IMUN 2025

An Intergovernmental Organization (IGO) is defined as "an organization established by a treaty or other instrument governed by international law and possessing its own international legal personality," ("Draft Articles"). Prominent examples include the United Nations (UN), North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), European Union (EU), Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), and the World Trade Organization (WTO). After the creation of these large and powerful organizations, IGOs have become "essential actors" in the international community, and their global influence continues to increase ("Intergovernmental Organizations"). IGOs have a variety of positive impacts; nations joining IGOs has been proven to reduce interstate conflict, promote trade, and strengthen human rights (Lupu and Greenhill).

One of the most powerful and consequential IGOs is the UN Security Council. The UN charter specifically gives power to the Security Council to resolve conflicts through legally binding resolutions ("United Nations Charter"). Critics, however, believe that the structure of the Security Council prevents it from intervening in conflict. The Russian Federation, being the Permanent Five state with the most vetoes, has often vetoed to protect its interests in the Russo – Ukrainian war. Broader regulation has been passed to outline the responsibilities of IGOs. The Draft Articles on the Responsibility of International Organizations, adopted by the General Assembly in 2011, details how IGOs are to be held accountable if they aid or commit an internationally wrongful act ("Draft Articles"). Legislation that more proactively dictates how IGOs as a whole should contribute to conflict resolution has yet to be passed

A troubling trend in international governance is the rising number of nations disregarding IGO decisions. Burundi, for instance, withdrew from the International Criminal Court (ICC)

after the ICC had ruled that they had committed crimes against humanity (“Burundi”). Similarly, many nations are undermining an IGO’s attempts at conflict resolution. Hungary has been accused of being a “spoiler” for undermining the EU because it vetoed a joint statement in favor of Ukraine and dismantling “established European values” (Dessewffy).

Despite their current challenges, IGOs are still uniquely positioned to play a vital role in conflict resolution. Delegates should consider reforms that strengthen the accountability, responsiveness, and efficiency of IGOs to ensure they can meet the demands of an increasingly complex political landscape.

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