### THE ROLE OF INTERNATIONAL LAW IN ENSURING INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

## O PAPEL DO DIREITO INTERNACIONAL NA GARANTIA DA SEGURANÇA INTERNACIONAL

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Abstract: The purpose of this article is to comprehensively investigate the role of international law in ensuring international security. The development of modern international society demonstrates that calls for peaceful resolution of disputes, mutual respect in international relations, and adherence to the norms and principles of international law are antiquated and rudimentary. At the same time, the dynamic and everchanging state of international relations today demands our understanding of security primarily as an instrument for the stable development and prosperity of nations. Using interdisciplinary and specific scientific methods, it has been clarified the main theoretical aspects of interstate security and analyzed potential threats and conditions for their prevention. Thus, in the course of our work, it has been elucidated the essence of the concepts of "international law" and "international security." Identified the characteristic features of international security and analyzed the fundamental principles of its provision. Characterized the activities of international organizations that are involved in maintaining peace and security worldwide. It has been analyzed the main challenges and threats that affect interstate security and substantiated the main measures and principles of international law compliance, the observance of which will help preserve a stable state of international security.

**Keywords:** International law. Security. International security. International organization. Principles of international law.

**Resumo:** O objetivo deste artigo é investigar de forma abrangente o papel do direito internacional na garantia da segurança internacional. O desenvolvimento da sociedade internacional moderna demonstra que os apelos para a resolução pacífica de disputas, o respeito mútuo nas relações internacionais e a adesão às normas e aos princípios do direito internacional estão desatualizados e são rudimentares. Ao mesmo tempo, o estado dinâmico e em constante mudança das relações internacionais atuais exige que entendamos a segurança principalmente como um instrumento para o desenvolvimento estável e a prosperidade das nações. Usando métodos científicos

interdisciplinares e específicos, os principais aspectos teóricos da segurança interestadual foram

esclarecidos e as possíveis ameaças e condições para sua prevenção foram analisadas. Assim, no decorrer de nosso trabalho, a essência dos conceitos de "direito internacional" e "segurança internacional" foi elucidada. Identificamos os traços característicos da segurança internacional e analisamos os princípios fundamentais de sua provisão. Caracterizou as atividades das organizações internacionais envolvidas na manutenção da paz e da segurança em todo o mundo. Foram analisados os princípios desafios e ameaças que afetam a segurança interestatal e fundamentadas as principais medidas e princípios de conformidade com o direito internacional, cuja observância contribuirá para a preservação de um estado estável de segurança internacional.

**Palavras-chave:** Direito internacional. Segurança. Segurança internacional. Organização internacional. Princípios do direito internacional.

#### 1. Introduction

The last quarter of the previous century and the beginning of the new century are characterized by a gradual increase in the number of crises of various types and degrees worldwide, including military, technological, socio-economic, environmental, and others. Humanity realizes the new reality of international security and has understood the value of human life. The primary challenge in international security in the 21st century is the establishment of effective mechanisms for collective counteraction to international threats. The system of ensuring international security, which involves the observance of universally recognized norms and principles of international law by all subjects of international relations and excludes the use of force or the threat of force to resolve disputes and conflicts, has become of paramount importance. This situation causes a comprehensive study of the theoretical aspects of interstate security and its characteristic features; an analysis of the activities of international organizations involved in regulating security between states; an examination of the main current threats and challenges; and the identification of the key means and principles of ensuring international security than can be found in this article.

