

POLITICAL ECONOMY OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS: ANALYSING THE DYNAMICS OF ENVIRONMENTAL ORGANISATIONS, NEGOTIATIONS AND POLICY FORMULATION IN INTERNATIONAL DIPLOMACY

TANAKA TABASSUM

Abstract

The growing significance of multiple International Organisations in an interconnected world necessitates a deeper understanding of the formulation of policies at a global level. Every International Organisation has a core philosophy of existence. The policies and objectives formulated by each of these organisations gear towards attaining these core principles. For instance, the primary mandate of the United Nations (UN) is the promotion of international peace and security (United Nations, 1963). The UN has been active in peacekeeping activities, conflict management, prevention and arms control, protection of international human rights, social and economic development, health and global environmental protection. There are various perspectives that study the patterns and processes of global interactions and global organizations as economic entities. This thesis is not a study about international or national economic organizations or their interface with markets. Hence, the standard theories of Institutional or new Institutional Economics such as property rights/agency theory/mechanism design and transaction costs (Williamson, 1990, p 61-71) do not apply to the subject matter of the thesis. Nor does this thesis seek to bring out the organizational characteristics and the environmental embeddedness of international organizations that has been the domain of sociological approaches to the study of these organizations (Koch, Martin and Stetter, 2013 .p 4-13). Rather we have adopted the International Political Economy (hereafter IPE) approach. IPE is the study of related problems. Traditional IPE was focused on international trade, finance, North-South relations, multinational corporations, and hegemony. The angle was to look at power structures and hegemony in decision making (Vaseth, 2004). The New IPE transcends the perceived limits of International Politics and International Economics as fields of research (Vaseth 2004). This logically leads the new IPE frameworks to look at the role of global commons and the organizations that have been established under the United Nations to foster these commons. Since our focus is on how decisions and policies are formulated by International Organizations on global commons in relation to their members which are national Governments and how they impact their target groups, we have adopted this framework. Further, it is our belief that IPE and new IPE while seeking to advance its perspective also acknowledges the existence of other viewpoints and seeks to integrate them within its framework of analysis to generate new perspectives. Further, the Political Economy approach provides the best possible perspective to the study of International Institutions in relation to policy and decision making in diverse fields. IPE approaches the domain of global trade by analysing the exchange of goods and services across national boundaries and analyses the institutional arrangements that govern these transactions (Williams & O'Brien, 2004). The IPE framework also deals with the policy formulation process adopted by governments and the problems associated with the production,

distribution and consumption of goods and services. Finally, the IPE framework also analyses the logic and processes that govern conservation and provisioning of the global commons such as climate, biodiversity and land degradation amongst others. Therefore this thesis explores the functioning and scope of international organisations from an IPE perspective. The approach of the thesis is on employing analytical approaches and arguments to substantiate its findings. These are backed by simple descriptive data. Quantitative/econometric analyses have not been employed.