

Research Article

How to Study the Methods and Technologies of International Non-Governmental Organizations (Political Aspect)

Ernazarov Dilmurod* 

Department of Philosophy, Tashkent State University of Economics, Tashkent, Uzbekistan

Abstract

INGOs have become one of the most active actors in civil society. These organizations have their own goals and objectives, methods and forms of activity. All of them contribute to the development of civil society and the state. The category of INGOs covers not only organizations engaged in public activities but also organizations with special characteristics. From the point of view of political science, there was a need to create and improve technologies for studying the activities of INGOs as political institutions. This article will pay special attention to these issues. Undoubtedly, the leading role in resolving humanity's global problems, maintaining peace on the planet, and ensuring universal security belongs to states and international governmental organizations, which possess significant financial resources and authority. However, it is becoming clear that environmental, demographic, and social problems cannot be resolved by the efforts of states and governmental organizations alone without the broad and decisive participation of the people themselves, as peace is more than networks of economic and political interaction; it is a unique international society or global order. Currently, an increasing number of states are beginning to recognize the need to seek new, largely unconventional, approaches to addressing the challenges of human survival, creating new and reorganizing existing mechanisms to coordinate the efforts of not only states in this area but also the planet's population itself. One truly existing, but underutilized, opportunity is for states to recognize the partnership role of their own societies, represented by numerous non-governmental organizations whose activities in the international arena in no way threaten democratic regimes.

Keywords

INGOs, Political Institutions, Processes, Technologies, Democratic Regimes, Protection, International Development

1. Introduction

"The first international non-governmental organizations (INGOs) began to appear in the 19th century, and the strongest wave of their growth occurred in the second half of the 20th century. Full information is provided in the "Year-book of International Non-Governmental Non-Commercial Organizations". This list includes 25,000 INGOs and 5,000

international intergovernmental organizations (INGOs), many of which are now defunct. According to the 2020 Academic Dataset on International Organizations, 561 intergovernmental organizations have been established, and one-third are inactive [1].

INGOs are nonprofit organizations routinely working

*Corresponding author: dilm79@inbox.ru (Ernazarov Dilmurod)

Received: 19 September 2025; **Accepted:** 30 September 2025; **Published:** 30 October 2025



Copyright: © The Author(s), 2025. Published by Science Publishing Group. This is an **Open Access** article, distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 License (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>), which permits unrestricted use, distribution and reproduction in any medium, provided the original work is properly cited.

across borders but often headquartered in developed countries of the Global North. They are "any organized group of people that are not direct agents of individual governments" and do not pursue criminal, violent, or primarily profit-making activities [15]. For the purposes of this chapter, we focus primarily on INGOs with a high public profile and authority, and draw on more well-known examples of legitimacy crises in the sector.

The relationship between the religiosity of international non-governmental organizations (INGOs) and security in conflict zones remains an understudied area of research. It is no coincidence that international non-governmental organizations (INGOs) are included in the concept of "international organizations". INGOs help strengthen ties between different nations. At the current stage of international development, the role of INGOs as a mechanism for legal regulation of international relations and strengthening of international cooperation has significantly increased.

An international organization is a voluntary union of member states formed to cooperate in the fields of economy, politics, culture, ecology, and security. All its activities are based on international agreements. Relations can be interstate or non-state, public associations.

For example. In Uzbekistan, the activities of international non-governmental non-profit organizations were primarily aimed at raising the legal culture of citizens, providing legal protection and free legal advice. This vital interest was the humanity of public relations, impartial support for the priority of personal interests [4].

International NGOs respond to disasters and conflicts and must demonstrate resilience and stability to remain operational. 37 Resilient organizations operate in such environments over long periods, gaining valuable experience in navigating government regulations and insurgent restrictions, depending on which actor controls the territory in which the organization operates. International NGOs also face security challenges in their environments. They are therefore forced to develop different ways of working that enhance their effectiveness in the political, social, and economic spheres of a country.

