United Nations Sustainable Development Goals Professor Dr. Shiva Ji

Department of Climate Change AND Department of Heritage Science and Technology Indian Institute of Technology, Hyderabad Lecture 1

Introduction, United Nation and a World in Order

(Refer Slide Time: 0:12)



Hello everyone, I welcome you all to module 1 of UN SDGs course, in this module, we will cover four points, first introduction, second United Nations and a world in order, third scenario of current model of growth and development and fourth and last need for change.

(Refer Slide Time: 0:34)















LINK IN DESCRIPTION



17 Goals to Transform Our World



The Sustainable Development Goals are a call for action by all countries – poor, rich and middle-income – to promote prosperity while protecting the planet. They recognize that ending poverty must go hand-in-hand with strategies that build economic growth and address a range of social needs including education, health, social protection, and job opportunities, while tackling climate change and environmental protection. More important than ever, the goals provide a critical framework for COVID-19 recovery.

UN SDCs - Wedde Y



First we will see this video so, as we just saw these 17 goals are there to transform our world, well, it has taken a number of years and a huge effort from a lot of nations, lot of agencies of course, United Nations being at the driving position for this change and a lot of experts, scientists, researchers, NGOs, volunteers, scholars who are working on like several topics, several subjects and even pinpointed in issues from like a sitting in the corners of like a world and all of their inputs have been like a culminated into these 17 goals.

Which has, which carry the potential, to transform our world for the good. So, the Sustainable Development Goals are a call for action by all countries, poor, rich and middle income to promote prosperity while protecting the planet. They recognize that ending poverty must go hand in hand with strategies that build economic growth and address a range of social needs, including education, health, social protection, and job opportunities, while tackling climate change and environmental protection, more important than ever, the goals provide a critical framework for COVID-19 recovery also.

So, we can see in these 17 goals, we saw in the like a second slide, these in a wholesome manner, they cover the entire planet. They cover all living non-living beings, including all the species from like a flora and fauna, and on all of these animal and like, plant like a kingdom.

(Refer Slide Time: 2:25)



So, our president, United Nations Secretary General Antonio Guterres, what he says, we need to turn the recovery into a real opportunity to do things for the future.

(Refer Slide Time: 2:39)



Well, there is a huge impact on these efforts and the life in general on the human society and other living beings also, due to this COVID-19, COVID-19 is spreading human suffering, destabilizing the global economy, and appending the lives of billions of people around the world. Well, why we are discussing this because such catastrophes, such pandemics or such any kind of like a natural or manmade, like a disaster situations, carry the potential to hamper the effort, put up by all these SDGs and all of them like such, like a forces. The pandemic is an unprecedented wake up call, laying bare deep inequalities and exposing precisely the failures that are addressed in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and the Paris agreement on climate change.

Leveraging this moment of crisis, when usual policies and social norms have been disrupted, bold steps can steer the world back on track towards the Sustainable Development Goals. This is the time for change for a profound systemic shift to a more sustainable economy that works for both people and the planet. The Sustainable Development Goals are vital for a recovery that leads to greener, more inclusive economies and stronger more resilient societies.

Well, what do we mean by these if you see inclusive societies stronger and more resilient societies and leads to like a greener component. So, there are like a three components coming over here will Sustainable Development Goals are actually for you may be aware, like these three P's people, planet and products. So, of course, it has like a three components, three aspects, so those aspects are environmental, social and economical. That is where this green

like effort comes, because what we are whatever we are making, whatever we are producing, whatever the changes we are bringing on this planet should be green.

Well, this green factor includes a number of considerations which must go while designing while like preparing the blueprint of it. And then while manufacturing fabrication construction, and up to the like last stage of its cycle and even beyond that, once the lifecycle has ended that product should go back to the sources from where it has come from okay completing the like a circular, like a life of its existence.

So, that thing and inclusive economics means the last person the last person standing in the queue to access the resources and things in our society should also get the equal access to the benefit, for the benefit of its like a livelihood for the benefits of his education held all of like such necessities and facilities and for a proper survival.

This thing become so inclusive like our development inclusive economy is not just like the people or the societies or the organizations which are involved in such a very fast paced economic activities only they should make the wealth no everybody should make the wealth everybody should be actually benefited out of like this whole phenomena, then it becomes inclusive development, stronger and more resilient society.

