

# Session 9 Intergovernmental Organizations











## **Varieties of IGOs**

IGOs are a special category of international organizations.

IGOs are always founded by governments which recognize that it is in their national interests to obtain multilateral agreements and pursue actions to deal with threats, challenges, or problems that cannot be dealt with effectively at the unilateral level.

## Varieties of IGOs

## 2 key dimensions which are valuable in any comparative analysis of IGOs:

- 1. The scope of the IGO, by which I mean the number of issue areas it can influence in international relations.
- 2. The domain of the IGO, meaning the number of states and significant non-state organizations over which it is able to exert influence.

Council of Ministers (Sector ministers) European Commission (27 Commissioners)

> European Court of Justice

COREPER
(Council of Permanent
Representatives—civil
servants at ambassador
level supporting
European
Council work)

European Council (Heads of state from member countries) European Parliament

#### A typology of international and transnational organizations

#### **GOAL OF ORGANIZATION**

		Specific	General
	Intergovernmental	NATO NAFTA	AU (African Union)
Regiona.	Supranational	ECSC (European Coal and Steel Community) EURATOM	European Union
MEMBERSHIP Regi	Transnational	European Anti-Poverty Network	European Movement
TERMS OF	Intergovernmental	WHO (World Health Organization) IAEA (International Atomic Energy Agency)	UN
5	Supranational	-	-
	Transnational	Amnesty International	World Federalist Association
Adapte	d from Heurlin (1996)		

## **Regional IGO**

One category of IGO which expanded very rapidly in the 20th century is **the regional IGO**, including the European Union (EU), the Organization of American States (OAS), and the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN). These IGOs were formed to strengthen cooperation by states at regional level.

## The League of Nations

- The First World War (1914–18)
- The historian, A. J. P. Taylor made an important point in his book The First World War when he wrote: 'The First World War had begun – imposed on the statesmen of Europe by railway timetables. It was an unexpected climax to the railway age.'
- President Woodrow Wilson it was Wilson's energy and commitment to the idea of a League, an idea which had been discussed and proposed by many idealistic people, including Jan Smuts of South Africa, Leonard Woolf, and many liberal intellectuals, which forced it onto the Versailles agenda

## Some other regional IGOs

The Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) was founded in 1967, after the Bangkok Declaration by Thailand, Singapore, Indonesia, the Philippines, and Malaysia. Brunei joined ASEAN in 1984 and Vietnam in 1995. It aims to promote regional economic, social, and cultural cooperation.

## Some other regional IGOs

- the Council of Arab Economic Unity (CAEU) -1964;
- the Caribbean Community and Common Market (CARICOM) -;
- the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) 1975;
- the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) 1985;
- the Southern African Development Community (SADC) 1992.

#### The Commonwealth

The Commonwealth is a voluntary organization of 53 states, no less than 25 per cent of the states in the international system. Most, but not all, were formerly under the rule of the British Empire. It is the second largest IGO in the world and includes states from every region of the world except the Middle East.

# Intergovernmental Organizations

International organizations are the arenas where states interact and cooperate to solve common problems. During the 1970s, neoliberal institutionalisms in particular revived the study of international organizations, arguing that "even if . . . anarchy constrains the willingness of states to cooperate, states nevertheless can work together and can do so especially with the assistance of international institutions."

## **FUNCTIONALISM**

- War is caused by economic deprivation.
- Economic disparity cannot be solved in a system of independent states.
- New functional units should be created to solve specific economic problems.
- People will develop habits of cooperation, which will spill over from economic cooperation to political cooperation.
- In the long run, economic disparities will lessen and war will be eliminated.

#### Roles of Intergovernmental Organizations

ROLE	EXAMPLE
Contribute to habits of cooperation	Work within UN system and specialized agencies
Engage in information- gathering, surveillance	World Bank gathers economic sta- tistics; International Atomic Energy Agency monitors movement of nuclear materials
Aid in dispute settlement	World Trade Organization or the International Court of Justice mediate disputes
Conduct operational activities	Immunization campaigns against childhood diseases, run by World Health Organization; refugee camps run by UN High Commissioner for Refugees
Serve as arena for bargaining	European Council of Ministers hosts forums
Lead to creation of international regimes	International trade regime and international food regime
Used by states as instrument of foreign policy	Nordic states use UN to distrib- ute international development assistance
Used by states to legiti- mate foreign policy	U.S. legitimates military action in Korea and in first Gulf War through UN
Enhance information available to states	Small states turn to IGOs in absence of extensive bilateral diplomatic networks
Punish states for acting in certain ways	Sanctions against South Africa, Rhodesia, Iraq, Serbia, and Iran
Place where individu- als can be socialized to international norms	UN and EU delegates learn diplo- matic norms
Place where individu- als become educated about international similarities and	Participants are educated at international meetings
	Contribute to habits of cooperation  Engage in information-gathering, surveillance  Aid in dispute settlement  Conduct operational activities  Serve as arena for bargaining  Lead to creation of international regimes  Used by states as instrument of foreign policy  Used by states to legitimate foreign policy  Enhance information available to states  Punish states for acting in certain ways  Place where individuals can be socialized to international norms  Place where individuals become educated about international