The Role of INGOs in Contemporary World Politics. The role of INGOs in addressing global governance issues is manifested in various forms. Today, these structures are actively involved in humanitarian aid, human rights protection, environmental protection, peace and security, and participate in educational programs, sports projects, etc. It is non-governmental organizations that bring the needs and aspirations of ordinary people to the attention of governments and the world community, exercise civil control over the activities of government bodies and promote the active participation of the masses in socio-political life at the local and international levels. They provide analysis and expert assessment of a wide variety of problems, including global ones, act as an "early warning" mechanism and help monitor the implementation of international agreements. INGOs tradi-

tionally participate in the law-making process, influencing the position of states, developing draft agreements that are then submitted for consideration to national governments and intergovernmental organizations. The role of global NGOs in ensuring compliance with international law is increasingly growing. Finally, INGOs have a significant influence on the formation of international public opinion and the development of the agenda of world politics [5].

We believe that INGO activities can be divided into the following levels: 1. National, regional and global organizations. Trying to form the most general signs and criteria that apply to "international non-governmental non-profit organizations", we say that "international non-governmental non-profit organizations are stable participants in international relations, which conduct their activities on the territory of three countries.

2. Literature Analysis

According to the researcher M. Kadyrov, "Today, it is necessary to ensure the participation of civil society institutions in world politics and to organize a wide range of dialogue on political issues, to include issues related to human rights, gender issues, racism, social justice and environmental protection problems to the agenda of the UN; arousing the opinion of the world community, organizing political pressure in necessary cases; Organization of communication and consultations with UN departments; participation in international conference and forum work; influencing public policy at national and regional levels; includes applying new approaches in daily activities, promoting new information and knowledge, etc. Participation in debates on the influence of civil society institutions on the activities of world intergovernmental organizations "new global architecture"; Participation in UN reform activities; It includes direct participation in the management of the UN, etc." [8].

Russian researcher V. V. Ovsepyan's scientific article entitled "Problem Classification of NPO" [10] presents the classification of INGOs. According to him, the activities of INGOs are divided into the following classifications: civil society, development of democracy; economy, finance, trade; healthcare, medicine; science and education, high technologies; human rights; ecology, environmental protection; religion, culture, art; sport, hobby, recreation.

Summarising the above points, we have developed our definition of INGOs. INGOs are international organizations that operate at the global level, and participate in the comprehensive development of certain countries, the modernisation, liberalisation and democratisation of public administration and social life in the status of consultation (consultative), "partner", "participant". However, their parallel promotion of "hidden" interests in their activities (lobbyism) has these characteristics.

In addition, "non-governmental non-commercial organizations have their names in each country. In particular, interna-

tional non-governmental organizations (mejdunarodnye pravitelstvennye organization (MNPO), non-governmental organizations (nepravitelstvennye organization (NPO), non-profit organizations (nekommercheskie organization (NKO), and non-governmental organizations (negosudarstvennye organization (NGO) following the national legislation of the Republic of Uzbekistan, such associations are called non-governmental non-profit organizations" [9].

"Non-governmental non-profit organization means a self-governing organization formed voluntarily by individuals and (or) legal entities, which does not set itself the main goal of making profit during its activity and does not distribute the profit among its participants (members)." [9].

3. Discussion

Due to their dynamism, flexibility, and immediate proximity to the existing reality, international non-governmental organizations promptly respond to the changing socio-economic and political agenda, not only informing government structures about such changes, but often proposing and using new scientific methods, approaches, options, and ways out of the current situations. Operating at the public, professional, scientific, and other levels, non-governmental organizations have the opportunity to study in detail existing issues and problems and provide assistance where government structures cannot provide it or do not know that assistance is needed. INGOs often unite into single "umbrella" structures, federations, and transnational networks, which significantly increases the effectiveness of their work and enhances their influence on global processes. At the same time, due to their extreme heterogeneity, the activities of INGOs are sometimes very contradictory. They often enter into competitive relations both with each other and with government structures. Autonomous actions of non-governmental organizations have repeatedly led to the development of conflict situations. In addition, we must not forget that many non-governmental organizations are undemocratic in their structure, overly bureaucratic, divided into a minority of real activists and a passive majority of ordinary members, they do not always fit organically into the legislative system of the countries where they operate, etc.

