

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND ALBANIA

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Abstract

The overthrow of the communist regime in the late 1980s and early 90s brought about fundamental transformations in political, social, economic and other aspects of Albanian society. Albania was divided with a political-social system and entered the path of democracy, which was accompanied by deep repercussions on its developments in domestic politics, but also in its international relations and foreign policy. Focusing on its foreign policy, it should be said that the collapse of powerful political and ideological barriers would encourage important and interesting developments in many ways. Albania's foreign policy would gain new orientations and, consequently, Western inspirations, with clear goals for accelerated integration into Euro-Atlantic structures. In serving this platform, the definition and development of rational relations in the bilateral, but especially multilateral, the plan would become more effective. The elaboration and pursuit of a clear and useful foreign policy in relations with international organizations was a substantial component of the general platform of Albanian governments after the 90s of the century that we left behind.

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1. Introduction

When talking about international organizations, the tendency is to include non-profit organizations in their group, but here we call international organizations only international intergovernmental organizations² where parties are just states and not other subjects of international law.

The broadly accepted definition in the doctrine of international law and at the same time used in international legal literature with the term "refers to the" union of sovereign states created on the basis of an agreement reached between them in order to achieve certain goals."³

The definition outlined above gives in general the main element of the formation and existence of an international organization, the will of states to cooperate in areas of mutual interest. In order to understand more internally and entirely the essence of international organizations, is worth to cite a more comprehensive definition, which adds other important elements:

"International organizations are an association of sovereign states established under international law, through an international treaty, concluded between its members, which is usually transformed into its statute or constitution and which is provided with a permanent joint organ sharing device by the bodies of its members, in charge of the realization of common interests through cooperation between them. The international organization has a special legal personality from that of member states."⁴

2. The role and the function of international organizations

While in the first paragraph of this chapter the definition of international organizations was presented and their essential elements were highlighted, this section of this chapter will discuss their role and function in the international relations system. Initially, it will be shown how these organisms

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²The United Nations Economic and Social Council, qualifies any international organization that is not established by an agreement between governments as an international non-governmental organization.

³Rune Ervik, Nanna Kildal, Even Nilssen *The Role of International Organizations in Social Policy Ideas, Actors and Impact* Edward Elgar Pub (2009) fq.19.

⁴Ksenofon Krisafi, *What do you mean by international organization*, Lecture cycle, February 2012.

have come to the international arena and will continue to evolve over the years to reach their current role in the 21st century.

International organizations came into the life of human society as unions of sovereign states to influence the preservation of peace in the world, to avoid wars or at least to locate them and to diminish the war.⁵ For the establishment of peace and the creation of a peaceful and cooperative environment, are concerned and have given their formulas the most perceived authors of the history of international political thought. It is worth mentioning Jean-Jacques Rousseau as representative of the theory of federalism, "Peace according to this theory will only be achieved if states will transfer sovereignty to a higher federal body. In a federal system, states will be tied together and the sovereignty will be transferred to the community. In a federal system, the basic cause of the war is eliminated. "The lingering concern of the traditional diplomacy of these years was generally only political diplomacy, with only the problems of peace and war in focus. Functionalists in the meantime expressed that "War is caused by economic deprivation and therefore new functional units need to be created to solve specific economic problems. People need to develop cooperation practices that will spread from economic cooperation to political cooperation. In the long run, economic inequalities will be reduced and war will be eliminated."⁶It is thus seen that not only the peace component, but even the international community was already concerned about economic prosperity and demanded economic co-operation that would bring political co-operation as a derivative.

International organizations take their place in a kind of market where relationships between people, groups, nations, states, and blocs can be observed.⁷

3. The functions of international organizations

International organizations have their place in relations between people and states. They are one of the key actors in today's international relations, bringing together and institutionalizing the contributions of states and their leaders. Not so often they are seen as instruments of the most important players, used as tools to gain advantages or as communication tools among the interlocutors, so it is necessary to make a clear definition of the roles they play in the international arena apart from the two roles mentioned above as the preservation of peace and collective welfare. International organizations, becoming one of the institutional forms of contact between active participants in the international system, are forums for discussion and negotiation. Equally as government institutions at a national level, they generate groups of common interest with a focus on activity.⁸

Clive Archer identifies three key roles of international organizations: the instrument, arena and actor. Where the role as instrument means: the power to limit the independent actions of sovereign states. This is perhaps the most widespread role of international organizations. About this role, former Executive Secretary of the UN Economic Commission for Europe, Gunnar Myrdal, said: "Typically, international organizations are no more than instruments of individual government policies, tools for the diplomacy of a limited number of sovereign states. When deciding on a number of intergovernmental organizations, this does not mean more than a group of states that have reached an agreement on an institutional format for a state activity in a given field for multilateral behavior. The organization becomes important for achieving national policies precisely, until multilateral coordination is the real and continuous goal of national governments"⁹

However, it is cautious to draw attention and to point out a very decisive element, the constitution of international organizations, which does not allow the decisions, especially the most important ones, to blame or condemn the members who voted against it. So we can conclude that

⁵Karen A. Mingst, *Fundamentals of International Relations*, Tirana: AIIS, 2010, p. 205.

⁶*Ibid.*, p. 206.

⁷Malltezi Orinda. *International Organizations*, Lecture Cycle. fq 54.

⁸*Ibid.* fq 74.

⁹Gunnar Myrdal of Clive Archer, p. 58.

international organizations are used by states as independent instruments, to achieve the articulation of their national policies, regardless of the size and power of the state.