#### 2. Theoretical Framework or Literature Review

The study of international security has been the focus of many domestic and foreign researches. In the modern world, humanity faces global survival issues, with protecting human rights and freedoms, ecology, culture, and civilization being among the most important. Ensuring stable development for nations and overcoming the idea of imperial domination held by some politicians and political groups (Martyniuk, 2022; Paryzkyi, 2021; Lebedynska, 2023) are all



crucial aspects. Wars, conflicts, and threats to international security pose a significant risk to human life and dignity, as well as to the stability and prosperity of societies (Bysaga, 2020). Ensuring international peace and security involves preventing wars, conflicts, and the threat of force, as well as resolving conflicts through peaceful means and adhering to the principles of international law (Iguliiev, 2020; Fichek, 2022). Scholars emphasize that the United Nations (UN) Charter plays a pivotal role in regulating international relations and ensuring international peace and security. Its principles and provisions are fundamental to international law and cooperation (Ahmedova, 2021; Gorinov & Mereniuk, 2022; Kobko, 2022). Novitsky (2019) and Parizkyi (2023) also argue that ensuring international peace and security is a primary task of the UN and a crucial component of stability and harmony in international relations. The principles of the international security system serve as the foundation for conflict prevention and the resolution of international disputes, to ensure peace and security worldwide. As Kinash (2022) points out, ensuring international security requires joint efforts from states, international organizations, and civil society. Collaborative actions can encompass security cooperation, information exchange, peacekeeping activities, and other measures aimed at countering challenges and threats to international security. Bilyavtseva (2021) also notes that international security involves preventing wars and conflicts, resolving international disputes through peaceful means, and ensuring justice in international relations. Peace and justice are the fundamental goals of the United Nations (1945). This allows people to live in peace and security, develop themselves and their societies, and provides the basis for the development of the economy, culture, education, and other aspects of modern life (Smolianiuk, 2018; Shelest, 2020). The study of international security has attracted extensive domestic and foreign research attention, with a particular focus on safeguarding human rights, ecology, culture, and civilization, as well as promoting stable national development while countering imperial domination aspirations in global politics (Martyniuk, 2022). Amidst this complex landscape, scholars and policymakers continually seek innovative strategies to address the multifaceted challenges facing the world today. The global challenges of wars, conflicts, and threats to international security represent significant risks to human life, dignity, and the prosperity of societies (Bysaga, 2020; Wardani, 2021). In an increasingly interconnected world, these challenges have far-reaching consequences, transcending borders and impacting global stability. It is imperative to recognize the urgency of finding comprehensive solutions that not only mitigate the immediate consequences of conflicts but also address their root causes. International peace and security efforts encompass the prevention of armed conflicts and the use of force, the peaceful resolution of disputes in

accordance with the principles of international law (Iguliiev, 2020), and the central role played by the United Nations (1945) Charter in regulating international relations and fostering cooperation (Ahmedova, 2021). The UN, established in the aftermath of World War II, remains a pivotal actor in the pursuit of global peace and security. Its charter underscores the importance of diplomacy, cooperation, and adherence to international norms in preventing conflicts and maintaining order on the international stage. Novytskyi et al. (2022) and Parizkyi (2023) assert that the UN's primary mission is ensuring international peace and security, vital for maintaining stability and harmony in global relations. This mission necessitates ongoing diplomacy, conflict mediation, and peacekeeping operations in regions affected by instability. It also underscores the importance of collective action and cooperation among nations, as no single state can address the complexities of today's global security challenges in isolation. The bedrock of conflict prevention and resolution lies in the principles of the international security system, striving for global peace and security (Kinash, 2022). This system relies on a framework of international agreements, institutions, and norms that provide a foundation for managing conflicts and crises. It is a dynamic and evolving field, requiring adaptability and innovative thinking to address emerging threats, such as cyber warfare, terrorism, and climate change. This requires coordinated efforts among states, international organizations, and civil society, spanning security cooperation, information exchange, peacekeeping activities, and other measures to address international security challenges (Belyevtseva, 2021). Collaboration among these stakeholders is essential for building trust, sharing intelligence, and responding effectively to security threats. It also acknowledges the role of civil society in advocating for human rights, transparency, and accountability in security matters. The overarching goal of international security includes averting conflicts, achieving peaceful dispute resolution, and upholding justice in international relations, which align with the core objectives of the United Nations (1945). These endeavors provide the foundation for peaceful coexistence, societal development, and progress in various facets of contemporary life, including the economy, culture, education, and more (Smolyuk, 2019). As it has been navigated the complexities of the 21st century, the pursuit of international security remains essential for ensuring a better future for all nations and peoples. It requires a collective commitment to the principles of peace, cooperation, and justice on a global scale.