INGOs have 4 main characteristics: self-management, voluntary organization by individuals or legal entities, and not intending to profit from their activities; INGOs may receive profits, but the profits are not shared by the members, but are used to solve the tasks specified in the Charter.

INGOs as political institutions. INGOs are created by any structures except specific states. Also, the most common opinion among researchers is that INGOs are not subjects of international law, but they can act as participants in international legal relations, as political institutions. In our opinion, INGOs as political institutions perform the following functions:

1) perform consulting and coordination functions for

solving problems for state administration bodies, banking and finance, economic institutes and civil society institutions;

- 2) participates in the law-making process of parliaments;
- 3) improvement of human rights, freedom of speech, activities of mass media;
- 4) distribution of statistical and analytical information related to the life of the state and society;
- 5) takes an active part in uniting the citizens of the society, and solving social, economic and political problems.
- 6) liberalisation of state administration, ensuring openness, transparency, and coordination of internal and external policies;
- 7) Modernisation of the social life of society helps to implement fundamental reforms, etc.

American researcher Russy Sumariwalla (Sumariwalla, Russy D) stated that "INGOs have the power of law-making, but the law-making power of these organizations is not unlimited, because the scope and type of law-making of the organization is strictly defined in its founding document. The norms created in the course of such a process are, of course, higher than those of nations; that is, they have an international character, and they go far beyond the national interests of a particular state or a group of states [13].

According to the American researcher J. Maine, "International non-governmental non-profit organizations are defined as 'international pressure groups' that work in the international arena and influence intergovernmental organizations, state governments, and public opinion [7].

Researcher Lador-Lederer expressed a similar opinion: "he believes that INGOs act more as pressure groups than any democratic institutions and associations. In many cases, INGOs perform useful functions [6].

In this sense, such norms include the foundations of international regulation. It should be added that international non-governmental non-commercial organizations form international norms that take precedence over national legal norms by their founding documents. The World Federation of Trade Unions, the International Committee of the Red Cross, etc., can be considered as international non-governmental non-profit organizations.

Researchers Bush SS and Hadden J note that the tradition of studying INGOs as bureaucratic structures also examines mission scope, often emphasizing how INGOs expand their missions over time—a phenomenon known as "mission creep." Research in this area shows that INGOs expand the range of issues they cover not because states demand it or because of functional necessity, but because they seek new ways to expand their mandate and authority [14]. Based on this view, we also support this notion. INGOs expand year after year, and their powers and responsibilities increase.

Their uniqueness is that, as a rule, they are established by individuals (groups of individuals) or legal entities and are recognised as foreign organizations. The statutes of these organizations, unlike intergovernmental organizations, are not

international treaties, and therefore, even though such international organizations often have a significant impact on the international legal order, they are not considered subjects of international law.

Thus, international non-governmental non-profit organizations can have a consultative international legal status in the UN and its specialised institutions. However, the main requirement for the subject of international law is not fulfilled - international non-governmental organizations do not have the right to create norms of international law, and therefore, unlike intergovernmental organizations, they cannot have all the elements of an international legal entity. In other words, INGOs can participate as participants in international legal relations.

In our opinion, the functions of INGOs can be classified as follows: normative, consultation, intermediary, operational, and international organizations that disseminate information.

Today's domestic and international legal regulations have developed several criteria for INGOs. They are as follows:

- 1) criterion of legality - determination of compliance of the international organization with generally recognised principles of international law;
- 2) membership criterion - from the point of view of its classification, organizations are divided into two main categories: interstate (intergovernmental) and non-state organizations;
- 3) characteristic criterion of the international organization - it organises in a certain period (international conferences, meetings, congresses, roundtables, etc.) and constantly;
- 4) criteria for performance of technical assignments (objects of activity) - establishment of general authority and special authority;
- 5) The criterion of geographical space (according to the circle of participants) is universal and regional organizations.
- 6) The criterion of the nature and image of power is interstate and international organizations (organizations whose goal is integration, for example, the European Union);
- 7) Criteria of entry procedure - open and closed organizations.

