

Course Name- B.A.L.L.B. VIth Sem.

Subject- Political Science

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Topic- Regional Organisations

OBJECTIVE, ACTIVITIES & CONTRIBUTION OF REGIONAL ORGANISATION

ASEAN

1. Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) was formed in 1967 by Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, and Thailand to promote political and economic cooperation and regional stability. The member countries of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) are Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Brunei Darussalam, Vietnam, Laos and Myanmar. The ASEAN Community is comprised of three pillars, the Political-Security Community, Economic Community and Socio-Cultural Community. Every year following the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting, ASEAN holds its Post-Ministerial Conference (PMC) to which the Secretary of State is invited. In 1994, ASEAN took the lead in establishing the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), which now has 27 members.

1.1 Objectives:

The ASEAN nations came together with three main objectives in mind:

- To promote the economic, social and cultural development of the region through cooperative programmes
- To safeguard the political and economic stability of the region against big power rivalry; and
- To serve as a forum for the resolution of intra-regional differences.

1.2 Activities:

ASEAN and its Member States reaffirm and adhere to the fundamental principles contained in the declarations, agreements, conventions, concords, treaties and other instruments of ASEAN. ASEAN and its Member States shall act in accordance with the following Principles:

- Respect for the independence, sovereignty, equality, territorial integrity and national identity of all ASEAN Member States;
- Shared commitment and collective responsibility in enhancing regional peace, security and prosperity;
- Renunciation of aggression and of the threat or use of force or other actions in any manner inconsistent with international law;
- Reliance on peaceful settlement of disputes;
- Non-interference in the internal affairs of ASEAN Member States;
- Respect for the right of every Member State to lead its national existence free from external interference, subversion and coercion;
- Enhanced consultations on matters seriously affecting the common interest of ASEAN
- Respect for fundamental freedoms, the promotion and protection of human rights, and the promotion of social justice;
- Upholding the United Nations Charter and international law, including international humanitarian law, subscribed to by ASEAN Member States;

- Abstention from participation in any policy or activity, including the use of its territory, pursued by any ASEAN Member State or non-ASEAN State or any non-State actor, which threatens the sovereignty, territorial integrity or political and economic stability of ASEAN Member States;
- Respect for the different cultures, languages and religions of the peoples of ASEAN, while emphasizing their common values in the spirit of unity in diversity.

1.3 Contribution:

Cooperation in Industrial Development, Cooperation in Finance and Banking, Cooperation in Investment, Cooperation in Food, Agriculture and Forestry, Cooperation in Minerals, Cooperation in Energy, Cooperation in Transportation and Communications, Cooperation in Tourism, Cooperation in Services, Cooperation in Intellectual Property, Private Sector.

2. Asia Pacific Economic Co-operation (APEC)

The Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) was established in 1989 as an informal Ministerial-level dialogue group with twelve members. Today APEC has 21 member economies spread out over four continents. APEC Member Economies work together to sustain economic growth through a commitment to open trade, investment and economic reform. This is accomplished by progressively reducing tariffs and other barriers to trade.

2.1 Objectives:

The current member economies represent the rich diversity of the region as well as differing levels of economic growth. Despite such differences there is a growing sense of common purpose and cooperation aimed at sustained regional and world growth. In the 1991 Seoul APEC Declaration, APEC members agreed on specific objectives:

- To sustain the growth and development of the region for the common good of its peoples and, in this way, to contribute to the growth and development of the world economy;
- To enhance the positive gains, both for the region and the world economy, resulting from increasing economic interdependence, to

include encouraging the flow of goods, services, capital, and technology;

- To develop and strengthen the open multilateral trading system in the interest of Asia-Pacific and all other economies; and
- To reduce barriers to trade in goods and services among participants in a manner consistent with GATT principles, where applicable, and without detriment to other economies.

