

Lesson 1

INTRODUCTION

International Institutional Law
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The rise of International Organizations 1/2

- Traditional modes of diplomacy
- Concert of Europe and other periodic conferences
- The first institutionalized entities
 - River commissions
 - Other organizations regulating transport and communication

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The rise of International Organizations 2/2

- The League of Nations and other Organizations created after WWI
- The United Nations
- Currently, over 300 Organizations.

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Definition of International Organization (IO)

1/4

- “the term ‘international organization’ refers to an organization established by a treaty or other instrument governed by international law and possessing its own international legal personality. International organizations may include as members, in addition to states, other entities”
(International Law Commission, Draft articles on responsibility of IO, 2011, art. 2(a))

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Definition of International Organization (IO) 2/4

Elements of the definition:

- 1) Founded on a treaty or another instrument governed by international law
- 2) Having at least one organ with a will of its own
- 3) Established under international law

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Definition of International Organization (IO) 3/4

- **Forms of intergovernmental cooperation not giving rise to an IO** (e.g. Quartet on the Middle East; G-8, BRICS (Brasil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) etc.
 - Less structured
 - More flexible
 - Informal

➔ no distinct legal personality!

may develop into an IO over time

e.g. CSCE/OSCE, GATT/WTO

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Definition of International Organization (IO) 4/4

- NGOs
- ICRC

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Classifications

- Universal v. closed
- Intergovernmental v. supranational
- Specialized v. general

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