

Section 3

Pakistan and International Affairs



Unit-6

Pakistan and International Organizations

In this unit the students will be able to:

- Examine the significance of the United Nations, its primary organs and their goals, its involvement in global peacekeeping efforts, and the contributions of Pakistan to the UNO in different global peacekeeping activities particularly on occasions of natural calamities and disasters.
- Evaluate Pakistan's foreign relations with other countries focusing on SAARC countries, OIC countries, Britain and commonwealth countries and relate its efforts in highlighting issues of Muslim World on all platforms including OIC.
- Analyze the difficulties faced by UNO in resolving the crisis in Kashmir, Afghanistan, and Palestine.

PAKISTAN AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

United Nations Organization (UNO)

The United Nations Organization (UNO) is a global institution of autonomous and independent states, founded on October 24, 1945. The aftermath of World War II led to its establishment to maintain peace, promote cooperation among nations, and prevent further wars and destruction. Initially, 51 countries came together to form the United Nations by signing the United Nations Charter. The UN is headquartered in New York City and has additional offices in Nairobi, Geneva, Vienna, and The Hague.



United Nations Organization (UNO)

Significance of the United Nations

The United Nations (UN) stands as a pivotal institution in the contemporary world, representing a global commitment to cooperation, peace, and development. Its significance lies in its role as a forum for international dialogue, a platform for collective action, and a guardian of fundamental values and principles. The UN plays a crucial role in addressing global challenges and advancing the well-being of humanity through its diverse functions and initiatives. Fundamentally, governments are responsible for providing infrastructure and facilities. However, due to limited resources, NGOs and UN-based organizations increasingly share this responsibility. Since decolonization, many developing countries have faced numerous challenges and struggled to progress and compete with more developed nations.

International organizations actively work in developing countries to improve infrastructure and living standards. Pakistan is one such country that has faced significant challenges since its creation. Pakistan has received substantial loans and aid from international organizations to boost its economy and build its infrastructure. Some of the most prominent organizations in Pakistan include the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the World Wildlife Fund (WWF), the International Labour Organization (ILO), the World Bank, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the Asian Development Bank (ADB), the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF), and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). These organizations collaborate with the government of Pakistan on various projects aimed at benefiting the Pakistani people.

Primary Objectives of the United Nations Organization

The core principles and objectives of the UNO include:

- **Maintaining Global Peace and Security:** The UN strives to promote the well-being of the world's peoples through international and friendly collaboration.
- **Promoting Worldwide Cooperation:** This includes fostering economic, social, and cultural development.
- **Acknowledging Fundamental Human Rights:** The UN emphasizes recognizing and protecting human rights globally.
- **Fostering Good Relations Between Governments:** Based on the principles of equal rights and

self-determination.

- **Coordinating National Initiatives:** The UN serves as a central hub for coordinating global efforts toward common goals.

Do You Know?

According to UN Charter, the UN aims:

To save succeeding generations from the scourge of war,...to reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights,...to establish conditions under which justice and respect for the obligations arising from treaties and other sources of international law can be maintained, and to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom.

Main Objectives and Role of the UN Organs

The United Nations (UN) is composed of several major organs, each with distinct roles and responsibilities aimed at fulfilling the organization's overarching objectives of maintaining international peace and security, promoting sustainable development, upholding human rights, and fostering cooperation among nations. Understanding the functions and objectives of these organs is essential for comprehending the UN's multifaceted role in the global arena.

1. The General Assembly

The General Assembly is the main deliberative and policy-making body of the United Nations, composed of representatives from all member states. Its primary objectives include:

- **Deliberation and Decision-Making:** The General Assembly provides a platform for member states to engage in dialogue, debate, and negotiation on a wide range of global issues, from peace and security to development and human rights.
- **Adoption of Resolutions and Declarations:** Through consensus or majority voting, the General Assembly adopts resolutions and declarations that guide the UN's actions and policies. These decisions reflect the collective will of the international community.
- **Promotion of International Cooperation:** By fostering dialogue and cooperation among nations, the General Assembly promotes mutual understanding, solidarity, and cooperation in addressing common challenges. In 2021, the General Assembly adopted the resolution on "Global Solidarity to Fight COVID-19," emphasizing the importance of international cooperation in responding to the pandemic and ensuring equitable access to vaccines, treatments, and medical supplies.

2. The Security Council

The Security Council is responsible for maintaining international peace and security, with a primary focus on preventing conflicts and resolving disputes. Its objectives include:

- **Peacekeeping and Peacebuilding:** The Security Council authorizes peacekeeping missions and intervenes in conflicts to restore stability, protect civilians, and facilitate peace processes.
- **Conflict Prevention and Resolution:** By addressing threats to peace and security, the Security Council seeks to prevent conflicts from escalating and resolve existing disputes through diplomatic means, sanctions, or peacekeeping operations.
- **Enforcement of International Law:** The Security Council has the authority to impose sanctions,

authorize military action, and enforce international law to address threats to peace, such as terrorism, proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, and aggression. For instance, the Security Council's resolution 242 (1967) established the framework for resolving the Arab-Israeli conflict by calling for the withdrawal of Israeli armed forces from territories occupied during the Six-Day War and the recognition of the sovereignty, territorial integrity, and political independence of all states in the region.

3. The Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)

ECOSOC serves as the central platform for coordinating international efforts to promote economic and social development worldwide. Its objectives include:

- **Development Planning and Coordination:** ECOSOC facilitates collaboration among governments, UN agencies, and other stakeholders to formulate development policies, strategies, and programs that address global challenges, such as poverty, inequality, and climate change.
- **Policy Analysis and Review:** ECOSOC conducts research, analysis, and evaluation of economic and social trends, providing guidance and recommendations to member states on sustainable development issues.
- **Capacity Building and Technical Assistance:** ECOSOC supports capacity-building efforts and provides technical assistance to developing countries to strengthen their institutional, human, and infrastructure capacities for sustainable development. Such as, ECOSOC's High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development reviews the progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and provides a platform for sharing best practices, lessons learned, and innovative solutions for achieving sustainable development.

4. The International Court of Justice (ICJ)

The ICJ is the principal judicial organ of the United Nations, tasked with settling legal disputes between states and providing advisory opinions on legal questions referred to it by authorized UN bodies. Its objectives include:

- **Adjudication of Disputes:** The ICJ hears cases brought by states concerning matters of international law, including territorial disputes, treaty interpretation, and state responsibility.
- **Interpretation of International Law:** Through its judgments and advisory opinions, the ICJ contributes to the development and clarification of international law, promoting its consistent application and respect by states.
- **Promotion of Peaceful Settlement of Disputes:** By providing a peaceful mechanism for resolving disputes between states, the ICJ contributes to the maintenance of international peace and security. The case of *Nicaragua v. United States* (1986) is well known in this regard. The ICJ responded to Nicaragua's claims of unlawful military intervention and support for armed groups by the United States, highlighting principles of non-intervention and respect for sovereignty under international law.

5. The Secretariat

The Secretariat serves as the administrative arm of the United Nations, responsible for carrying out the day-to-day work of the organization under the leadership of the *Secretary-General*. Its objectives include:

- **Facilitation of Diplomatic Negotiations:** The Secretariat provides logistical support, information, and expertise to member states and UN bodies during diplomatic negotiations, conferences, and meetings.
- **Implementation of UN Mandates:** The Secretariat implements decisions and resolutions adopted by the General Assembly, Security Council, and other UN bodies, overseeing programs and initiatives across various thematic areas.
- **Promotion of Coordination and Cooperation:** The Secretariat fosters coordination and cooperation among UN agencies, funds, and programs to ensure coherent and effective responses to global challenges. For instance, the United Nations Conference on Climate Change (COP26), hosted by the Secretariat, brings together governments, international organizations, and stakeholders to negotiate agreements and take action to address climate change and its impacts

6. Trusteeship Council:

The Trusteeship Council was established to oversee the administration of trust territories and ensure their transition to self-government or independence. With the completion of its main task, the Trusteeship Council has suspended its operations since 1994. However, it can reconvene if needed to address any remaining issues related to trust territories.