#### 3. Methodology

The objectives outlined in the research were effectively tackled through the integration of a diverse array of specialized and interdisciplinary research methodologies. A systematic approach was instrumental in facilitating the discernment of foundational facets within the realm of international security. Moreover, it enabled a meticulous exploration of the indispensable role played by international law in guaranteeing the security of nation-states on the global stage. The application of the hermeneutical method proved invaluable in not only identifying but also resolving any inconsistencies present within the terminology used throughout the study. This method allowed for a nuanced and precise interpretation of key concepts and terms, ensuring that their meaning was unambiguous, thereby enhancing the overall coherence and comprehensibility of the research. Furthermore, the research also benefited from the judicious utilization of logical and historical methodologies. Logical analysis facilitated a rigorous examination of the underlying principles governing international security, while the historical perspective afforded a deeper understanding of how these principles have evolved in response to changing geopolitical dynamics and global challenges. In the pursuit of specific research objectives, a combination of analytical, synthetic, inductive, and deductive methods was skillfully employed. These methodological tools were applied as needed, allowing for a comprehensive investigation of various aspects related to international security. Analytical methods were useful for dissecting complex issues into their constituent parts for closer examination, while synthesis enabled the integration of diverse data and perspectives to construct a holistic understanding of the subject matter. Inductive reasoning was employed to derive general principles or conclusions from specific observations, while deductive reasoning helped to test hypotheses and establish logical connections between different elements of the research.

#### 4. **Results and Discussion**

International law is defined as a system of legal norms that regulate interstate relations to ensure peace, human rights, and cooperation, and as a legal instrument for decisions made and implemented by authorized entities to pursue common interests (Martyniuk, 2022). Modern weaponry makes it unfeasible to secure a country's security solely through military-technical means, through the development of arms and armed forces because not only is nuclear warfare unwinnable, but also an arms race (Lebedynska, 2023). Muhammad and Sugeng (2022) note that, until recently, international security was viewed as a phenomenon closely tied to the element of military force. This element was characterized by the use or threat of military force to



deter aggression by a state or group of states, the formation of military alliances, and, in some cases, the pursuit of individual interests. Gradually, the element of military force has been complemented by diplomatic and other political means used to limit the scale of military confrontation, the rapid buildup of military potential, and the possibility of an armed conflict. Today, there is a broad understanding of the concept of international security, which is all-encompassing. The need for comprehensive research is justified by the combination of knowledge from various academic disciplines, such as international relations, world politics, military science, and international law. Each of these different sciences has its own specifics, logic, scientific apparatus, and terminology (Kinash, 2022; Najafov, 2017; Novytskyi et al., 2022; Pavlenko et al., 2019).

The main interpretations of the concept of "international security" are summarized in Table 1.

Table 1. Interpretation of the Concept of "International Security"

The essence of the concept
International security prevents general breaches of the peace, threats of war, and other forms of violation of the existence, sovereignty, and independent development of states.
A set of universally recognized special principles and norms aimed at maintaining peace and international security, preventing acts of aggression, in the narrow sense - a set of universally recognized principles and norms that ensure national military and political security, preventing wars and armed conflicts.
International security is a system of interstate relations based on the rule of law and international law.
Ensures the full sovereignty of states, their political and economic independence, ability to repel military and political pressure and aggression, and equal relations with other states and creates the conditions necessary for their existence and functioning. Source: (Belyevtseva, 2021; Bysaha et.al., 2020; Kinash, 2022; Gnatenko et. al., 2020).

Characteristic features of international security are shown in Figure 1.



