

Role of International Organisations in the World Order

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Abstract: - Man is a social animal and one important aspect of this social life is forming of organisations by group of people to fulfil their common interests, needs and objectives. Similarly at international level nation-states organise themselves into international organisations to achieve their common interest and objectives. International organisations came into being mostly in the nineteenth century and further developed in the twentieth century. By the beginning of twenty first century these international organisations have become an indispensable part of the international system along with nation-states and private actors. As actors these international organisations play significant role in the contemporary international relations. They themselves are greatly shaped by course of relations among nations and in return influence these relations to some extent. They regulate inter-state relations, check state action and control state behaviour. They facilitate social, economic political and security cooperation among state. Their endeavour is to discourage war and encourage peace and order. They are symbols of universalism and agencies of international

order. They are slender hope of future world government. An expert on international organisations Claude, Jr. rightly points out, “the growing complexity of international relations has already produced international organisations, and the world is engaged in the process of organising”. He further believes this process has a very long past, a confused and troubled present and a definite future.

Keywords: -Contemporary, Significant, Universalism, Facilitate, Endeavour etc.

Objectives

The objectives of the present study are:

- To study the nature and process of international organisations in the world.
- To study the role and functions of international organisations in the world.
- To study the world order with the help of international organisations.

Methodology

The present study is totally worked out on secondary data.

Introduction

The term international organisation and international institution are used interchangeably. In the present world one can find an elaborate structure of international organisations, private and public, universal and regional, multi-purpose and specialised. In the words of Quincy Wright, International organisation is the art of creating and administering general and regional societies composed and independent states to facilitate cooperation in realising common purposes and objectives. The term organisation consists of two elements. First a condition involving a hierarchy of authority and procedures of action; and second, a process by which authority develops and acts to realise group objectives. Wright believes that international organisation may be universal, regional or bilateral, but the shrinking of the world through technological inventions has tended to create a universal system of interdependence which tends to subordinate regional and bilateral organisations to universal organisations. The United Nations desires and endeavours for such a subordination. Mainly sovereign nation-states are members of international organisations, but in some cases dependencies and other non-sovereign entities have been admitted, and influence may be

exerted Universalism and world order: International Organisations. By international ideological groups such as the Catholic, the Zionist organisation and fundamentalist groups; by regional and functional international official and non-official; and by national foundations and associations interested in international relations and affairs. The United Nations and many of its specialised agencies allow representatives of other public or private international organisations to participate in some meetings and have granted a certain consultative status to numerous non-governmental organisations interested in their objectives.

Like international relations, international politics and international law the adjective international is preferred to the adjective world. The latter denotes the possibility of world federation or world government more powerful and centralised than international organisation. Moreover in a universal society where no nation is ready to lose its identity and sovereignty, the term international is more acceptable.

In Terms of Institutions

Mainly there are two types of international institutions prevalent in the contemporary times. First, Inter-Governmental Organisations (IGOs) that are institutions whose members are official government delegations of nation-states. The best known IGO is the United Nations. Second,

international nongovernmental organisations (INGOs) are also known as private international associations, consisting of private groups with religious, scientific, cultural, philanthropic, technical or economic orientation. Governments do not directly participate in them. For instance, the international Chamber of commerce, the World veterans Federation, and the International Red Cross are INGOs.

In Terms of Processes

Claude believes in international organisations as "a process under way, to be studied with a view to understanding its causes and effects, its progress and limitations, its problems and prospect". He further says International organisation is a process; international organisations are representative aspects or the phase of that process which has been reached at a given time.

On the other hand Coulombs and Wolfe believe that the most elusive definitional approach to international organisation is in terms of processes. One may ask, for instance, what the process of international organisation is, and how it differs from processes of national governments. They say, the process of international organisation may best be described as a rudimentary form of global regulation that is so fundamentally different from advanced forms

of national government that it merits special classification.

Though vast differences exist between national governments and international organisations yet at least one similarity exists between the two. This similarity pertains to their regulatory function. National governments regulate the relations of their subjects and endeavour to safeguard the integrity of each citizen. Similarly international organisations try to protect the integrity of their members by attempting to regulate their relations and to prevent them from engaging in armed conflict.