2.2 Activities:

APEC aims to strengthen regional economic integration by removing impediments to trade and investment “at the border”, enhancing supply chain connectivity “across the border” and improving the business environment “behind the border”. It endeavors to improve the operating environment for business by reducing the cost of cross-border trade, improving access to trade information and simplifying regulatory and administrative processes. APEC also assists member economies build the institutional capacity to implement and take advantage of the benefits of trade and investment reform. APEC supports the multilateral trade negotiations underway in the WTO, and complements the goals of the G-20 Framework for Strong, Sustainable and Balanced Growth in the Asia-Pacific Region.

2.3 Contribution:

APEC is the premier Asia-Pacific economic forum. Their primary goal is to support sustainable economic growth and prosperity in the Asia-Pacific region.

They are united their drive to build a dynamic and harmonious Asia-Pacific community by championing free and open trade and investment, promoting and accelerating regional economic integration, encouraging economic and technical cooperation, enhancing human security, and facilitating a favorable and sustainable business environment. Our initiatives turn policy goals into concrete results and agreements into tangible benefits.

3. African Union (AU)

The advent of the African Union (AU) can be described as an event of great magnitude in the institutional evolution of the continent. On 9.9.1999, the Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity issued a Declaration (the Sirte Declaration) calling for the establishment of an African Union, with a view, inter alia, to accelerating the process of integration in the continent to enable it play its rightful role in the global economy while addressing multifaceted social, economic and political problems compounded as they are by certain negative aspects of globalization.

3.1 Objectives:

The main objective of the Congress of African Economists is to provide a forum for African economists, from the continent and from the Diaspora, to come up with concrete solutions to integration and development challenges facing Africa. Specifically, the Congress aims at considering, discussing and analyzing contemporary development issues, and proposing appropriate and extensive solutions to the socio-economic problems. These will:

- Provide a forum for African economists, from the continent and from the Diaspora, to weigh in on current development of the continent, and foster dialogue among African economists and policymakers;
- Encourage and enhance research relating to integration and development of the continent;
- Promote knowledge sharing as an important component of effective policy making; and
- Provide clear recommendations to assist African countries in reformulating their economic policies with a view to addressing current socio-economic challenges.
- To defend the sovereignty, territorial integrity and independence of its Member States;
- To accelerate the political and socio-economic integration of the continent;

- To promote and defend African common positions on issues of interest to the continent and its peoples;
- To encourage international cooperation, taking due account of the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights;
- To promote peace, security, and stability on the continent;
- To promote democratic principles and institutions, popular participation and good governance;
- To promote and protect human and peoples' rights in accordance with the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights and other relevant human rights instruments;
- To establish the necessary conditions which enable the continent to play its rightful role in the global economy and in international negotiations;
- Elaboration and coordination of the implementation of strategies, and framework for policies and regulatory harmonization for the development of communication and Information Technology (CIT) in Africa: ICT, Telecommunications, Broadcasting and postal services
- Promotion of the introduction and wide use of CIT applications and services in all socio development sectors of education health agriculture, economy and Government services.
- Elaboration and facilitating implementation of an integrated continental CIT master plans for soft and hard infrastructure
- Facilitation of implementation as well as monitoring and evaluation of projects and programs in the CIT sector and sub-sector
- Coordination and cooperation with RECS, specialized agencies and other regional and all international partners in the field of CIT
- Preparation of review reports on development of CIT in Africa
- Development of sectorial data base and information system
- Monitor and facilitate implementation of Policies, strategies, integration-driven Continental and regional infrastructure projects
- Organization of workshops, seminars, meetings and conference involving member states and other stake holders on ICT issues
- Contribute to the mobilization of resources for the development of ICT infrastructure and services
- Advocate for African interests on ICT in the international arena
- Preparation of working documents and organize the session of CITMC as well as the meetings of the bureau and steering committee of the

conference , organize workshops seminars and meetings related to the sector

- Production and/or review of the draft report to the executive council , the assembly of head of state government

3.2 Activities:

3.3 Contribution:

The evolution of the African Union as a successor organization to the Organization of African Unity in terms of its mandate for conflict prevention, peacekeeping, peacemaking and peace-building. The Union has established a continent-wide peace and security architecture through its Peace and Security Council. The regional economic communities are the building blocks of this architecture creating something like a 'multi-layered security community'. They function synergistically by acting as conduits of policy implementation of the Union. Finally, it also identifies some of the hurdles ahead of the organization to realize a robust peace and security architecture on the continent.

4. Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC)

The Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) is an international organization involving a group of countries in South Asia and South East Asia. These are: Bangladesh, India, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Bhutan and Nepal. On 6 June 1997, a new sub-regional grouping was formed in Bangkok and given the name BIST-EC (Bangladesh, India, Sri Lanka, and Thailand Economic Cooperation). Myanmar attended the inaugural June Meeting as an observer and joined the organization as a full member at a Special Ministerial Meeting held in Bangkok on 22 December 1997, upon which the name of the grouping was changed to BIMST-EC. Nepal was granted observer status by the second Ministerial Meeting in Dhaka in December 1998. Subsequently, full membership has been granted to Nepal and Bhutan in 2003. In the first Summit on 31 July 2004, leaders of the group agreed that the name of the grouping should be known as BIMSTEC or the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation.

4.1 Objectives

- To create, manage and evaluate energy related data-base relevant to the region; and taking into view various on-going activities and suggest a road map for meaningful intra- BIMSTEC cooperation.
- To prepare and operationalise a framework for networking among the national level institutions in the region.
- To prepare the groundwork, such as feasibility studies, data collection etc. for intra- BIMSTEC energy related projects.
- To study, compile and disseminate the prevailing policies of the BIMSTEC member countries in different areas of energy sector.
- To enhance cooperation for capacity building and sharing of experiences on best practices, including reforms, regulation and energy efficiency.
- To function as the secretariat for energy cooperation activities.

4.2 Activities:

prepare and operationalise a framework for networking among the national level institutions in the region. Prepare the groundwork, such as feasibility studies, data collection etc. for intra- BIMSTEC energy related projects

4.3 Contribution:

BIMSTEC aims to strengthen regional economic integration by removing impediments to trade and investment. It endeavors to improve the operating environment for business by reducing the cost of cross-border trade, improving access to trade information and simplifying regulatory and administrative processes. BIMSTEC supports the multilateral trade negotiations underway in the WTO, and complements the goals for Strong, Sustainable and Balanced Growth in the South Asia and South East Asia.

5. European Union (EU)

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The European Union was formally established when the Maastricht Treaty—whose main architects were Helmut Kohl and François Mitterrand—came into force on 1 November 1993. In 1995, Austria, Finland, and Sweden joined the EU. In 2002, euro banknotes and coins replaced national currencies in 12 of the member states. The European Union (EU) is an economic and political union of 28 member states that are located primarily in Europe. The EU operates through a system of supranational independent institutions and intergovernmental negotiated decisions by the member

5.1 Objectives:

- Promote social cohesion and equal opportunities for all through adequate, accessible, financially sustainable, adaptable and efficient social protection systems and social inclusion policies;
- Interact closely with the Lisbon objectives for achieving greater economic growth and more and better jobs, as well as with the Union's Sustainable Development Strategy;
- Improve governance, transparency and the involvement of stakeholders in the design, implementation and monitoring of policy.

5.2 Activities:

The European Union (EU) is unique. It is not a federal state like the United States of America because its member countries remain independent sovereign nations. Nor is it a purely intergovernmental organization like the United Nations because the member countries do pool some of their sovereignty — and thus gain much greater collective strength and influence than they could have acting individually. They pool their sovereignty by taking joint decisions through shared institutions such as the European Parliament, which is elected by the EU citizens, and the European Council and the Council, which both represents national governments. They decide on the basis of proposals from the European Commission, which represents the interests of the EU as a whole. It also

gives a brief overview of the agencies and other bodies that are involved in the European Union's work.

