

CORPORATE OFFICE

Delhi Office

706 Ground Floor Dr. Mukherjee
Nagar Near Batra Cinema Delhi -
110009

Noida Office

Basement C-32 Noida Sector-2
Uttar Pradesh 201301

CURRENT AFFAIRS

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UN COMMISSION FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT (CSOCD)

This article covers "Daily Current Affairs" and the topic details " UN Commission for Social Development (CSocD)". This topic has relevance in the Social Justice section of the UPSC CSE exam.

GS 2: Social Justice

Why in the news?

The Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations recently led an informative member-state briefing in anticipation of the 62nd session of the UN Commission for Social Development.

• **Background:**

- Established since the inception of the United Nations, CSocD is a functional commission of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).
- Originally known as the Social Commission, it advises ECOSOC and governments on a broad spectrum of social policy issues.

• **Purpose:**

- Primary goal: Advance social development and formulate policies to address global social issues.
- Focus areas: Poverty eradication, social inclusion, and promotion of equitable and sustainable development.
- Key responsibility since 1995 World Summit for Social Development in Copenhagen: Follow-up and implementation of the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action.

• **Membership:**

- Started with 18 members, now has 46.
- Members elected by ECOSOC for four-year terms based on equitable geographical distribution.

• **Meetings:**

- Annual meetings at the United Nations Headquarters in New York, usually held in February.
- Forums for member states, international organizations, and civil society representatives to discuss and address social development issues.

Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC):

• **Background:**

- One of the six principal organs of the UN, established by the UN Charter in 1945.
- Responsible for directing and coordinating economic, social, humanitarian, and cultural activities of the UN.

- **Membership:**

- Consists of 54 members elected for three-year terms by the General Assembly.
- Continuous re-election of four of the five permanent Security Council members due to significant funding contributions to ECOSOC's budget, the largest among UN subsidiary bodies.

- **Functions:**

- Coordinates economic and social fields within the UN, overseeing 15 specialized agencies, five regional commissions, and eight functional commissions.
- Central forum for discussions on international social and economic issues, formulating policy recommendations for member states and the UN system.

- **Decision-Making:**

- Decisions made by a simple majority vote.
- Annual presidency rotation.

Q.1 With reference to the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), consider the following statements:

1. ECOSOC is one of the six principal organs of the UN, established by the UN Charter in 1945.
2. The decision-making process in ECOSOC involves annual presidency rotation.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

ANSWER: C

Q.2 Analyze the significance of India's engagement with the UN in promoting its national interests and advancing a multipolar world order.

Rishabh

