UNited Nations

The Vienna International Centre
Vienna is the only European Union city to host one of four UN headquarters, along with New York, Geneva, and Nairobi. The Vienna International Centre, VIC, known as "UNO City" in Vienna, was officially opened on 23 August 1979. It is home to several international organisations and has been the venue of numerous international meetings. The construction costs were raised by the Federal Republic of Austria (65%) and the City of Vienna (35%).

The international organisations located at the VIC only pay a symbolic rent plus maintenance and operating costs for the building. Like foreign embassies, the Vienna International Centre enjoys extraterritorial status.

The Vienna International Centre on the River Danube has long assumed landmark qualities. It also reflects the way the Austrian capital perceives itself as a platform for international meetings in the heart of a united Europe.
Austria and the United Nations

Austria as a member of the United Nations

- has a long tradition of promoting respect for international law, peaceful settlement of disputes and the establishment of efficient international institutions, such as the International Criminal Court.
- has actively participated in the UN human rights bodies and hosted the UN World Conference on Human Rights in 1993. Currently, Austria is serving for the second time as a member in the UN Human Rights Council.
- supports international efforts for nuclear disarmament, non-proliferation, and particularly for a swift entry into force of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, as Austria was one of its initiators.
- was elected non-permanent member of the Security Council in 1973/74, 1991/92 and again in 2009/10, each time with an overwhelming majority. These three terms were certainly among the highlights of Austria’s longstanding involvement in the United Nations.
- has often been the venue of major international negotiations, such as the negotiations on the Iran nuclear deal, which were held in Vienna.

All 193 member states are represented in the General Assembly, but only 15 are members of the Security Council. Of these, 5 are permanent and 10 are non-permanent members.

Permanent members of the Security Council:
- United States of America
- People’s Republic of China (since 1971); formerly Republic of China (Taiwan)
- Russian Federation (since 1991); formerly Soviet Union
- France
- United Kingdom

The permanent members have a veto right in the decisions of the Security Council according to Article 27 (3) of the UN Charter.

The most important tasks of the United Nations are maintaining international peace and security, observing international law, protecting human rights, and promoting international cooperation.

Official languages: Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian, Spanish

Secretary-General: António Guterres (since 2017)

 Established: 26 June 1945
Entry into force of the UN Charter: 24 October 1945
Member states: 193
Headquarters: New York (USA)
Website: www.un.org

Austria first applied for UN membership in July 1947, but had to wait until after the signing of the State Treaty before it was finally admitted by the General Assembly on 14 December 1955. Before that it had already played an active role in some of the specialized agencies, such as the FAO, the World Bank, and UNESCO since 1947/48.

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The participation in peacekeeping operations represents one of Austria’s most essential contributions to the United Nations’ efforts to maintain peace and international security. In 1960 Austria participated for the first time in a UN-led operation by despatching a medical contingent for the United Nations Operation in Congo (ONUC).

Since then, over 100,000 Austrian troops and civilian helpers have been participating in more than 50 international peace support and humanitarian missions. An Austrian was six times appointed by the UN Secretary-General to head a peacekeeping mission. Whether peacekeeping operations, humanitarian aid or disaster relief - the Austrian Armed Forces also provide help and assistance abroad. Hundreds of soldiers serve in peaceful missions around the globe every day and thousands every year. Austria fully supports the UN in its efforts to ensure a more efficient planning of peacekeeping operations and enhance operational readiness in case of emergency.

Austria’s participation in peacekeeping operations

- MINUSMA Mali
- MINUSCA Central African Republic
- UNAMID Darfur
- UNMIK Kosovo
- UNFICYP Cyprus
- UNIFIL Lebanon
- UNMOGIP India und Pakistan
- MINUJUSTH Haiti
- MONUSCO Democratic Republic of the Congo
- UNMISS South Sudan
- UNISFA Abyei
- UNTSO Middle East
- UNDOF Syria
World leaders committed themselves to ending poverty, combating climate change and fighting injustice at an historic UN summit in New York in September 2015. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development offers a better future for billions of people around the world and for our planet as a whole.

The 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) which were unanimously adopted by 193 countries, set a new universal standard for development which aims to ensure that no one is left behind. The targets and indicators behind the goals provide a benchmark for measuring success.