5.3 Contribution:

Cooperation in Industrial Development, Cooperation in Finance and Banking, Cooperation in Investment, Cooperation in Food, Agriculture and Forestry, Cooperation in Minerals, Cooperation in Energy, Cooperation in Transportation and Communications, Cooperation in Tourism, Cooperation in Services, Cooperation in Intellectual Property, Private Sector.

6. North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA)

In January 1994, the United States, Mexico and Canada entered into the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), creating the largest free trade area and richest market in the world. The NAFTA is the most comprehensive regional trade agreement ever negotiated by the United States and is scheduled to be fully implemented by the year 2008. In 1996, U.S. two-way trade in goods under the NAFTA with Canada and Mexico stood at \$420 billion—a 44 % increase since the NAFTA was signed.

6.1 Objectives:

1. The objectives of this Agreement, as elaborated more specifically through its principles and rules, including national treatment, most-favored-nation treatment and transparency are to:
 - eliminate barriers to trade in, and facilitate the cross border movement of, goods and services between the territories of the Parties;
 - promote conditions of fair competition in the free trade area;
 - increase substantially investment opportunities in their territories;
 - provide adequate and effective protection and enforcement of intellectual property rights in each Party's territory;
 - create effective procedures for the implementation and application of this Agreement, and for its joint administration and the resolution of disputes; and

- establish a framework for further trilateral, regional and multilateral cooperation to expand and enhance the benefits of this Agreement.

2. The Parties shall interpret and apply the provisions of this Agreement in the light of its objectives set out in paragraph 1 and in accordance with applicable rules of international law.

6.2 Activities:

- to reduce barriers to trade
- to increase cooperation for improving working conditions in North America
- to create an expanded and safe market for goods and services produced in North America
- to establish clear and mutually advantageous trade rules
- to help develop and expand world trade and provide a catalyst to broader international cooperation

6.3 Contribution:

The North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) will not be fully implemented until 2008. However, it is evident that NAFTA has already proved its worth to the United States by playing an important and vital role in increasing consumer choice, improving market access for U.S. products, and expanding U.S. jobs supported by exports. It also contribute in agricultural trade, automotive industry, and textile and apparel.

7. Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC)

Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) was established on September 14, 1960, it consisted of just five developing countries. The founding members of the Organization of the Oil Exporting Countries are Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and Venezuela. OPEC's six other

members are Qatar (which joined in 1961), Indonesia (joined in 1962), Libya (joined in 1962), the United Arab Emirates (which took over the membership of Abu Dhabi in 1974), Algeria (joined in 1969) and Nigeria (joined in 1971).

7.1 Objectives:

OPEC's objectives are spelled out in the OPEC Statute, which dates from the earliest days of the organization: "OPEC's principal aims are the coordination and unification of the petroleum policies of Member Countries and the determination of the best means for safeguarding their interest, individually and collectively. The Organization shall devise ways and means of ensuring the stabilization of prices in international oil markets,

7.2 Activities:

These documents were adopted in the 1960s, when the world oil industry, outside the former centrally planned economies, was dominated by the "The Seven Sisters" multinational oil companies. In such an environment, oil prices were at extremely low levels, with minimal returns for those countries within whose borders the crude reserves lay.

OPEC asserted its role in the 1970s, supporting its member countries as they took control of their domestic oil industries and acquired a major say in the pricing of oil on world markets. While the situation has moved on since then, with a broadening of the power base in a more integrated and consensual global industry, OPEC is nevertheless envisaged today as a major player in the world oil market.

There is one other important early document of relevance to OPEC's role — the "Solemn Declaration" adopted by a conference of OPEC sovereigns and heads of state in Algiers in 1975. This declaration carried a proposal for a "New International Economic Order" aimed at promoting a more equitable global economic system, with particular emphasis on alleviating poverty and other injustices affecting developing countries by encouraging greater interdependence among nations from the north and south.