We have just, like the last two, three years, we have experienced, this pandemic and it is like, nobody can say that there will not be no like another one of this type or maybe some other type. So, the one thing what we can do is to prepare ourselves to tackle like a such like a catastrophies such a disastrous like a situations and episodes on the human society. So, we need to build that resilience, that resilience is that capacity that even if you are stucked with something even if you have a kind of suffered a jolt, maybe a break or something, but you have the capacity to bounce back, that capacity we call it as like a resilience in the simple terms.

So, our society in a whole including each and every member should have this capacity. So, that whenever there is no such kind of like a disruption, we are able to come back on our feet again. This is where this makes like, in its true sense, or sustainable, like a development.

(Refer Slide Time: 7:08)







LINK IN DESCRIPTION



■ Take Action for the Sustainable Development Goals



The Sustainable Development Goals are the blueprint to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all. They address the global challenges we face, including poverty, inequality, climate change, environmental degradation, peace and justice. Learn more and take action.



UN SDGs - Wedde 1

Let us see this video, so, very importantly, the points mentioned, here actually culminate into a worldwide effort for the climate action is needed, because these boundaries at national and state level or any other, administrative level is drawn by us, nature does not know, these boundaries, this pandemic, when it is stuck to the society, it is stuck in like almost every country it has kind of impacted perhaps every humans life in some way or the other. So, we all are actually if you see are part of that like global like a human race, human like a community, where things going on in this world actually matter for each one of us.

This is where this collective, like effort to tackle these global problems becomes essential. So, leaving the, like a boundaries behind we must unite for taking up like a such efforts for climate actions and devise like a plants and mechanisms and systems for achieving our, like Sustainable Development Goals. So, the Sustainable Development Goals are the blueprint to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all, they address the global challenges we face including poverty, inequality, climate change, environmental degradation, peace and justice.

We need to learn more and take appropriate action, why we are taking this course, why we have designed this course, why we have launched this course and for the benefit of all as long as one person is aware of its happening and things which are occurring in like a surrounding, how else you are going to make some change.

So, first and foremost, it is essential for all of us to be aware of like this climate action as I do not like a phenomenon of climate change as a phenomena and what can be done to tackle. And each and every effort, each and every effort from like a single last to like a person of the society is essential in tackling and bringing effective results at the end. This is where it becomes like essential for all of us to undergo, like these things.

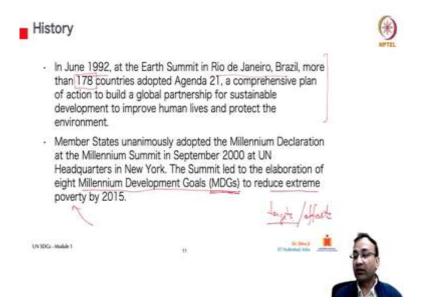
(Refer Slide Time: 9:37)



So, briefly, in this introduction like, chapter we will discuss about the history of it like how the whole thing we came it came to its existence. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted by all United Nations member states in 2015 provides a shared blueprint for peace and prosperity. For people and the planet, now and into the future. At its heart are the 17 Sustainable Development Goals. Commonly we call them as SDGs, which are an urgent call for action by all countries developed and developing.

In a global partnership, they recognize that ending poverty and other deprivations must go hand in hand with strategies that improve health, education, reduce inequality, and spur economic growth, all while tackling climate change and working to preserve our oceans and forests. The SDGs build on decades of work by countries and the UN, including the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs.

(Refer Slide Time: 10:46)



In June 1992, at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, more than 178 countries adopted Agenda 21, a comprehensive plan of action to build a global partnership for sustainable development, improve human lives and protect the environment. So, if you see at the curs at the premise, it is always there, like how we can make it environment responsive, how we can make it responsive to all other, like entities which are part of the environment.

And to begin, like, like, well, the first beginning like a long back, but they started materializing, like so these are like a some landmark, like years and summits like a landmark, summits landmark are like a places like, where, like a such effort actually officially began and countries know, like 178 countries, you can see over here, they came together, and they made a common pledge. This is why, it becomes like a like a very important milestone for us.

Member states unanimously adopted the Millennium Declaration at the Millennium Summit in September 2000 at UN headquarters in New York. The summit led to the elaboration of eight Millennium Development Goals, typically, earlier, we used to call them as like MDGs to reduce extreme poverty by 2015.