Characteristics

Another expert of international organisations A. Le Roy Bennett points out the common characteristics of both IGOs and non-profit-seeking INGOs. These are:

- A permanent organisation to carry on a continuing set of functions;
- Voluntary membership of eligible parties;
- A basic instrument stating goals, structure and methods of operation,
- A broadly representative consultative conference organ; and
- A permanent secretariat to carry on continuous administrative, research and information functions.

The IGOs have an additional feature in the sense that they come into existence by treaty and usually to safeguard sovereignty, operate at the level of consent, recommendation and cooperation rather than through compulsion or enforcement.

Role, Function & Significance of International Organisations

While describing the role of international organisations Bennett clarifies that these organisations are the adjuncts of the present state system and not the incipient units of a new political system. The state system in which states continue as the dominant political units, these organisations may perform the following useful functions.

Means of co-operation

Their chief function is to provide the means of cooperation among states in areas in which cooperation provides advantages for all or a large number of nations. In many cases they furnish not only venue where decisions to cooperate can be reached but also the administrative machinery for executing the decisions.

Multiple channels of communication

Their second function is to provide multiple channels of communication among governments

so that areas of accommodation maybe explored and easy access will be available when problems crop up. In conflict situations not only may grievances by the parties directly involved be aired but also the influence of other nations may be exerted to prevent precipitous that may endanger the interest of a number of states.

New method of accommodation and compromise

Conflicts and wars cannot be ruled out in a world where states will continue to use power. However, in a nuclear age states are not free to exercise ultimate force in most conflict situations. They usually exercise self-restraint and accept stalemate, a change in conditions, or compromise. Modern international organisations have made available a new method and dimensions for accommodation and compromise beyond the previously existing channels of diplomacy and peaceful settlement. The United Nations, the Specialised Agencies, and regional organisations provide multiple and continuous contact places through which accommodation can be exercised.

Meaning of carrying coercion

If in an extreme situation a state must be coerced, it will be by action of other states through international organisation. International organisation generally has no independent means of carrying out coercion.

Mirror of world public opinion

Even if world public opinion is a mildly effective pressure influencing the behaviour of states, the expression of that opinion is a mildly effective pressure influencing the behaviour of states, the expression of that option is as likely to be through government spokesmen in international agencies as through other channels. This way these organisations function as a mirror of world public opinion.

Minimise the effects of conflict

States requiring minimizing the effects of conflict, find the various agencies of international organisation useful for that end. For instance, the United Nations provides several major organs whose functions include the resolution of conflict. In addition, the principles of the charter provide a yardstick for guiding deliberations toward peaceful solutions. The influence of other members can be readily brought to bear in meetings and in private consultations.

Promotion of socio-economic and technical work

In functional and technical matters where usually sharp clashes of interests never exist these concerned. An agreement to control the spread of disease across international boundaries or to facilitate the interchange of mail can have little possible disease across to any nation

involved. The achievements of the UN and its specialised agencies like UNESCO, WHO, FAO, etc. are spectacular in the functional and technical fields.

Increasing role for future

These Institutions and agencies are more diverse and numerous.

International Relations

Than at any previous time in the rather short history of international organisations. The range of their purposes and functions is an indicator of the complex set of relationship among nations at this stage in history. Since the trend of world events is toward increased contacts and growing diversity of problems, one may reasonably expect international organisations to also become increasingly diverse in number and purposes rather than to diminish significance, rightly hopes Bennett.

The League of Nations

The League of Nations which emerged in 1920 from the Paris Peace Conference terminating World War I. It was founded on the heritage of ideas and experience which had come down from the past, together with the war-time thinking of numerous persons in the United States, Britain and France. The League was a permanent general international organisation of a nearly universal character. It was a real

organisation with a legal personality, organs and agencies of its own. In President Wilson's words, who was the main architect of this organisation, it was not to be merely a league to secure peace of the world' but also' a league that can be used for cooperation on any international matter' However, its main activities were to maintain peace and to make future wars impossible.

Mostly European nation-states were its members. At its peak, its membership totalled fifty-nine. Its global and universal character suffered a hard blow when the United States decided not to join it. The League had three principal organs:

- (i) An Assembly in which all states were represented and in which unanimous agreement was necessary for action;
- (ii) A council originally intended to be composed of the five Great Allied and Associated Powers of World War I plus four members elected by the Assembly, but eventually expanded to a membership of fifteen states owing to political pressures.
- (iii) An international secretariat. In addition to these organs, the covenant provided for a Permanent Court of International justice that worked for 20 years.

