

## International intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations in international relations

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**Abstract:** *The article refers to the changes in the system of international relations that caused the emergence in the second half of the XIX century of international intergovernmental (IGOs) and non-governmental (INGOs) organizations and their subsequent evolution, notes the features and complementarity of each group of international organizations, assesses the League of Nations and the UN, as well as the impact of the cold war on the process of emergence and functioning of international organizations and their transformation into tools for implementation of the collective strategy of member states against their international opponents, the emergence of a new type of international associations after its completion is noted, their distinctive features are highlighted.*

**Keywords:** *International organizations, international relations, UNO, internationalization, developing countries, integration, global problems, OSCE, BRICS, G 20, Arctic Council*

**Sommario:** *L'articolo considera i cambiamenti nel sistema di relazioni internazionali che causarono l'emergenza nella seconda metà dell'Ottocento delle organizzazioni intergovernative internazionali (IGO) e delle organizzazioni non-governative internazionali (INGO) e la loro successiva evoluzione. Analizza le caratteristiche e la complementarietà di ciascun gruppo di organizzazioni internazionali, valuta la Lega delle Nazioni e l'ONU, così come l'impatto della guerra fredda sull'emergenza e il funzionamento delle organizzazioni internazionali e la loro trasformazione in strumenti per la realizzazione della strategia collettiva degli stati membri contro i loro oppositori internazionali. Viene infine considerata l'emergenza di un tipo di associazioni internazionali dopo il compimento delle loro funzioni, e vengono messe in risalto le caratteristiche specifiche.*

**Parole chiave:** *Organizzazioni internazionali, relazioni internazionali, ONU, internazionalizzazione, paesi in via di sviluppo, integrazione, problem globali, OCSE, BRICS, G20, Artic Council.*

## **Introduction**

International intergovernmental (IGOs) and non-governmental (INGOs) organizations, as we know them at present, are a relatively new phenomenon in international relations. The first IGOs and INGOs were established in the middle of the XIX century. At the beginning of the XXI century their total number, according to the Union of International Associations, reached more than 70 thousand, of which near 7 thousand were IGOs<sup>1</sup>. The impressive rise in number and diversity of international organizations has become a sensitive indicator of serious changes in the structure of contemporary world order.

Their emergence was provoked by transformation of external factors of development of states into permanent stable elements of their internal life and into integral and mandatory condition for their further economic growth and socio-economic progress as well. The first world economic crisis of 1857 proved that the external factors had already at that moment become a vital segment of their internal development. At the same time, this crisis gave impetus to the search for ways and means to overcome such international crises in future. The establishment of permanent international intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations has become one of them.

## **The emergence of first IGOs and INGOs**

Further development of international trade and economic cooperation at that time required reduction of unproductive economic costs, elimination of numerous administrative obstacles, unification of distance and weight measures, establishment of stable postal, financial and transport communications, creation and maintenance of international legal and sanitary conditions, elaboration

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<sup>1</sup> UIA Open Yearbook. URL: <https://uia.org/ybio/>

tion of mechanisms for resolving disputes between commercial entities and other unified instruments. These multilateral problems could hardly be efficiently regulated within bilateral interstate relations, which remained the dominant form of interaction between states. Creation of multilateral tools was on the agenda.

The permanent rules of interstate communications were decided to consolidate in international treaties to be ratified by member states. These treaties have become the constituent documents of the first international intergovernmental organizations. Executive bodies of such IGOs were authorized by member states to act independently, but within the framework of powers, allocated to them by these states. Their main duty was to maintain the rules agreed upon by states in the constituent documents on permanent basis.

Central Commission for Navigation on the Rhine, established in 1831, became one of the first IGOs. In accordance with the Treaty of Paris of 1856 the European Commission of the Danube was also created. Several other IGOs emerged in the second half of the XIX century, namely International Union for the Measurement of the Earth (1864), World Telegraph Union (1865), Universal Postal Union (1874), International Bureau of Weights and Measures (1875), International Institute for agriculture (1908), the mandate and funds of which were transferred to World Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) after the Second world war.

International non-governmental organizations – INGOs began to emerge in the mid-nineteenth century almost simultaneously with IGOs. The reasons for their appearance were rooted in the consequences of the industrial revolution, accompanied by the emergence of new social strata of society and internationalization of its economic, social and political consequences. In addition to the aristocracy, the peasantry and small artisans, there were owners of capital, bankers, large traders, industrialists, scientists, wage labourers and industrial workers. These new social strata started to create tools for reliable protection of their economic, social and political interests in the conditions of the feudal-absolutist monarchical regimes prevailing at that time in most European states.