The proposal for a new international economic order led to the establishment of the OPEC Fund for International Development, which is a multilateral development finance institution seeking to promote cooperation between OPEC members and other developing countries. Over the years, the OPEC Fund has distributed loans and grants to 104 countries located in Africa, Asia, Latin America, the Caribbean and Europe. Including grants and contributions to other institutions, the Fund's total approved commitments, as of the end of September 1999, stood at \$5.4 billion (U.S.), with disbursements reaching \$3.7 billion.

7.3 Contribution:

The "Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries" (OPEC) includes most of the world's major oil-exporting countries. By agreeing to limit their respective production levels, they maintain a higher price for their oil worldwide. While this extends the life of their domestic fields, and provides substantial income, it is a semi-monopoly that limits the affordability of petroleum in many of the world's developing countries. There is no international law that prohibits such cartels, as would apply within many countries. (In the past, such attempts to control the worldwide production of raw materials would have almost certainly led to conquest of these areas by militarily stronger countries.)

8. South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC)

The South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) comprises Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, the Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. SAARC is a manifestation of the determination of the peoples of South Asia to work together towards finding solutions to their common problems in a spirit of friendship, trust and understanding and to create an order based on mutual respect, equity and shared benefits. The main goal of the Association is to accelerate the process of economic and social development in member states, through joint action in the agreed areas of cooperation. The idea of regional cooperation in South Asia was first mooted in November 1980. After consultations, the Foreign Secretaries of the seven countries met for the first time in Colombo, in April 1981. This was followed, a few months later, by the meeting of the Committee of the Whole, which identified five broad areas for regional cooperation. The

Foreign Ministers, at their first meeting in New Delhi, in August 1983, formally launched the Integrated Programme of Action (IPA) through the adoption of the Declaration on South Asian Regional Cooperation (SARC). At the First Summit held in Dhaka on 7-8 December 1985, the Charter establishing the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) was adopted

8.1 Objectives:

The objectives are as follows:

- To promote the welfare of the peoples of South Asia and to improve their quality of life;
- To accelerate economic growth, social progress and cultural development in the region and to provide all individuals the opportunity to live in dignity and to realize their full potentials;
- To promote and strengthen collective self-reliance among the countries of South Asia;
- To contribute to mutual trust, understanding and appreciation of one another's problems;
- To promote active collaboration and mutual assistance in the economic, social, cultural, technical and scientific fields;
- To strengthen cooperation with other developing countries;
- To strengthen cooperation among themselves in international forums on matters of common interests; and
- To cooperate with international and regional organizations with similar aims and purposes
- Cooperation within the framework of the Association is based on respect for the principles of sovereign equality, territorial integrity, political independence, non-interference in the internal affairs of other states and mutual benefit.
- Such cooperation is to complement and not to substitute bilateral or multilateral cooperation.
- Such cooperation should be consistent with bilateral and multilateral obligations of the member states.
- Decisions at all levels in SAARC are taken on the basis of unanimity.

- Bilateral and contentious issues are excluded from its deliberations.
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8.2 Activities:

8.3 Contribution:

Cooperation with international and regional organizations designated SAARC years, SAARC Regional Fund (SRF, SAARC funds, regional conventions/agreements), SAARC regional institutions, Promoting people-to-people contact, Trade and economic cooperation, poverty eradication, **Technical committee**, financial arrangements in SAARC.

9. World Bank (WB)

The World Bank is institutions in the United Nations system. They share the goal of raising living standards in their member countries. The World Bank concentrating on long-term economic development and poverty reduction. The World Bank was created at an international conference convened in Bretton Woods, New Hampshire, United States in July 1944. The goal of the conference was to establish a framework for economic cooperation and development that would lead to a more stable and prosperous global economy.