So, you can see, like, in a step by step manner, first of all, like these MDGs came into their, like existence, and the purpose was to get rid of poverty, extreme poverty, reduce it, by whatever means possible, and some targets were actually set, and efforts were put up in the place. And results were kind of new like analyzed, observed. And then further, this actually helped to pave way for the new like a larger goals of the SDGs that we will see later in the lecture.

(Refer Slide Time: 12:47)

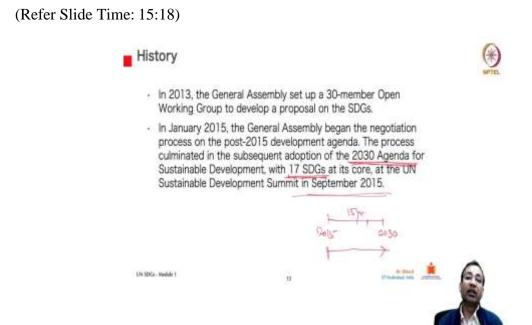


The Johannesburg Declaration on sustainable development and the plan of implementation adopted at the World Summit on Sustainable Development in South Africa in 2002, reaffirmed the global community's commitments to poverty eradication, and the environment and built on agenda 21 and the Millennium Declaration by including more emphasis on multilateral partnerships. So, South Africa in year 2002, it started taking like a further shape. And there was a declaration which was released.

At the United Nations Conference on sustainable development, Rio plus 20. In Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. In June 2012 Member States adopted the outcome document the future we want in which they decided inter alia, to launch a process to develop a set of SDGs to build upon the MDGs and to establish the UN High Level political forum or sustainable development.

So, of course, the contents from the MDGs plus a lot more. The Rio plus 20 outcomes also contain other measures for implementing sustainable development including mandates for future programs of work in development, financing, small island developing states and more. So, you can see over here how the scope started increasing from this time and onward and we can see even like how we are going to finance it because such a mammoth like a scheme, which is going to be implemented at global level including so many countries in involving billions of people across in like all the continents, this is a mammoth mammoth, gigantic effort which may be happening for the first time in the whole human existence.

Such and collaborative effort. Of course, it requires financing because no scheme no plan can be implemented unless and until there is some financial backing because for implementing one no like a needs to reach to each and every last, person least each and every last community on all the countries. So, how that can actually be practically be done. Of course, it requires a lot of funding. So, from where like that funding is going to come, this was also discussed and some other things like concerns about like a small island development states and many more.



Further in 2013 the General Assembly set up a 30-member open working group to develop a proposal on the SDGs. In January 2015, the General Assembly began the negotiation process on the post 2015 development agenda the process culminated in the subsequent adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development with 17 SDGs at its core, and then at the UN Sustainable Development Summit in September 2015.

So, another landmark where these 17 SDGs they were actually launched, they were shared with the world and as a 2030 agenda, it was proposed and this as in like a target year was set up to forcefully like implement these SDGs each and every country member country and observe the results and this timeline was actually set.

So, you can see very clearly over here from 2015 to 2030 this 15 year in like a duration is set, we are somewhere here in this like a time span. So, it is moving forward and definitely there will be a comprehensive review, before we reach like this milestone, and we will see the results. Of course, there are a lot of success stories. For example, I would like to mention like,

why is it important to bring in and put in our efforts because, there are like a significant and positive results from across the world on and such like a common activity for example, many years back this hole in the ozone layer was a global issue.

And it started kind of happening and the hole was started widening every year it was a kind of a crisis situation, because we know, once the ultraviolet rays start falling directly to the surface of the planet, at the ground level of our planet, it has the potential to kill in a majority of our like agricultural like produce kill, like animals kill, like other plants and like, other animal beings and even cause, like a lot of issues to the human society.

So, how to deal with this, how to, like, in order to get rid of that and how to plug that hole, this comprehensive, like a scheme of getting rid of CFCs chlorofluorocarbons was actually launched at the global level and over, like a one decade or more than that, like under 10, 15 years the world saw a significant positive change in that direction.

So, there are like a success stories, which have been implemented at the global level and we are actually witness of that. And this this proves like, there is a potential, there is a full chance that this current like a climate change crisis, which is like a which has unfolded on us in the last like a few decades can be reversed back the only thing each and every human, each and every entity, each and every organization, country nation and should participate into this and play their roles.

History

- 2015 was a landmark year for multilateralism and international policy shaping, with the adoption of several major agreements:

- Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (March 2015)

- Addis Ababa Action Agenda on Financing for Development (July 2015)

- Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development with its 17 SDGs was adopted at the UN Sustainable Development Summit in New York in September 2015.