A second image of the role of international organizations for Archer is that of being an arena or forum where decisions are made from. "International organizations, by becoming one of the institutional forms of contact among active participants in the international system, are forums for discussion and negotiation."¹⁰ International Organizations they actually act in three ways in this context: they can be instruments for articulating interest and gathering, or they can be forums in which their interests are articulated, or they can articulate the interests shared by their members. In this case, the organizations turn into meeting points for the members to come to discuss, argue, cooperate or even oppose. As an arena, it has been useful for any of the opposing groups who want to gain not only a forum for their views, but also about diplomatic reinforcements for their policies, both in the Cold War and in the decolonization wars.¹¹

The third role that Clive Archer attributes to international organizations in the international system is that of actor independence. This means that international organizations or at least some of them can act on the world stage without being influenced by external forces. Their ability to act as international and transnational actors can be determined by how people identify themselves and their interests, with a common body for the whole world instead of nation-states. Wolfers continues with his claim that the "capacity of the actor" of international organizations depends on "the solution, recommendations and orders that are implemented by their organs." This leads to Inis Claude's statement that "an international organization is a clearer actor when it is, a distinct entity from its member states"¹²

4. The concept of Albania's participation and profitability throughout the 1990s

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The elaboration and pursuit of a clear and useful foreign policy in relations with international organizations was a substantial component of the general platform of Albanian governments after the 90s of the century that we left behind. We can mention, for example, five of the points of the Democratic Party program, which was the political force that intertwined and led the important changes and processes of democratization in the country.

In its December 1990 program, among other things, the Democratic Party fights:

- to increase the political, economic and cultural dignity of the Albanian nation in the international arena.
- for a policy of active relations and broad cooperation on a reciprocal basis with all the democratic countries of the world, mainly for full integration into the democratic processes of Europe.
- for a good neighborhood and peace policy in the region, based on the protection of national interests.

¹⁰Clive Archer 1999, *International Organization*, Second Edition, New York: Routledge, p.64.

¹¹Hoffman teArcher, p. 65.

¹²Wolfers of C. Archer, *International Organization*, second edition, New York: Routledge, p. 73.

- for the achievement of the centuries-old aspirations of the Albanian nation, for freedom, independence, unity and progress, in accordance with the spirit of the CSCE documents.
- the Democratic Party is committed to recognizing, fully respecting the rights of minorities residing in Albania and legally guaranteed by our constitution and the UN and CSCE documents.¹³

5. Conclusion. Albania's benefits to universal international organizations

Albania's membership in the UN on December 14, 1955¹⁴ and its participation in the activities of its structures has been difficult for two main reasons. First, its alignment in the communist bloc of the countries and secondly because of the self-assertive politics of the Albanian regime of the time. Immediately after joining the UN, Albania participated actively in the work of specialized UN bodies and agencies. Since then, Albania has taken over its duties and responsibilities and has progressively become a member state of some funds, programs, specialized agencies and other entities that are part of the UN system.¹⁵ This is the path that follows every state that becomes a member of world organizations to achieve a more successful partnership with the organization and its member states, but also to enhance the country's development and prosperity in the international arena. It should also be noted that partnership grows even more when the member state of an organization implements projects in certain areas through which positive and necessary changes are noted.

Albania holds permanent diplomatic missions at the UN headquarters in New York and the UN Offices in Geneva and Vienna.¹⁶

During its activity at the United Nations, Albania has paid a particular attention to issues related to the preservation and strengthening of peace and security, the promotion and protection of human rights, the alleviation of economic and social problems, the promotion of environmental protection and health, social development of the country and promotion of socialization of the people at international levels and strengthening of international cooperation in the fields of culture and science.¹⁷

The collapse of communism would bring radical transformations in this direction as well. It should be borne in mind that the participation and activity of Albania in the UN, after the 90s of the last century, when the monist regime had fallen, were liberated from ideological conjunctions. This was a positive side, but there were also some problematic aspects. Among the positive aspects we can mention is that the Albanian representatives were not kept captive of standard speeches or interventions, prepared in advance by the "center", but had room for freedom to operate with personal intervention according to the context of the concrete developments that appeared during works of various UN bodies. However, the beginning was still difficult because the entire population of the country was faced with major and radical changes and adaptation was very difficult.¹⁸ They had the right to improvise speeches or interventions, to speak more freely, to be more involved with the thematic, mentality and atmosphere. Meanwhile, this required great care and accountability from those who acted and spoke on behalf of the Republic of Albania, the Albanian diplomats and the competent bodies that had the task of selecting and appointing as official representatives of the country, people professionally prepared, moderated, with deep knowledge in foreign languages, with full moral and political integrity, people dedicated to serving the country's interests.

¹³Program of the Democratic Party of Albania, December 1990.

¹⁴<http://www.punetjaserior.gov.al/al/misioni/organizatat-networking/okb> (consulted on 5.11.2017).

¹⁵60 years of Albania in the UN, pg 4. [http://www.punetjashme.gov.al/files/userfiles/press_brochure_minfor_\(2\).pdf](http://www.punetjashme.gov.al/files/userfiles/press_brochure_minfor_(2).pdf) (consulted on 5.11.2017).

¹⁶<http://www.punetjashme.gov.al/al/misioni/organizatat-nderkombetare/okb> (consulted on 5.11.2017).

¹⁷Ibidem

¹⁸ According to Interview with Prof. K. Kreis, former Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Republic of Albania to the UN, Geneva, 1998-2002.

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