#### Figure 1. Characteristic features of international security

# Characteristic features of international international security reflects the level of stability and absence of threats in international relations; international security reflects a state of international relations in which international peace is guaranteed and contradictions (conflicts) between countries are resolved through peaceful settlement; international security is only possible when countries cooperate with each other; all countries should be able to maintain and defend their independence by establishing sovereignty within the international legal order;

-ponly by adhering to the basic principles of international law and universally recognized norms in the context of the international legal order can international security be ensured.

Source: (Martyniuk, 2022).

In general, the understanding of the term "international security" is limited to the security of entities such as states, groups of states, and state coalitions, as confirmed by provisions of international legal documents and the doctrine of international law (Belyevtseva, 2021). The primary component of international security is cooperation among states aimed at maintaining peace and security, reducing international tensions, and strengthening the international rule of law. The main principles of international security are shown in Figure 2.



#### Figure 2. The main principles of international security

#### The main principles of international security

All countries have sovereign equality. All countries recognized by the international community enjoy equal sovereignty. It is worth noting that countries around the world have different levels of development in economic, political, legal, cultural, and other spheres. However, all countries enjoy equal rights before the international community and international organizations.

Non-use of force or threat of force. This principle restricts states from using force to achieve their national interests. Relations between countries are relations of cooperation, not subordination.

Peaceful settlement of international disputes. Countries cooperate with each other and with intergovernmental organizations, regardless of differences in political, economic, and social spheres. If disputes arise in the course of cooperation between countries, they are obliged to resolve them peacefully. Military means of conflict resolution are prohibited and may be used only with the authorization of the UN Security Council. The use of force in the absence of a UN resolution can be considered an act of aggression by one state against another.

Territorial integrity and inviolability of the state. According to this principle, one state must respect the territorial integrity of another state. Forcible seizure of the territory of another state is prohibited.

Equality and self-determination of peoples. Every nation living in a particular state has the right to identify itself and its nationality. A person has the right to speak his or her native language.

Non-interference in the internal affairs of the state. Each state has the right to independently determine its domestic and foreign policy without unlawful interference from other states.

Source: (UN Charter, 2023).

The United Nations (1945) is a key international organization that plays an important role in conflict resolution, peacekeeping, and the development of conceptual acts in the field of international security. The functions of maintaining international peace and security are performed by the General Assembly and the Security Council, whose powers are clearly defined. The UN Charter assigns the General Assembly a central role as the main deliberative, policymaking, and representative body of the UN. The General Assembly has broad powers, including in the field of international security, as stated in Article 10 of the Charter: "The General Assembly shall have the right to discuss any question or matter within the scope of the present Charter or the powers or functions of the organs provided for therein and, subject to the



exceptions provided for in Article 12, to make recommendations to the Members of the United Nations or the Security Council" (Zahumenna, 2021).

The United Nations Security Council is comprised of 15 member states, with five of them holding permanent membership. These member states collectively represent all UN member countries and bear the principal responsibility for upholding global peace and security, as outlined in Article 24 of the UN Charter (Kinash, 2022). The Security Council's authority in this regard is governed by the provisions set out in Chapters V (Security Council), VI (Peaceful Resolution of Disputes), VII (Actions Taken in Response to Threats to Peace, Breaches of Peace, and Acts of Aggression), VIII (Regional Agreements), and XII (International Evaluation Systems) of the UN Charter.

Apart from the United Nations (1945), there exist several influential international organizations that focus on addressing or alleviating the adverse consequences of armed conflicts. These organizations include the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), the European Union (EU), the Council of Europe (CoE), and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) (Martyniuk, 2022).

The OSCE, an intergovernmental organization, seeks to serve as a forum for political discussions concerning various security matters and as a means to collaboratively enhance the well-being of individuals and communities. The OSCE adopts a comprehensive security approach that encompasses political, military, environmental, economic, and human aspects. It contributes to reconciling disparities among states by fostering cooperation in conflict prevention, managing crises, and facilitating recovery after conflicts. Additionally, the OSCE deals with matters such as arms control, safeguarding energy security, preventing terrorism, combatting human trafficking, promoting democracy, preserving media freedom, and protecting minority rights, among other issues.