Pakistan's Collaboration with the United Nations (UN) and Its Major Organs

Pakistan joined the United Nations (UN) on September 30, 1947, just over a month after gaining independence from British rule on August 14, 1947. As one of the founding members of the UN, Pakistan became an active participant in global affairs and committed itself to upholding the principles of the UN Charter, including promoting peace, security, and cooperation among nations. Pakistan, as a founding member of the United Nations and a prominent participant in various UN bodies, plays a significant role in advancing the organization's objectives of maintaining international peace and security, promoting development, upholding human rights, and fostering cooperation among nations. Pakistan's engagement with the UN and its major organs reveals the country's contributions and challenges in addressing global issues.

1. Participation in the General Assembly

Since becoming a member of the UN on September 30, 1947, Pakistan has been actively involved in the General Assembly, contributing to discussions and decision-making on a wide range of global issues. As a member state, Pakistan has the opportunity to voice its perspectives and priorities on matters such as peacekeeping, disarmament, counter-terrorism, and sustainable development. Pakistan's representatives advocate for policies that align with the country's national interests while also supporting initiatives that promote peace, stability, and development worldwide. It can be exemplified as Pakistan has consistently raised the issue of Kashmir in the General Assembly, calling for a peaceful resolution in accordance with UN resolutions and the wishes of the Kashmiri people. The country also contributes troops to UN peacekeeping missions, demonstrating its commitment to international peace and security.

2. Engagement with the Security Council

Although Pakistan is not a permanent member of the Security Council, it actively engages with the council on issues of regional and global security concern. Pakistan has served multiple terms as a non-permanent member of the Security Council, during which it has participated in discussions, contributed to decision-making processes, and advocated for peaceful resolutions to conflicts, such as Afghanistan, terrorism, and nuclear disarmament. Pakistan has served as a non-permanent member of the Security Council multiple times, including during the years 1952-1953, 1968-1969, 1976-1977, 1983-1984, 1993-1994, and 2012-2013. Moreover, Pakistan played a crucial role in facilitating peace talks between the Afghan government and the Taliban, highlighting the country's efforts to promote stability and reconciliation in the region. Additionally, Pakistan has raised concerns about the impact of terrorism and extremism on regional security in discussions within the Security Council.

3. Involvement in the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)

Pakistan engages with ECOSOC to address economic, social, and development challenges both domestically and globally. The country participates in ECOSOC's deliberations, contributes to policy discussions, and collaborates with other member states, UN agencies, and civil society organizations to promote sustainable development goals. Pakistan's involvement in ECOSOC allows it to share experiences, exchange best practices, and mobilize resources for development initiatives. Furthermore, Pakistan has actively contributed to ECOSOC's efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly in areas such as poverty alleviation, education, healthcare, and gender equality. The country has implemented national strategies and programs aligned with the SDGs, demonstrating its commitment to sustainable development.

4. Collaboration with UN Agencies and Programs

Pakistan collaborates with various UN agencies and programs to address development challenges, deliver humanitarian assistance, and promote human rights. These partnerships encompass areas such as health, education, food security, refugee assistance, and disaster relief. Pakistan works closely with organizations such as the World Health Organization (WHO), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to address pressing needs and build resilience in communities. To improve access to education and healthcare for children, particularly in remote and marginalized areas, Pakistan has frequently partnered with UNICEF. The country has also worked with the World Food Programme (WFP) to address food insecurity and provide emergency assistance to populations affected by natural disasters and conflict.

Contributions of Pakistan to the UN in Global Peacekeeping and Disaster Relief

Pakistan has been a significant contributor to the United Nations (UN) peacekeeping missions and humanitarian efforts, particularly in responding to natural calamities and disasters around the world. Through its military, humanitarian agencies, and civil society organizations, Pakistan has played a proactive role in promoting global peace, security, and humanitarian assistance under the auspices of the UN.

The UN peacekeeping missions, disaster relief efforts, and healthcare initiatives, are some key examples and achievements on the part of Pakistan.

i. Peacekeeping Missions and Disaster Relief

Pakistan has a long-standing commitment to UN peacekeeping operations, deploying military personnel, police officers, and civilian experts to conflict zones and post-conflict environments around the world. Pakistani peacekeepers have served in diverse roles, including peace enforcement, conflict resolution, and humanitarian assistance, contributing to the stabilization and reconstruction efforts in conflict-affected countries. Pakistan has been one of the largest contributors of troops and personnel to UN peacekeeping missions, with deployments to countries such as Congo, Sierra Leone, Liberia, and Haiti. Pakistani peacekeepers have received praise for their professionalism, dedication, and contributions to maintaining peace and stability in challenging environments.

ii. UN led Relief and Humanitarian Assistance

Pakistan has actively participated in UN-led disaster relief and humanitarian assistance efforts. In response to the devastating earthquake in Nepal in April 2015, Pakistan swiftly mobilized its military and humanitarian agencies to provide search and rescue teams, medical supplies, and relief assistance to affected communities. Pakistani relief efforts received international recognition for their effectiveness and timeliness in addressing the immediate needs of the affected population.

iii. Response to Natural Calamities and Disasters

Pakistan has demonstrated its commitment to global humanitarian assistance by providing prompt and effective relief efforts in response to major natural calamities and disasters, including earthquakes, floods, and tsunamis. Following the devastating earthquake in Haiti in January 2010, Pakistan dispatched a medical contingent comprising doctors, nurses, and paramedics to provide emergency medical care, surgical support, and trauma counseling to earthquake survivors. Pakistani medical teams operated field hospitals, conducted surgeries, and treated thousands of patients, demonstrating Pakistan's commitment to international humanitarian assistance. Pakistan has also played a crucial role in providing humanitarian assistance and disaster relief in response to floods and other natural disasters affecting countries around the world. In response to the devastating floods in Sri Lanka in May 2017, Pakistan dispatched a humanitarian assistance mission comprising relief supplies, food packages, and emergency medical aid to assist flood-affected communities. Pakistani relief efforts helped alleviate suffering and provided vital support to vulnerable populations in Sri Lanka during a time of crisis.

iv. Medical Assistance and Healthcare Initiatives

Pakistan has also contributed to global health initiatives and provided medical assistance to countries facing health emergencies and epidemics. During the Ebola outbreak in West Africa in 2014, Pakistan sent medical teams and supplies to affected countries to assist in containing the spread of the virus and treating infected individuals. Pakistani healthcare workers played a crucial role in providing care to Ebola patients, training local healthcare staff, and raising awareness about preventive measures.

v. Recent Contributions (2020-2024)

In recent years, Pakistan continued its active participation in UN peacekeeping missions, contributing troops and resources to operations in conflict zones such as South Sudan and the

Central African Republics. Peacekeepers from Pakistan have been instrumental in supporting local authorities and communities, facilitating stability and peacebuilding efforts. During the COVID-19 pandemic, Pakistan mobilized its healthcare professionals and resources to assist countries in need, providing medical supplies, vaccines, and expertise to combat the spread of the virus and mitigate its impact on vulnerable populations. Pakistani medical teams participated in UN-coordinated efforts to distribute vaccines and provide healthcare support in regions affected by the pandemic, demonstrating solidarity and international cooperation in global health crisis. Pakistan's commitment to disaster relief and humanitarian assistance remained steadfast, with deployments of relief teams and supplies to countries affected by natural disasters such as earthquakes in Turkey and floods in Bangladesh. Pakistani humanitarian efforts focused on delivering essential aid, including food, shelter, and medical assistance, to affected communities, reaffirming its role as a reliable partner in international humanitarian response efforts.

vi. Challenges and Potential for Growth

Despite Pakistan's commitment to supporting the UN's mandate of maintaining peace, delivering humanitarian aid, and building resilience in communities affected by crises around the world, it faces challenges in fully realizing its potential as a contributor to global peace, security, and development. These challenges include internal conflicts, regional tensions, socioeconomic disparities, and governance issues. However, Pakistan also has opportunities to enhance its role in the UN by leveraging its diplomatic influence, strengthening partnerships with other member states, and aligning its policies with international norms and commitments.