American researcher E. Bludgood said, "International non-governmental organizations, like interest groups, are divided into different fields depending on the activity of their institutional structures and their membership. However, all these groups have a common goal: to directly or indirectly influence the domestic or foreign policy of the states, to direct public policy, government attention, actions, and public opinion to certain problems [3].

The second part of the author's argument is that once one acknowledges that INGOs exert power with political effects, one can better understand four ethical predicaments. The predicament of spattered hands occurs when INGOs are knowingly implicated in unethical acts because others exploit

their actions. MSF must decide whether to stay if its urgent medical aid is also prolonging a conflict. Discounting the idea that there is a humanitarian duty irrespective of consequences, Rubenstein argues that INGOs ought to draw on democratic norms. If they are serving conventional governmental roles, then they need to publicly justify their choice of leaving or staying to aid recipients. In the quandary of second best, Rubenstein cautions INGOs to consider whether they are the best actor for providing a service to avoid abusing their power by crowding out local initiatives. Here, a relevant norm is political equality [2].

As noted by Russian researcher A. V. Shitova, modern INGOs have an arsenal of methods for working with the population and states. For example, the Friedrich Naumann Foundation (Germany) used a variety of methods to promote non-violent change of power in Egypt in 2008-2014. The tools for promoting democratic transition that this foundation used are listed below.

- 1) Conducting seminars for bloggers. Thus, a seminar entitled "Arab Bloggers as a New Instrument of Freedom" was held in Cairo from May 20 to 22, 2011.
- 2) Publishing collections about democratic states. Books with world ratings, where Egypt is among the lagging countries in terms of freedom of speech and the press, in holding fair and competitive elections, etc.
- 3) Releasing documentaries about the 2011 revolution, for example, "People Demand", etc. [12]. Using the methodology of J. Sharp, an American public figure known for his methods of non-violent struggle against authoritarian regimes, the author of the book "From Dictatorship to Democracy: A Conceptual Framework for Liberalisation" [11], foreign INGOs developed mechanisms for expressing their own and public disagreement with the then-current government of Hosni Mubarak.

INGOs serve to increase the viability of a democratic society, in particular, the literacy of its citizens in many areas and their active participation in public life, state administration, modernisation of the political and social life of society, and the realisation of their interests. INGOs help to further increase social welfare in countries.

During this period, the modern components of the INGO brand were formed: the mandatory presence of statutory documents, headquarters, a management team, experts and volunteers, international branches of INGOs, a set of unique methods of work inherent only to INGOs (collection and dissemination of information on human rights violations, letters of protest, pickets, demonstrations). The countries where INGOs operate are recognised as entities that are committed to the principles of democratic diversity and contribute to their development.

We can give an example of the activities of INGOs and their classification by methods of work and goals.

- 1) Advocacy organizations: these INGOs are engaged in protecting the interests of their target groups, lobbying,

participating in legislative initiatives and informing the public on important issues.

- 2) Research and analytical organizations: organizations that collect and analyse data, conduct research and offer recommendations for improving conditions in various areas.
- 3) Direct aid organizations: such organizations provide specific assistance to those in need, for example, humanitarian services, medical care, food and clothing.

Classification of international non-governmental organizations allows us to better understand the diversity of their activities, approaches and methods of work. These organizations play a significant role in the international arena, contributing to the solution of many social, humanitarian, cultural and environmental problems. Dividing INGOs into categories helps to effectively organise their activities, as well as establish interaction with other structures to achieve common goals.

4. Basic Principles of INGO Activity

- 1) The INGO is created on the initiative of individuals or groups of entrepreneurs. Therefore, such an initiative can be supported within the framework of the relevant provisions of the national and international legal and financial system.
- 2) The right to free expression of opinion is used by all INGOs.
- 3) Helps certain countries to modernise social, political, legal, and economic spheres;
- 4) The INGO works based on the principles of openness, impartiality, transparency, equality, and respect for human rights;
- 5) The shortcomings identified by INGOs can be reported to the leaders of certain countries, and the world community can be informed about them.
- 6) Any action or inaction of the state authority about INGOs shall be reviewed in an administrative procedure, as well as in an independent, impartial and full-jurisdiction court.

