

## 10.3. Types of organization

The Yearbook attempts to cover all “international organizations”, according to a broad range of criteria. It therefore includes many bodies that may be perceived as not being fully international, or as not being organizations as such, or as not being of sufficient significance to merit inclusion. Such bodies are nevertheless included, so as to enable users to make their own evaluation in the light of their own criteria.

**Type 1:** To assist this evaluation, the editors have developed a hierarchical typology, assigning each organization to one of 15 types. All of these types include both intergovernmental and non-governmental international organizations. (See below for a discussion of the terms “intergovernmental” and “non-governmental”.) The 15 types are designated by an upper case letter.

**Type 2:** A qualifying typology is used to add a second level of structure to the hierarchical typology. There are 13 such qualifiers and an organization may be assigned up to three qualifiers. The 13 qualifiers are designated by an lower case letter.

**Type 3:** A third type is used to group organizations of a particular structure. There are 42 such types and an organization may be assigned to one or more of them.

In addition, every organization is classified under one or more subject headings (848 headings), regionally-defined headings (22), and, where appropriate, a combination of the two.

Further information on the three types is given on the following pages.

### INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS (IGOS) AND NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS (NGOS)

The approach to the selection of organizations for inclusion in this Yearbook was first developed by the Union of International Associations for the *Annuaire de la Vie Internationale* (1908-1909, 1910-1911). It was further developed after 1945 for the early editions of the *Yearbook of International Organizations*. The approach was endorsed by the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations (ECOSOC) in 1950 and in 1953.

The Economic and Social Council, in considering these matters in 1950, itself clarified the distinction between intergovernmental and international non-governmental organizations as follows:

#### *Intergovernmental organizations (IGOs)*

The view of the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations concerning intergovernmental organizations is implicit in its Resolution 288 (X) of 27 February 1950: “Any international organization which is not established by intergovernmental agreement shall be considered as a non-governmental organization for the purpose of these arrangements.” The resolution was concerned with the implementation of Article 71 of the United Nations Charter on consultative status of non-governmental organizations, and it was amplified by Resolution 1296 (XLIV) of 25 June 1968: “...including organizations which accept members designated by government authorities, provided that such membership does not interfere with the free expression of views of the organizations.”

The matter is complicated by the fact that, pursuant to Article 12 of the regulations of the General Assembly of the United Nations (giving effect to Article 102 of the Charter), the Secretariat publishes, in the UN Treaty Series, every instrument submitted to it by a Member State, when “so far as that party is concerned, the instrument is a treaty or an international agreement within the meaning of Article 102” (Note in UN Treaty Series, Vol. 748). The terms “treaty” and “international agreement” have not been defined either in the Charter or in the regulations. Furthermore: “It is the understanding of the Secretariat that its action does not confer on the instrument the status of a treaty or an international agreement if it does not already have that status ...”

Further complications arise from:

- the increasing number of “international agreements” in which one or more of the parties is a constituent state of a federal state system (e.g. Quebec); this matter was not resolved by the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties (Vienna, 1969);
- bilateralization of treaties when several states act together to aid another state under a “multilateral” treaty signed by all of them;
- agreements in which one of the parties is itself an intergovernmental organization (thus “multilateralizing” the agreement) acting to establish an intergovernmental institute in a particular country (thus “bilateralizing” the agreement), of which the government is one of the parties to that agreement (e.g. many UNESCO agreements with individual developing countries to establish regional research centres);
- agreements signed on behalf of national government agencies or departments which, in the case of purely technical matters, may not fully engage the state; the resulting organizations may then define themselves as “non-governmental”.

In practice therefore, the editors assume that an organization is intergovernmental if it is established by signature of an agreement engendering obligations between governments, whether or not that agreement is eventually published. If any organization declares itself to be non-governmental, it is accepted as such by the editors.

#### *Non-governmental organizations (NGOs)*

The problem of identifying eligible non-governmental organizations is more difficult. Resolution 288 (X) makes no attempt to explain what is meant by the term “international organization”. Editorial experience has shown that it is useful to take seven aspects of organizational life as indicators of the eligibility of an organization: aims; membership; structure; officers; finance; relations with other organizations; and activities. These aspects are discussed below for different types of organization.

## TYPE 1

The 15 upper case letters used for Type 1, their significance, and their chief characteristics (as determined by information regarding membership and structure) are the following. More detailed information is given further in this document.