The wave of bourgeois-democratic revolutions in Europe of 1848-1849 led to wide democratic transformations in many European countries: constitutional orders and representative bodies were established, powers of legislative, executive and judiciary bodies were divided, political rights and civil

liberties of a person, including freedom of speech, conscience, and assembly were legislated.

Taking advantage of the acquired rights and freedoms citizens of different states started to create various non-governmental organizations to meet their specific groups of interests in areas not subject to the regulation of state institutions. The development of these processes simultaneously in several countries has created the preconditions for the creation of non-governmental international associations of a similar profile.

The Catholic Church as a pillar of the former monarchy began to be spontaneously replaced by secular public organizations, Catholic parties, trade unions and Catholic media. These processes from below received in 1891 the official recognition in the encyclicals of Pope Leo XIII. Moreover, the popes began to create organizations of laity, which on the basis of their ties with Catholicism acquired cross-border character. Many secular Catholic organizations of different countries have been united under the common name «Catholic action»<sup>2</sup>.

Establishment of the Inter-Parliamentary Union in 1889, whose main task was to promote creation of representative institutions in the world, became the important indicator of further internationalization of the socio-economic and political consequences of the industrial revolution.

The industrial revolution has caused the need for the development of science and technology. Ties between scientists within individual countries and international contacts between them began strongly develop. Since the second half of the 19th century, regular international scientific conferences were held, during which scientific research was coordinated, information was exchanged, trends in the development of science were identified, and joint research was organized. About 1,400 international meetings of a non – governmental nature – scientific, professional, religious, etc. had been registered by the end of the 19th century<sup>3</sup>. As a result of such congresses and conferences, the first international scientific stations, institutes, centres and other international non-governmental organizations of specialists were established.

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2 *Ekspert*, n. 42 (919), 13-19 October 2014

3 I.I.Kovalenko, *Mezhdunarodnie nepravitel'stvennie organizacii*, Moskva, Mezhdunarodnie otnosheniya, 1976, p. 7

The European Association for Geology was established in 1862, followed by international associations for meteorology, chemistry and other branches of science. In 1882-1883, the International polar year was held by scientists from 12 countries.

Internationalization of social and economic consequences of the industrial revolution resulted in emergence of political associations that acted as lobbyists of the interests of employees, on the one hand, and entrepreneurs, on the other hand, in a number of countries. This created conditions for their cooperation on a transnational basis and contributed to the emergence of international political INGOs. Similar in ideology and profile political entities and parties began to create international associations in the form of INGOs: International Fellowship of Workers - the First International (1864), International Socialist Women's International (1907), Socialist International (1923), International Anti-Communist Union and others.

The need to protect the socio-economic and political rights of wage earners has been reflected in the creation of permanent INGOs based on production and professional feature. A large number of international organizations have emerged to defend women's rights. In parallel with the formation of INGOs of hired industrial and agricultural workers, associations of employers and owners have been established. It was INGOs that took on the main mission of organizing international sports activities, establishing various international sport federations and regular Olympic games. Various kinds of international cultural associations have contributed to the deepening of international multilateral professional cooperation in the field of theatre, cinematography, fine arts, music.

The emergence of IGOs and INGOs marked the emergence of new instruments of international multilateral communications, which became one of the backbone elements of world politics and international relations. The World Congress of International Associations, held in May 1910 in Brussels, decided to establish an international centre for the study of international organizations – the Union of International Associations. This union currently has the most complete information about international organizations in the world. In 1910-1914 there were a total of 212 international organizations, of which 20 were intergovernmental and 192 - international non – governmental ones. In carrying out the functions of multilateral relations between

states and peoples, the activities of most IGOs and INGOs started to become mutually complementary.

The conclusion of international treaties and subsequent establishment of IGOs have led to the emergence of various types of INGOs, associated with activities at the non-governmental level in similar spheres. It was during this period that an important pattern of international development emerged and further strengthened: the creation of intergovernmental structures in various fields has always given a powerful impetus to the formation of a whole plume of various national and international non-governmental organizations and structures that began to complement, serve and accompany these areas of multilateral inter-state cooperation at the non-governmental level.

Many IGOs started to provide a consultative status to INGOs, the profile of which corresponded to the main problem solved by the IGO. Many IGOs began to invite representatives of INGOs, bringing together the most authoritative experts in the relevant fields of knowledge, to participate in their work, to order them expert opinions, scientific and technical recommendations.

