

The FIR as international umbrella organization reminds with this newsletter of the official establishment date of the United Nations, 24 October 1945.

Although the heads of state of different countries have already reminded on the opening of this year's general assembly of the 75-year history of the UN, the actual establishment of the United Nations took place by the entry into force of the UN charter on 24 October 1945.

It was the conclusion of a long process and the political consequence of the emerging anti-Hitler coalition. After German fascism's invasion of the Soviet Union, American President Franklin D. Roosevelt and British Prime Minister Winston Churchill formulated the so-called "Atlantic Charter" on August 14, 1941, which was later reaffirmed by other states.

While in Casablanca at the end of January 1943 the military strategic solution to the war was still being discussed, the inclusion of the Soviet Union and the Republic of China on October 30, 1943, led to the Moscow Declaration of the Four Powers, which already stipulated the establishment of an international organization to maintain peace and stability in the world. It was intended to overcome the weaknesses in the political structure of the League of Nations. Various consultations took place in the months that followed. As a result, the text of the Charter of the United Nations was finalized at the Yalta Conference in January 1945. At the San Francisco Conference, which was concerned with a peaceful post-war order, the 111-article Charter was signed by 50 states on June 26, 1945. It came into force on October 24, 1945, after China, France, Great Britain, the USA, the USSR and the majority of the founding states had ratified the charter.

According to Article 1 of the Charter of the United Nations, the main tasks of the UN are

- the maintenance of world peace and international security,

- the development of better, friendly relations between nations
- international cooperation to solve global problems and promote human rights
- to be the place where nations negotiate these goals together.

The highest authority is the UN General Assembly, in which, according to the democratic principle, every sovereign state - regardless of its size and population - has one vote. It has been shown over the past decades that this has made it possible to take critical decisions against the actions of the great powers, such as the condemnation of the US blockade policy against Cuba, which is regularly passed by a large majority.

Despite all the positive objectives, no one can overlook the fact that the United Nations faces major obstacles in implementing its important decisions on peacekeeping, the enforcement of human rights, disarmament and the banning of NBC weapons, the protection of the natural environment and equal rights. Repeatedly, states refuse to recognize, ratify or implement the obligations they have entered into internationally. This does speak neither against the United Nations as an institution, nor against its Charter. Especially on its 75th anniversary, we see the need to strengthen the UN and its institutions politically. Denunciations by the UN Human Rights Council and WHO, as well as the use of the UN Security Council's tribune for political "show fights", as we have seen in recent months, are the wrong answer to this need.

FIR (Fédération Internationale des Résistantes - Association des Antifascistes)