Type	Description	Membership	Structure
<b>A</b>	Federations of international organizations	includes at least 3 international organizations	Management and policy-making organs reflect a well-balanced geographical distribution (cf membership)
<b>B</b>	Universal membership organizations	From either at least 60 countries or at least 30 countries in at least 2 continents and with a well-balanced geographical distribution	Management and policy-making organs reflect a well-balanced geographical distribution (cf membership)
<b>C</b>	Intercontinental membership organizations	From at least 10 countries in at least 2 continents with a well-balanced geographical distribution	Management and policy-making organs reflect a well-balanced geographical distribution (cf membership)
<b>D</b>	Regionally defined membership organizations	From at least 3 countries within one continental or sub-continental region	Management and policy-making organs reflect a well-balanced geographical distribution (cf membership)
<b>E</b>	Organizations emanating from places, persons or other bodies	No criteria	Reference to, and to some degree limited by, another international organization, or a person, or a place
<b>F</b>	Organizations having a special form	No criteria	Non-formal, unconventional or unusual
<b>G</b>	Internationally-oriented national organizations	No criteria	Management and policy-making organs reflect participation of only one or two countries; formal links with at least one other international organization
<b>H</b>	Inactive or dissolved international organizations	No criteria	While active, classified as Types A, B, C or D
<b>J</b>	Recently reported or proposed international organizations	Type J is a temporary allocation. Organizations of Type J are reallocated to the appropriate Type whenever sufficient information is obtained.	
<b>K</b>	Subsidiary and internal bodies	No criteria	Substantive unit with a degree of autonomy within another organization
<b>N</b>	National organizations	No criteria	Management and policy-making organs reflect participation of only one country; no formal links with other international organizations
<b>R</b>	Religious orders, fraternities, and secular institutes	No criteria	Based on charismatic leadership or a commitment to a set of (religious) practices
<b>S</b>	Autonomous conference series	No criteria	No continuing structure
<b>T</b>	Multilateral treaties and agreements	At least 3 signatories	No structure. (If an organization is established to implement or otherwise take responsibility for the treaty, that organization is normally classified as Type E.)
<b>U</b>	Currently inactive non-conventional organizations	No criteria	While active, classified as Types other than A, B, C or D

## TYPE 2

The 13 lower case letters used for Type 2 and their significance are the following:

- b = bilateral intergovernmental organization (normally but not always assigned to Type G)
- c = conference series (normally but not always assigned to Type S)
- d = dissolved, dormant (normally but not always assigned to Type H or Type U)
- e = commercial enterprise
- f = foundation, fund (normally but not always assigned to Type F)
- g = intergovernmental
- j = research institute
- n = has become national (normally but not always assigned to Type N)
- p = proposed body (normally but not always assigned to Type J)
- s = information suspect
- v = individual membership only
- x = no recent information received
- y = international organization membership

## TYPE 3

The 42 headings are the following:

Academies  
Agencies  
Alumni and Veterans  
Banks  
Charismatic Bodies  
Clubs  
Colleges  
Common Markets and Free Trade Zones  
Conference Series  
Corporations, Companies  
Courts, Tribunals  
European Union Bodies  
Exile Bodies  
FAO Bodies  
Foundations  
Funds  
Human Rights Organizations  
Humanitarian Organizations  
ILO Bodies  
Individual Membership Bodies  
Influential Policy Groups  
Institutes  
Intergovernmental Communities  
International Federations  
Multinational Company Councils  
NATO Bodies  
Networks  
Parliaments  
Plans Political Parties  
Professional Bodies  
Programmes  
Projects  
Proper Names  
Religious Orders  
Staff Associations  
Systems  
Trade and Labour Unions  
Treaties  
UNESCO Bodies  
United Nations Bodies  
WHO Bodies

### CLUSTERS OF TYPES / STATISTICS

In statistical tables in the Yearbook, totals are usually given for each category of Type 1. In addition to these totals, or sometimes instead of them, totals are given by cluster of Type 1 categories.

There are 5 clusters and the Types allocated to each are as follows:

- Cluster I (International organizations): Types A B C D F
- Cluster II (Dependent organizations): Types E K R
- Cluster III (Organizational substitutes): Types S T
- Cluster IV (National organizations): Types G N
- Cluster V (Dead, inactive and unconfirmed bodies): Types H J U

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## DETAILED COMMENTS ON TYPE 1

The complexity of the hierarchical typology warrants further explanation.

### Type A: Federations of international organizations

An organization is classified as Type A if:

- its membership includes at least three autonomous international bodies.