### **Law of international organizations**

The first highly specialized «administrative» IGOs ensured implementation of permanent rules and norms of behavior in transport, communication, trade and other areas of economic interaction, established by the sovereign member states. The guarantee of compliance of states with the agreed rules and norms in these areas was the conclusion of special founding treaties, which determined the subject of their agreements, objectives, rules of procedure, structure of the ruling bodies and their powers, ways of resolving conflicts between member states, etc.

The constituent treaties were subject to ratification by the legislative bodies of all member countries of the newly created IGOs. In this way the rules and regulations of these treaties gained the force of domestic law. In the practice of international relations it became an approved rule that when a country's domestic laws conflict with its international obligations, priority should be given to international obligations.

The permanent nature of the work of the IGOs suggested that the procedures, established by the founding treaty, might require clarification, updates or changes, the essence of which should be unanimously approved by all member states. Therefore, the highest governing bodies of the IGOs were created from the authorized representatives of the sovereign member states, which were entrusted with the duty to unanimously determine the further ways of their development and approve the most important decisions.

The task of execution of decisions was assigned to executive bodies of IGOs, formed from international employees, members of international civil service, who, on behalf of states and within the limits of their powers, are obliged to ensure their impartial implementation. Its representatives, working in IGOs, have the right to speak on behalf of the entire IGOs and to defend the common agreed interests of member states.

Due to the possibility of varying interpretations of the provisions of the concluded treaties and regulations, created on their basis, organizational structures of IGOs included judicial bodies to resolve disputes in order to ensure that all member states were bound by their common interpretation.

As a result, certain international legal subsystems in those segments of international relations, that sovereign states authorized the IGOs to regulate, began to emerge within each of the spheres of responsibility of the established IGOs and under their auspices<sup>4</sup>. By creating the IGOs sovereign states thereby confer on them a certain legal capacity, recognizing the possibility for the established IGOs to have rights and obligations, to participate in the creation and application of international law, to guard their compliance.

The IGOs bring a stable international legal order to the chaotic international system in the areas, in which sovereign states create them, without encroaching on the rights of states inherent in their sovereignty. The wider the scope of their impartial regulation of certain segments of the system of international relations, the more organized and structured the system itself becomes.

Increasing the number of such well-managed and stable elements of the international legal order and integrating them into a single system of inter-

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4 Mezhdunarodnoe pravo. Textbook. MGIMO universitet. Otv.Red. Vylegzhanin A.N. , Moskva, Yurait, 2009, p. 358-452

national law can, in the long term, lead to a multiplication of areas of international life, where there will be uniform, universally recognized and binding international norms and rules, the adoption and observance of which is fully compatible with the state sovereignty of the member states of IGOs and the principle of their sovereign equality.

The commitments undertaken by the member states of the IGOs cannot but have an increasing impact on the nature of their relations with other states, both bilaterally and multilaterally, by making them act in these relations in accordance with the commitments, taken within the framework of the IGOs. As a result, the existing system of inter-state relations is forced to transform and adapt to the growing volume of obligations, taken by states within the framework of multilateral intergovernmental forums and institutions.

The newly established IGOs soon began to have common features, such as permanent character of their activity on the basis of an unlimited in time international treaty, governing and executive bodies, rules of procedure, budgets, headquarters, judiciaries and secretariats. The work of the international civil service has become the subject to special regulations.

With regard to the legal framework for the activities of INGOs, it is significantly different from that of IGOs. They are non-governmental, non-profit and state-independent organizations with international membership. They do not seek profit. Their members may be individuals and (or) legal entities of two or more states, as well as other INGOs. They shall be registered in accordance with the domestic law of the states in whose territory their headquarters, regional or country offices are located.

While the law of international intergovernmental organizations has emerged and is evolving, there is no general legal framework for the INGOs to regulate their situation and activities in the field of international relations and international law. This is largely due to the fact that each of the INGOs is registered in accordance with the domestic legislation of individual states, which is not identical in different countries.

They acquire the status of a registered non-governmental organization in a given country and international character of such an INGO may depend on its membership, ways of financing activities and other aspects, stipulated in the national legislation of that country.

## **The emergence of universal international organizations**

Due to the fact that humanity has not been able to put an end to the endless string of bloody wars, the material and human losses of which have steadily increased due to the constant improvement of the means of destruction, the desire of peoples to get rid of this eternal curse was manifested in the activation of the pacifist movement in various countries of Europe and in creation of various pacifist INGOs.

