


Chapter 13

The Evolving Role of International Organizations in the 21st Century

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ABSTRACT

International organizations are playing an ever-more-important role in global governance as they handle difficult problems and take advantage of new opportunities. Considering the growing prominence of non-state actors and emerging economies,

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this chapter explores how these institutions including the United Nations, World Bank, and regional bodies adjust to the changing geopolitical environment. International organizations confront two challenges, as the chapter points out: the need for reform to improve their legitimacy and efficacy while tackling problems like security threats, health crises, and climate change. As the pace of globalization increases, it is the responsibility of international organizations to promote collaboration between various stakeholders, such as governments, the commercial sector, and civil society. When dealing with international concerns that no one organization can handle on its own, this cooperative approach is crucial.

INTRODUCTION

Gone are the days when non-state actors were not considered as a stakeholder in the international law. The world is witnessing impactful influences of the non-state players in shaping the current affairs of the international law. Recently; during the general election of the United State of America, one of the most powerful capitalists namely Mr. Elon Musk and his associated corporations have been in international and global buzz. In matters of space and marine law, since last few decades jurists across globe are discussing and trying to fix the accountability of non-state stakeholders of international laws in case of any causality to other country, their civilians, property or any form of project because of non-state players anywhere in the world. In such situations this is very much pertinent to discuss and evaluate the role of international organisations in the 21st century (Cheng, 2014).

The beginning of the twenty-first century was a turning point in the development of international organisations (IOs), relations and function thereof. The previous few decades have seen the spectacular fall of the Soviet Union (one of the most powerful nation ever), yielding an apparently unipolar international order ruled by the United States. This fundamental change created both possibilities and difficulties for the missions and efficacy of IOs by radically affecting the current structure of IOs (Martin & Simmons, 2013).

IOs discovered themselves negotiating a difficult ground marked by resurgent nationalism, the rising power of non-state actors, the quickening forces of globalization, ongoing global inequities, and the increasing awareness of urgent environmental issues as the new millennium unfolded. Comprehending the following evolution and adaptations of international organizations in response to such dynamic and sometimes opposing factors depends on an understanding among IOs member-nations (Lee & Lee, 2002).

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