5. Methods of Studying the Activities of INGOs as Political Institutions

There are the following methods of studying the activities, goals and tasks of INGOs.

5.1. Comparative Analysis

By studying the activities of INGOs with the same orientation in the countries of the world, data is collected and compared. As a result, the information is summarised and a general opinion is reached. That is, it is determined that these INGOs benefit the countries and societies and what positive

changes they have made.

5.2. Statistical Analysis

Information on how much money INGOs spend on reforms implemented in countries, how many social projects they support, and how many state and social projects are implemented during their activities is studied.

5.3. Sociological Analysis

The activities of INGOs in the country are studied using the expert survey method. Experts analyse their positive or negative aspects. As a result, the status of and trust in INGOs among the wider scientific community is explored.

The tendency of coverage of the activities of INGOs in the media. By studying the tendency and frequency of covering the activities of INGOs in the country's mass media, their state of integration into the life of the society is studied. In addition, it will be possible to determine the level of awareness of the population in their activities at the national level.

5.4. Social Opinion of the Population

By studying the cooperation of INGOs with local government bodies and NGOs, it will be possible to know the awareness of their activities among the population, the level of cooperation in solving social problems, and the level of trust of the population in them.

6. Technologies for Studying the Activities of NGOs as Political Institutions

- 1) Being able to unite with local government bodies and NGOs towards one goal or solving one social problem;
- 2) Efforts to jointly implement state and local programs, projects and goals for the modernisation of society's life;
- 3) INGOs can use financial resources appropriately and purposefully in the implementation of their goals and tasks;
- 4) to be able to participate as the main actors in the process of modernisation and liberalisation with state administration, judiciary, law, executive power and civil society institutions.

Thus, among the many methods of work, INGOs conduct monitoring and data collection, analyse current social and environmental problems to develop recommendations and improve policy decisions. Promoting international cooperation and cultural exchange is another important function of INGOs. They organise international forums, cultural events and meetings, facilitating the exchange of experiences and strengthening ties between people. Organizations play an

important role in the development of civil society, helping people to become active participants in public and political life, raising their awareness of their rights and responsibilities. Many INGOs provide financial and material assistance to those in need, supporting projects, small businesses and vulnerable groups. They also engage in advocacy and awareness raising on important issues, drawing attention to problems and shaping public opinion.

7. Conclusion

The main form of popular participation and representation in the modern world in the process of their activities form and express the public interests of various segments of the population of the countries of the world, take part in the preparation of the creation of international norms, using their inherent means and methods, participate in the judicial processes of international courts, monitor compliance with the principles and norms of international law, in some cases, at the request of interested states, perform the function of independent impartial arbitrators in resolving legal disputes.

Despite the growing number of INGOs in the world, the strengthening of their role in various areas of the international community, such as: disarmament, international security, environmental protection, assistance to minorities, refugees, etc., given that the relationship of INGOs with states and intergovernmental organizations, according to K. Annan, is alternative or parallel, the issue of the international legal personality of non-governmental organizations, their place among the subjects of international law has not been resolved.

Thus, based on the rules noted in international documents, as well as on the characteristics indicated by researchers, INGOs are organised by national legislation. They can be defined as a synergy of self-organising organizations by public representatives in different countries.

Taking into account the goals and tasks of the activities of INGOs, the following can be included in their main directions:

- 1) achieving goals related to solving the problems of development and the activity of civil society at the national and international level;
- 2) active participation in the development of global civil society;
- 3) assistance and exchange of experience in the application of international experiences to developing democracies to modernise the life of the society;
- 4) includes participation and actions in the development and improvement of international relations, maintenance of peace and security, and further improvement of the international legal institution.

Abbreviations

INGOs Non-Governmental Organizations

Acknowledgments

We are very grateful to the members of the journal's editorial board, as well as to the reviewers who gave us their valuable opinions and recommendations for improving our scientific article.

Author Contributions

Ernazarov Dilmurod is the sole author. The author read and approved the final manuscript.

Funding

No information was obtained from any institution or organization during the study. It was self-funded and, as a result, there are no conflicts of interest to declare.