NATO is engaged in the process of preparing candidate countries for membership in the Alliance. This process includes the implementation of democratic standards, security sector reform, adaptation to NATO defense standards, and other necessary measures. Once a country is accepted into NATO, it is integrated into the Alliance's structures and mechanisms. This integration allows countries to become full members of NATO and contributes to their security through collective defense. NATO also promotes the reform of security forces in partner countries, including the improvement of military doctrine, standards, and practices. This helps to increase the efficiency and professionalism of the armed forces of these countries and helps to



strengthen international security (Morozova & Chernova, 2020; Preston, 2021). One of the main goals of the EU is to ensure peace and stability in Europe through deep economic and political integration of its members. The EU emphasizes fundamental values such as human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality, and human rights. Member states are actively involved in security sector reform in cooperation with other international organizations. The EU also cooperates with partner countries such as Ukraine, Georgia, Moldova, and many others to support their reforms and strengthen their security.

The Council of Europe stands as one of the international bodies established with the aim of advancing democracy, human rights, and the adherence to law in Europe. Its endeavors related to security and governance span a diverse spectrum, encompassing activities like enhancing institutional capacity, overseeing investigative and legal processes, providing advice and training, and more. A significant facet of the Council of Europe's work revolves around establishing benchmarks for the security sector. Moreover, the organization plays a crucial role in upholding accountability within member states' security apparatus and fulfills a vital legal function in addressing violations of human rights (Martyniuk, 2022).

Although the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) does not have a political role in resolving armed conflicts, it can carry out important humanitarian work in the early stages of a conflict and during its development. The ICRC has extensive experience in humanitarian issues and assistance to victims of conflict.

Here are some of the ways the ICRC can contribute to the prevention and resolution of armed conflict:

• Humanitarian assistance (The ICRC can provide humanitarian assistance to those affected by conflicts, including medical care, food, and shelter. This can help reduce humanitarian crises and save lives).

• Mediation and peacekeeping efforts (the organization can act as a neutral mediator or contribute to peacekeeping efforts aimed at resolving conflict and restoring peace).

• Awareness and education (the ICRC works to raise public awareness of the humanitarian aspects of conflict and human rights. This work can help reduce violence and conflict).

• Cooperation with the UN and other organizations (the ICRC cooperates with the UN and other international organizations to work together to prevent conflicts and address their consequences).



Researchers characterize the current state of international security as the post-Cold War period. The main challenges and threats to international security are:

#### 1. Decentralization and polarization in the international security system

The early 1990s did not align with expectations for reduced international tensions and swift conflict resolutions. The collapse of the Yalta-Postdam framework, originally established during the global East-West confrontation, significantly altered the global power balance. This period also witnessed a fresh polarization and decentralization of the international system. There were notable shifts in the hierarchy of states, with a group of influential and developed nations asserting their dominance in political, economic, and military realms, including permanent members of the UN Security Council (China, France, the United Kingdom, and the United States) and potential candidates for membership (Brazil, Germany, India, Japan, and the United Arab Emirates) in the event of Security Council expansion. Nevertheless, the United States maintains a leading position in global power dynamics, supported by its substantial economy and ongoing growth in military capabilities. However, the events of September 11, 2001, underscored the reality that, even as a global superpower, the United States cannot act unilaterally in an interconnected world. Meanwhile, Russia and China, both opposing the idea of a unipolar world, advocate for multipolarity and recognize alternative geostrategic centers such as the European Union, India, Japan, Germany, Brazil, and South Africa. Russia's annexation of Crimea in February 2014 rekindled tensions akin to the Cold War between Russia and the West. Simultaneously, China's robust economic growth and military modernization initiatives have solidified its position as a formidable player in global politics (Muhammad & Sugeng, 2022; Kryvovyazyuk, 2021).

