

THE IMPACT OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS ON GLOBAL SECURITY

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Abstract: *The present paper deals with the impact of the international organizations on global security. The paper aims at defining the concepts of security and international organizations and describing the present global security context. The present paper also analyzes the most important organizations and their impact on the security environment. The main elements of this analysis assess the importance of such entities in the process of maintaining and improving the actual security context.*

Keywords: *global security, international organizations, NATO, UN, EU, impact.*

1. INTRODUCTION

The early 21st century has marked the beginning of a new era, the war against terrorism. This conflict was initiated after the 9/11 attacks. The battle is carried by the members of different terrorist organizations who stipulate that they defend the Islam against the diabolic influence of capitalism symbolized mainly by the United States of America and an alliance formed by many Occidental countries (but also states like Turkey, for example) which act under the umbrella of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

The last decade was marked by two major wars taking place in Iraq and Afghanistan, both of them having a debatable outcome. For example, on the one hand, many specialists from Washington D.C. consider that the Iraqi campaign was a great success, but on the other hand, other experts think that the war was a failure, which can be compared with the Vietnam War.

But is the war against terrorism going to remain the main threat to the international security environment in the following decades? Probably not.

Many specialists think that this battle is going to be less important concerning the fact that, unfortunately, the world is heading towards a new World War. This fact is underlined, for example, by the situation between Iran and the Occident, the tensed relations between Turkey and Syria, or by the economic problems (it is worth to mention here the financial crisis from the Euro zone), conflicts which could easily become global.

In the present-day world, the main shift is from unipolarity (represented by the United States of America) to multipolarity (identified with China, India or Brazil, which are countries that have regional superiority and soon will play an important part at global level when referring mainly to the decision-making process). In this particular context, it looks that the international organizations will have an increasing role in the dynamics of global security.

2. SECURITY AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Firstly, it is important to define the concepts of *security* and *international organization*. The English specialists describe

security as representing all means designed to protect persons and property against a wide range of contingencies, such as: murder, fire, accident, espionage, sabotage, subversion or unprovoked attack (Bădălan & Bogdan 2009:17).

This concept is also defined as being in opposition with insecurity, which directly influences security. For example, people are concerned about their individual security, then about the national security – all the measures designed to protect elements as suzerainty and national independence, territorial integrity or internal order (guaranteed by the constitution) – and regional security, namely, a strong relationship between the states which are situated in a certain part of the globe.

Also, this concept can be analyzed from different points of view. Thus, there could be different types of security: political, military, economic, social and environmental security (Bădălan & Bogdan 2009:25).

As for the international organizations, the United Nations statistics reveal that in 2005 there were approximately 5,700 intergovernmental organizations and 28,000 NGOs. The existence of the international organizations depends on elements, such as: the existence of multilateral treaties, the existence of common objectives or goals and the existence of a private constitutional structure (Besteliu, 2006: 10-11).

The intergovernmental organizations are formed by states. They have specific decision-making mechanisms, but also headquarters. They deal with global issues from different domains, such as: economy, education, and criminality.

It is worth to mention that the UN is the only organization which has global identity. The other organizations, representing approximately 97% of the total number, have limited objectives when it comes to the number of their members and the domains they operate in.

These organizations could be analyzed taking into account the following classification: global organizations with multiple objectives (the United Nations, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization), with a single objective

(the World Health Organization, the International Monetary Fund) and intercontinental, regional as well as sub-regional organizations with multiple objectives (the European Union, the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe), with a single objective (the Danube Commission) as Eugen Bădălan *et al.* consider (2009:105-106).

On the other hand, when dealing with NGOs, it is important to mention that only 10% of these organizations have global identity. Also, most of the NGOs are situated in North America. The NGOs can mediate agreements (between states) in issues which are considered to be nongovernmental (for example, the social integration of people who have AIDS).

As previously mentioned, these organizations will have a major influence on the global security. But how does the world look like nowadays?

Among the regional powers, it is worth to remember the European Union, China, Russia, Japan or India. There are also states which have developed in certain fields offering them the power to influence, in a certain way or another, the international environment (Bădălan *et al.*, 2009:10).

Such a power is, for example, Pakistan, which stand nowadays for an important nuclear power. Also, most of the states still have to deal with a global economic crisis, this situation being an important problem especially in the Euro Zone. This fact is underlined by the rating agencies. Standard and Poor's has penalized important states like France and Austria. Greece is still on the edge of the precipice, facing the risk of entering in default. Other countries have been included in the "junk" category (not recommended for investments).

Some European leaders tried to implement drastic austerity measures. But on many occasions, these measures created social issues. The populations were not satisfied and this led eventually to the replacement of many governments. And things are not better in other regions. A good example in this sense is the United States of America, which lost its maximum rating last year and is still struggling.