In June 1842, the first international peace congress was held in London, followed by similar congresses in Brussels, Paris, Frankfurt and Geneva. In 1863, the international Committee of the Red Cross was established to assist people, affected by armed conflicts or natural disasters. In 1867, the International League for Peace was established in Paris, later transformed into the Society of Friends of Peace and Freedom. There are other international non-governmental organizations of pacifist persuasion - International Peace Bureau (1892), International Co-operative Alliance (1895), Inter-Parliamentary Union (1889), Union Against the War (1914), International Committee of Women for Lasting Peace (1915), who after 1919 became known as the International League of Women for Peace and Freedom.

The activities of these INGOs have prepared the ground for emergence of global intergovernmental organizations for promoting international peace and security - first the League of Nations and then United Nations (UN), the main object of activities of which have become issues of international peace and security.

In contrast to the specific trade, economic, financial, transport, legal and other highly specialized problems, dealt with by the IGOs, the object of the new international intergovernmental organization was world politics, issues of war and peace. While solving these problems it was necessary to take into account the complex set of interrelated domestic and international political, economic, military and other interests of a large number of sovereign states. For this reason, the structure and powers of the governing and executive bodies of such global IGOs, if it was to fulfil its intended function, must be quite different from those of the administrative IGOs.

The League of Nations was established as a permanent, broad-based intergovernmental organization to deal not only with the administrative and

technical aspects but also with the political aspects of multilateral relations among states. This was dispositive of the inevitable politicization of the activities and functions of the organisation. Overcoming the political differences of member states and achieving consensus in decision-making and implementation was a key challenge. The establishment of the League of Nations was accompanied by the creation of a large number of INGOs that joined the efforts to achieve international peace.

The main difficulty for the effective implementation of the task of ensuring international peace and security was the need to combine in the practical activities of the League of Nations the differences, sometimes very significant, in the national interests of states and their unconditional right and duty to ensure protection of these interests by all the means at their disposal, on the one hand, and the common ideals of international peace and security, which they shared, on the other. The main drawback of the League of Nations was the lack of peace enforcement mechanisms for states embarking on the path of aggression.

The lack of any authorizing, binding force in international law, as opposed to domestic state law, which would be able to give a single and binding interpretation of its rules and ensure their continued compliance is the main reason for the impossibility of creating and establishing an universal understanding of international law.

After the end of the Second world war and in the process of creating the UN attempts were made to eliminate the systemic weaknesses of the League of Nations, which did not allow it to fulfill its mission of preventing a new world war.

The UN Security Council, acting on behalf of all member states, was authorized to consider any dispute or conflict situation, that may pose a threat to international peace and security, to decide to intervene in the affairs of a sovereign state if it considers the situation that has arisen in it as a threat to international peace.

It has the right to require the parties to resolve a dispute or conflict between them exclusively by peaceful means and to prescribe the actions they must take in order to do so. Only the UN Security Council is authorized to determine the presence of a threat to international peace or an act of aggression and to make recommendations in accordance with the UN Charter on

the necessary measures, as well as to call on UN members to apply sanctions or other measures not related to the use of military force to ensure the implementation of their decisions.

For the first time in history, an international body with such significant powers and responsibilities has emerged. It is important to emphasize, however, that this body was established within the framework of an international intergovernmental organization, which gives good reason to perceive the emergence and subsequent development of the global IGOs as an important stage in the history of international relations.

### **International organizations in the post-war «world order»**

A key role in determining the vector of world development in the «world order», created after the Second world war, was to be played by special regulatory international institutions that could ensure the existence of stable international regimes in various areas of the world economy and politics. It meant the creation of monetary, financial, trade, energy, maritime regimes, as well as the corresponding regimes in the sphere of military security, the coordination of which was to be carried out by the UN<sup>5</sup>. It also had to play the role of a unified system of international security.

In accordance with the post-war strategy of the Western participants of the anti-Hitler coalition, within the framework of competition with communism it was necessary to create a series of international institutions that would provide the liberal vector of world economic and political development and limit as much as possible the space for the implementation of Communist ideas.

The International Monetary Fund, the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, International Finance Corporation, International Development Association (IDA) and multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA), operating as specialized agencies of the United Nations, were established within the Bretton-Woods system and became the most important institutions, designed to have a decisive financial and political influence on post-war world development. The regional Inter-American, Asian and Afri-

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5 V.N. Zueva, *Globalnoe ekonomicheskoe regulirovanie*, Moskva, Magistr, 2014, p. 332

can banks, designed to carry out long-term crediting of development projects of the «third world» countries in order to keep them within the global liberal world order were also created. The USSR and other socialist countries did not take part in activities of these institutions.