- Paris Agreement on Climate Change (December 2015)

Further 2015 was a landmark year for multilateralism and international policy shaping with the adoption of several major agreements, we can see these they are listed over here, Sendai framework for Disaster Risk Reduction DRR March 2015. You can make note of this Sendai Framework, Addis Ababa action agenda on financing for such development, this came in July 2015. So, this was miserably on financing the development in like a process.

Next, transforming our world the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development where it is 17 SDGs was adopted at the UN Sustainable Development Summit in New York in September 2015. And then, finally, we saw the day in December 2015 when this Paris agreement on climate change was actually met.

And this is these are going to look as some turning points which are important milestones, important like a, like a points in this whole journey like how this whole thing has unfolded, and how it was made possible to reach at this stage.



Now, the annual high level political forum on sustainable development serves as the central event platform for the follow ups and the reviews of the SDGs. So, now, you know from where these SDGs also get their own like inputs and corrections, and a kind of like an assessment and evaluation. So, this is the agency which is given over here, which takes care of it. And they take like these annual and all like a phenomenon at a high level political forum on sustainable development.

(Refer Slide Time: 20:32)



Today, the division for sustainable development goals in the United Nations Department of economy and Social Affairs provides substantial support and capacity building for the SDGs and their related thematic issues, including water, energy, climate, oceans, urbanization, transport, science and technology, the global sustainable development report, partnerships and small island developing states this SDGs plays a key role in the evaluation of UN system wide implementation of the 2030 agenda.

So, the point to mention over here like the role, what it plays, and on advocacy and outreach activities relating to the SDGs in order to make the 2030 agenda a reality, broad ownership of the SDGs must translate into a strong commitment by all stakeholders to implement the global goals, these SDGs aims to help facilitate this engagement. So, this is what it does.

(Refer Slide Time: 21:34)



About implementation progress, every year, the UN Secretary General presents an annual SDGs progress report, which is developed in cooperation with the UN system and based on the global indicator framework and data produced by national statistical systems and information collected at the regional level. So, how this work actually takes place you may be wondering, because taking a report, taking a stock of what is happening on ground from each and every country is again a very big task.

It requires a gathering the data from each and every, like entity, or that scheme or that plan or that action plan, which is happening on the ground somewhere right now. And putting that data back to the UN and then collating all of it from all the corners of the world. So, it is a mammoth task again, so agencies which work at national level, so, you can see over here national statistical systems, we will discuss later what is that agency, which does actually this job in our country and similarly, like, other countries.

So, every country every member country has this mechanism and then it goes to the UN and UN Secretary General he himself actually presents this annual report these reports are in like a freely available for reference, I would highly recommend for all of you to go through these reports and download it from the UN website, if you refer UN SDG reports, year by year, you can get all of them, you must download and go through them.

You will see chapter of every like a country and every SDG how that country is performing in that particular SDG whether all the targets are met up to by what extent all of those details, so, this is very interesting to look at, where is still, some opportunity left, to intervene. So,

this is where, these reports actually play a like an important role, why do we need them is to keep an annual check, where we need to put in more effort, and we are we are doing like good. So, you can refer like these reports at this link. This is given here for you already reference.

(Refer Slide Time: 23:48)



Additionally, the global sustainable development report is produced once every four years to inform the quadrennial SDG review deliberations at the General Assembly. So, not just annual reports, a quadrennial SDG report also, every four years, it is written by an independent group of scientists appointed by the Secretary General. So, one may actually question like a policy which is implemented by like a UN, how can they themselves be the auditors or the evaluators of it.

Well, to keep a check, often than that, because this is a noble activity, which must actually be like a fruits in time. So, there is like a third party also involved which like does this auditing you can say, a sort of like auditing every four years and presents this to the public.

(Refer Slide Time: 24:35)



So, with this, we have come to the end of in like a first like a chapter now, we will move to the second chapter, United Nations and a world in order. In this one, we will try understanding the United Nations as a body because this body actually is carrying like this, this mammoth task on its shoulders and this actually is carrying several other tasks that we will see later in this chapter and how you and me are also connected to this. In any moments of like a need, whether it is like a health wise, culture wise like maybe some sort of like a (())(25:17) and disaster like a crisis wise, water wise, like other policy and framework wise, peace and harmony wise, somewhere UN is touching all our lives.