An organization is **not** classified as Type A if:

- it meets the criteria for another Type more closely than it meets the criteria for this Type;
- its membership includes only regional organizations;
- its membership is limited to international organizations linked to a particular place or organization or people;
- its membership is limited to non-autonomous commissions or sections of one or more international organizations;
- its international organizational membership is of secondary importance (e.g. “associate members”).
- its preoccupation or field of activity is limited to one region or continent;
- it is in some way a “joint committee”, created to liaise between international organizations;
- it has been created by one or more international organizations which then themselves become members of it.

The United Nations is included in Type A because of its focal role in relation to the specialized agencies; these can be seen as “members” of the UN system.

“Umbrella” organizations which have national organizations as an *additional* membership category may also be included here.

### Type B: Universal membership organizations

An organization is classified as Type B if:

- its membership covers at least 60 countries regardless of distribution, or if its membership covers at least 30 countries and is equitably distributed over several continents (the fewer the number of countries represented, the greater must be the number of continents represented);
- its management structure and its activities reflect its membership in terms of geographical distribution and balance.

An organization is **not** classified as Type B if:

- it meets the criteria for another Type more closely than it meets the criteria for this Type;
- its title mentions any term effectively restricting its membership or activities to a particular group of countries or particular group of people (e.g. Commonwealth, French-speaking);
- it is universal in aims or activities only.

### Type C: Intercontinental membership organizations

An organization is classified as Type C if:

- its membership and preoccupations exceed that of a particular continental region though not to the degree of justifying its inclusion in Type B;
- its membership covers at least 10 countries and is equitably distributed over at least two continents;
- its management structure and its activities reflect its membership in terms of geographical distribution and balance.

An organization is **not** classified as Type C if:

- it meets the criteria for another Type more closely than it meets the criteria for this Type;
- its title mentions any term effectively restricting its membership or activities to a single continental region or contiguous group of countries (e.g. European, Inter-American, Mediterranean).

### Type D: Regionally defined membership organizations

An organization is classified as Type D if:

- its membership and preoccupations are restricted to a particular continental or sub-continental region or contiguous group of countries;
- its membership covers at least three countries or includes at least three autonomous international bodies;
- its title mentions a single continental region or contiguous group of countries (e.g. European, Inter-American, Mediterranean) regardless of membership;

An organization is **not** classified as Type D if:

- it meets the criteria for another Type more closely than it meets the criteria for this Type;
- its title mentions another organization or a particular place or person.

### Type E: Organizations emanating from places, persons or other bodies

An organization is classified as Type E if:

- it can be considered as an “emanation” of another organization or of a place, person or proprietary product, regardless of membership;
- its title incorporates, in any way, the name of another organization (excepting intergovernmental organizations that are the subject of a special multi-lateral treaty, e.g. the FAO);
- provision is made for its creation in the statutes of another organization though it nonetheless functions autonomously (non-autonomous bodies being included in Type K);
- it is in some way a “joint committee”, created to liaise between international organizations, functioning autonomously;
- it is a centre or institute created by intergovernmental bodies, possibly by agreement with a particular government;

- it is especially identified with a particular physical location and its activities are largely determined by that location (e.g. training courses, experimental stations);
- it is specifically concerned with a single country (NB an organization specifically concerned with a single language, though it may be spoken in a single country, is not necessarily classified as Type E).

An organization is **not** classified as Type E if:

- it meets the criteria for another Type more closely than it meets the criteria for this Type;
- it does not function at least semi-autonomously.

### **Type F: Organizations having a special form**

An organization is classified as Type F if:

- its formal characteristics would cause fundamental questions to be raised were it included in one of the preceding Types;
- it has international dimensions which make it equivalent to a more conventional international organization;
- its special nature is implied by the presence of certain terms in its title, whether or not the use of such terms is in effect a misnomer; such terms include:
  - Activities: campaign, programme, project, service, survey
  - Arbitration and legislation: court, parliament, tribunal
  - Buildings: laboratory, library, museum, observatory
  - Collections: cultures, gene bank, organ bank, reserve
  - Education: college, school, training institute, university
  - Financing: bank, clearing house, foundation, fund, trust
  - Information: data network, information system, inventory, registry
  - Media and entertainment: news agency, orchestra, radio
  - Military: army, brigade, corps, force
  - Politics: international party or group, international movement
  - Semi-formal groupings: club, community, governmental grouping, movement, network
  - Treaty-oriented: agreement, intellectual property unions, treaty
  - Trade: common market, free trade zone, monetary zone
- it is a patronage body, e.g. under pontifical or royal charter, or is headed by a charismatic leader (unless more appropriate to classify it as Type R);
- it includes a significant membership of exiled groups from named countries;
- it is a “quasi” organization, possibly without a well-defined secretariat or structure (e.g. Group of 8), sometimes even a non-existent organization nonetheless recognized in common usage (e.g. World Bank Group);
- it is an unusual, possibly illegal or questionable, body.