It was during this period that a relatively new trend in the development of international organizations began to gain momentum. Along with the continued establishment of classical international organizations open to membership of all states, international organizations, both intergovernmental and non-governmental, performing the functions of bodies, implementing the collective strategy of like-minded powers towards their military-political, economic and ideological opponents, have emerged and began to grow in number.

The General Agreement on Trade and Tariffs (GATT), which was signed by 23 countries in 1947, was intended to give the desirable liberal direction to the development of world economy and world trade. The World Trade Organization subsequently emerged on its basis. The Marshall plan, announced on 5 June 1947, played a crucial role in providing the desired liberal direction for the development of many European countries in the post-war period. The Organization for European Economic Co-operation (OEEC) was established in connection with the launch of the Marshall plan. In 1961 the OEEC ceased to exist and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), whose members are countries that share the principles of a market economy, pluralistic democracy, political rights and civil liberties, was created.

An important role in the implementation of the coordinated policy of Western countries towards the socialist countries was played by the Coordinating Committee on Multilateral Export Control (COCOM), which was supposed to limit access of the Soviet Union and other CMEA countries to the world markets of high-tech civilian and military products and technologies, advanced technical solutions and scientific discoveries<sup>6</sup>. The Council of Europe, established in 1949, became an important European international institution for the implementation of the West's collective strategy towards communist countries in the field of political human rights and civil liberties. All these international structures have become the tool to counter the

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6 Malkevich V.L. *Eksportnyi control: ot protivostoyaniya k sotrudnichestvu*. Obshestvo sokhraneniya literaturnogo naslediya. Voskva, 2012, p. 9

economic and social development of Communist countries, excluding their access to the benefits of participation in the international division of labour in the world economy.

Socialist countries (Bulgaria, Hungary, Poland, Romania, the USSR and Czechoslovakia) for their part decided to establish a new international inter-governmental organization - the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance (CMEA) in January 1949. This group of states established the International Bank for Economic Cooperation in 1964, and since January 1974 the International Investment Bank have been operating to provide medium- and long-term loans to member countries. Along with the banking institutions a number of economic associations, namely «Interelectro», «Interatomenergo», «Intertextile», «Interkhim-volokno», «Interatominstrument» and others has been established by CMEA member states.

Despite the founding fathers of the UN handed the UN Security Council the main responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security, they began to create, together with friendly and like-minded countries, various military and political alliances and blocs.

Belgium, France, the Netherlands, Luxembourg, the United Kingdom and France established on 17 March 1948 the Western European Union and pledged to provide military support to one or more its member states that would become victims of an armed attack or aggression. The North Atlantic Treaty Organization – NATO was established in 1949, extending its scope to Europe, North America and the surrounding areas. The Pacific Security Pact was signed in San Francisco on 1 September 1951 by Australia, New Zealand, Malaysia, Singapore and the United Kingdom, establishing the ANZUS military-political alliance. South-East Asia Treaty Organization - SEATO was established in Manila on September 8, 1954. The Central Treaty Organization (CEATO), a military and political group in the Middle East, was established in Baghdad on 24 February 1955. European socialist countries on the initiative of the USSR created its military-political alliance -the Warsaw Treaty Organization (WTO) on May 14, 1955.

The creation of the rival military-political alliances meant that their member countries decided to rely their national security on these alliances, not on the UN Security Council, thereby calling into question its leading role in ensuring international peace and security.

Since the late 1950s and especially since the achievement of nuclear-missile parity between the «superpowers» studies of conflicts and their non-violent resolution were disseminated in a number of countries in Western Europe and elsewhere in the world, based on the desire to avoid the use of violent methods of conflict resolution and to find alternatives to violence. In 1959, in Oslo, a group of norwegian researchers, led by J. Galtung, founded the first research institute of this kind - Peace Research Institute, Oslo – PRIO, which began to issue the Journal of Peace Research. The International Peace Research Association (IPRA) was established in 1963 at the conference in Clarence, Switzerland. IPRA became a member of the International Council of Social Sciences. The Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) was established on 1 July 1966 in order to identify the prerequisites for a stable peace and to seek peaceful solutions to international conflicts. As peace research and peace education continue to spread in various countries and regions of the world five regional associations: Latin American (1977), Asia-Pacific (1980), European, (1990), North American (2002) and African (2014) associations was created within the framework of IPRA activities.