(Refer Slide Time: 25:27)



So, the concept of United Nations, one place where the world's nations can gather together, discuss common problems and find shared solutions. So, this is the mandate of United Nations, you can see very clearly, mentioned over here gather, discuss, find shared solutions, this is how United Nations work, this is how this has been working all of its existence, and this is how it is actually pleased to include each and one of, each and every one of us.

So, if you are able to contribute in some way, you are welcome to associate yourself using like a proper channels using local channels available in your country, in your region at your place, and contribute to this cause. So, this is a brief, this is a concept note about United Nations.

(Refer Slide Time: 26:28)

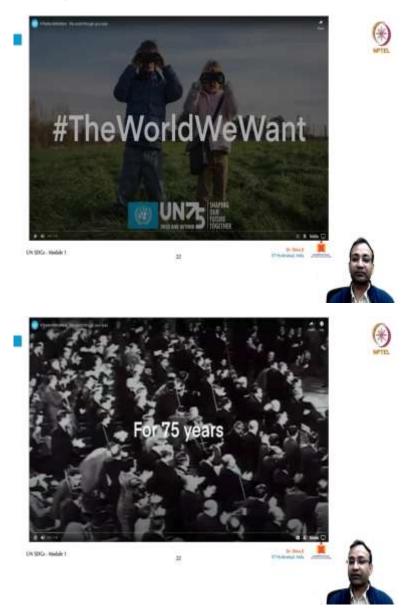


United Nations is an international organization founded in 1945 currently made up of 193 member states in the year 2022. The UN and its work are guided by the purposes and principles contained in its founding charter. So, 1945 and there is a founding charter. UN has evolved over the years to keep pace with the rapidly changing world since 1945. Till this date, the world has evolved quite a lot, in terms of the human population, in terms of human footprint on this planet, in terms of technology, science, and growth and development each any at each and every place, a lot has changed.

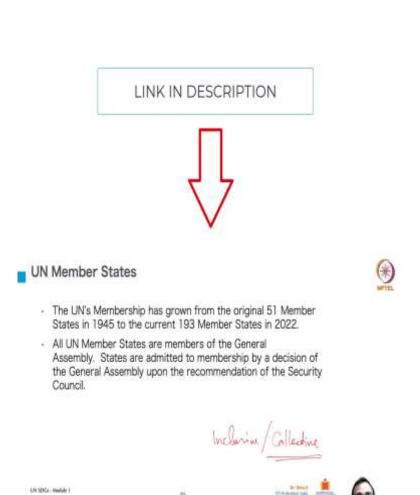
So, in this renewed scenario, how United Nation is also like a coping with this, like renewed challenges every year, every decade, that also is very interesting to look at, and this is where United Nations has a wide portfolio of the things or the tasks, what it undertakes. The UN has evolved over the years to keep pace with the rapidly changing world, but one thing has stayed

the same, it remains the one place on earth where all the world's nations can gather together, discuss common problems and find share solutions that benefit all of the humanity. So, all of these in like years, well, a lot has changed, but something which has not changed is this like a philosophy, this concept the ethos on which UN was founded.

(Refer Slide Time: 28:14)







Let us see this video, so, as we see, there are so many common things, among all the human societies, all the human communities, from any country and every country, that we can come together and do good that is the premise on which actually UN works and it promotes its policies and action plans, and this is where SDGs are also conceptualized and being implemented.

So, your contribution as a student, as a scholar, as a researcher, as a professional, as a householder, as a former as a professional, any role whatever you have, you have something to contribute. And this can only be done in an inclusive and collective mode. So, one must actually be part of, like this whole, like effort to make this world a better place. The UN's membership has grown from the original 51 members, states in 1945 to the current 193 member states in 2022.

All UN member states are members of General Assembly, states are admitted to membership by a decision of the General Assembly upon the recommendation of the Security Council. So, how United Nations actually invites or actually approves some country as its member states is given over here.

(Refer Slide Time: 29:51)



The UN Secretary General, the present Secretary General here, what it says, In the end, it comes down to values. We want the world our children inherit, to be defined by the values enshrined in the UN Charter, peace, justice, respect, human rights, tolerance, and solidarity. All good words, all amazing words. And all these words are at the heart of our social values, no matter which place we belong to which culture we actually follow. In every part of the world in every like a corner of this planet us like these values are always enshrined, so why not to nourish them? Why not to further them.