Pakistan's Role in Fostering Positive Relationships among SAARC Countries

The South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) was officially established on December 8, 1985, by the governments of seven South Asian countries: Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka. Pakistan, as a founding member, has been actively participating in SAARC's activities and initiatives aimed at promoting regional cooperation, economic integration, and mutual understanding among member states. Situated in the heart of South Asia, Pakistan plays a vital role in fostering positive relationships through its engagement in SAARC. Despite historical challenges and occasional tensions, Pakistan has consistently worked towards promoting cooperation, dialogue, and mutual understanding among SAARC member states.

Pakistan's efforts, key initiatives, and contributions

Pakistan hosted:

- **4th SAARC Summit (1988):** Held in Islamabad, this summit marked an important step in fostering regional cooperation among South Asian countries.
- **12th SAARC Summit (2004):** Also held in Islamabad, this summit focused on enhancing regional connectivity and economic cooperation.



Note For Teachers: (Whole Class Discussion and Developing Mind-Map) Prompt: Why is international cooperation crucial in addressing global health crises, based on Pakistan's involvement in initiatives like the Ebola outbreak and COVID-19 response? Reflect on successes and future implications.

These summits provide opportunities for leaders from SAARC countries to engage in dialogue, exchange views, and explore avenues for cooperation on issues of mutual interest, such as trade, security, and development.

i. Diplomatic Engagements

- a) The Kashmir issue remains a significant point of contention in South Asia, impacting regional peace and security. SAARC summits provide a platform for discussing this complex issue, although it has not been formally addressed so far.
- b) Dialogue and Diplomacy: The summits offer opportunities for leaders from Pakistan and India to engage in dialogue, facilitating back-channel diplomacy and confidence-building measures aimed at easing tensions in Kashmir.
- c) Humanitarian Concerns: Discussions can also focus on the humanitarian impact of the conflict in Kashmir, promoting cooperation in providing relief and support to affected communities.

By providing these opportunities, SAARC summits play a crucial role in fostering regional cooperation, addressing common challenges, and potentially easing tensions in contentious areas such as Kashmir.

ii. Economic Cooperation and Trade

Economic cooperation forms a crucial pillar of Pakistan's efforts to strengthen relationships within South Asia. The country actively participates in initiatives aimed at enhancing trade, investment, and economic integration among SAARC member states. By promoting economic cooperation, Pakistan seeks to create mutually beneficial partnerships that contribute to shared prosperity and stability in the region. Pakistan is a signatory to the South Asian Free Trade Area (SAFTA) Agreement, which came into effect in 2006. SAFTA aims to promote trade liberalization and reduce tariff and non-tariff barriers among SAARC countries, fostering greater economic integration and collaboration within the region.

iii. Cross-Border Connectivity and Infrastructure Development

Pakistan recognizes the importance of cross-border connectivity and infrastructure development in promoting regional integration and cooperation. The country actively supports initiatives to improve transportation, energy, and communication links among SAARC member states. Enhanced connectivity facilitates trade, tourism, and people-to-people exchanges, laying the foundation for stronger relationships within South Asia. The Kartarpur Corridor, inaugurated in November 2019, is a prime example of Pakistan's commitment to promoting cross-border connectivity and people-to-people exchanges with India. The corridor provides Sikh pilgrims from India with visa-free access to the Gurdwara Darbar Sahib in Kartarpur, facilitating religious tourism and fostering goodwill between the two countries.

iv. Cultural Exchanges and People-to-People Contacts

Cultural exchanges and people-to-people contacts are crucial for fostering understanding and friendship among SAARC countries. Pakistan promotes cultural diplomacy through festivals, exhibitions, and educational exchanges that highlight South Asia's rich heritage and diversity. These initiatives encourage mutual respect and solidarity among the region's people. The SAARC Cultural Centre in Colombo, established in 2009, facilitates cultural cooperation among member states. Pakistan actively participates in the center events and initiatives, enhancing cultural

understanding and harmony within South Asia.

During the tenure of General Pervez Musharraf, several initiatives were undertaken to enhance people-to-people contact and foster diplomacy among SAARC countries. These efforts aimed at promoting mutual understanding, cultural exchange, and regional cooperation. Key initiatives included:

1. **Visa Relaxation:** The Musharraf government worked towards easing visa restrictions to facilitate easier travel between Pakistan and other SAARC countries. This initiative aimed at promoting tourism, business exchanges, and cultural visits, thereby enhancing mutual understanding and goodwill. For example, the Pakistan-India visa agreement in 2005 simplified travel procedures for citizens of both countries.
2. **Cultural Exchange Programs:** Numerous cultural exchange programs were initiated to promote the sharing of arts, music, literature, and heritage among SAARC countries. These programs included cultural festivals, exhibitions, and artist exchange programs. For instance, the "Aman ki Asha" initiative, a joint venture by the Times of India and Pakistan's Jang Group, aimed at improving relations through cultural exchanges and events.
3. **Educational Collaborations:** Efforts were made to enhance educational cooperation through student exchange programs, academic partnerships, and scholarships. This allowed students from SAARC countries to study in Pakistan and vice versa, fostering educational and cultural ties. Notable examples include scholarships offered by the Higher Education Commission (HEC) of Pakistan to students from SAARC countries.
4. **Sports Diplomacy:** Sports events and tournaments were organized to bring together athletes from SAARC countries. These events served as a platform for fostering camaraderie and goodwill among young people in the region. An example is the regular cricket series between Pakistan and India, which often served as a diplomatic bridge during tense political periods.
5. **Media and Communication:** The government encouraged media collaborations and exchanges to promote a better understanding of each other's cultures and perspectives. Joint media ventures, journalist exchange programs, and collaborative reporting on regional issues were some of the initiatives in this regard. The exchange of journalists between Pakistan and India helped improve the accuracy and empathy in reporting about each other's countries.
6. **Business and Trade Forums:** Business forums and trade delegations were organized to enhance economic cooperation and build strong business-to-business connections. These forums provided opportunities for entrepreneurs and business leaders to interact, collaborate, and explore mutual business interests. The SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SAARC CCI) meetings often featured significant Pakistani participation.
7. **Youth Engagement:** Programs targeting youth engagement, such as youth conferences, leadership camps, and exchange programs, were promoted to encourage young people from SAARC countries to connect, share ideas, and work together on common challenges. The South Asian Youth Conference (SAYC) often saw active involvement from Pakistani youth leaders.
8. **Tourism Promotion:** Efforts were made to promote regional tourism by highlighting the cultural and natural attractions of SAARC countries. Joint tourism initiatives, including promotional campaigns and regional travel packages, were introduced to encourage intra-regional travel. Initiatives like the Pakistan Tourism Development Corporation's (PTDC)

promotional campaigns aimed at attracting tourists from neighboring SAARC countries.

5. Conflict Resolution and Peacebuilding

Pakistan is committed to promoting peace, stability, and security in South Asia through conflict resolution and peacebuilding efforts. The country actively supports initiatives aimed at resolving conflicts, addressing security challenges, and promoting dialogue and reconciliation among SAARC member states. By fostering a conducive environment for peace, Pakistan seeks to create opportunities for cooperation and collaboration within the region. Pakistan has played a constructive role in facilitating peace talks between the Afghan government and the Taliban, contributing to efforts aimed at achieving a peaceful settlement to the conflict in Afghanistan. Pakistan's engagement in the Afghan peace process underscores its commitment to regional stability and security in South Asia.