Transparency

The author confirms that the manuscript is an honest, accurate, and transparent account of the study; that no vital features of the study have been omitted; and that any discrepancies from the study as planned have been explained. This study followed all ethical practices during writing.

Ethical Consideration

The study maintained high levels of integrity and transparency throughout. All literature used in this study has been duly acknowledged and properly referenced.

Conflicts of Interest

The author declared no potential conflicts of interest concerning the research, authorship, and/or publication of this article.

References

- [1] Aspectcenter (2024). <https://aspektcenter.ru/vsemirnyye-i-regional-nyye-pravitel-stvennyye-organizatsii-tablitsa/> (Date of application 04/16/2024).
- [2] Between Samaritans and States: The Political Ethics of Humanitarian INGOs. By Jennifer C. Rubenstein. New York: Oxford University Press, 2015. 272 p. \$90.00 cloth, \$40.00 paper. <https://doi.org/10.1017/S1537592717003474>
- [3] BLOODGOOD, ELIZABETH A. (2011) "The Interest Group Analogy: International Non-Governmental Advocacy Organizations in International Politics." *Review of International Studies*, vol. 37, no. 1, pp. 93–120. JSTOR, <http://www.jstor.org/stable/23024586>. Accessed 22 Aug. 2024.

- [4] Ernazarov D. (2022) Conceptual directions of the policy of the Republic of Uzbekistan about the activities of international non-governmental organizations. *STUDIA POLITOLOG-ICZNE VOL. 66 STUDIA I ANALIZY*. <https://doi.org/10.33896/SPolit.2022.66.23>
- [5] Ernazarov Dilmurod Zukhriddinovich. (2020). Analysis of the Policy of the Republic of Uzbekistan Regarding International Non-Governmental Organizations. *Journal of Political Science and International Relations*, 3(1), 9-15. <https://doi.org/10.11648/j.jpsir.20200301.12>
- [6] J. Josep Lador-Lederer. (1963) International Non-Governmental Organizations and Economic Entities: A Study in Autonomous Organization and Ius Gentium (Leiden: A. W. Sythoff. 1963). p. 377-379.
- [7] J. Maynaud. (1961) Les Groupes de Pression Internationaux. Lausanne.
- [8] Kadyrov, M. (2020). Drivers of Global Civil Society Development. // Consensus. International journal of consensus. No. 2 <http://dx.doi.org/10.26739/2181-0788-2020-2>. B-84.
- [9] On non-governmental non-profit organizations. Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan. (1999). No. 763-I.
- [10] Ovsepyan V. V. (2022) "Problem classification NPO. <https://doi.org/10.22363/2313-1438-2016-2-77-86>
- [11] Sharp J. From Dictatorship to Democracy: Strategy and Tactics of Liberation / Translated from English by N. Kozlovskaya. Moscow: New Publishing House, 2005.
- [12] Shitova A. V. (2017). International Non-Governmental Organizations (INGOs) in the Events of the "Arab Spring" in Egypt: Role, Mechanisms of Intervention and Results. Bulletin of the Peoples' Friendship University of Russia. Series: International Relations, 17(4), <https://doi.org/10.22363/2313-0660-2017-17-4-749-75>, 749-759.
- [13] Sumariwalla, Russy D. (2011). "Making a difference: the role of International NGOs in the evolution of International Human Rights and Humanitarian Law (HRHL)." *Willamette Journal of International Law and Dispute Resolution*, vol. 19, no. 2, 2011, pp. 287–316. JSTOR, <http://www.jstor.org/stable/26211690>. Accessed 22 Aug. 2024.
- [14] Bush SS, Hadden J. The Growing Specialization of INGOs. In: *Crowded Out: The Competitive Landscape of Contemporary International NGOs*. Cambridge University Press; 2025: May 2025. <https://doi.org/10.1017/9781009557351.005>. 85-123.
- [15] Willetts Peter. (2011). Non-Governmental Organizations in the World Politics: The Construction of Global Governance: New York: Routledge. <https://doi.org/10.1163/1871191X-12341246>