

Concept of International Law

International law, is the body of law that "regulates the activities of entities possessing international personality":

1. States;
2. International organizations.

Importance of International Law

International law:

- Defines the very existence of “states”;
- Governs international agreements;
- Provides rules for the establishment and operation of international organizations;
- Provides the framework for diplomatic and consular relations;
- Sets forth rules of the international dispute settlement;
- Governs individual human rights;
- Governs the law of armed conflict;
- Regulates the use of the air, land, sea and other global resources, as well as the protection of the global environment; and
- Sets forth rules for the operation of international trade.

Major Sources of International Law

- International Treaties;
- International Custom;
- The general principles of law recognized by civilized nations.

Principles of International Law

- The principle of sovereign equality of states;
- The duty not to intervene in matters within the domestic jurisdiction of any state;
- The principle that states must refrain in international relations from the threat or use of force;
- The principle that states must settle their international disputes by peaceful means;
- The principles of protection of human rights and self-determination of peoples;
- The duty of States to co-operate with one another;
- The principle that States fulfill their international obligations in good faith.