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## NON-STATE ACTORS UNDER INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL LAW

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The end of the XX - beginning of the XXI century was marked by global changes affecting all spheres of human activity. For more than half a century, people have developed products for their illusory goals, participated in the arms race, explored space, and destroyed each other in global and local conflicts, despite the destruction of the environment.

Today, the ecological situation on the planet is alarming: the number of large-scale technological disasters threatening the lives and health of millions of people is increasing every year; contamination of products occurs; the danger of environmental terrorism is growing; due to wasteful use of natural resources and the race for profit, the biodiversity of the natural environment is sharply reduced, etc.

Only in the last decade of the XX century mankind has begun to think seriously that our life on Earth is conditioned by nature, destroying it with its activities and radioactive and chemical emissions. We destroy natural objects created by millennia and endanger our existence.

Due to the critical situation in all countries, there is a growing need for environmental policy, which will provide outstanding care for the environment, its quality, environmental management, and maintaining the ecological balance in natural systems.

Through the joint efforts of scientists working in various fields, projects for the peaceful coexistence of man and nature began to be developed, which were reflected, in particular, in the Declaration on the Environment and Development adopted in 1992 at the UN Conference in Rio de Janeiro [1].

At the beginning of the XXI century, the structure of world politics is rapidly becoming more complex. Non-state actors are beginning to play an increasingly important role in global governance processes. A special place is occupied by international non-governmental organizations (INGOs). Moreover, although the world political system is still based on the principle of the primacy of states, at the beginning of the third millennium, global non-governmental organizations deservedly and legitimately established themselves as influential participants in international relations. In this regard, it seems that the study of the role and importance of international non-governmental organizations in the processes of global governance is an urgent need of modern political science.

An international non-governmental organization is a form of association of public representatives from different countries of the world, linked by a single internal goal, which does not pursue its activities for profit and commercial purposes, operating in more than two states [2].

The formal attributes of INGOs (organizations, associations, foundations, movements, institutions, unions, etc.) are independence from government, democratic principles of construction, and clearly defined programs of action away from politics and violence. Unlike intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations are not established on the basis of an agreement between states and are created by uniting individuals and / or legal entities whose activities are carried out outside the official foreign policy of states. In fact, INGOs are established on the basis of constituent documents registered in accordance with the national legislation of one state, but in strict legal terms the activities of international NGOs are governed by international law, which is achieved by granting them consultative status by the United Nations.

Non-governmental organizations in their modern form emerged in the XIX century, but they gained significant political influence only in the last half century. The term "non-

governmental organization" entered the international legal lexicon during the creation of the United Nations Charter in 1945 due to the inclusion of Article 71 - a radical innovation at the time, which allowed NGOs to legally participate in international relations and interstate diplomacy [3].

Since then, the number of international NGOs has grown steadily, especially the rapid growth of non-governmental organizations, as researchers point out the issue of countries with an effective public administration system and developed democratic institutions [4, p. 43]. In general, if in 1850 there were only five organizations of this type in the world, then in 1914 - 330, in 1939 - 730, in 1970 - 2300, and in 2000 there were 45,674 international non-governmental organizations in the world [5]. In the last decade, the quantitative growth of INGOs has been particularly noticeable: hundreds of non-governmental organizations appear in the world every year.

The role of INGOs in addressing global governance manifests itself in various forms. Today, these structures are actively involved in humanitarian aid, human rights and environmental protection, peace, and security, educational programs, sports projects, etc.

It is non-governmental organizations that bring to the attention of governments and the world community the needs and aspirations of ordinary people, exercise civilian control over the activities of state bodies, and promote the active participation of the masses in socio-political life at local and international levels. They provide analysis and expert assessment of various issues, including global ones, act as an "early warning" mechanism and help monitor the implementation of international agreements. INGOs have traditionally been involved in the law-making process, influencing states' positions by drafting agreements, which are then submitted to national governments and intergovernmental organizations. The role of global NGOs in ensuring compliance with international law is growing. Finally, INGOs have a significant influence on forming international public opinion and the development of world policy agendas.

Most NGOs are designed to address specific issues. These can be environmental (eg, Greenpeace, World Wildlife Fund), humanitarian (International Committee of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, Doctors Without Borders), human rights organizations (Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch), Specialized scientific (Paguo Movement, Club of Rome), sports (International Olympic Committee), religious (World Council of Churches) and other.

The role of INGOs is crucial in the modern global governance system. Environmental NGOs implement many programs, both field and global: together with governments and intergovernmental organizations, they initiate the search for approaches to solving environmental problems of humankind and participate in the development and monitoring of environmental agreements. Over the past forty years, environmental INGOs have been involved in preparing six

major international treaties on environmental protection, including the Kyoto Protocol (1997) and the Convention on Biological Diversity (2000).

