

# NPSIA Works: Career Futures

## INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND THE UN

### Description of the Field

Those interested in a career with an international organization may consider three categories: the UN Secretariat itself, the various specialized agencies, standing committees, commissions, and other subsidiary bodies of the United Nations, and other non-UN international organizations. Within the UN, most available job opportunities are with ECOSOC and the Secretariat.

Positions usually involve research, writing, consulting, and meeting skills as well as procurement. Few organizations are involved with implementing projects. At best, they fund the implementation activities of government agencies, contractors, and non-profit organizations and provide forums for the "exchange of ideas." Usually field operations are conducted through UNDP and various peacekeeping operations.

At present, cutbacks and reorientation of government have made it harder to find jobs in international organizations. Due to the decentralized nature of the UN, all agencies recruit their own personnel and employment skills needed varies from agency to agency. Competition is keen and typically those who are hired have an established track record in their area of expertise with higher educational degrees. It is difficult to find entry level jobs and usually higher level positions are filled through "county quotas".

The Junior Professional programs of the UN and World Bank, among others, are possibilities in gaining experience at an international organization.

### Selected Alumni Job Titles

**Associate Information Officer**, Secretariat of the Multilateral Fund for the Implementation of the Montreal Protocol (UNEP)  
**Chief**, Caribbean Division, UNDP  
**Chief**, Policy Planning, Inter-American Development Bank  
**Diplomatic Advisor** for OSCE in Croatia: Mission to the Republic of Croatia  
**Director**, ILO Office Washington, and, **Special Adviser** on International Economic and Financial Institutions, Bureau of External Relations and Partnerships, ILO, Geneva  
**Economist**, Africa Division, World Bank  
**Evaluation Officer**, UNICEF New York  
**Evaluation Officer**, Office of Evaluation, UN World Food Programme  
**Executive Coordinator**, Unit for the Promotion of Democracy, Organization of American States  
**Field Coordinator**, Somalia, UNESCO  
**Head**, Trade Policy Linkages and Strategies Division, OECD  
**Industrial Activities Branch**, Sectoral Activities Dept, International Labour Office  
**Manager**, Implementation Support Unit, Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining  
**Programme Officer**, Food and Agriculture, UN  
**Press Officer**, Delegation of the European Commission in Canada  
**Principal Cooperation Officer**, Cooperation Unit, African Development Bank  
**Programme Coordinator**, European Centre for Development Policy Management  
**Programme Officer**, Middle East and North Africa, International Federation of the Red Cross Societies  
**Senior Energy Economist**, World Bank  
**Senior Policy Advisor**, International Atomic Energy Agency  
**Trade Consultant**, Inter-American Development Bank, Washington DC

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