

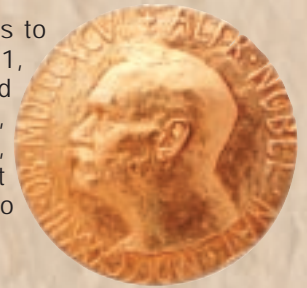
### 31 August to 7 September 2001

World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance is held in Durban, South

Africa, a unique opportunity to create a new world vision on the fight against all forms of racism.

### 12 October 2001

Norwegian Nobel Committee decides to award the Nobel Peace Prize for 2001, in two equal portions, to the United Nations and its Secretary-General, Kofi Annan, for their work for a better, organized and more peaceful world. It is the eighth Peace Prize awarded to the UN system.



### 19 December 2001

General Assembly establishes the Ad Hoc Committee on a Comprehensive and Integral International Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities.

### 26 August to 4 September 2002

World Summit on Sustainable Development (Rio + 10) is held in Johannesburg, South Africa, focusing on direct actions towards meeting difficult challenges in achieving sustainable development.

### 27 September 2002

Timor-Leste, which became an independent country on 20 May 2002, and Switzerland join the United Nations, bringing the Organization's total membership to 191 countries.

### 19 August 2003

Terrorist attack on UN headquarters in Baghdad results in 22 deaths, including the head of mission, Sergio Vieira de Mello. Many others are seriously wounded.



The UN building after the bombing

### 14 to 16 September 2005

More than 150 Heads of State and Government meet at UN Headquarters in New York for the 2005 World Summit, the largest-ever gathering of world leaders in history, to take bold decisions in the areas of development, security, human rights, UN reform and the MDGs.

### 7 October 2005

Nobel Peace Prizes awarded for the ninth time to the UN system. The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and its Director-General, Mohamed ElBaradei, are cited for their efforts to ensure that nuclear energy is used for peaceful purposes. □