#### 2. Increased globalization and anti-state tendencies

Globalization is one of the main processes in modern world politics and international relations. It is characterized by deepening interdependence in ideological, political, economic, and other spheres. Recently, however, we can observe the emergence of various anti-state factors that threaten international security and peace. Such non-state actors include terrorists, armed extremists, separatists or other anti-government armed groups, sea pirates, drug traffickers, etc. Pessimism is growing about the rise of violence and wars as a result of the weakening of states. First of all, such threats are caused by weak, decaying states and incompetent governments. Therefore, in some parts of the world, long-term zones of instability and violence are being created (Nouri, 2021; Pašagić, 2020; Prymus, 2022).

# 3. The global "export" of democracy and the rejection of absolute sovereignty

Expanding the sphere of global democracies is synonymous with broadening the scope of peace and security among nations. Democratization denotes the series of political and social changes geared towards establishing a democratic system. It's essential to note that democracy doesn't guarantee the resolution of specific issues; instead, it creates a conducive environment for pursuing objectives. The outcome hinges on various factors, including the conditions of the democratic process, the dynamics of influential forces, their impact on the democratic process, problem-solving capabilities, and the external circumstances influencing domestic politics. One of the primary outcomes of global democracy is an increasing consensus regarding the reinforcement of human rights and individual freedoms, along with a reduced tolerance for authoritarian rule. Given the interconnected nature of contemporary global relations and the processes of globalization, widespread human rights violations and unlawful actions by governments can no longer remain hidden from the international community. Consequently, there arises a genuine necessity for international intervention to address such issues. As conflicts and international terrorism continue to proliferate, the world's major powers find themselves compelled to combat such violence, often without the consent of affected states (Smolianiuk, 2019).

#### 4. Transition of technological development to relations of dominance and power

In the first half of the twentieth century, it would have been unimaginable that scientific and technological advancements would soon provide humanity with a global connection, facilitated by invisible networks spanning the entire world. As the twenty-first century unfolds, one of the primary challenges in global politics revolves around the profound scientific and technological leaps that have the potential to transform various aspects of human activity. The processes of modern globalization have significantly amplified the role of information technology within the realm of military affairs. The integration of cutting-edge technologies has fundamentally altered the characteristics and capabilities of conventional weaponry, intelligence operations, and troop management systems, thus extending the possibilities of remote warfare. Information systems have emerged as potent tools for both potential adversaries and hostile nations. It is beyond dispute that our contemporary world grapples with the significance of information, particularly within the context of conflicts. In the UN Secretary-General's report dated October 3, 2001, information wars are associated with various threats, including the preparation and use of authorized methods to manipulate the information landscape of another



state, causing harm to external information resources, selectively providing intelligence to foreign nationals, attempts to dominate the information domain, and the proliferation of terrorism (Nuri, 2021). Moreover, information technologies are reshaping the nature of modern armed conflicts and influencing the perspectives of military and political leadership regarding strategies and policies.

#### 5. Crisis of the international law institution

Today, the crisis facing international legal institutions is apparent and has a significant impact on the conduct of actors within the international security arena. Firstly, there is a widespread perception that the effectiveness of the United Nations (1945) is in question when compared to the existing system. Secondly, the practice of "humanitarian intervention" has brought about a profound shift in the traditional concept of sovereignty. The threat posed by transnational terrorism has introduced an entirely new challenge known as "preemptive shock." The increased use of armed forces against non-state entities like terrorists, separatists, and insurgents has underscored the importance of employing military force judiciously and safeguarding civilians and innocent bystanders during military operations. Consequently, in light of the contemporary realities of international politics, there is a pressing need for the development of international law and reform within the UN. Thirdly, the United States and several other nations are attempting to navigate beyond established legal frameworks to address issues pertaining to international security (Akhmedova, 2021; Roieva et al., 2023). The challenges facing international legal institutions today are multifaceted and deeply impactful on global security dynamics. The perceived effectiveness of the United Nations (1945) is under scrutiny, traditional notions of sovereignty are evolving due to humanitarian interventions, and the specter of transnational terrorism requires a reevaluation of preemptive strategies. As nations grapple with these complex issues, there is an urgent imperative for the continued development of international law and a concerted effort to reform and strengthen the United Nations (1945). Moreover, it is essential for countries to strike a delicate balance between addressing security concerns and upholding human rights, particularly when using military force against non-state actors. In this evolving landscape of international politics, collaborative efforts and innovative legal frameworks are crucial to navigate the complex challenges that lie ahead.