9.1 Objectives:

The World Bank was established to promote long-term foreign investment loans on reasonable terms. The, purposes of the Bank, as set forth in the 'Articles of Agreement' are as follows:

- (i) To assist in the **reconstruction** and development of territories of members by facilitating the investment of capital for productive purpose including;
 - The restoration of economies destroyed or disrupted by war;
 - The reconversion of productive facilities to peaceful needs; and
 - The encouragement of the development of productive facilities and resources in less developing countries;
- (ii) To promote private investment by means of guarantee or participation in loans and other investments made by private investors.

(iii) When private capital is not available on reasonable terms, to supplement private investment by providing on suitable conditions finance for productive purpose out of its own capital funds raised by it and its other resources.

(iv) To promote the long-range balanced growth of international trade and the maintenance of equilibrium in balances of payments by encouraging international investment for the development of the productive resources of members, thereby assisting in raising productivity, the standard of living, and conditions of labour in their territories.

(v) To arrange the loans made or guaranteed by it in relation to international loans through other channels so that the more useful and urgent projects, large and small alike, will be dealt with first.

(vi) To conduct its operations with due regard to the effect of international investment on business conditions in the territories of members and in the immediate postwar years, to assist in bringing about a smooth transition from a wartime to peacetime economy.

9.2 Activities:

- Granting reconstruction loans to war devastated countries.
- Granting developmental loans to underdeveloped countries.
- Providing loans to governments for agriculture, irrigation, power, transport, water supply, educations, health, etc
- Providing loans to private concerns for specified projects.
- Promoting foreign investment by guaranteeing loans provided by other organizations.
- Providing technical, economic and monetary advice to member countries for specific projects
- Encouraging industrial development of underdeveloped countries by promoting economic reforms.

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9.3 Contribution:

The World Bank promotes long-term economic development and poverty reduction by providing technical and financial support to help countries reform particular sectors or implement specific projects—for example,

building schools and health centers, providing water and electricity, fighting disease, and protecting the environment. World Bank assistance is generally long term and is funded both by member country contributions and through bond issuance. World Bank staffs are often specialists in particular issues, sectors, or techniques.

10. International Monetary Fund (IMF)

The International Monetary Fund was created at an international conference convened in Bretton Woods, New Hampshire, United States in July 1944. The goal of the conference was to establish a framework for economic cooperation and development that would lead to a more stable and prosperous global economy. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) is an organization of 188 countries, working to foster global monetary cooperation, secure financial stability, facilitate international trade, promote high employment and sustainable economic growth, and reduce poverty around the world.

10.1 Objectives:

IMF seeks to achieve the following objectives:

- To promote international monetary cooperation.
- To facilitate the expansion of international trade.
- To ensure stability to foreign exchange rates.
- To reduce disequilibrium in the international balance of payments of member countries.
- To promote capital investment in backward and underdevelopment countries.
- To assist in the establishment of a multinational system of payments in respect of current transactions between the member countries.
- To secure multilateral convertibility (i.e., to convert the currency of any member into the currency of any other member).
- To provide short term monetary help to members during emergency.
- To achieve balanced economic growth and high level of employment in member countries.

10.2 Activities:

IMF performs the following functions.

- Providing short terms credit to member countries for meeting temporary difficulties due to adverse balance of payments.
- Reconciling conflicting claims of member countries.
- Providing a reservoir of currencies of member-countries and enabling members to borrow on another's currency.
- Promoting orderly adjustment of exchange rates.
- Advising member countries on economic, monetary and technical matters.
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10.3 Contribution:

The IMF has shown great interest in the economic development of under development countries. It has made a steady progress towards the establishment of a multilateral system of payment in respect of current transactions. The IMF promotes international monetary cooperation and provides policy advice and technical assistance to help countries build and maintain strong economies. The Fund also makes loans and helps countries design policy programs to solve balance of payments problems when sufficient financing on affordable terms cannot be obtained to meet net international payments. IMF loans are short and medium term and funded mainly by the pool of quota contributions that its members provide. IMF staffs are primarily economists with wide experience in macroeconomic and financial policies.

