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Level: 3rd Year (Semesters 5)

Option: international relations

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In an increasingly interconnected and interdependent world, some issues are too big for countries to handle on their own. Countries need to work together, and they do so in part through international organizations that facilitate cooperation and encourage diplomatic solutions to global problems.

International Organization, institution drawing membership from at least three states, having activities in several states, and whose members are held together by a formal agreement

There are six of the world's most prominent international organizations: The United Nations, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), the European Union (EU), the World Trade Organization (WTO), the Group of Twenty (G20), and the International Criminal Court (ICC). Many of these organizations were created to promote global peace and prosperity, including through governance of international security, trade, and monetary policy, forming part of the liberal world order.

As the issues tackled on a global level evolve, international institutions need to adapt. The World Trade Organization has been criticized for not updating its rules to meet the needs of new technological developments; the United Nations Security Council has been critiqued for preserving an outdated balance of power; and concerns abound over the jurisdiction of the International Criminal Court. More generally, critics are concerned that international institutions such as these require too much political will and resourcing to be nimble enough to respond to urgent issues.

Still, organizations that foster international cooperation are in place to help countries navigate potentially volatile issues diplomatically. In a world that's more connected than ever before, institutions like these have an important role to play.

The United Nations (UN) is the largest and most familiar intergovernmental organization. In 1945, at the end of World War II, governments wanted to avoid future wars. They formed the UN. The UN's main goal is to keep peace. It conducts peacekeeping missions by sending representatives to countries or regions in conflict. The UN currently has peacekeeping missions all over the world. In the nations of South Sudan, Mali, and the Central African Republic, UN peacekeepers monitor local and regional conflicts. On the Mediterranean island nation of Cyprus, UN peacekeepers supervise the buffer zone in the dispute between Greek and Turkish claims to the island.

The UN has several specialized subgroups, such as the World Health Organization (WHO). WHO is responsible for giving direction on international health issues, setting standards, and providing information for governments to make decisions. For example, WHO took the lead during the swine flu outbreak in 2009. It tracked the spread of the flu, offered recommendations about who should get vaccines, and told people how to avoid becoming sick.

Adapted from: <https://education.nationalgeographic.org>

Read the text carefully and Answer the following questions:

- 1/ Give a title to the text.
- 2/ Give a definition of an international organization.
- 3/ What are the reasons for establishing international organizations?
- 4/ What is the role of the United Nations?