

# **The Status of Non-governmental Organizations in International Law**

## **Abstract**

Non-governmental Organizations and particularly International Non-governmental Organizations are important players in international relations as well as other stakeholders like States, International Governmental Organizations and Supranational Corporations. Each of these actors has a unique role in international relations, but the role of these actors can overlap each other. Where the interests of these entities overlap, the interaction between actors takes the place.

The aim of this thesis was the historical evaluation of the status of International Non-governmental Organizations till the present, settle up with the theoretical basis of legal doctrine on international legal subjectivity and the classification and division of International Non-governmental Organizations. Another objective of the thesis was the definition of individual actors of international relations and embracing of organizations “sui generis” and the most important non-governmental organizations from different sectors and (by using a uniform methodology) compare these organizations and their influence on the international public law. In the next part, the thesis pursued with the extraction of statistical data and their placement into the historical context, while the relational part pursued the factual influence of organizations. The final chapters dealt with causal issues.

The thesis, on the basis of selected methodological procedures, identified the development of International Non-governmental Organizations, in terms of their legal aspects, their quality and quantity, and the interaction with other stakeholders at a given time and place. The thesis was successful in identifying International Non-governmental Organizations, as well as their division into different types. Thesis noticed partial failure in the definition of INGOs. Lots of well-known authors tried to define INGO, but with a greater or lesser failure, none of definitions have been regarded as universal. A number of International Governmental Organizations tried to define INGOs, but they were finally satisfied with setting the parameters for which they would treat the organization as an INGO for their own needs.

The contribution of this thesis is particularly evident in the filling of the vacuum. For the literature of the international relation are international non-governmental organizations very specific in terms of international legal subjectivity and therefore they are not interested in

that issue. For the international law literature, non-governmental organizations have private-law character, so they are not in this matter interested either. Foreign literature is in this area more advanced than the Czech literature. The foreign literature fulfils the highest standards, particularly the work of J. Klabbbers and A. K. Lindblom, is the exceptional in the worldwide measure. The Czech literature deals with this subject marginally, especially by political scientists Š. Waisová and M. Romancov. The view of these authors is different than in this thesis, from the reason of politological and philosophical background of authors. The thesis is more focused on the legal perspective of Non-governmental Organizations.

**Key words: [Non-governmental Organizations, NGO, International Legal Personality]**