UNITED NATIONS ORGANIZATION

Coined by U.S. President Franklin D. Roosevelt, the term "United Nations" appeared for the first time in the *Declaration by United Nations* on January 1, 1942. In the Declaration, 26 countries vowed to join forces to fight Germany, Japan and their allies.

In 1944, the main allied countries, victors of World War II (United States, USSR, China, Great Britain), drafted the *Charter of the United Nations*, which was signed by representatives of 50 countries in 1945 at the San Francisco Conference. These were the first 50 member countries of the United Nations (UN). The Charter established an International Court of Justice to which member States would be free to submit disputes.

After numerous requests made by the UN, France, the United States, the USSR and Great Britain agreed to establish an International Military Tribunal, which would try Nazi war criminals taken prisoner between December 9, 1946, and April 14, 1949, at the Nuremberg trials. In 1948, the member countries of the UN negotiated and signed the *Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide*. The Convention contained a definition of the term "genocide," negotiated and agreed upon by all member countries.

For more information:

United Nations organizational chart   http://

History of the United Nations   http://

San Francisco Conference   http://

Resources on Perspective monde website (in French)   http://

Trials of war criminals   http://