Universal and indivisible, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development calls for action by all countries - developed and developing countries - as well as all people to end poverty, address inequalities and tackle climate change by 2030.

un.org/sustainabledevelopment
Organizations and Offices of United Nations in Vienna

UNOV  United Nations Office at Vienna
IAEA  The International Atomic Energy Agency
UNIDO  The United Nations Industrial Development Organization
UNODC  The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
CTBTO PrepCom  The Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization
UNOOSA  The United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs
ICPDR  The International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River
INCB  The International Narcotics Control Board
IOM  The International Organization for Migration
SEforAll  Sustainable Energy for All
UNCITRAL  United Nations Commission on International Trade Law
UN Environment  United Nations Environment Programme
UNHCR  United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNIS  United Nations Information Service
UNLOPS Vienna  United Nations Liaison Office for Peace and Security in Vienna
UNODA  United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs
UNPA  The United Nations Postal Administration
UNRoD  The United Nations Register of Damage Caused by the Construction of the Wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory
UNSCEAR  United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation
The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) was established in Vienna in 1997. For two decades, UNODC has been helping to make the world safer from drugs, organized crime, and corruption. It is committed to achieving health, security, and justice for all by tackling such global threats, and by delivering legal and technical assistance to prevent terrorism.

The Executive Director of UNODC, Yury Fedotov, is also the Director-General of the United Nations Office at Vienna. UNODC operates in all regions of the world through its network of field offices. It also provides support to Member States to reach their targets under the various Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

UNODC:
• Supports Member States in implementing a comprehensive, integrated, and balanced approach to addressing and countering the world drug problem (SDGs 3, 5, 16, 17).
• Strengthens States’ capacity to confront threats from transnational organized crime and trafficking (SDGs 8, 10, 14, 15, 16, 17).
• Provides unbiased data, analysis and forensic science services to inform drug and crime policymaking both nationally and internationally (SDGs 3, 5, 16, 17).
• Boosts respect for the rule of law and human rights by strengthening crime prevention and building effective criminal justice systems (SDGs 11, 16, 17).
• Promotes good governance, integrity and transparency in the public and private sectors for sustainable development (SDG 16).

UNOV serves as the representative office of the Secretary-General in Vienna and performs representation functions with governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations. UNOV provides financial, personnel and administrative services for a number of UN organizations and institutions resident in Vienna.

UNOV’s functions are to liaise and negotiate at the inter-agency level on all aspects of administrative arrangements at the VIC with:
• the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA),
• the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO),
• the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO PrepCom).

Since 1982, UNOV is headed by a Director-General who acts as personal representative of the Secretary-General and also serves as Under-Secretary-General.
The IAEA is the world’s foremost forum for scientific and technical cooperation in the peaceful use of nuclear technology. Established by the United Nations as an independent organisation in 1957, the IAEA serves 171 Member States.

It has 3 main areas of work:

**Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Technology**
The IAEA assists its Member States in using nuclear science and technology for peaceful purposes and facilitates the transfer of this technology and knowledge in a sustainable manner to Member States.

**Safety & Security**
The IAEA provides a strong and sustainable global nuclear safety and security framework, working to protect people, society and the environment from the harmful effects of ionising radiation.

**Non-Proliferation**
Through its safeguards system, the IAEA verifies that States arehonouring their international obligations to use nuclear science and technology only for peaceful purposes.

IAEA Quick Facts:
- Year Founded: 1957
- Member States: 171
- Number of Employees: ca. 2,500
- Laboratories: 16
- Headquarters: Vienna, Austria
- Liaison Office: Geneva, Switzerland
- New York, USA
- Regional Offices: Toronto, Canada; Tokyo, Japan
- Regular Budget: 362.5 million Euro

IAEA Director General
Yukiya Amano:

“I believe that nuclear technology has a great deal to contribute to sustainable development. I welcome the fact that the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals explicitly recognise the importance of science and technology for development.”

The IAEA and the SDGs

In line with its ‘Atoms for Peace and Development’ motto, the Agency supports countries in their efforts to reach the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) set out in the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Specifically, the use of nuclear science and technology contributes directly to over the 17 SDGs.

Providing expertise in nuclear and radiation techniques, the IAEA helps its Member States to tackle hunger and malnutrition through nuclear and isotopic techniques (SDG 2), establish and strengthen nuclear medicine, radiotherapy and radiopharmaceuticals production for health (SDG 3), and manage water resources globally (SDG 6).

The Agency also assists its Member States in fostering the efficient and safe use of nuclear power, prompting access to energy (SDG 7), improving industrial production and safety using nuclear technologies (SDG 8), contributing to both climate change mitigation and adaptation (SDG 13) and training scientists in the use of nuclear techniques to monitor and manage the marine environment (SDG 14). IAEA activities also support the use of isotopic techniques to reverse land degradation and restore soils (SDG 15). Lastly, through its work, the Agency facilitates technology transfer through partnerships with its Member States and other international organisations (SDG 17).