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THE UNITED NATIONS comprises 192 member states, i.e. nearly (1) the sovereign states in the world, except the Vatican City, Antarctica (as it's a territory and has (2) government) and (3) states that are the subject of a dispute, such as Western Sahara and Taiwan. (4) wide coverage of world states gives the UN great authority.

The UN has six official languages, (5) of which are truly international: Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish.

The UN functions in (6) different fields, from peacekeeping to humanitarian assistance and from environmental sustainability to counter-terrorism. (7) far-reaching functions mean that the UN is involved in almost every aspect of international life.

At the head of the UN is the Secretary-General. The Secretary-General is a temporary post, changed or renewed (8) five years at the recommendation of the Security Council. The main bodies of the UN are the General Assembly, the Security Council – resolutions are only passed with agreement from (9) of these, – the

International Court of Justice, which presides over international disputes, and the Economic and Social Council. Voting is generally by majority, i.e. (10) member has one vote.