(Refer Slide Time: 30:38)

UN Secretary-General



- The Secretary-General is Chief Administrative Officer of the UN and is also a symbol of the Organization's ideals and an advocate for all the world's peoples, especially the poor and vulnerable.
- The Secretary-General is appointed by the General Assembly on the recommendation of the Security Council for a 5-year, renewable term.
- The current Secretary-General, and the 9th occupant of the post, is António Guterres of Portugal, who took office on 1 January 2017.
- On the 18th of June, 2021, Guterres was re-appointed to a second term, pledging as his priority to continue helping the world chart a course out of the COVID-19 pandemic.

(N 90G), Helde 1



The Secretary General is Chief Administrative Officer of the UN, and is also a symbol of the organization's ideals and an advocate for all world's peoples, especially the poor and the vulnerable. The Secretary General is appointed by the General Assembly on the recommendation of the Security Council for a five-year renewable term. The current Secretary General, and the ninth occupant of this post is Antonio Guterres of Portugal, who took office on first January 2017. On the 18th of June 2021 Guterres was reappointed to a second term pledging as his priority to continue helping the world chart a course out of the COVID 19 pandemic.

(Refer Slide Time: 31:24)

UN - Main Bodies



- The main bodies of the UN are the General Assembly, the Security Council, the Economic and Social Council, the Trusteeship Council, the International Court of Justice, and the UN Secretariat.
- All were established in 1945 when the UN was founded.





UN SDCs - Wedd

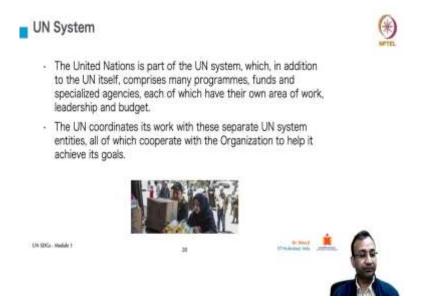
Now, let's see the UN main bodies, the main bodies of the UN are the General Assembly, perhaps you may have seen this picture. This is the picture from the inside of the UN General Assembly, the Security Council, the Economic and Social Council, and trusteeship Council, the International Court of Justice and the UN Secretariat, these are the main bodies of the United Nations. All were established in 1945, when the UN was founded.

(Refer Slide Time: 31:59)

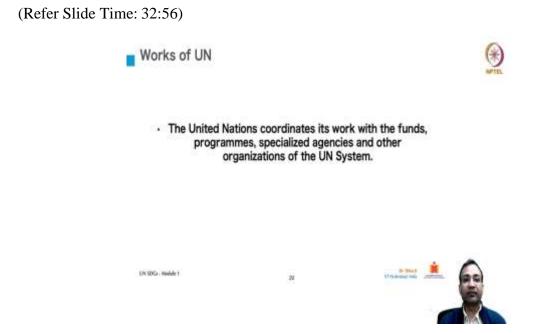


UN Secretariat, the UN Secretariat carried out carries out the day to day work of the UN as mandated by the General Assembly, and the organization's other main bodies. The Secretary General is the head of the Secretariat, which has tens of thousands of international UN staff members, working at duty stations all over the world. This is where this organization becomes amazing place to work and be part of.

(Refer Slide Time: 32:29)



UN system, United Nations is part of the UN system, which in addition to the UN itself, comprises many programs, funds and specialized agencies, each of which have their own area of work, leadership and budget. The UN coordinates its work with these separate UN system entities, all of which cooperate with the organization to help it achieve its goals.



The works of UN, the United Nations coordinates its work with the funds, programmes, specialized agencies and other organizations of the UN system. This is how UN functions.

(Refer Slide Time: 33:10)



United Nations itself is one part of the UN system. So, UN system is the main body. Cooperation between the UN and the other entities of the UN system is essential in order to achieve the purposes of the organization laid out in the UN Charter. Since its charter was written, The United Nations has been mandated to do new work, which was not envisioned at the time of its creation. The organization has set goals to be a more sustainable world, and it has agreed to collective action to slow down climate change. As the problems facing humanity have grown, the work of the United Nations has also grown.

(Refer Slide Time: 33:49)



Among the works of the UN, you can see these are the major heads. These are the functions which UN actually carries out for peace and security, for human rights, for humanitarian aid,

sustainable development and climate action, for international law, for global issues, documents, official languages, observances.