Of course, the world has to encounter other types of problems, such as: political instability, terrorism, drugs, corruption, organized crime, the degradation of the natural environment or the depletion of natural resources, religious and ethnic conflicts, computer crimes or overpopulation (especially in countries which are considered to be third world states).

There are many regions where a war could outburst and this conflict could rapidly spread like a deadly disease, thus getting a global identity. These regions include countries, such as: Iran, Syria, Yemen, Afghanistan, North Korea or Columbia (drugs). But who are the organizations who have a decisive role in the equation of global security?

3. ORGANIZATIONS WITH GREAT IMPACT ON GLOBAL SECURITY

The **United Nations** has approximately 190 members. Its role is to maintain peace and the global security, to create and improve the economic and social co-operation, to protect the human rights and the fundamental liberties and to develop friendly relationships between the nations (Besteliu, 2000:156-158).

The UN was founded at the end of the WWII. Its main institutions are The General Assembly, The Security Council, which has 15 members who can approve a military intervention, the Economic and Social Council, the Trusteeship Council and the International Court of Justice. In the past, the UN has intervened in conflicts like those from Congo, Suez Chanel, Indonesia, Yemen, Afghanistan, Iran-Iraq, Korea War, Kuwait War, the Balkans.

The North Atlantic Treaty Organization has a regional (Euro-Atlantic) identity, but specialists say that the role of this organization is very important nowadays because it intervenes in regions where there is no threat for the members of the alliance. This thing is possible because of NATO's capacity of initiating interventions anywhere on the globe (with the approval of the UN, of course).

The alliance was created a few years after the WWII. In 1948, Belgium, France, Holland, Luxembourg and Great Britain signed a treaty, which created a defense system (through an

alliance initiated by these states) against the Soviet threat.

One year later, the USA, Canada, Denmark, Iceland, Norway and Portugal joined the alliance and in April 1949, NATO was officially created.

It is considered that NATO passed through three stages of evolution, the first one being represented by the Cold War (the annihilation of the nuclear threat), the second one highlighting the end of the Cold War (NATO wanted more partnerships with different countries and created better mechanisms of crisis management) and the third one being the period situated after the 9/11 events (interventions in regions which do not belong to NATO).

It is also worth to mention that NATO made several partnerships with states which do not belong to the alliance (Russia or Ukraine, for example), in order to strengthen the security environment.

Among the most important operations made by NATO, it is important to mention those from Bosnia, Kosovo, Iraq, Afghanistan or Libya (it is to be expected, in the next period, an intervention in Syria).

The **European Union** has also a regional identity, but recently, the EU leaders have assumed more and more actions in the areas and states outside the Union. It could be said that the idea of creating such an organization (according to the American model) existed even before WWII, one of the promoters of the alliance being the former British Prime Minister Winston Churchill.

These organizations were officially created in 1957, when Belgium, France, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, and West Germany signed the *Treaty of Rome*. In 1973 Denmark, England and Ireland entered the alliance. In 1979, there took place the first elections for the European Parliament. In 1992 the *Maastricht Treaty* (the Treaty on EU) was signed and in the 1999 the European unique monetary system was adopted.

Nowadays, the EU has 28 members. The main institutions of the EU are the European Council, the Council of Ministers, the European Commission, the EU Parliament and the European Court of Justice. The EU has the

capabilities and resources to ensure and consolidate the security level in vulnerable places (for the global security), like the Orient or Central Africa. In the past, the European leaders sanctioned (through economic embargos, for example) states, such as: Iran (in 1980), Israel (1982), Iraq (1990), or Yugoslavia.

The Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe also has, theoretically, a regional identity. But, just like the EU, the OSCE has the necessary capacities of making interventions at global level.

It is worth to remember the organization's interventions in Albania (1997), Kosovo (1997), Bosnia (1995), Croatia (1996), Macedonia (2001) or Central Asia (Tashkent, Almaty, Dushanbe).

Because of the actual economic context, it seems that the **International Monetary Fund** (funded in 1944, nowadays having 184 states) will have a major impact on the global security level. This is because the survival of many states, which are facing economic problems, depends on the loans from IMF. And this means that these countries will implement even draconic austerity measures in exchange for this aid.

4. CONCLUSIONS

It is clear that international organizations like the UN, NATO or IFM will have an even greater role in what is considered to be global security simply because nowadays the states are not able to deal alone against different threats (economic, politic, military, etc.). It is

important also to mention that a crucial role will be hold by regional and even sub-regional organizations.

The most important aspect is that the world is in a transitional period (nobody can say for sure what is the direction) and the international organizations will be a vital component in the process of guiding it.

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