An organization is **not** classified as Type F if:

- it meets the criteria for another Type more closely than it meets the criteria for this Type;
- it does not function at least semi-autonomously.

### **Type G: Internationally-oriented national organizations**

An organization is classified as Type G if:

- it is a bilateral governmental body;
- its membership or management structure is limited to a single country, yet its name or activities indicate an international character;
- it has been granted consultative status by a body of the UN system;
- it is formally linked to an international organization included in one of the preceding Types (e.g. as a member, a funder, a partner).

An organization is **not** classified as Type G if:

- it meets the criteria for another Type more closely than it meets the criteria for this Type;
- it has no links with an organization included in one of the preceding Types and is not a bilateral governmental body.

### **Type H: Inactive or dissolved international organizations**

An organization is classified as Type H if:

- it has been dissolved, has been inactive for several years (that is, there has been no indication of activity for several years), or is dormant for a period of years;
- as an active body it was or would have been classified as Type A, B, C or D, or if it was or would have been intergovernmental.

An organization is **not** classified as Type H if:

- it meets the criteria for another Type more closely than it meets the criteria for this Type;

### **Type J: Recently reported or proposed international organizations**

An organization is classified as Type J if:

- the information available is insufficient to enable classification as another Type, usually because its creation has only recently been reported, or because its creation has been proposed but has not yet taken place.

An organization is **not** classified as Type J if:

- it meets the criteria for another Type more closely than it meets the criteria for this Type;

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### **Type K: Subsidiary and internal bodies**

An organization is classified as Type K if:

- it is a substantive unit with a complex international organization;
- it has a degree of autonomy which, if it had more independent activities, would allow it to be classified as another Type (usually Type E or F).

An organization is **not** classified as Type K if:

- it meets the criteria for another Type more closely than it meets the criteria for this Type;

### **Type N: National organizations**

An organization is classified as Type N if:

- its membership or management structure is essentially limited to a single country, yet its title or activities make it appear to be international;
- it appears on public information lists of a body of the UN system.

An organization is **not** classified as Type N if:

- it meets the criteria for another Type more closely than it meets the criteria for this Type;
- it has links with an organization included in another Type.

### **Type R: Religious orders, fraternities and secular institutes**

An organization is classified as Type R if:

- it is a religious, military or fraternal order, or is a similar body based on charismatic leadership or commitment to a set of religious practices;
- its membership covers at least three countries;
- though not widely active now, it has a historical significance (the older the body, the more relaxed the criteria).

An organization is **not** classified as Type R if:

- it meets the criteria for another Type more closely than it meets the criteria for this Type;

### **Type S: Autonomous conference series**

A conference series is classified as Type S if:

- while not being an organization as such, it represents a continuing series of international meetings;
- the series has a name which could be assumed to refer to an international body.

A conference series is **not** classified as Type S if:

- it meets the criteria for another Type more closely than it meets the criteria for this Type;
- a more conventional or formal organization, whether national or international, is responsible for the series.

### **Type T: Multilateral treaties and agreements**

A treaty is classified as Type T if:

- while not being an organization as such, it is a multilateral treaty, convention, agreement, pact, protocol or covenant signed by at least three parties, whether States or intergovernmental organizations.

A treaty is **not** classified as Type T if:

- it is a peace treaty for a specific war or for the consequences of a specific war;
- it pertains to the relations between two countries under the auspices of an intergovernmental agency (e.g. the transfer of uranium, the resolution of border issues)
- regardless of the number of signatories, its articles pertain to one country or one event.

### **Type U: Inactive or dissolved non-conventional bodies**

An organization is classified as Type U if:

- it has been dissolved, has been inactive for several years (that is, there has been no indication of activity for several years), or is dormant for a period of years;
- as an active body it was or would have been classified as a Type other than Type A, B, C or D.

An organization is **not** classified as Type U if:

- it meets the criteria for another Type more closely than it meets the criteria for this Type;
- as an active body it was or would have been intergovernmental.