

# 60 years of Ireland at the United Nations

60 Éire ag na Náisiúin Aontaithe  
Ireland at the United Nations  
1955 – 2015

An Roinn Gnóthaí Eachtracha agus Trádála  
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

On 14 December 1955, Ireland joined the United Nations. 2015 marks the UN's 70th year in existence and Ireland's 60th year of membership.

## The United Nations

The United Nations was founded in 1945 to promote global peace and security, human rights and economic development. It is an international organisation composed of 193 countries. There are four United Nations headquarters located in New York, Geneva, Vienna, and Nairobi.

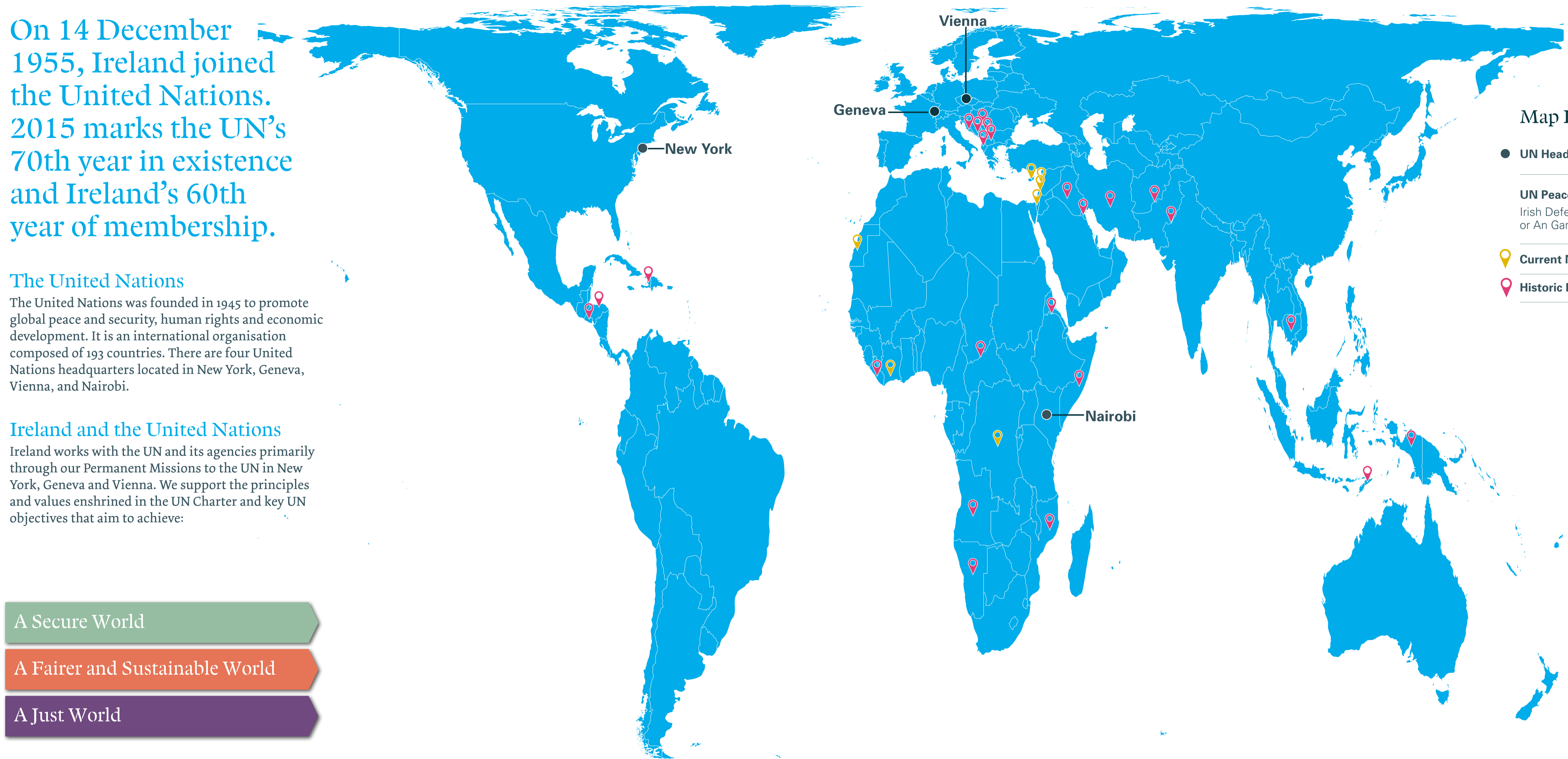
## Ireland and the United Nations

Ireland works with the UN and its agencies primarily through our Permanent Missions to the UN in New York, Geneva and Vienna. We support the principles and values enshrined in the UN Charter and key UN objectives that aim to achieve:

A Secure World

A Fairer and Sustainable World

A Just World



## A Secure World

- Since 1958, members of the Irish Defence Forces and An Garda Síochána have served in UN peacekeeping missions in the Middle East, Europe, Asia, Africa and Central America.
- The Defence Forces' first UN peacekeepers operated along the Lebanon- Syria border (1958) and in the now Democratic Republic of Congo (1960-64).
- Ireland helps to promote lasting solutions to conflict through financial and practical support to UN mediators and peace-making experts around the world.
- From the earliest days of our UN membership, Ireland has been a leading voice in support of disarmament and preventing the spread of nuclear weapons.
- Ireland has also played a leading role in international efforts to ban land mines and cluster bombs.



## A Fairer and Sustainable World

- In 2015, Ireland helped broker agreement between 193 countries on 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals that aim to end poverty, address climate change and create a fairer world.
- Ireland is a world leader in fighting hunger and malnutrition among the world's poorest people, working closely with UN agencies like the World Food Programme and UNICEF.
- Ireland gives emergency assistance to the UN as it helps people facing famine, war and natural disasters in countries such as Syria, Nepal, Haiti and Sierra Leone.
- Since 2007, over 250 Irish humanitarian aid experts have worked with UN agencies to address crises in 45 countries.
- Through our overseas aid programme, Irish Aid, Ireland works to reduce poverty and hunger in the world's poorest communities and supports UN agencies like the UN Development Programme and the World Health Organisation.



## A Just World

- Ireland was elected to serve for 2013-2015 on the UN Human Rights Council that works to strengthen the promotion and protection of human rights worldwide.
- Through the Government's overseas aid programme, Irish Aid, Ireland provides funding to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.
- Ireland is a strong advocate at the UN for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women worldwide.
- Former President of Ireland Mary Robinson served as UN High Commissioner for Human Rights from 1997 to 2002 and is currently the UN Secretary General's Special Envoy on Climate Change.
- Ireland has supported the Special Court for Sierra Leone, established to address serious crimes against civilians and UN peacekeepers during its 1991-2002 civil war.

For further information

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