Non-Governmental Organization

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ABSTRACT: A Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) or Civil Society Organization is any organization not established by government agreement. They comprise the "third sector" of modern society, in addition to the public and private sectors.

***1.SUMMARY :-***

The term, "non-governmental organization" or NGO, came into currency in 1945 because of the need for the UN to differentiate in its Charter between participation rights for intergovernmental specialized agencies and those for international private organizations. 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.

The structures of NGOs vary considerably. They can be global hierarchies, with either a relatively strong central authority or a more loose federal arrangement. Alternatively, they may be based in a single country and operate transnationally. With the improvement in communications, more locally-based groups, referred to as grass-roots organizations or community based organizations, have become active at the national or even the global level. Increasingly this occurs through the formation of coalitions. There are international umbrella NGOs, providing an institutional structure for different NGOs that do not share a common identity. There are also looser issue-based networks and ad hoc caucuses, lobbying at UN conferences. In environmental politics, this occurs in the unique form of the nine "Major Groups", listed in *Agenda 21*.

At times NGOs are contrasted with social movements. Much as proponents of social movements may wish to see movements as being more progressive and more dynamic than NGOs, this is a false dichotomy. NGOs are components of social movements. Similarly, civil society is the broader concept to cover all social activity by individuals, groups and movements. It remains a matter of contention whether civil society also covers all economic activity. Usually, society is seen as being composed of three sectors: government, the private sector and civil society, excluding businesses.

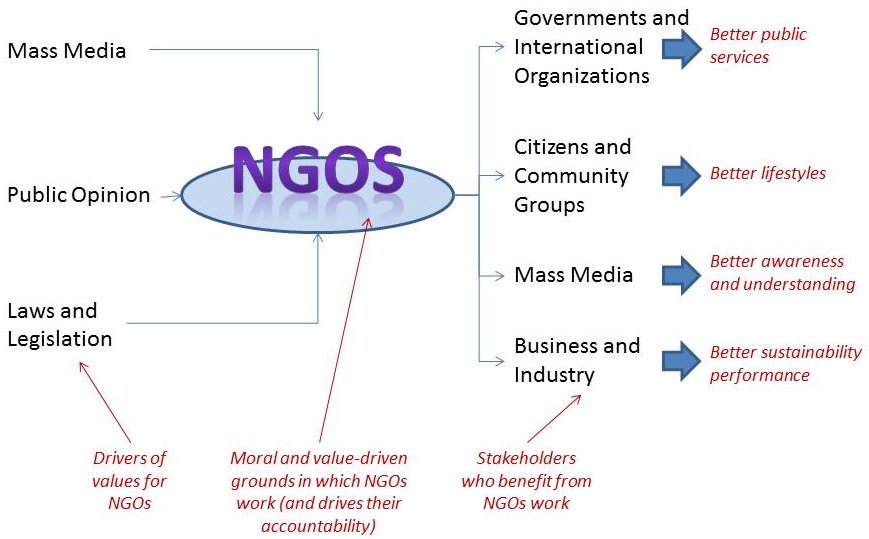
***2.INTODUCTION:-***

Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) play a vital role in improving the lives of people who have been affected by natural disasters or are facing other challenges. NGOs can act as implementers, catalysts, and partners to provide essential goods and services to those in need. They work to mobilize resources, both financial and human, to ensure that aid is delivered in a timely and effective manner.

NGOs also play a critical role in driving change by advocating for policies and practices that benefit disadvantaged communities. They often work in partnership with other organizations, including government agencies, to address complex challenges that require a collaborative approach. One of the key strengths of NGOs is their ability to work at the grassroots level and to connect with communities directly. This allows them to gain a deep understanding of the issues facing people and to tailor their services to meet the specific needs of each community.

***3.* *NON- GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION* :-** **Nongovernmental organization (NGO)**, voluntary group of individuals or organizations, usually not affiliated with any government, that is formed to provide services or to advocate a public policy. Although some NGOs are for-profit corporations, the vast majority are nonprofit organizations. Some NGOs, particularly those based in authoritian countries, may be created, or controlled by governments. By most definitions, political parties and criminal or violent guerrilla organizations are not considered NGOs. The issues addressed by NGOs run the gamut of human concerns (e.g., human rights environmental protection, disaster relief, and development assistance), and the scope of their activities may be local, national, or international. Some NGOs fulfill quasi-governmental functions for ethnic groups that lack a state of their own. NGOs may be financed by private donations, international organization, governments, or a combination of these.

Fig 1.1



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***4.HOW TO MAKE NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION***

NGOs have existed for centuries; indeed, in 1910 some 130 international groups organized a coordinating body called the [Union of International Associations](https://www.britannica.com/topic/Union-of-International-Associations). The term nongovernmental organization was coined at about the time of the founding of the [United Nations](https://www.britannica.com/topic/United-Nations) (UN) in 1945 to distinguish private organizations from intergovernmental organizations (IGOs), such as the UN itself. Many large international NGOs, such as [Amnesty International](https://www.britannica.com/topic/Amnesty-International), the [International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies](https://www.britannica.com/topic/International-Federation-of-Red-Cross-and-Red-Crescent-Societies), [Oxfam International](https://www.britannica.com/topic/Oxfam-International), [CARE](https://www.britannica.com/topic/CARE-charitable-organization), [Save the Children](https://www.britannica.com/topic/Save-the-Children), and the [World Wildlife Fund](https://www.britannica.com/topic/WWF), are transnational federations of national groups. Other international NGOs, such as [Greenpeace](https://www.britannica.com/topic/Greenpeace) and the [Sierra Club](https://www.britannica.com/topic/Sierra-Club), are mass-membership organizations. Most NGOs are small, [grassroots](https://www.britannica.com/topic/grassroots) organizations not formally affiliated with any international body, though they may receive some international funding for local programs.

