

Influence of NGOs

FELIX KAPLER TG 12/4

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Definition NGO

At the UN, virtually all types of **private** bodies can be recognized as NGOs. They only have to be **independent from government control, not seeking to challenge governments** either as a political party or by a narrow focus on human rights, **non-profit-making** and **non-criminal**.

An Introduction to Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO) Management - Compiled by Ali MostasharilIranian Studies Group at MIT June 2005

Different kinds of NGOs

- ▶ BINGO – business-friendly international NGO e. g. Red Cross
- ▶ CSO – civil society organization e. g. Amnesty International
- ▶ DONGO – Donor Organized NGO e. g. Sankalp India Foundation
- ▶ ENGO –environmental NGO e. g. Greenpeace
- ▶ GONGO – government-operated NGOs e. g. World Without Nazism
- ▶ INGO – international NGO e. g. Oxfam
- ▶ QUANGO – quasi-autonomous NGO e. g. Forestry Commission
- ▶ TANGO – technical assistance NGO e. g. Empower India Welfare Foundation (EMPIWF)
- ▶ GSO – Grassroots Support Organization e. g. Associação Terra Indígena Xingu (ATIX)
- ▶ RINGO – religious international NGO e. g. Catholic Relief Services
- ▶ Many more because of the vague definition

Why are NGOs founded

When someone spots an issue that he/she thinks gets neglected, he/she can create a Non Governmental Organization to give more attention to this topic.

How they accomplish their goals

- ▶ Acting on the objectives of the organization
 - ▶ For example: Doctors Without Borders fly to developing countries to care for people in need
- ▶ Public relations
 - ▶ To recruit new members
 - ▶ Fundraising
 - ▶ To influence politics

Funding

- ▶ Private investors
- ▶ Donations
- ▶ Government funding
- ▶ Selling of products
 - ▶ Even though they are non-profit
 - ▶ Less dependent on others

Example: PETA

- ▶ People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals
- ▶ Demand improved animal rights
- ▶ International
- ▶ 6.5 million members worldwide
- ▶ Environmental NGO
- ▶ Big presence in media as a result of radical methods
- ▶ Well known for their campaign against fur coats
- ▶ Claims not to be government funded

PETA: controversies

- ▶ Radical methods
 - ▶ Throwing paint on people wearing fur coats
 - ▶ Manipulating media
 - ▶ Threats of violence and terror
 - ▶ Burglary
 - ▶ Breaking into barns
- ▶ In the US they euthanize between 75% - 95% of the animals they save each year

Possibilities to restrict NGOs

- ▶ Stricter punishment for crimes
 - ▶ Forces NGOs to be less radical
- ▶ More transparency
 - ▶ Manipulation becomes more difficult
- ▶ Cut government funding
 - ▶ Taxpayers aren't forced to pay for a cause they don't support

Conclusion

Non Governmental Organizations are able to influence the world around them, but they still can be restricted if they try to abuse their power.