

Figure 1.1.1. (a) Types of organization

Overview of number of international organizations by type: 2008

Presented in this table is the number of international organizations currently listed in the database of the *Yearbook of International Organizations*. The organizations are totalled by type (see the Appendix "Types of organization") and by whether they are intergovernmental or not. In addition, totals are given for certain groupings of types ("conventional", "other" and "special"). For other groupings of types, see Figure 1.1.1. (b) in this volume.

This table suggests different answers to the question "How many international organizations are there?"

1. Conventional intergovernmental organizations, when attaching importance to the non-recognition of international non-governmental organizations in terms of international law. (Multilateral treaties, Type T, might be added as closely related international "instruments".)
2. Conventional international bodies, both governmental and non-governmental, when attaching importance to the existence of autonomous international bodies as a social reality.
3. Conventional bodies (Types A to D) plus special forms (Type F), when recognizing the importance of organizational substitutes and unconventional form. (To the latter might be added conference series, Type S, and multilateral treaties, Type T, as forms of organization substitute.)
4. Conventional bodies (Types A to D), special forms (Type F) and religious orders (Type R), when attaching importance to the social reality of the latter as independent actors.
5. Conventional bodies (Types A to D), other international bodies (Types E to G), religious orders (Type R), and multilateral treaties (Type T), when recognizing the international impact of semi-autonomous and nationally tied organizations. (Documentalists might also include inactive bodies, Type H, which figure in the "authority lists" of international organizations.)

Types by group	Intergovernmental			Nongovernmental			Total	
	No. of this type	% of this type	% of this group	No. of this type	% of this type	% of this group	No. of this type	% of this group
GROUP: CONVENTIONAL INTERNATIONAL BODIES								
A. Federations of international organizations	1	2.70	0.40	36	97.30	0.45	37	0.45
B. Universal membership organizations	34	6.75	13.77	470	93.25	5.87	504	6.11
C. Intercontinental membership organizations	33	2.92	13.36	1097	97.08	13.71	1130	13.70
D. Regionally oriented membership organizations	179	2.72	72.47	6400	97.28	79.97	6579	79.75
TOTAL: CONVENTIONAL BODIES	247	2.99	100.00	8003	97.01	100.00	8250	100.00
GROUP: OTHER INTERNATIONAL BODIES								
E. Org's emanating from places, persons, bodies	840	23.20	49.27	2781	76.80	19.88	3621	23.07
F. Organizations of special form	742	14.31	43.52	4443	85.69	31.76	5185	33.04
G. Internationally oriented national organizations	123	1.79	7.21	6764	98.21	48.36	6887	43.89
TOTAL: OTHER BODIES	1705	10.86	100.00	13988	89.14	100.00	15693	100.00
TOTAL Types E + F	1582	17.97		7224	82.03		8806	
TOTAL Types A B C D E F	1829	10.72		15227	89.28		17056	
TOTAL Types A B C D E F G	1952	8.15		21991	91.85		23943	
GROUP: SPECIAL TYPES								
H. Dissolved or apparently inactive organizations	760	14.99	13.72	4309	85.01	13.06	5069	13.16
J. Recently reported bodies - not yet confirmed	56	19.31	1.01	234	80.69	0.71	290	0.75
K. Subsidiary and internal bodies	369	24.63	6.66	1129	75.37	3.42	1498	3.89
N. National organizations	0	0.00	0.00	2976	100.00	9.02	2976	7.72
R. Religious orders and secular institutes	0	0.00	0.00	907	100.00	2.75	907	2.35
S. Autonomous conference series	135	18.62	2.44	590	81.38	1.79	725	1.88
T. Multilateral treaties, intergov'tal agreements	2381	100.00	42.99	0	0.00	0.00	2381	6.18
U. Currently inactive nonconventional bodies	1838	7.45	33.18	22841	92.55	69.24	24679	64.06
TOTAL: SPECIAL TYPES	5539	14.38	100.00	32986	85.62	100.00	38525	100.00
TOTAL Types H + U	2598	8.73		27150	91.27		29748	
TOTAL ALL TYPES	7491	11.99		54977	88.01		62468	