Environmental INGOs are actively and sometimes very successful in lobbying governments, transnational corporations (TNC), and intergovernmental organizations. One of their main tasks is to pressure more influential and powerful actors in the world political system to change environmental policy. This task is quite time-consuming because not all governments and TNCs are ready to follow the instructions of environmentalists, sacrificing their interests to save nature. That is why INGOs in environmental protection have to come up with new original moves to achieve such goals.

A typical example of the ingenuity of environmental INGOs is their way of lobbying TNCs: environmental activists massively buy up a small number of shares of any large corporation seen in disregard for environmental standards. Received in the amount of 1% of shares allows environmentalists to attend the annual meeting of shareholders and managers of this TNC.

The actions of environmentalists, sometimes radical, create a very controversial reputation for most international environmental NGOs. In many cases, environmental INGOs are perceived not as real environmentalists but as disturbers of public peace or even as a "fifth column" fulfilling someone's political order. For example, today, the number of Greenpeace opponents is almost less than its supporters. Among the opponents were Norwegian whalers who lost their jobs and livelihoods, Canadian loggers, workers from other Greenpeace-ravaged companies, public and political figures whose careers were cut short by the efforts of the Greens Aboriginal hunters, affected by the global anti-hunting campaign, etc.

Greenpeace International has long been a thriving economic giant and a strictly hierarchical, military-like global structure with special forces and support units, uniforms, and autonomous means of communication. The level of preparation for a campaign in Greenpeace is consistent with the planning of an army operation. It includes (or cooperates with) hundreds of research laboratories, computer centers, think tanks, and marketing teams coordinated from a single organization center. Greenpeace puts pressure on "sympathizers" in the government, parliament, and business circles of the chosen country and competently covers actions in the local and world press, carefully working out everything from the symbolism of the action to the selection of photogenic performers. At the same time, not a single action can take place without the approval of the Greenpeace International Board.

Such work allows solving the set tasks with a high share of efficiency. Moreover, Greenpeace has succeeded in developing and widely publicizing its moral principles of

environmental behavior, which sometimes unequivocally impose its environmental ideals on "every normal person on the planet."

There are other examples of highly diverse activities of international environmental NGOs. However, the contribution of global NGOs to the protection of the environment and the conservation of biodiversity on the planet is extremely large. They have considerable human and financial resources at their disposal. They may well be considered players on the world stage, players who sometimes come into confrontation even with the governments of great powers. It is no exaggeration to say that environmental INGOs (Greenpeace International, the World Wildlife Fund, Friends of the Earth, and others) have a tangible impact on many global human problems.

Global non-governmental organizations: Greenpeace International (GPI), World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), International Green Cross, etc. carry out actions to protect nature and its objects, is a kind of catalyst for legal change; force states and their authorities to pay attention to the most pressing issues in the environmental sphere.

Activists of "green" organizations carried out large-scale PR campaigns (for example, storming the drilling rig "Prirazlomna" in August 2012, a demonstration at the International Motor Show in Paris), but in such events, efficiency outweighs efficiency. One of the most famous events is the Earth Hour, which is held annually on March 26 (its task is to draw attention to the problem of climate change). The essence of the action is to turn off all electrical appliances for one hour and a mass walk through the city streets by candlelight [6]. Due to its popularity, it attracts hundreds of new members and philanthropists to the WWF.

They are successfully coping with the two main goals of these organizations - involving society in the most critical environmental issues and finding sponsors to solve them. For example, in 2010, WWF launched a campaign to protect the tiger, perhaps the most successful. The result of the campaign was a summit of tiger habitats in St. Petersburg in November 2010, which was attended by representatives of 14 countries and the establishment of the Tiger Protection Fund. The received funds were used to create new protected natural areas (there are currently six), combat illegal deforestation in the tiger's habitat, and prepare and provide all the necessary equipment to seven fire brigades. A special Tiger Inspectorate was set up to combat poaching, consisting of seven anti-poaching brigades. In close cooperation with the State Hunting Service and law enforcement agencies, she was involved in stopping poaching in tiger habitats [7].

Today, it is clear that without the involvement of the public in the governance system, it is impossible to solve many global problems successfully. Special attention is paid to actors who have a network structure on the world stage, i.e., non-governmental organizations. Every year, the role of INGOs as system players of the international structure as actual participants in the

processes of global governance is growing. As recognized and legitimate actors in the world political system, international non-governmental organizations not only express public opinion and influence its formation but also have a significant impact on world development through participation in solving human problems.

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