### **UN Principles and Contemporary Realities**

PRINCIPLES	CHANGING REALITIES
SOVEREIGN EQUALITY OF STATES	Increasing number of members, including micro- and mini- states that contribute little but still have equal votes in the General Assembly
ONLY INTERNATIONAL PROBLEMS WITHIN UN JURISDICTION	Expansion of what is considered international because of changes in transportation, technology, and communication. For example, refugees can easily cross borders, leading states to initiate humanitarian intervention without the consent of other states involved.
PRIMARILY CONCERNED WITH INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY	Broadened view of security to include economic and environ- mental security; international intervention to manage eco- nomic instability and to protect from environmental pollution

#### **Principal Organs of the United Nations**

ORGAN	MEMBERSHIP AND VOTING	RESPONSIBILITIES
SECURITY COUNCIL	15 members; 5 permanent with veto; 10 rotating members elected by region	Peace and security: identifies aggressor: decides on enforce ment measures
GENERAL ASSEMBLY	192 members; each state has one vote; work in 6 functional committees	Debates any topic within char- ter's purview; admits states; elects members to special bodies
SECRETARIAT, HEADED BY SECRETARY-GENERAL	Secretariat of 11,000; secretary-general elected for 5-year renewable term by General Assembly and Security Council	Secretariat: gathers informa- tion, coordinates and conduct activities; Secretary-general: chief administrative officer, spokesperson
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL (ECOSOC)	54 members elected for 3-year terms	Coordinates economic and social welfare programs; coordinates action of special- ized agencies (FAO, the WHO UNESCO)
TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL	Originally composed of administering and nonad- ministering countries; now made up of 5 great powers	Supervision has ended; proposals have been floated to change function to that of forum for indigenous peoples, NGOs, or nation building
INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE	15 judges	Noncompulsory jurisdiction or cases brought by states and international organizations

#### Traditional Peacekeeping Operations

OPERATION	LOCATION(S)	DURATION	STRENGTH
UNTSO (UN TRUCE SUPERVISION ORGANIZATION)	Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Syria, Lebanon	June 1948-present	151 military observers; 200 civilians
UNEF I (FIRST UN EMERGENCY FORCE)	Suez Canal, Sinai Peninsula	Nov. 1956-June 1967	3,378 troops
ONUC (UN OPERATION IN THE CONGO)	Congo	June 1960-June 1964	19,828 troops
UNFICYP (UN PEACEKEEPING FORCE IN CYPRUS)	Cyprus	March 1964-present	6,411 military observers
UNEF II (SECOND UN EMERGENCY FORCE)	Suez Canal, Sinai Peninsula	Oct. 1973-July 1979	6,973 troops
UNDOF (UN DISENGAGEMENT OBSERVER FORCE)	Syrian Golan Heights	June 1974-present	1,048 troops; 57 military observers
UNMEE (UN MISSION IN ETHIOPIA AND ERITREA)	Ethiopia/Eritrea border	Sept. 2000-present	4,200 troops; 400 civilians
UNIFIL (UN INTERIM FORCE IN LEBANON)	Southern Lebanon	March 1978-present	11,800 military; 1,000 civilians

#### **Complex Peacekeeping Operations**

OPERATION	LOCATION(S)	DURATION	MAXIMUM STRENGTH
UNTAG (UN TRANSI- TION ASSISTANCE GROUP)	Namibia, Angola	April 1989-March 1990	4,493 troops; 15,000 police
UNPROFOR (UN PRO- TECTION FORCE)	Former Yugoslavia (Croatia), Bosnia, Macedonia	March 1992-Dec. 1995	38,000 troops; 4,600 civilians
UNTAC (UN TRANSI- TION AUTHORITY IN CAMBODIA)	Cambodia	Feb. 1992-Sept. 1993	15,900 troops; 3,600 police; 2,400 civilians
UNOSOM I, II (UN OP- ERATION IN SOMALIA)	Somalia	Aug. 1992-March 1995	28,000 troops 2,800 civilians
MONUC (UN MISSION IN DEMOCRATIC RE- PUBLIC OF CONGO)	Congo	1999-present	16,700 troops; 1000 police; 3,700 civilians
UNMIK (UN INTERIM ADMINISTRATION MIS- SION IN KOSOVO)	Kosovo	1999-present	3,478 police; 3,591 civilians
UNMISET AND UNMIT (UN MISSIONS IN EAST TIMOR)	Timor-Leste	2002-present	1,588 troops; 1,608 police; 1,200 civilians
UNAMID (AFRICAN UNION/UNITED NA- TIONS HYBRID OPERA- TION IN DARFUR)	Darfur	July 2007-present	13,502 troops; 3,200 police; 2,494 civilians

