

| | | Population and Resources | Environmental Conservation | Medicine | Science and Technology |
|---|---|--|--|--|---|
| The United Nations | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✧ Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) (1945) ✧ World Bank Group (1946) ✧ U.N. Commission on Population and Development (1946) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✧ United Nations Environment Programme (1972) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✧ World Health Organization (1948) ✧ Joint United Nations Programme on HIV and AIDS (1996) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✧ International Atomic Energy Agency (1957) |
| International Conferences and Agreements | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✧ First International Conference on Population and Development (1974) ✧ Second International Conference on Population and Development (1984) ✧ Third International Conference on Population and Development (1996) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✧ United Nations Conference on the Human Environment (1972) ✧ Montreal Protocol (1988) ✧ Kyoto Protocol (1997) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✧ International Committee of the Red Cross (1863) ✧ Medecins Sans Frontieres (Doctors Without Borders) (1971) ✧ Orbis (1982) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✧ International Energy Agency (1974) ✧ The International Space Station (1998) |
| Other Organizations | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✧ Oxfam (1942) ✧ World Vision (1950) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✧ World Wide Fund for Nature (1961) ✧ Greenpeace (1971) | | |
| Achievements | Raising international Awareness | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✧ First International Conference on Population and Development recognized the problem of population explosion | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✧ In the 1972, United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, environment issues were admitted to be a serious problem | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✧ The World Health Organization (1948) helped arouse global awareness and encourage cooperation on medical and health issues | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✧ The establishment of the International Energy Agency in 1957 aroused international awareness of the peaceful use of nuclear energy |
| | Promoting cooperation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✧ Since the First International Conference on Population and Development (1974), international conferences had been held regularly in 1984 and 1994 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✧ The establishment of the United Nations Environment Programme (1972), countries started to coordinate environmental work | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✧ WHO set up a global monitoring system that alerts other countries once a virus is discovered | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✧ 16 countries participated in the establishment of the International Space Station |
| | Alleviating part of the problems | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✧ E.g. China was estimated to have reduced 300 million births within 30 years | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✧ E.g. the problem of ozone layer was stabilized | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✧ E.g. the WHO announced the eradication of smallpox in 1980 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✧ Promote the development of science and technology The 1988 International Space Station greatly encouraged space exploration and research |
| Limitations | Problems are not eradicated | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✧ the total population would reach 8 billion in 2025 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✧ E.g. global warming, acid rains and animal extinction are not settled | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✧ E.g. the HIV which causes AIDS have no known cure ✧ | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✧ Some countries such as North Korea are still researching on nuclear weapons |
| | Disagreements still exist | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✧ E.g. Islam in opposition to birth control | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✧ E.g. the US and Australia refused to sign the Kyoto Protocol | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✧ E.g. the US and USSR government kept the smallpox virus as self-defense lest their enemy states use the virus as weapon | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✧ some developed countries are reluctant to transfer technology to developing ones to secure their own interests |

| Obstacles | Ideological differences | Traditional values and practices | Conflicts over interests | Political situation in some countries | Funds and Technology |
|-----------------------------------|--|--|---|--|--|
| Population and Resources | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ During the Cold War, the opposition between the capitalist and communist blocs obstructed international cooperation on population and resources. For example, the USSR forbade Eastern European countries to join the US Marshall Plan due to suspicion, leading to slow progress of economic recovery and solving food shortage in Eastern Europe. ➤ During the Cold War, when the USSR had a crop failure in the 1980s, to weaken the Soviet economy, the US passed a statute to reduce the area of wheat farms to one-thirds, which led to a surge in international food price and embroiled many developing countries in the predicament. | Some developing countries have rooted traditional values. Some countries such as Muslim countries including Iran and Niger are against birth control. People believe it is better to bear more children. Thus the birth rates in such countries are persistently high. In 1990, each Iran woman gave birth to 5.3 children on average. | Concerning food issues, some developed countries and enterprises are unwilling to provide crops and technology transfer for their own economic interests. They even use patents to squeeze more profit out of the others, thus limiting the effectiveness of international attempts at resources problems. | Some countries are often in a state of civil war such as Israel and Arabic countries, which make it difficult for the international community to provide food and assistance to Arabs who suffer from war. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Developing countries lack capital to settle food problems especially for the poor in the Third World who cannot afford to buy food and suffer from hunger every day. ➤ Lack of fund contributed to backward education in the Third World. People have limited idea about birth control and contraception, leading to constantly high birth rates. |
| Environmental Conservation | During the Cold War, the United Nations was a platform for the struggle between the capitalist and communist blocs. For example, the US and USSR diverged concerning the next successor of the chairperson of Natural Sciences in UNESCO. The US also objected the entering of China into UNESCO, which obstructed international cooperation. | Although the UN has endeavored to call for cooperation on protecting forest resources, peasants in developing countries such as Indonesia and Brazil continue using traditional way of slash-and-burn to cultivate land, hindering the significance of international cooperation. | With regard to global warming, the conflict over interest between developed and developing countries hinders international cooperation. Developing countries such as China and India refused to slow down economic development and reduce emission of carbon dioxide. While developed countries such as the US were not willing to sign the Kyoto Protocol(1997) to sustain their economic development. | Sovereignty issue of some countries hinders international cooperation. For example, as the sovereignty of Taiwan was not recognized and could not enter the United Nations, Taiwan did not sign the Kyoto Protocol to cooperate in coping with global warming. | Developing countries lacked funds and technology to solve the problem of pollution. For instance, they are not able to install pollution discharge facilities. Sewage and greenhouse gases directly caused damage to the natural environment. |
| Medicine | During Cold War, the capitalist US bloc and the communist USSR bloc would suspect the other bloc would attack themselves by biochemical weapon. Thus, they were not willing to totally destroy their virus stock, such as the smallpox virus. As a result, although there were no more smallpox infections, the smallpox virus was still not totally destroyed. | Some unhygienic life styles like not washing hands after using toilets in developing countries help spread viruses and infectious diseases. | Regarding medical patents, as selling medicine is highly profitable, most pharmaceutical factories still hold tight their patents. In the late 20 th century, one-third of the world's population lacked proper medicine. | Some countries are often in a state of civil war such as the Congo Civil War in the 1990s that hinder the international effort at providing medical assistance for the poor who suffer from diseases. | Lack of capital make the Third World unable to afford the high costs of medicine and medical treatment. These countries have limited capability to deal with common and infectious diseases. |
| Science and Technology | Ideological differences contributed to vicious armaments race and hindered the international cooperation on promoting the peaceful use of nuclear technology. For instance, North Korea is suspicious and fearful of capitalist countries thus unwilling to abstain from nuclear weapon development. | | As developed countries hoped to maintain their dominance of science and technology and the interests derived, they are reluctant to disclosure their technology and even use patents to obstruct the research in developing countries. | Some countries are diplomatically isolated and refused to cooperate with other countries. For instance, North Korea makes no concessions to nuclear technology. The uncooperative attitude of North Korea hinders the UN attempts at promoting peaceful use of nuclear technology. | |