Role of Pakistan in Addressing Issues in the Muslim World through the OIC

The Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) was established on September 25, 1969. It was founded in response to the arson attack on Al-Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem, which led to a summit in Rabat, Morocco, where the decision to establish the OIC was made. The OIC was created to promote solidarity and cooperation among member states, as well as safeguarding the interests of the Muslim world. Pakistan became a member of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) in 1969, during the founding summit held in Rabat, Morocco. Since then, Pakistan has actively participated in OIC's activities and initiatives aimed at addressing issues of common concern to the Muslim world, including political, economic, and social challenges. Pakistan, as a prominent member of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), has played a significant role in addressing various challenges facing the Muslim world. Through its active participation and diplomatic efforts within the OIC, Pakistan has contributed to fostering unity, promoting solidarity, and seeking solutions to issues affecting Muslim-majority countries. This article explores Pakistan's role in solving problems within the Muslim world from the platform of the OIC, highlighting key initiatives and contributions.

1. Advocacy for Palestinian Rights

One of the central issues in the Muslim world is the Palestinian-Israeli conflict. Pakistan is deeply involved in advocating for Palestinian rights within the OIC. It actively supports a fair resolution to the Palestinian-Israeli conflict based on international law and UN resolutions. Pakistan's significant role in the adoption of the "Lahore Declaration" at the 1974 Islamic Summit Conference underscores its commitment. The declaration reaffirmed the OIC's backing for Palestinian self-determination and condemned Israeli occupation and aggression.

In the wake of a fresh wave of violence and genocide of innocent Palestinians in Gaza that started in October 2023, Pakistan expressed deep concerns and pointed out that the ongoing violence serves as a poignant reminder and a direct outcome of more than seven decades of unlawful foreign occupation, aggression, and disregard for international law by the illegal state of Israel. This includes UNSC resolutions affirming the Palestinians' inherent right to self-determination and statehood. It must be noted that Pakistan's official stance on the conflict aligns with its long-

standing position of not recognizing Israel as a state. For decades, Pakistan has called for the establishment of an independent Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital.

2. Support for Kashmir Issue

Pakistan has actively raised the Kashmir issue within the OIC, seeking diplomatic support for the rights of the Kashmiri people. Pakistan emphasizes the need for a peaceful resolution of the Kashmir dispute by UN resolutions and the aspirations of the Kashmiri people. At the 47th session of the OIC Council of Foreign Ministers held in Niamey, Niger, in 2020, Pakistan's Foreign Minister reiterated Pakistan's commitment to raising the Kashmir issue at international forums, including the OIC and seeking a just and peaceful solution to the conflict.

The UN Security Council (UNSC) actively considers the Kashmir dispute and has adopted 16 resolutions on the matter since 1947. After India revoked Article 370 and Article 35A in August 2019, which ended Jammu and Kashmir's independent status, the UN Security Council's involvement and the role of the UN Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan (UNMOGIP) highlighted the ongoing importance of the issue. UNMOGIP monitors ceasefire violations in Jammu and Kashmir, ensuring the Security Council remains informed. These activities underscore the continued active consideration of the Kashmir dispute by the Security Council, dispelling any notion of its obsolescence.

The unilateral revocation of the independent status of Kashmir by India has significant implications for Kashmiris living in Jammu and Kashmir. It has led to changes in governance, security measures, and political dynamics in the region. Kashmiris have experienced increased militarization, restrictions on movement, communication blackouts, and concerns about their political and cultural rights. The revocation also sparked international concerns about human rights violations by fascist Indian regime and the status of Kashmir under international law.

3. Counter-terrorism Cooperation

Pakistan has been actively engaged in promoting cooperation among OIC member states to combat terrorism and extremism. Recognizing the common threat posed by terrorism, Pakistan has advocated for joint efforts to address the root causes of terrorism, enhance intelligence sharing, and strengthen counterterrorism measures. In this connection, some important military operations were carried out in Pakistan including Operation Enduring Freedom (2001-2002), Operation Al Mizan (2002-2006), Operation Zalzal (2008), Operations Sher Dil, Rah-e-Haq, and Rah-e-Rast (2007-2009), and Operation Rah-e-Nijat (2009-2010). However, there was a ripple effect of these military operations on Pakistan's security with multiple incidents of terrorism inside at that point. Pakistan has effectively participated in OIC meetings and conferences focused on counterterrorism cooperation, including the OIC Summit on Science and Technology for Development in Islamabad in 2017. Pakistan highlighted the importance of harnessing science and technology to counter terrorism and promote sustainable development in the Muslim world.

4. Humanitarian Assistance and Relief Efforts

Pakistan has contributed to humanitarian assistance and relief efforts within the Muslim world through the OIC platform. In response to natural disasters, conflicts, and humanitarian crises affecting OIC member states, Pakistan has provided humanitarian aid, medical assistance, and relief supplies to affected populations. In 2021, Pakistan dispatched humanitarian assistance,

including food supplies, medical equipment, and tents, to Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh through the OIC's Humanitarian Assistance Program. Pakistan's support aimed to alleviate the suffering of Rohingya Muslims displaced by violence in Myanmar.

5. Promotion of Interfaith Dialogue and Tolerance

Pakistan advocates for interfaith dialogue, religious harmony, and tolerance within the Muslim world through the OIC platform. Recognizing the importance of promoting understanding and respect among different religious communities, Pakistan emphasizes the need for dialogue and cooperation to address religious intolerance and extremism. Pakistan has hosted OIC meetings and conferences focused on interfaith dialogue and religious tolerance, such as the International Seerat Conference held in Islamabad in 2019. The conference brought together scholars, religious leaders, and policymakers to discuss ways to promote peace, harmony, and mutual respect among diverse religious communities.

Pakistan's Relations with Britain and Commonwealth Countries

Pakistan shares historical, cultural, and diplomatic ties with Britain and other Commonwealth countries, stemming from their shared colonial past and membership in the Commonwealth of Nations. Over the years, these relationships have evolved and diversified, encompassing various areas of cooperation, including trade, defense, education, and cultural exchanges. This topic explores Pakistan's relations with Britain and Commonwealth countries, highlighting key developments, partnerships, and initiatives.

i. Historical Context

Pakistan's relationship with Britain dates back to its independence in 1947. As a former British colony, Pakistan inherited many aspects of its administrative, legal, and educational systems from British rule. The ties between the two countries have been shaped by historical connections, diaspora communities, and shared interests in areas such as trade, defense, and



Note For Teachers: Inform your students about the Proposals in respect of Jammu and Kashmir made by General A.G.L. McNaughton, President of the Security Council of the United Nations, pursuant to the decision of the Security Council taken at its 457th meeting, on 22 December, 1949

The main points of the President of the Security Council of the United Nations are as under:

- (a) To determine the future of Jammu and Kashmir by the democratic method of the free and impartial plebiscite, to take place as early as possible; Thus to settle this issue between the Governments of India and Pakistan in accordance with the freely expressed will of the inhabitants, as is desired by both Governments;
- (b) To preserve the substantial measure of agreement of fundamental principles which has already been reached between the two Governments under the auspices of the United Nations.
- (c) To avoid unprofitable discussion of disputed issues of the past and to look forward into the future towards the good-neighborly and constructive co-operation of the two great nations.

