

Fact-finding by neutral investigators; (2) Good offices: Encouraging parties to negotiate; acting as a neutral setting for negotiations; (3) Mediation: Making suggestions about possible solutions, acting as an intermediary between two parties; (4) Arbitration: Using a special panel to find a solution that all parties agree in advance to accept; and (5) Adjudication: Submitting disputes to an international court such as the ICJ. These activities do not often capture the headlines, but they are a vital part of maintaining or restoring the peace.

**Sanctions;** The increased interdependence of the world has heightened the impact of diplomatic and economic sanction. In recent years, these have been applied by the UN, the OAS, and other IGOs against such countries as Haiti, Iraq, Libya, South Africa, and Yugoslavia. As we will know, sanctions are controversial and often do not work. But there have been successes. For example, in 2003 the sanctions that had been in place against Libya for 15 years finally persuaded it to pay \$2.7 billion in reparations to the families of the 280 people killed when a bomb planted by Libyan agents destroyed Pan Am Flight 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland, in 1988. The wheels of justice sometimes grind slowly, but grind they did.

**Peacekeeping;** The United Nations additionally has a limited ability to intervene militarily in a dispute. Other IGOs, such as the OAS, have also occasionally undertaken collective military action. In the UN, this process is often "called peace keeping. It is normally conducted under the auspices of the UNSC, although the UNGA has sometimes authorized action.

Peacekeeping as a form of international security is extensively covered in details, but a few preliminary facts are appropriate here. Through early 2004, the United Nations had mounted 56 peacekeeping operations that had utilized military and police personnel from 130 countries. These operations ranged from very lightly armed observer mission through police forces, to full-fledged military forces. Never before have international forces been so active as they are now. The number of UN peacekeeping operations has risen markedly in the post-cold war era,. As of March 2004, there were 13 UN peacekeeping forces of varying sizes in the field at locations throughout the world. These forces totaled about 49,000 troops and police from 94 countries.



United Nations peacekeeping seldom involves a stern international enforcer smiting aggressors with powerful blows. Few countries are willing to give any IGO that much power and independence. Rather, UN peacekeeping is usually a "coming between", a positioning of a neutral force that creates space and is intended to help defuse an explosive situation. This in no way lessens the valuable role that the UN has played. It has, for example, been a positive force in helping East Timor first escape the violence inflicted on it when it was seeking independence from Indonesia and then helping the East Timorese transition during the period between the final withdrawal of Indonesia's troops to the date of the country's independence in May 2002. Fortunately, UN peacekeeping forces have suffered relatively few casualties, but almost 1,900 have died in world service. For these sacrifices and contributions to world order, the UN peacekeeping forces were awarded the 1988 Nobel Peace Prize.

## **Arms Control and Disarmament**

Promoting arms control and disarmament is another international security function of IGOs. The International Atomic Energy Agency, an affiliate of the UN, helps promote and monitor the nonproliferation of nuclear weapons. The UN also sponsors numerous conferences on weapons and conflict and has also played an important role in the genesis of the Chemical Weapons Convention and other arms control agreements.

### **Social, Economic, Environmental, and Other Activities**

In addition to maintaining and restoring the peace, IGOs engage in a wide variety of other activities. During its early years, the UN's emphasis was on security. This concern has not abated, but it has been joined by social, economic, environmental, and other nonmilitary security concerns. This shift has been a result of the ebb and eventual end of the cold war, the growing number of LDCs since the 1960s, realization that the environment is in danger, and changing global values that have brought an increased focus on human and political rights. "peacekeeping operations claim the headlines", Secretary General Annan has observed astutely. But by far the lion's share of our budget and personnel are devoted to the lower-profile work of.... helping countries to create jobs and raise standards of living; delivering relief and to victims of famine, war, and natural disasters:



protecting refugees; promoting literacy and fighting disease. To most people around the world, this is the face of the United Nations" This effort has recently included the UN's sponsorship of a conference of aid donors to coordinate assistance to rebuild Afghanistan coordination of the delivery of humanitarian relief to its people; and the repatriation of hundreds of thousands of Afghanis who had fled the country in to Pakistan and other neighboring countries.

It would be impossible to list here, much less fully describe, the broad range of endeavors in which the UN and other IGOs are involved.

Suffice it to say that they cover most of the issues that humans address at all levels of government Many of these activities will be highlighted in subsequent studies. So this discussion is limited to a few of the programs and successes of the UN and other IGOs.

## **IGOs and Economic Development**

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the World Bank, and a significant number of other global and regional IGOs work to improve the economic well-being of those who are deprived because of their location in an LDC. Their gender, or some other cause The UNDP alone Supports more than 5,000 projects globally with a budget of \$1.3 billion. The UN Development Fund for Women (UNDFW) focuses on improving the lives of women in LDCs.

### **IGOs and Human Rights**

Beginning with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights 1948, the UN has actively promoted dozens of agreements on political, civil, economic social and cultural rights. The UN Commission on Human Rights has used its power of investigation and its ability to issue reports to expose abuses of human rights and to create pressure on the abusers through a process that one scholar has termed the "mobilization of shame", Currently, for example, the UN is at the heart of the global effort to free the estimated 250 million children who are forced to work instead of being sent to school, to end the sexual predation of children that is big business in some parts of the world, and to eliminate other abuses that debase the meaning of childhood.