

Chasek ch. 2: Actors in the Environmental Arena

- A) States [grouped as **lead states**, **supporting states**, **swing states**, or **veto states**]
- a. What factors affect state positions (which can and do vary by regime)?
- B) Nonstate Actors
- International Organizations [IOs or IGOs]
 - Non-Governmental Organizations [NGOs]
 - Multinational Corporations [MNCs]

International organizations (51): IOs or IGOs (intergovernmental organizations)

- General/Regional examples: UN, OAS, ASEAN, EU, OECD, OAS, AU/NePAD, APEC
- Topical examples: FAO, WHO, World Bank, UNEP, UNDP, IMF, etc.

IO pressure can: determine which issues are addressed, convene and influence negotiations, develop normative codes of conduct (soft law), influence state policies on other (but related) issues

How can **soft law** become hard law? Absorption into subsequent treaty law because they've become the norm, or political pressure can call for hard law. IOs also provide financing, research, and normative pressure

x) influence of the **FAO** on export crops, large scale irrigation projects, and heavy use of chemical inputs

World Bank and **IMF** = **International Financial Institutions** (IFIs)

“The bank has been driven by the need to lend large amounts of money each year; by a bias toward large-scale, capital-intensive, and centralized projects; and by its practice of assessing projects according to a quantifiable rate of return while discounting longer-term, unquantifiable social and environmental costs and benefits”

IMF: “**Structural adjustment programs** almost always require that the borrowing country reduce domestic demand by removing subsidies, cutting government budgets, devaluating currencies, and tightening credit; at the same time, the borrowing country must take steps to increase exports in an effort to achieve a positive trade balance and pay off debts.”

Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) – Possess **expert knowledge**, are dedicated to goals that transcend narrow national or sectoral interests, represent substantial constituencies that can mobilize

- International NGOs (INGOs)
- Large national organizations focused primarily on domestic issues
- think tanks/research institutions

“Environmentalism in developing countries grew out of a lopsided, iniquitous and environmentally destructive process of development”, and is often interlinked with questions of human rights, ethnicity, and distributive justice...tend to stress land use, forest management and fishing rights, and the redistribution of power over natural resources rather than ozone depletion and global warming.” [exs: Chipko movement in India, Green Belt Movement in Kenya, Wangari Maathai]

Corporations (MNCs) – Have national and international industrial associations that represent their interests in policy issues (see, for example, sweetsurprise.com)