During the cold war a distinctive feature of IGOs and INGOs creation became ideological and political engagement of their membership, which allowed them to be the conductors of collective strategy of the relevant groups of like-minded states on the world stage.

The pursuit of a long-term common strategy by like-minded states has led to the emergence of such a new phenomenon in the field of multilateral diplomacy as integration groupings. At the initial stage of integration processes in Europe they developed mainly on subregional level between Belgium, Luxembourg and the Netherlands (BENELUX), as well as between the Nordic countries (Nordic Council). There was also a desire of former opponents in the Second World War, namely France and BENILUX countries, on the one hand, and Germany and Italy, on the other hand, to put an end to the traditional confrontation between Germany and France. The emergence of the European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC), established in 1951, followed by establishment of the Euratom and the European Economic Community in 1957, became a manifestation of this desire.

The member states of these IGOs not only agreed on common economic and political goals to be achieved through joint efforts, but also determined

the coordinated domestic and foreign policy measures to be taken for implementation of these goals. In this regard, it can be argued that a new category of IGOs – international intergovernmental organizations of integration groupings began to take shape in the system of international relations.

Various groups of states, committed to the liberal principles of free trade, also began to unite their efforts and form international associations as Britain did together with some small Western European countries, establishing the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) in 1960, or the United States, Canada and Mexico, forming North America Free Trade Association (NAFTA) in December 1992.

Similar processes took place at the non-governmental level. A large number of national and international anti-Communist non-governmental organizations, aimed at supporting the Euro-Atlantic structures, the liberal principles of the market economy, the upholding of political rights and civil liberties, were created in the West. Amnesty International, International Association for Religious Freedoms, International League for Human Rights, Human Rights Advocates are the examples of such organizations. A large network of INGOs, including World Peace Council, World Federation of Democratic Women, World Federation of Trade Unions, World Federation of Democratic Youth, International Union of Students, World Federation of Scientists and others, has been created on the initiative and with political and financial support of socialist countries.

The process of organizational and institutional formation of the former colonies and semi-colonies in a group of politically independent states, whose members were not only guided by their specific interests, but also actively protect them, arose and began also to develop in the shadow of the global rivalry of world communism and world capitalism. The League of Arab States was established in 1945, the Organization of American States in 1948, the Organization of Islamic Conference in 1954, and the Organization of African Unity (now the African Union) in 1963.

The first international conference of liberated peoples with participation of leaders of 29 Asian and African states has been held in Bandung in 1955. It was the starting point for formation of a new political and economic force - Non-aligned Movement, established in 1961 at the Belgrade conference. Its backbone was made up of young independent states, which became known as «third world» countries due to their unwillingness to accept the ways of further

development imposed on them by world communism and world capitalism.

The process of political liberation of Asian, African and Latin American countries accelerated after the adoption of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the UN General Assembly in 1960. Latin American Area Trade Association was established in 1960, Central American Common Market in 1961, Group of 77 in 1964, Customs and Economic Union of Central Africa in 1966, Association of South East Asian Nations in 1967, the Caribbean Community in 1973, Economic Community of West African Countries in 1975, Treaty of La Plata Basin, Andean Pact, Amazon Pact and Conference on Coordination of Southern African Development appeared in 1980, on the basis of which Southern African Development Community was established in 1992, South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation in 1985, South American Common Market in 1991, Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa in 1993 and others. Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) was established in 1960, other important international trade agreements were also concluded under the pressure from developing countries (on sugar, wheat, olive oil and tin).

In addition to the establishment of integration groupings, developing countries undertook joint efforts on the political level to facilitate the achievement of their objectives. The trend towards uniting efforts of «third world countries» in the international economic field was evident at the Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) in 1964, which became a permanent body of the UN General Assembly. Developing countries have articulated a largely shared approach to strengthening their economic position in the world economy and to fighting for the weakening of the discrimination against them in the world market on many major international forums, in particular in the Algiers Charter 1967, in the documents of UNCTAD sessions in New Delhi (1968) and Santiago (1973), and of the conferences of non-aligned countries in Lusaka (1970) and Algeria (1973), VI and VII special sessions of the UN on issues of natural resources and development (1974, 1975), the Dakar conference of non-aligned countries on raw materials and development (1975) and others. Declaration on the establishment of a new international economic order was adopted by the UN General Assembly in 1974<sup>7</sup>.