NGOs perform a variety of functions. They provide information and technical [expertise](https://www.britannica.com/dictionary/expertise) to governments and international organizations (such as specialized agencies of the UN) on various international issues, often supplying local information unavailable to governments. NGOs may advocate on behalf of specific policies, such as debt relief or the banning of landmines (e.g., the [International Campaign to Ban Landmines](https://www.britannica.com/topic/International-Campaign-to-Ban-Landmines)), and they may provide humanitarian relief and development assistance (e.g., the [Red Cross](https://www.britannica.com/topic/Red-Cross-and-Red-Crescent), Oxfam, and CARE). NGOs



may also monitor human rights or the implementation of environmental regulations (e.g., the International Union for the Conservation of Nature, Amnesty International, [Human Rights Watch](https://www.britannica.com/topic/Human-Rights-Watch), and Transparency International).

Since World War II—and particularly since the 1970s—NGOs have proliferated, especially at the national and local levels. At the international level, large numbers of NGOs have been created to address issues such as human rights, women’s rights, and environmental protection. At the same time, international NGOs have become important actors in world affairs within the UN and its specialized agencies and within other forums. A variety of factors have contributed to the growth of NGOs, including [globalization](https://www.britannica.com/science/cultural-globalization); the increasing prominence of transnational issues such as those just mentioned; the growth in UN-sponsored global conferences, which often include parallel NGO forums; the communications revolution, which has linked individuals and groups through facsimile (fax), the Internet, and e-mail; and the spread of [democracy](https://www.britannica.com/topic/democracy), which has [bolstered](https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/bolstered) [civil society](https://www.britannica.com/topic/civil-society) and enabled individuals to form and operate organizations more freely. By the early 21st century, there were some 6,000 recognized international NGOs.

 NGOs have played central roles in global campaigns against slavery, the trade in ivory, [whaling](https://www.britannica.com/topic/whaling), violence against women, [apartheid](https://www.britannica.com/topic/apartheid) in [South Africa](https://www.britannica.com/place/South-Africa), and the proliferation of nuclear weapons.

Fig 1.2



***5. Changes in Terminology Covering NGOs***

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Level of Organization | From 1945 to Early 1990s | Early 1990s Onwards |
| Local | National NGO, at the UN Not discussed elsewhere | Grass-roots, community based or civil society organization, or local NGO |
| Provincial (USA - state) | National NGO, at the UN Not discussed elsewhere | Civil society organization or local NGO |
| National | National NGO, at the UN NGO, outside the UN | NGO or national NGO or civil society organization |
| Regional | International NGO | NGO or civil society organization |
| Global | International NGO | NGO or Major Group or civil society organization |

***6.CONCLUSION :-***

The discussion so far might appear to imply that all NGOs are politically active. This is obviously not the case, irrespective of the political situation or the issue under consideration. At any specific point in time, an NGO may have little contact with those who are not members. On the other hand, a change in society that is salient to the group can motivate an introspective NGO to engage in sustained political action. It is certainly not true that all NGOs are active in global politics. It is not even true that all NGOs attempt to influence politics at the country level, in the narrow sense of direct engagement in the debate over public policy. However, politics may also be seen, more broadly, as the process by which any set of people reaches a collective decision. This means that attempts by an NGO to mobilize individuals and change their personal behavior, to win support from a religious group or a trade union, or to articulate their values in the news media are all forms of political action. Legal systems may classify raising money for purposes such as poverty alleviation, disaster relief or environmental conservation as non-political, but the legal distinction between charitable and political activity is always based on an arbitrary, illogical and controversial definition of politics. Many NGOs will not see themselves as engaging directly in public policy, but their activities are always a social expression of values. Hence, NGOs are very likely to be political in the broadest sense of affecting social discourse and can often have an indirect effect on politics in the narrow sense of shaping public policy.

    The point of this debate about terminology is to emphasize that NGOs are not just well-meaning, uncontroversial, non-political groups. Furthermore, there is no difference between the role of NGOs in domestic and in global politics. At both levels, they are diverse, controversial and of major political significance. The impact of a particular NGO may vary across time and place, and from one issue to another, but collectively NGOs generate the dynamics of political change. We have seen that there is often an assumption that NGOs are operating for the general public good or even that they are "progressive". However, there is such diversity to the values advocated by different NGOs that they oppose each other, as well as putting pressure on governments and companies. Many women's NGOs oppose religious NGOs on questions of sexual and reproductive behavior. Hunters, farmers and fishing communities oppose animal rights groups. Environmental and development NGOs have different perspectives on sustainable development from each other. Many radical NGOs are hostile to reformist NGOs who accept incremental change. It is not logically possible for anybody to support all NGOs nor indeed to be hostile to all NGOs.

***7. ACKNOWLEDGMENT :-***

The heading of the Acknowledgment section and the reference section must not be numbered.

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