Hold a class discussion using these prompts:

1. Why do you think a free and impartial vote is considered a democratic method for determining the future of a region? Do you think this method would be effective in this case? Why or why not? (importance of a Plebiscite)
2. Why is it important to preserve the agreements that have already been reached between India and Pakistan? How can this help in resolving the conflict? (Agreement on Principles)
3. How can avoiding discussions about past disputes help in creating a peaceful relationship between India and Pakistan? What challenges might arise in trying to focus on future cooperation? (Future Focus)

education. The All-India Muslim League, led by Muhammad Ali Jinnah, played a pivotal role in the struggle for Pakistan's independence from British rule. The Partition of British India in 1947 led to the creation of Pakistan as a separate Muslim-majority state.

ii. Bilateral Relations with Britain

Pakistan's bilateral relations with Britain have remained significant since independence. Both countries maintain diplomatic missions in each other's capitals and engage in regular high-level exchanges, dialogue, and cooperation across various sectors; including trade, investment, defense, education, and culture. In 2019, Prime Minister Imran Khan visited the United Kingdom and held meetings with British leaders to discuss bilateral relations, trade opportunities, and cooperation on issues of mutual interest, such as counterterrorism and climate change.

iii. Economic Cooperation and Trade

Pakistan and Britain have deep economic ties, with trade and investment playing a crucial role in their relationship. Britain is one of Pakistan's major trading partners and a significant source of foreign direct investment (FDI). Both countries have taken steps to enhance bilateral trade and investment through trade agreements, business forums, and investment promotion initiatives. The Pakistan-United Kingdom Trade and Investment Roadmap, launched in 2018, aims to strengthen economic ties and promote trade and investment between the two countries. The roadmap outlines key sectors for cooperation, including agriculture, healthcare, education, and infrastructure.

iv. Defense and Security Cooperation

Pakistan and Britain have a long history of defense and security cooperation, with defense ties spanning training, military exchanges and defense equipment sales. Both countries collaborate on issues of mutual military interests, including counterterrorism, maritime security, and peacekeeping operations. The two countries also collaborate on counterterrorism initiatives, intelligence-sharing, and capacity-building efforts to combat common security threats.

v. Participation in the Commonwealth of Nations

Pakistan is a member of the Commonwealth of Nations, a voluntary association of 54 countries, most of which are former territories of the British Empire. The Commonwealth promotes cooperation and dialogue among member states in areas such as democracy, human rights, governance, trade, and development. Pakistan actively participated in the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) 2018 in London, aimed at promoting dialogue, cooperation, and development within the Commonwealth family. Pakistan's engagement with the Commonwealth reflects its commitment to shared values and principles, including democracy, the rule of law, and human rights.

vi. Educational and Cultural Exchanges

Pakistan and Britain foster educational and cultural exchanges to promote mutual understanding, academic collaboration, and cultural diplomacy. Through scholarships, exchange programs, and cultural initiatives, both countries facilitate academic and cultural exchanges among students, scholars, artists, and professionals. The Chevening Scholarship Program, funded by the British government, provides opportunities for Pakistani students and professionals to pursue postgraduate studies in the United Kingdom. Similarly, cultural events, exhibitions, and festivals such as Polo matches in Gilgit Baltistan, promote cultural exchanges and showcase the rich

Do You Know?

According to the 2021 Census, Pakistanis in England and Wales numbered 1,587,819 or 2.7% of the population.

Pakistan's Relations with Commonwealth countries

In 1947, Pakistan chose to retain its membership in the Commonwealth upon becoming a British dominion, establishing its own government while acknowledging the British monarch as the symbolic head of state. In 1956, Pakistan transitioned into a republic, thereby eliminating any influence of the British monarch in its governance. Despite this change, Pakistan maintained its membership in the Commonwealth, which provided significant political and economic assistance. Notably, during a Commonwealth summit in Colombo in 1950, the 'Colombo Plan' was established to offer aid to Pakistan. Over £1 million was allocated towards the Sui gas project, with additional substantial contributions from wealthy Commonwealth nations like Canada, which provided \$40 million for railway development.

However, Pakistan's relationship with the Commonwealth has encountered tensions. The Commonwealth's support for Pakistan, especially during sensitive geopolitical issues such as the Kashmir dispute, has been inconsistent, often falling short of Pakistani expectations. Conversely, there were instances when Pakistan did not fully align with Britain's positions on international matters. These dynamics reflect the complexities of Pakistan's diplomatic interactions within the Commonwealth framework.

Failure of the UN to Solve the Kashmir Issue

The Kashmir issue has been a longstanding conflict between India and Pakistan, with both countries claiming the region in its entirety. Despite efforts by the United Nations (UN) to mediate and resolve the dispute, a lasting solution has remained elusive. This analysis examines the reasons for the failure of the UN in solving the Kashmir issue, exploring key factors that have hindered progress towards a resolution.

i. Lack of Enforcement Mechanism

One of the primary reasons for the failure of the UN to resolve the Kashmir issue is the absence of an effective enforcement mechanism to implement its resolutions. While the UN Security Council adopted resolutions calling for a plebiscite in Kashmir to determine its future status, these resolutions lacked enforcement provisions, rendering them ineffective in compelling India and Pakistan to comply. The UN Security Council passed Resolution 47 on April 21, 1948, calling for a plebiscite in Jammu and Kashmir to allow the people of the region to decide whether to join India or Pakistan. However, India has failed to establish peaceful conditions in Kashmir, which is a hindrance to the implementation of the UN resolution calling for a plebiscite, allowing Kashmiris to exercise their right to self-determination.

ii. Bilateral Approach Preferred by India

India has consistently opposed international intervention in the Kashmir issue, advocating for a bilateral approach to resolving disputes with Pakistan. India maintains that the Simla Agreement

of 1972 provides the framework for addressing outstanding issues, including Kashmir, through direct negotiations between the two countries, without third-party involvement. Following the Indo-Pakistani war of 1971, India and Pakistan signed the Simla Agreement, agreeing to resolve their differences through bilateral talks however, India's unilateral action of occupying the Baltoro range, an offshoot of the Karakoram range, to gain control over the Siachen Glacier exemplifies its unwillingness to adhere to the terms of the Simla Agreement. India is undermining bilateral trust by employing delaying tactics and zero sum unsustainable approaches towards the resolution of Kashmir conflict.

iii. Regional Geostrategic Considerations

The Kashmir issue is intertwined with broader regional geostrategic considerations, including India and Pakistan's geopolitical interests and rivalries. Both countries view Kashmir as strategically significant for reasons such as territorial integrity, national security, and water resources, making it challenging to find mutually acceptable solutions through UN-mediated negotiations. India's control over Kashmir provides it with access to vital water resources originating from the region's rivers, such as the Indus and Jhelum. Pakistan, on the other hand, perceives Kashmir as essential for its security and strategic interests due to its proximity to India's border and the potential for unrest in the region to spill over into Pakistani territory.

iv. Escalation of Tensions and Conflict

Escalating tensions and periodic outbreaks of violence between India and Pakistan have further complicated efforts to resolve the Kashmir issue through UN-mediated means. Cross-border skirmishes, militant attacks, and military confrontations have fueled mistrust and animosity between the two countries, making it challenging to engage in meaningful dialogue and negotiations. The Kargil conflict of 1999 between Pakistan and India resulted in a significant escalation of tensions between India and Pakistan. The conflict further eroded trust and confidence between the two countries, undermining prospects for peaceful resolution through UN-mediated processes.

v. Changing Dynamics in International Relations

The changing dynamics in international relations and shifting global priorities have also impacted the UN's ability to effectively address the Kashmir issue. With competing crises and conflicts around the world, the Kashmir issue has often been overshadowed, diminishing the urgency and attention devoted to finding a resolution by the international community and the UN. The post-9/11 emphasis on counterterrorism, coupled with the emergence of new security threats in the Middle East and beyond, has diverted focus and resources from persistent conflicts such as Kashmir. As a result, the Kashmir issue has received diminished international scrutiny and support for UN-mediated efforts to resolve the conflict.

In a nutshell, the failure of the UN to resolve the Kashmir issue can be attributed to various factors, including the lack of an enforcement mechanism, India's preference for a bilateral approach, regional geostrategic considerations, escalating tensions and conflicts, and changing dynamics in international relations. Despite numerous UN resolutions and mediation efforts, the Kashmir dispute remains unresolved, with both India and Pakistan holding firm positions on the issue.