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<sup>7</sup> Resolution adopted by the General Assembly. 3201 (S-VI). Declaration on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order. URL: <http://www.un-documents.net/s6r3201>

## Global problems and international organizations

Global problems of the modern world began to gradually emerge and gain strength in the years of global rivalry, military-political confrontation and arms race between the «superpowers» and their allied countries. The emergence of these problems and the latent accumulation of their crisis potential became one of the factors that increasingly required overcoming the cold war and military confrontation and establishing international cooperation to solve these problems. Their aggravation has led to the emergence of new IGOs and INGOs.

A group of Western European scientists and intellectuals gathered in April 1968 at the Accademia dei Lincei in Rome to discuss world problems. At the end of the meeting, some of the participants decided to continue discussions in an expanded format and called the group “the Club of Rome”. Despite all the differences between the members of the club, they were united by a common belief that the problems faced by humanity are so complex and intertwined that traditional policies and institutions are no longer able to cope with them<sup>8</sup>.

The United Nations Conference on Human Environment, held in Stockholm from 5 to 16 June 1972, was of great importance for the revitalization of the ecological activity at both inter-governmental and non – governmental levels. It endorsed the Stockholm Declaration, setting out the principles for preservation of human environment, and the Action plan, the implementation of which was entrusted to the newly established the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

The decisions of this conference and the establishment of UNEP gave a powerful impetus to the emergence of a broad network of national and international non-governmental ecological organizations and «green» political parties, which gained considerable political weight in their countries over time. The international Environment Fund was created and the World Environment Day was established – June 5. On 10 December 1976, the United Nations General Assembly adopted resolution 31/72, which recommended that all

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8 A. Peccei, M. Siebker. *“The limits to growth” in perspective*. A paper submitted at the request of The Economic Committee of the Parliamentary Assembly of The Council of Europe. October 1972, p. 13

states consider, sign and ratify the Convention on the Prohibition of Military or Any Other Hostile Use of Environmental Modification Techniques.

The emergence of new global problems, linked to demography, poverty, migration, food, energy, international terrorism and others, were accompanied by establishment of a large number of IGOs and INGOs, which took on the mission of coordinating international efforts to address them. These problems were rooted in unsatisfactory and deteriorating socio-economic conditions of life for population in many countries of the world. Their aggravation urgently required the cessation of arms race and military-political confrontation and switching of resources and public attention to their solution.

### **International organizations of a new type.**

In 1969, it was agreed to convene a Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE). The Final Act of the CSCE was signed in Helsinki on 1 August 1975. In 1994 the CSCE was renamed to the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE). At the initial stage the documents adopted by the Conference, were approved by consensus by all CSCE participating states. This made it possible to jointly create a concept of European security based on respect for the principle of sovereign equality and with due regard for the legitimate interests and sovereignty of states.

The OECD report on its 50th anniversary rightly stated: «...when policy proposals require international co-operation to be effective, agreement is reached by consensus. This takes time, but it helps to ensure agreements, once confirmed, are respected»<sup>9</sup>. This pattern finds its convincing confirmation in the activities of a number of international organizations of a new type, created in the late XX - early XXI centuries.

In case of the CSCE/OSCE the provisions of its Final Act were accepted by consensus, but the commitments, arising from them, were interpreted by CSCE/OSCE participating states quite differently. The opponents initiated the campaign of public diplomacy, trying to get public support to their own interpretation. These efforts have involved not only diplomats, senior govern-

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<sup>9</sup> Better policies for better lives. The OECD at 50 and beyond. OECD 2011, p. 12

ment officials and the media of individual states and group of states, but also different INGOs.

Various national and international non-governmental organizations - Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, International Society for Human Rights, Freedom House, Friedrich Ebert Foundation, Konrad Adenauer Foundation, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Open Society Foundation, Ford Foundation and others - have dramatically stepped up their activities in this area. International Society for Human Rights, established in 1982, created 35 of its offices in different countries of the world, concentrated its activities mainly on human rights violations in Eastern bloc countries. The efforts to impose one's understanding of the approved commitments to all other CSCE/OSCE participating states and insistent demands to fulfill them in accordance to such understanding resulted in the ongoing process of gradual marginalization of the OSCE as a whole.

Unlike the CSCE/OSCE, many newly emerged international associations, basing their activities not on international treaties, but on decision-making by consensus, are demonstrating high performance of their work. The Nordic Council of Ministers, established in 1971, is a prototype of such a new type of international associations, working on a fundamentally different principle of execution of taken decisions than the classical IGOs.

These decisions, accepted by consensus, are binding on governments. The practical implementation of these decisions is not entrusted to any international executive bodies or international civil servants, but to the governments themselves, which execute them voluntarily and in a way they consider it compatible with their national interests and state sovereignty. No state or government can impose its understanding of the commitments assumed on others.

