**International law** is the set of rules generally regarded and accepted as binding in relations between [states](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/State_(polity)) and between [nations](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nation).[[1]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_law#cite_note-definition_–_international_law-1)[[2]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_law#cite_note-2) It serves as a framework for the practice of stable and organized international relations.[[3]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_law#cite_note-3) International law differs from state-based [legal systems](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Legal_system) in that it is primarily applicable to countries rather than to private citizens. National law may become international law when [treaties](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Treaties) delegate national jurisdiction to [supranational](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Supranational) tribunals such as the [European Court of Human Rights](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/European_Court_of_Human_Rights) or the [International Criminal Court](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_Criminal_Court). Treaties such as the [Geneva Conventions](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Geneva_Conventions) may require national law to conform to respective parts.

Much of international law is consent-based governance. This means that a state member is not obliged to abide by this type of international law, unless it has expressly consented to a particular course of conduct.[[4]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_law#cite_note-4) This is an issue of [state sovereignty](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/State_sovereignty). However, other aspects of international law are not consent-based but still are obligatory upon state and [non-state actors](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Non-state_actor) such as [customary international law](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Customary_international_law) and peremptory norms (*[jus cogens](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Peremptory_norm" \o "Peremptory norm)*).