Failure of the UN to Solve the Palestine Issue

The Palestine issue has been a protracted conflict between Israelis and Palestinians, marked by violence, displacement, and deep-seated grievances. Despite numerous resolutions and mediation efforts by the United Nations (UN), a lasting solution to the Palestine-Israel conflict has remained elusive. The following reasons for the failure of the UN in resolving the Palestine issue highlight key factors that have hindered progress toward a peaceful resolution.

i. Lack of Enforcement Mechanism

One of the primary reasons for the failure of the UN to solve the Palestine issue is the absence of an effective enforcement mechanism to implement its resolutions. While the UN General Assembly and Security Council have passed numerous resolutions condemning Israeli actions and calling for a peaceful settlement, these resolutions lack enforceability, limiting their impact on the ground. UN General Assembly Resolution 181, adopted on November 29, 1947, called for the partition of British Mandate Palestine into separate Jewish and Arab states, with Jerusalem as an international city. However, the resolution was not implemented due to opposition from various parties, leading to the outbreak of the Arab-Israeli War in 1948.

ii. Role of Great Power Politics

Great power politics, particularly the influence of the United States, has played a significant role in shaping the dynamics of the Palestine-Israel conflict and influencing UN actions. The United States, as a veto-wielding member of the UN Security Council, has often shielded Israel from criticism and punitive measures, thereby impeding efforts to hold Israel accountable for its actions. The vetoed UNSC resolutions by the US against critical Israel's policies and actions include resolutions condemning Israeli settlements in the occupied territories and calling for the protection of Palestinian civilians. This veto power has paralyzed the UN's ability to take meaningful action to address the root causes of the conflict. The constant arms supply to Israel by the US has escalated violence against Palestinians, transforming the conflict into an asymmetric one. Furthermore, Israel enjoys extreme immunity which has enabled the Israeli government to increase its offenses in Palestine. The crimes against humanity and ongoing genocide in Gaza and the West Bank are a testament to the fact that international law is outrightly violated by Israel.

iii. Regional Geostrategic Considerations

The Palestine issue is intertwined with broader regional geostrategic considerations, including



Note For Teachers Inform the students about two-state solution:

Two-state solution, was proposed framework for resolving the Israeli-Palestinian conflict by establishing two states for two peoples: Israel for the Jewish people and Palestine for the Palestinian people. In 1993 the Israeli government and the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) agreed on a plan to implement a two-state solution as part of the Oslo Accords, leading to the establishment of the Palestinian Authority (PA).

Hold a whole class discussion on the basis of following prompt:

1. Evaluate the two-state solution proposed to resolve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Considering the 1993 Oslo Accords and the establishment of the Palestinian Authority, discuss whether this approach was right and if the UN should implement it immediately.
2. Do you think there are better alternatives to Palestine- Israel Conflict? Explain your stance and reasoning.

the interests and rivalries of regional actors such as Israel, Arab states, and Iran. Regional dynamics, including territorial disputes, ideological differences, and security concerns, have complicated the efforts to achieve a peaceful resolution to the conflict through UN-mediated negotiations. The Arab-Israeli wars, such as the Six-Day War in 1967 and the Yom Kippur War in 1973, have shaped regional dynamics and influenced the trajectory of the Palestine-Israel conflict. These conflicts reinforced mutual distrust, heightened tensions over time, and undermined prospects for peaceful coexistence and reconciliation.

iv. Expansion of Israeli Settlements

The expansion of Israeli settlements in the occupied Palestinian territories, in violation of international law and UN resolutions, has been a major obstacle to resolving the Palestine issue. The construction of Israeli settlements in East Jerusalem and the West Bank has accelerated in recent decades, despite condemnation from the international community and calls for a freeze on settlement activity. The expansion of settlements has fragmented Palestinian territories, eroded prospects for Palestinian statehood, and deepened divisions between Israelis and Palestinians. The United Nations Security Council Resolution 2334, passed in December 2016, addresses illegal Israeli settlements in occupied Palestinian territories. However, the continued construction and expansion of settlements have fueled tensions, displaced Palestinian communities, and undermined the viability of a two-state solution envisioned by the UN.

v. Fragmentation of Palestinian Leadership

The fragmentation of Palestinian political leadership and the lack of unity among Palestinian factions have weakened the Palestinian negotiating position and impeded efforts to achieve a unified approach to resolving the conflict. Internal divisions, power struggles, and governance challenges have undermined the effectiveness of Palestinian leadership in engaging with the UN and advancing the Palestinian cause. Currently, the political rivalry between Fatah and Hamas, the two main Palestinian factions, has led to competing claims to legitimacy and authority in the West Bank and Gaza, hindering efforts to present a united front in negotiations with Israel and engagement with the international community. Weak leadership and lack of internal cohesion among Palestinians have undermined the prospects for achieving a negotiated settlement to the conflict.

Overall, The failure of the UN to solve the Palestine issue can be attributed to various factors, including the lack of an enforcement mechanism, the role of great power politics, regional geostrategic considerations, the expansion of Israeli settlements, and the fragmentation of Palestinian leadership. Despite numerous resolutions and mediation efforts, the Palestine-Israel conflict remains unresolved, with deep-seated grievances and challenges hindering progress toward a peaceful resolution. Moving forward, concerted efforts by the international community, including the UN, to address the root causes of the conflict, uphold international law, and promote dialogue and reconciliation will be essential to achieve a just and lasting solution to the Palestine issue.

Challenges Encountered by the UN in Resolving the Afghanistan Issue

The Afghanistan issue has posed significant challenges for the United Nations (UN) in its efforts to

promote peace, stability, and development in the country. Despite numerous initiatives and interventions, the UN has faced various difficulties that have hindered progress toward resolving the Afghanistan issue. The obstacles and complexities that have impeded effective solutions are under:

1. Protracted Conflict and Instability

The UN has faced significant challenges in addressing the Afghanistan issue, primarily due to the country's prolonged conflict and instability spanning several decades. Starting with the Soviet invasion in December 1979, Afghanistan endured successive waves of turmoil, including civil war in the 1990s and the US-led military aggression in 2001. These conflicts have led to widespread violence, mass displacement, and humanitarian crises, profoundly impacting Afghan society. The Soviet invasion marked the beginning of a protracted conflict that persisted for nearly a decade, resulting in immense human suffering, loss of life, and extensive damage to infrastructure and institutions.

2. Fragmentation of Afghan Society and Politics

The fragmentation of Afghan society and politics poses a significant challenge for the UN in resolving the Afghanistan issue. Ethnic, tribal, and factional divisions, coupled with competing political interests and power struggles, have hindered efforts to achieve national unity, reconciliation, and consensus among Afghan stakeholders. Following the collapse of the Soviet-backed communist regime in Afghanistan in 1992, the country descended into civil war and factional conflict. Rival militias and factions emerged along ethnic and regional lines, exacerbating violence and instability, and complicating efforts to reach a political settlement.

3. Influence of External Actors and Regional Dynamics

The influence of external actors and regional dynamics has significantly complicated efforts to resolve the Afghanistan issue. Afghanistan has become a battleground for regional rivalries and geopolitical interests, with neighboring countries and international actors pursuing distinct agendas and backing various Afghan factions. This has exacerbated instability and insecurity in the region. Pakistan's support for the Taliban insurgency, aimed at countering Indian influence and securing strategic interests, has been a major source of tension. The involvement of external actors in Afghan affairs has fueled mistrust, animosity, and proxy conflicts, all of which hinder efforts to achieve peace and stability.