The informal «Group of 7» («Big seven») of the world's leading economic powers is not a classical international organization either. At the heart of its activities is the principle of consensus as well as in the activities of the informal «Group of twenty». It is also not based on an international treaty or agreement, it does not have any permanent secretariat, headquarter, country of registration or staff.

Among the international entities that build their activities on the basis of consensus, there is also a group of states united under the name of BRICS.

It includes Brazil, India, China, Russia and South Africa or «the five key states of the non-Western world, having if not qualitative, then quantitative leadership in a number of key economic indicators»<sup>10</sup>. Although the group of BRICS states can be attributed to the club rather than to a full-fledged economic union, a large number of countries, including Indonesia, Egypt, Turkey, Bangladesh, Nigeria, Iran and others, show interest in cooperating with it.

Council of Baltic Sea States, Council of Barents/Euroarctic Region and Arctic Council in their capacity of international high-level cooperation forums, based on consensus, belong also to this new type of international associations. An important feature of these international entities is participation in their activities, apart from official representatives of member states, of national and international governmental and non-governmental organizations, representatives of regions and indigenous peoples. There is also the Arctic Economic Council, which brings together business community of the Arctic states and provide them with a forum for a wide exchange of expert opinions, discussions and mutually beneficial cooperation.

These cooperation forums are the basis for «Northern dimension» partnership, within the framework of which interact the EU, Norway, Iceland and Russia. Over time, such informal international associations have attracted a large number of states, international governmental and non-governmental organizations and financial institutions to cooperate with them and to support financially their projects. Four partnerships, devoted to environmental, health and social well-being, transport and logistics and culture, were established within the framework of «Northern dimension».

The successful development of such forms of multilateral diplomacy and cooperation and their practical effectiveness are explained, apart from consensus-based decision-making, by respect for the principles of sovereign equality, national independence and the rights, inherent in state sovereignty, by all participating states. It would hardly be possible without the observance of these fundamental principles to achieve significant progress in addressing several global socio-economic problems, included in the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) of the United Nations in 2000.

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10 D. Evstafiev. *Alternativa virtualnoi ekonomike*. “Ekspert – Эксперт”, n. 43, 24-30 October 2016, p. 60

The progress, made in this area over the past 15 years, has given the ground to the UN member-states to approve in September 2015 a new programme of sustainable development of the world until 2030, which includes 17 goals and 169 targets, significantly adding to and developing the previous programme of the MDGs. Due to the fact that it was approved at the UN summit, it would be natural to accept broader understanding of human rights and freedoms, not limiting them by political rights and civil liberties, and to introduce this up-dated understanding into practice of individual states and of the world community as a whole.

### **Some concluding remarks**

International intergovernmental, non-governmental and informal international organizations and associations have become an integral part of the system of contemporary international relations, without which it can no longer exist. Despite sovereign states continue to be the main players in international relations, the IGOs and INGOs perform many important, necessary and increasingly diverse functions of multilateral interaction between states and peoples at subregional, regional and global levels. This process, without any doubt, will continue to develop further.

The UN and its specialized agencies will continue to play a consolidating role in international efforts to solve major international problems, and there is no viable alternative to this. Efficiency and effectiveness of global institutions for multilateral cooperation among states will depend to a large extent on the ability of the international community to act in accordance with the principle of their sovereign equality, respect for national independence and sovereignty and to reach key decisions by consensus.

Along with global international intergovernmental organizations, many regional ones, including integration groupings, will continue to exist and to serve as tools for implementation of collective strategy of member states. Some of them are showing a tendency to limit the sovereign rights of member states and to expand supranational powers of their governing bodies in order to remove obstacles and to improve the speed of decision-making and for the benefit of the major powers.

In addition to continued existence and development of the classic IGOs and INGOs, informal international associations of a new type will become increasingly widespread, building their activities on the adoption of decisions by consensus and on voluntary implementation of their obligations, thereby reinforcing the trend towards international cooperation on the principles of the sovereign equality of states, their independence and sovereignty. In the emerging new international order, such organizations will become an integral part of it.

Resolution of socio-economic problems, the unsatisfactory state of which in many countries is a breeding ground for the emergence and exacerbation of global problems of mankind, will occupy a major place in the efforts of the international community, led by UNO, to address them.

The UN programme of MDGs and its successor – the UN programme of sustainable development up to 2030 are at the core of these efforts. Existing and future IGOs, INGOs and informal international associations must join forces to solve them successfully.

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