United Nations peacekeeping and political missions have evolved over time to respond to different conflicts and changing political landscapes. Civilian peacekeepers work as administrators and engineers, police officers and legal experts, economists and electoral observers, specialists in civil affairs and gender, as well as experts in information technology and public information among other specialized functions. International positions have two categories, Professional and Higher and Field Service, which are distinguished by levels of responsibility as well as education and work experience requirements.

There are various career opportunities related to Legal Affairs, such as the following:

- Ombudsman
- Registrar
- Witness Protection
- Jurists

Legal Officers provide advice on diverse legal issues; draft and negotiate contracts, agreements, institutional and operational modalities; prepare legal submissions and other legal documents; establish, liaise and maintain working relations with officials (ministries, authorities and agencies); liaise with other UN agencies, funds and programmes, as well as regional and sub-regional actors and organizations and with the diplomatic community in the Mission area; and serve on Mission boards, committees and working groups.

The United Nations fosters gender equality and encourages applications from suitably qualified and experienced women across the full range of career opportunities particularly in the more "non-traditional" field careers such as Aviation, Logistics or Engineering.
Over time, the United Nations has increased its presence in locations all over the world. There are over 130 field offices, which include peacekeeping and political missions and humanitarian field operations, and they play an essential role in identifying, highlighting, and responding to emerging challenges. While the work may vary greatly, the one unifying factor is the opportunity to make a difference, both in the world and in your own life. Together with its partners, the UN is tasked with a variety of responsibilities, such as providing and coordinating humanitarian assistance; promoting and protecting human rights; promoting the wise stewardship of the global environment; assisting countries to combat the supply of illicit drugs, crime and corruption; and providing information on the Organization and its activities in the various locations in which it operates.