



## Article 99 of the UN Charter

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### Why in News?

Recently, the [United Nations \(UN\) Secretary-General](#) Antonio Guterres invoked **Article 99 of the UN Charter**.

- This move was intended to warn the [UN Security Council](#) about the danger caused by [Israel's actions in Gaza](#). This step is meant to draw attention to the pressing need to prevent a **major humanitarian disaster in the area**.

### What is Article 99 of the UN Charter?

- Article 99 is a provision within the United Nations Charter, serving as the U.N.'s constitution.
  - It empowers the secretary-general to **bring attention to the Security Council** about matters that, in their opinion, could **threaten international peace and security**.
- Article 99 is considered **discretionary**, allowing the Secretary-General to highlight **critical issues**, and it requires the Security Council's attention when invoked.
- This article has been sparingly used, with previous invocations including addressing the **upheaval in the Republic of the Congo in 1960, Tunisia's complaint against France's military actions in 1961, and the creation of Bangladesh in 1971**.

### Charter of the United Nations

- The Charter of the UN is the founding document of the UN. It was signed on 26th June 1945, in San Francisco and came into force on 24th October 1945.
- The UN can take action on a wide variety of issues due to its unique international character and the powers vested in its Charter, which is considered an **international treaty**.
  - As such, the UN Charter is an **instrument of international law**, and UN Member States are bound by it.
- The [International Court of Justice \(ICJ\)](#), the primary judicial body of the United Nations, operates by its Statute, annexed to the UN Charter as an integral part.

## UPSC Civil Services Examination Previous Year Question

### Prelims

**Q. The Security Council of UN consists of 5 permanent members, and the remaining 10 members are elected by the General Assembly for a term of (2009)**

- (a) 1 year
- (b) 2 years

- (c) 3 years
- (d) 5 years

**Ans: (b)**

**Mains**

**Q.** What are the main functions of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)? Explain different functional commissions attached to it. **(2017)**

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