11. World trade Organization (WTO)

The World Trade Organization (WTO) is the only global international organization dealing with the rules of trade between nations. At its heart are the WTO agreements, negotiated and signed by the bulk of the world's trading nations and ratified in their parliaments. The goal is to help producers of goods and services, exporters, and importers conduct their business. 159 members on 2 March 2013.

11.1 Objectives:

The purposes of objectives of the WTO are spelled out in the preamble to Marrakesh Agreement. In a nutshell, these are:

- To ensure the reduction of tariffs and other barriers to trade.
- To eliminate discriminatory treatment in international trade relations.
- To facilitate higher standards of living, full employment, a growing volume of real income and effective demand and an increase in production and trade in goods and services of the member nations.
- To make positive effect, which insures developing countries especially the least developed secure level of share in the growth of international trade that reflects the needs of their economic development?
- To facilitate the optimal use of the world's resources for sustainable development.
- To promote an integrated, more visible and durable trading system incorporating all the resolutions of the Uruguay Round's Multi-lateral trade negotiations.
- The WTO provides the forum for negotiations among its members concerning their multilateral trade relations in matters dealt with under the agreements and a framework for the implementation of the results of such negotiations, as may be decided by the Ministerial Conference.
- The WTO administers the Understandings on Rules and Procedures governing the Settlement of Disputes.
- The WTO administers the Trade Policy Review Mechanism (TPRM).
- With a view to achieving greater coherence in global economic policy-making, the WTO cooperates as appropriate, with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and with the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (World Bank) and its affiliate agencies.
- The WTO facilitates the implementation, administration and operation, and furthers the objectives, of this Agreement and the Multilateral Trade Agreements, and also provide framework for the implementation, administration and operation of the Plurilateral Trade Agreements.

11.2 Activities:

11.3 Contribution:

Succeeded in reducing some barriers to international trade.

12. Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO)

The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations leads international efforts to defeat hunger. Serving both developed and developing countries, FAO acts as a neutral forum where all nations meet as equals to negotiate agreements and debate policy. FAO is also a source of knowledge and information. The organization helps developing countries and countries in transition modernize and improve agriculture, forestry and fisheries practices and ensure good nutrition for all. The FAO was founded in 1945; since then, focus has been placed on developing rural areas, which are home to 70 percent of the world's poor and hungry people.

12.1 Objectives:

The main objectives of the FAO are:

- Putting information within reach
- Sharing policy expertise
- Providing a meeting place for nations
- Bringing knowledge to the field
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12.2 Activities:

The Food and Agricultural Organization or FAO is part of the United Nations. It's mission is to defeat world hunger. It is a forum for nations to discuss policy in a neutral environment. It provides information regarding agriculture, fisheries and forests in terms of improving and maintaining sustainability in each of these important parts of the ecosystem. FAO's activities comprise four main areas: Putting information within reach, Sharing policy expertise, providing a meeting place for nations, providing a meeting place for nations. Bringing knowledge to the field.

12.3 Contribution:

Food security and sustainable agriculture have been improved in Asia and the Pacific region as a result of several contributory factors: attention to

issues affecting rural poverty and the development of human resources, support for agricultural research and extension, and the development and adoption of appropriate technology for agricultural development. The experience and expertise of FAO in topics ranging from the broad socio-economic to the very specialized and technical issues relating to the agricultural sector, together with FAO's close and extensive knowledge of the local, national and regional situations, have had a visible impact in the member countries. Within the mandate of the Field Programme, FAO has implemented a number of projects, as described below, in support of sustainable agriculture and the development of the forestry and fisheries sectors. Table 3 shows the support given during the period 1970-1990, for some selected countries for which data were available.