The purpose of this study is to examine the role of the United Nations in using its enforcement action in the Persian Gulf Crisis between August 1990 to February 1991. By applying the concept of International Environment as a framework for analysis, the study points to the success of the United Nations in bringing the crisis to an end.

The research finding shows that a significant factor leading to the successful mission of the United Nations in this case is the role played by the United States of America which has great economic and political interests in the region. As a permanent member in the United Nations Security Council, the U.S.A. has indeed played a dominant, if not critical, role both military and diplomatically within the United Nations framework, in strengthening the United Nations enforcement action.

It is also argued in this study that the International Environment in the 1990s has contributed significantly to the success of both the United States of America and the United Nations in terminating the crisis. The political detente between the two superpowers has·in reality weakened the extremity of ideological conflict between East and West which has great impact on the Soviet Union's attitude towards the United Nations. Thus the atmosphere of detente definitely explained the Soviet positive voting pattern which has led to unanimous resolution of the Security Council to use all the necessary means to enforce Irag to withdraw its force from Kuwait. It can be said that in the case of the Persian Gulf Crisis the United Nations has gained its success in maintaining international peace and security by using enforcement action and in conformity with the principles of the United Nations Charter.