4. Resurgence of Taliban and Insurgent Groups

The resurgence of the Taliban and other insurgent groups in Afghanistan has posed a significant challenge for the UN in resolving the Afghanistan issue. Despite efforts to defeat insurgency and build Afghan security forces, the Taliban has maintained its presence and launched attacks against Afghan government forces, civilians, and international troops, undermining peace and stability. Following the US-led invasion of Afghanistan in 2001, the Taliban's resurgence has fueled a protracted conflict marked by asymmetric warfare, suicide bombings, and terrorist attacks. Despite attempts to engage the Taliban in peace talks, the group has consistently rejected calls for a ceasefire, continuing its mission to overthrow the Afghan government.

Talibans are currently the governing authority in Afghanistan. Since their takeover in August 2021, they have established the "Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan" which is characterized by a significant

departure from the previous government in terms of human rights, particularly regarding the rights of women and minorities.

5. Governance Challenges and Corruption

Governance challenges and pervasive corruption within the Afghan government have been significant obstacles to resolving the Afghanistan issue. Weak institutions, lack of accountability, and widespread corruption have impeded efforts to establish effective governance structures, provide essential services, and earn public trust. The Afghan government's failure to deliver basic services, address grievances, and combat corruption has eroded public confidence and fueled discontent among the Afghan populace. Corruption within governmental institutions has further undermined efforts to establish legitimacy and stability, exacerbating governance challenges and hindering progress toward peace and development.

The UN has encountered numerous difficulties in its efforts to resolve the Afghanistan issue, including prolonged conflict and instability, fragmentation of Afghan society and politics, influence of external actors and regional dynamics, resurgence of Taliban and insurgent groups, and governance challenges and corruption. Overcoming these challenges will require sustained international support, political will, and genuine commitment from Afghan stakeholders to address the root causes of the conflict, promote national reconciliation, and build a peaceful and prosperous future for Afghanistan.

Since the Taliban's takeover in August 2021, China has been one of the few countries that has actively engaged with the Taliban government, viewing Afghanistan as strategically important due to its location and natural resources.

Role of Pakistan in ECO

In 1985, the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) was established by Iran, Pakistan, and Turkey to promote economic, technical, and cultural cooperation among the member states. ECO is the successor organization of the Regional Cooperation for Development (RCD) which remained in existence from 1964 up to 1979. ECO includes ten member states: Azerbaijan, Afghanistan, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkey, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan. Pakistan, as a founding member, has been actively involved in promoting economic cooperation, trade, and development among member states in the Eurasian region.

1. Founding Member and Leadership

Pakistan played a pivotal role in the establishment and institutional development of ECO. Actively participating in ECO's decision-making processes, summits, and working groups, Pakistan has contributed to the organization's agenda-setting and strategic direction. Notably, Pakistan hosted the 13th ECO Summit in Islamabad in March 2017, where leaders discussed ways to enhance economic cooperation, connectivity, and trade facilitation, underscoring Pakistan's commitment to regional integration.

2. Promotion of Trade and Connectivity

Recognizing the potential for economic growth through regional cooperation, Pakistan has promoted trade, investment, and connectivity within the ECO region. Initiatives like the Pakistan-China Economic Corridor (CPEC), a flagship project under China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), aim to enhance connectivity and economic cooperation between Pakistan and

China, creating linkages with ECO member states. CPEC projects include highways, railways, and energy corridors, which are expected to boost regional trade and investment flows.

3. Energy Cooperation and Infrastructure Development

Pakistan has engaged in energy cooperation and infrastructure development initiatives within ECO, emphasizing energy security and sustainable development. Pakistan supports projects aimed at enhancing energy connectivity, promoting renewable energy sources, and improving infrastructure for transportation and communication. The Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India (TAPI) gas pipeline project, supported by ECO member states, aims to transport natural gas from Turkmenistan to energy-deficient countries in South Asia, including Pakistan. The TAPI pipeline, once completed, will enhance energy security, promote economic development, and foster regional cooperation.

4. Cultural and Educational Exchanges

To foster mutual understanding, people-to-people contacts, and cultural diplomacy, Pakistan has promoted cultural and educational exchanges within the ECO region. Pakistan has actively participated in events organized by the ECO Cultural Institute, established in Tehran, Iran. Through these events, Pakistan showcases its rich heritage and diversity, contributing to cultural cooperation among ECO member states.

Future Prospects of ECO as an Active Regional Organization

ECO Vision 2025

The "ECO Vision 2025" was adopted during the 22nd Meeting of the ECO Council of Ministers (COM) on February 28, 2017, in Islamabad, Pakistan. This comprehensive and focused document includes an Implementation Framework.

Vision Statement

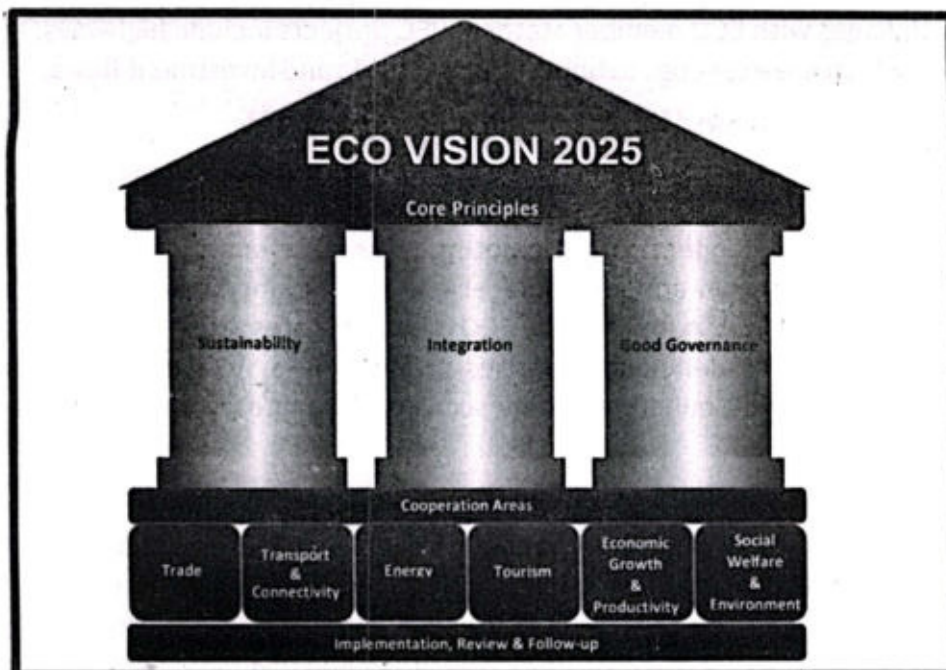
"ECO will pave the way to a territory of integrated and sustainable economies as well as free trade area achieved by highly educated societies and improved governance through enhanced cooperation."

Core Principles and Cooperation Areas

The "ECO Vision 2025" is based on the following core principles:

1. Sustainability
2. Integration
3. Conducive Environment

The vision focuses on six priority Cooperation Areas: Trade, Transport and Connectivity, Energy, Tourism, Economic Growth and Productivity, and Social Welfare and Environment. Each Cooperation Area includes Strategic Objectives, which define the broad goals to be achieved; a Policy Environment, detailing how an enabling environment will be created for realizing the Strategic Objectives; and Expected Outcomes, specifying the actions to be taken and the variables against which the implementation of the Vision will be measured.



The “ECO Vision 2025” represents a significant milestone for the Economic Cooperation Organization, aiming to integrate and sustain economies through enhanced cooperation. With its clear Vision Statement, core principles of Sustainability, Integration, and Conducive Environment, and six prioritized Cooperation Areas, this vision sets a comprehensive framework for regional development. The strategic objectives, policy environments, and expected outcomes within each area provide a structured approach to achieving the Vision's goals, ensuring measurable progress towards a territory of integrated and sustainable economies.