## Representative International and Regional Organizations

Organizations	the second secon
UN SPECIALIZED AGENCIES	INDEPENDENT ORGANIZATIONS
WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION	Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries
FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION	World Trade Organization
INTERNATIONAL LABOR ORGANIZATION	Organisation of the Islamic Conference
INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY	North Atlantic Treaty Organization
WORLD BANK GROUP	
INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND	
REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS	SUBREGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS
EUROPEAN UNION	Nordic Council
ORGANIZATION FOR SECURITY AND CO- OPERATION IN EUROPE	European Free Trade Association
AFRICAN UNION	Economic Community of West African States
ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES	Mercosur

## Significant Events in the Formation and Expansion of the European Union

YEAR	EVENT	
1952	European Coal and Steel Community created by Belgium, France, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, and West Germany.	
1954	French National Assembly rejects proposal to form the European Defence Community.	
1957	Treaties of Rome establish the European Economic Community (EEC) and the European Atomic Energy Community, comprising same six members.	
1968	Customs union is completed; all internal customs, duties, and quotas are removed and common external tariff is established.	
1973	EEC is joined by Denmark, Ireland, and the United Kingdom.	
1975	Lomé Convention between the EEC and forty-six developing countries in Africa, the Caribbean, and the Pacific signed.	
1979	High-level negotiations on European Monetary System are completed; first direct elections to the European Parliament.	
1981	Greece joins the EEC; European political cooperation is extended.	
1986	Signing of the Single European Act designed to ensure faster decisions; more attention to environmental and technological issues; list of measures compiled that need to be taken before achieving single market in 1992; Spain and Portugal join the EEC.	
1990	West and East Germany reunited after fall of Berlin Wall; larger Germany main	

tains EEC membership.

1992	Maastricht Treaty completed, committing members to political union, including the establishment of a common foreign and defense policy, a single currency, and a regional central bank; name changed to European Union (EU); controversial referendums held in several countries.
1995	Austria, Finland, and Sweden join EU.
1997	Treaty of Amsterdam extends competence on Justice and Home Affairs, defines European citizenship.
1999	Common monetary policy and single currency (the euro) launched.
2002	Euro in circulation.
2004	Ten new members join; European Constitution negotiated.
2005	French and Dutch publics reject the proposed constitution; ongoing discussions.
2007	Bulgaria and Romania join EU; Lisbon Treaty proposed changes in institutions and decision making
2009	Lisbon Treaty approved

#### Principal Institutions of the European Union

NSTITUTION	MEMBERSHIP AND VOTING	RESPONSIBILITIES
EUROPEAN COMMISSION	27 members, 4-year terms plus 23,000 support staff (Eurocrats)	Initiates proposals; guards treaties; executes policies
COUNCIL OF MINISTERS	Ministers of member states; unanimity or qualified majority voting depending on issue; one minister per state	Legislates; sets political objec- tives; coordinates; resolves differences
EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT	736 members, divided among members; elected every 5 years by citizens; organized around political parties	Legislates; approves budget; supervises executive
EUROPEAN COUNCIL	Heads of government; summit meetings twice yearly	Key body for EU initiatives
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE	344 members drawn from economic/social inter- est groups; represents employers, employees, others	Has consultative role; acts as platform for civil society; forwards opinions to other institutions
EUROPEAN COURT OF JUSTICE	Judges and advocates- general; appointed by states for 6-year terms	Adjudicates disputes over EU treaties; ensures uniform inter- pretation of EU laws; renders advisory opinions to states

## **Home Assignment**

Write a position paper listing priorities for a reform agenda to make the United Nations a more representative and more effective international organization.

## **Recommended Literature**

- <u>Karen A. Mingst</u>, <u>Ivan M. Arreguin-Toft</u>. *Essentials of International Relations*. 5th Ed. 2010: New York: W.W. Norton & Co. ISBN 978-0393935295
- Robert Jackson, Georg Sorensen. Introduction to International Relations: Theories and Approaches. 4th edition, 2010: Oxford University Press. ISBN 978-0199548842
- Paul Wilkinson. International Relations: A Very Short Introduction (Very Short Introductions). 1st edition. 2007: Oxford Paperbacks. ISBN 978-0192801579

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