Frankel points out, While Wilson conceived the League as an instrument of international order, the British and French saw in it mainly a new instrument to serve their respective and differing national interest and tried to mould it accordingly. For most of its existence the League stubbornly but futilely pursued general discussions about international order.... with the outbreak of World War II in 1939, the league failed. Bennett gives a true assessment of the contribution of League to world peace as an international organisation. In his words: If the League of Nations is measured against a yardstick of hopes and possibilities for achieving world peace and cooperation, it fell short of its goal. If on the other hand, it is measured by the standard of previous advances toward world order, it represented a breakthrough in the development of international organisation. If the process of development does not reverse itself, the League will continue to stand as a landmark in the evolutionary process of achieving a more orderly world.

The United Nations organisation

If the League was the outcome of the First World War, the United Nations Organisation was that of the Second World War. During the course of the Second World War many meetings, conferences and declarations by the Allied Powers had laid the foundation for the

United Nations and made preparations for final agreement on the terms of the Charter. In the joint declaration issued by President Roosevelt and Prime Minister Churchill in

Universalism and World Order: international Organisations

August 1941, known as the Atlantic Charter, leaders agreed that a wider and permanent system of general security” must be established which would provide security to all nations and assure men freedom from fear and want. These (eight in all) principles were subsequently adapted as a basis of alliance among all the nations fighting against the Axis powers. The same was named and signed as United Nations Declaration in Washington on January 1, 1942. In October-November 1943, the Moscow Conference of Foreign Ministers of Britain, China, the USSR and the United States declared that a new central international organisation should be established for the purpose of regulating the post-war international system.

The Washington Conference in 1944 was attended by representatives of the above four big powers. They drafted Dumbarton Oak Proposal which later on became the primary source for drafting the UN Charter at San Francisco. These proposals envisaged establishing of a new and general international organisation to maintain

peace and security and to create conditions of stability and well-being necessary to this end rather than revision and revival of the League of Nations.

At the Yalta Conference (Crimea, soviet Union) in February 1945, Churchill, Roosevelt and Stalin drafted plans for the occupation and control of defeated Germany and for keeping order in liberated Europe as well as agreed on the veto formula later embodied in the UN Charter and called for a full-scale United Nations Conference to convene in San Francisco on April 25, 1945).

Representatives of fifty governments deliberated for two months (April 25—June 26, 1945) at San Francisco, Plan for a post-war organisation. The San Francisco conference was the climax of the measures leading to the birth of the United Nations. Intensive discussion and negotiation held in an unusually favourable atmosphere with war in Europe coming to victorious in the midst of the Conference proceedings, unanimous agreement was obtained upon a charter for the creation of the United Nations Organisation. The Charter followed the pattern set forth in Dumbarton Oaks Proposals primarily agreed to by the Great Powers, except for the addition of a Trusteeship Council and Economic and Social Council, and the inclusion of a declaration regarding the treatment of non-self-governing

territories, the conference also produced the Statute of the International Court of Justice.

The UN Charter was signed on June 25, 1945 by 51 states (Poland was allowed to sign as original member) and in July 28 the United States' Senate approved American membership in the UN by a vote of 89 to 2. Within another three months the Charter was ratified by all of the permanent members of the Security Council and by a majority of the signatories. Thus with coming into force of Charter on October 24, 1945 the United Nations formally came into existence. On January 10, 1946, the first meeting of the United Nations General Assembly was convened. Not long thereafter the members of the League held a meeting in Geneva to formally terminate that organisation and transfer its assets to the new international organisation. Subsequently, other international organisations in the form of UN's specialised agencies were also set up. Next chapter deals in detail with the organs, achievements and evolution of the working of the UN.

Conclusion

Nowadays international Organisations are incredibly useful machines able to affect the international community. Their mixed interests and their various ways of acting represent

powerful resources to the success of their goals. In universal scope that the majority of their then have enables international organization to address problems that do not concern a single region or single community but that interest the whole globe. The clear thing is that international organization obtained great achievements and power during the development process. They are able to address problems that concern the whole humanity and at the same time, they are able to solve and fight issue not only a theoretical point of view, but with ground actions. International Organisations truly became a necessary and useful machine for the international community. International Organisations exists with a number of objectives including increasing international relation, promoting education. Health care, economic development, environmental protection, human rights, humanitarian efforts, contacts and intercultural conflict resolution etc.

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