Talking Time (Whole Class Discussion)

The United Nations (UN) was established post-World War II with the goal of providing a platform for international diplomacy to prevent conflicts through dialogue and cooperation among nations. However, its effectiveness has been debated due to structural/organizational issues and varying global perspectives. One criticism is that the UN treats all nations and their leaders as morally equivalent, thereby granting them equal eligibility for voting and diplomacy, but this cannot be justified. For instance, nations with massive human rights violations records have been granted influential positions within the UN, raising questions about the ability of the UN to uphold universal moral standards. Moreover, some argue that the UN has become a battleground where geopolitical interests often overshadow its original mission of promoting global peace. Critics, particularly in the United States, question the disproportionate financial contribution their country makes compared to others, especially when decisions or statements by the UN may seem critical of American policies. In summary, while the UN aims to foster international cooperation and prevent conflicts, its effectiveness and fairness have been challenged, reflecting ongoing debates about its role in global governance.

Discussion Prompts:

- i. Name some countries which have records of massive human rights violation but still enjoy immunity/exemption.

- ii. Is the UN more focused on political agendas rather than its original mission of promoting global peace and cooperation?
- iii. How does the disproportionate financial contribution by certain member states, like the United States, influence perceptions of fairness and effectiveness within the UN?

What I have Learned

- **ECO Vision 2025:** Adopted during the 22nd ECO Council of Ministers (COM) meeting on February 28, 2017, in Islamabad, focusing on sustainable and integrated economies.
- **Pakistan-China Economic Corridor (CPEC):** A flagship project under China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), enhancing connectivity between Pakistan and China, and fostering regional trade under ECO.
- **Energy Cooperation:** Pakistan supports projects like the Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India (TAPI) gas pipeline, aimed at enhancing energy security and economic development within ECO.
- **Cultural and Educational Exchanges:** Pakistan promotes cultural diversity and academic collaboration through initiatives supported by the ECO Cultural Institute.
- **UNSC Resolutions:** The United Nations Security Council Resolution 2334, passed in December 2016, addresses illegal Israeli settlements in occupied Palestinian territories..
- **Role in OIC:** Pakistan actively participates in the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), addressing political and social issues within the Muslim world.
- **SAARC Engagement:** Pakistan plays a significant role in SAARC, promoting regional cooperation among South Asian countries.
- **Global Peacekeeping:** Pakistan contributes extensively to UN peacekeeping missions, aiding global stability and disaster response efforts.
- **Kashmir issue:** The Security Council's continued attention to the Kashmir dispute, affirms its relevance and dispelling any perception of its irrelevance.
- **A bilateral approach** in foreign relations involves direct diplomacy and agreements between two specific countries.

Exercise

Answer the following questions by choosing the best answer.

1. When did the UN Security Council pass Resolution 47, calling for a plebiscite in Jammu and Kashmir?
 - i) March 15, 1948
 - ii) April 21, 1948
 - iii) June 5, 1948
 - iv) July 12, 1948

2. **When was the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) established?**
 - i. October 28, 1992 ii. March 13, 2017
 - iii. December 15, 1985 iv. January 1, 2000
3. **What is one of the primary objectives of the major organs of the United Nations?**
 - i. To promote international trade
 - ii. To maintain international peace and security
 - iii. To regulate global financial markets
 - iv. To oversee national elections
4. **What role has Pakistan played in the United Nations Security Council (UNSC)?**
 - i. Permanent Member ii. Non-Permanent Member
 - iii. Observer State iv. Founding Member
5. **How has Pakistan contributed to the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC)?**
 - i. By leading military alliances
 - ii. By promoting regional economic cooperation
 - iii. By focusing solely on cultural exchanges
 - iv. By regulating trade tariffs
6. **Which project aims to enhance connectivity and economic cooperation between Pakistan and China, creating linkages with ECO member states?**
 - i. TAPI Gas Pipeline
 - ii. SAARC Development Fund
 - iii. Pakistan-China Economic Corridor (CPEC)
 - iv. ECO Trade Agreement
7. **Why is the UN unable to resolve the conflict in Kashmir:**
 - i. Lack of international interest
 - ii. Absence of clear resolutions
 - iii. Geopolitical complexities and opposition from involved parties
 - iv. Insufficient funding
8. **Which gas pipeline project is supported by ECO member states to transport natural gas from Turkmenistan to South Asia, including Pakistan?**
 - i. Iran-Pakistan-India (IPI) Pipeline
 - ii. Central Asia-China Pipeline
 - iii. Trans-Afghanistan Pipeline (TAP)
 - iv. Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India (TAPI) Pipeline
9. **What is a key factor in Pakistan's role in the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC)?**
 - i. Promoting renewable energy projects
 - ii. Addressing political and social issues in the Muslim world

- iii. Leading economic summits
 - iv. Overseeing religious pilgrimages
10. Which of the following statements is true about the Trusteeship Council?
- i. The Trusteeship Council was established to oversee the administration of trust territories and ensure their transition to self-government or independence.
 - ii. The Trusteeship Council has suspended its operations since 1994 after completing its main task.
 - iii. The Trusteeship Council cannot reconvene under any circumstances.
 - iv. The Trusteeship Council was never a part of the United Nations.

Fill in the blanks

Kashmir, Palestine, and Afghanistan have been persistent challenges for the United Nations due to their complex geopolitical dynamics and opposition from involved parties. Pakistan has actively participated in efforts to address these issues. As a ----- member of the UN, Pakistan has held a ----- seat on the Security Council and contributed to ----- missions worldwide. In the South Asian region, Pakistan's role in ----- has been pivotal in promoting regional cooperation. Furthermore, Pakistan is a key member of the -----, working to solve issues in the Muslim world. The ----- project highlights Pakistan's commitment to enhancing regional connectivity and economic cooperation. Despite these efforts, achieving lasting peace in regions like ----- remains a significant challenge.

Answer the following questions briefly.

1. Why has the United Nations struggled to resolve the conflicts in Kashmir?
2. What are the implications of India's unilateral revocation of the independent status of Kashmir on Kashmiris living in Jammu and Kashmir?
3. What are the objectives of the United Nations organization?
4. What is a Two-state solution? Why it has not happened?
5. What has Pakistan done to help keep peace in Kashmir?
6. Describe the function of the Trustee Council of the United Nations?
7. What are the efforts made by Pakistan in counter terrorism?

Answer the following questions in detail.

1. Evaluate the role of the UN in maintaining global peace and its effectiveness in preventing conflicts.
2. Analyze the effectiveness of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) in addressing regional issues and promoting unity among Muslim countries.
3. Compare the effectiveness of SAARC and ECO in promoting regional cooperation and economic integration.
4. List all the international organizations of which Pakistan has been a member state, and analyze its contributions to these organizations.
5. Write notes on the following
 - i. Palestine conflict
 - ii. Afghanistan conflict

Project Title: Impact of International Organizations in Turkey and Syria

Explore how international organizations like the UN, NATO, and the Red Crescent impact stability and humanitarian aid in Syria. Research how these organizations influence regional peace efforts, provide aid during crises, and shape policies. Discuss the challenges these organizations face and their successes in addressing complex issues in the region. Present your findings with visual aids such as charts to illustrate the roles and impacts of these organizations clearly.

Glossary

- **International Organizations:** Groups involving multiple countries working together globally.
- **Impact:** The effect or influence of something on others.
- **Stability:** The condition of being steady and unchanging.
- **Humanitarian Aid:** Assistance and support provided during humanitarian crises or disasters.
- **Conflict Resolution:** Methods and processes used to resolve disagreements or disputes peacefully.
- **Geopolitical Dynamics:** Interactions and relationships between countries on a global scale.
- **Challenges:** Difficulties or obstacles faced in achieving goals or outcomes.
- **Prospects:** The possibility or likelihood of future success or development.
- **Geostrategic** refers to the strategic importance of a geographic area in terms of politics, military, and economics. It involves analyzing how the location and resources of a region influence national and international power dynamics, decision-making, and strategic planning.