

Week 6

Exercise One

Insert footnotes where you think citations should go. You do not need to fill in any sources; just put a footnote where citations should go.

Secretariats are hallmarks of international organizations. They do everything from organize meetings, to record-keeping, to administrative tasks, to facilitating treaty compliance. Some provide advice and can take actions outside of the wishes of member states. For example, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) secretariat is an influential body, headed by a secretary general who chairs most institutional meeting and serves as the spokesperson for the alliance, often the public face of treaty action. The institutional bureaucracy itself is large; about 4,000 people work out of its headquarters in Brussels, including 1,000 full-time staff. The NATO international staffs play an important advisory role: “It supports and advises committees, and also prepares and follows up on their discussions and decisions, therefore facilitating the political consultation process.” To give another example, the Secretariat of the United Nations can develop initiatives for the institution. It has 37,000 employees with a main headquarters in New York. The head staff person is the Secretary General of the United Nations, who serves as an institutional spokesperson; beyond that, they are a diplomat who helps mediate conflicts between member states. They even have some power to take positions and provide advice outside of the wishes of member states: “The [United Nations] Charter also empowers the Secretary-General to bring to the attention of the Security Council any matter which in their opinion may threaten the maintenance of international peace and security.” Secretariat functions may not be glamorous, but they are a key part of global governance.