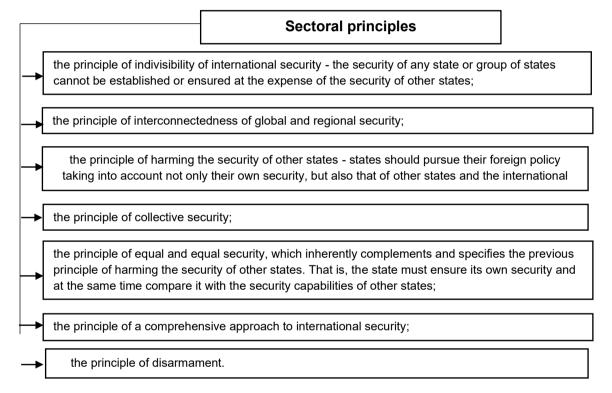
#### 6. Non-military aspects of global security

Traditionally, the concept of security has predominantly revolved around military threats. However, towards the end of the 20th century, there emerged new perspectives that expanded the notion of security beyond the military and military-technical aspects. These emerging

concepts recognized that various non-military realms such as the economy, energy, environment, migration, food security, and others could significantly impact international security. Nonmilitary security, in this context, encompasses a range of conditions aimed at addressing social, economic, and environmental challenges and threats to human development, both on a national and international scale. This novel conceptual approach was primarily associated with the work of B. Buzan and his associates. They criticized the conventional security paradigm, which heavily emphasized the role of the state and military factors. Instead, they sought to establish the groundwork for a broader field of security studies. This fresh perspective incorporates not only traditional military factors but also considers other dimensions like economic, social, political, and environmental concerns, encompassing what is often referred to as the "soft power domains" (Kinash, 2022; Tsybulnyk, 2021). Indeed, in the 21st century, non-military aspects such as economic, humanitarian, and environmental interdependence have gained substantial prominence. In recent years, crises related to economics, society, and the environment have raised more significant national, regional, and international security apprehensions than purely military issues. Economic instability, for instance, is seen not only as a consequence of armed conflicts but also as a contributing factor to instability, manifesting in various forms (Prymus, 2022; Sayler, 2020). A decline in the economy poses a significant threat to national interests. Ethnicity, often linked to the rise of ethnic nationalism or the pursuit of nation-state status, can result in social and political turmoil in many countries within the region. What's even more concerning for stability is when ethnic nationalism surfaces in the form of border disputes or economic disparities, and the leaders of these nations exploit this discontent to bolster their political positions. Moreover, unregulated population movements driven by conflicts, ethnic tensions, wars, or unforeseen economic challenges can deplete a country's resources, leading to disorder and civil unrest. The presence of illegal immigrants further exacerbates issues, including an upsurge in criminal activities such as drug and arms trafficking. Environmental risks are increasingly becoming a prominent threat to stability. Practices such as the unsustainable use of water, improper disposal of industrial waste, military experiments, and mishandling of toxic nuclear and chemical waste have adverse consequences for the environment (Alguliyev et al., 2021). These factors contribute to a reduction in arable land suitable for agriculture, deterioration of public health, and job losses (Bysaha et.al., 2020). Currently, international law has many specific means of ensuring international security, namely: collective security (general security and regional security); resolving disputes by peaceful means; disarmament; measures to ease international tensions and end the arms race; non-alignment and neutrality; prevention of nuclear

weapons; measures of war; actions of international organizations; measures to suppress aggression, violation and threat to peace; self-defense; creation of global zones in different regions of the globe; neutralization and demilitarization of certain territories, liquidation of foreign military bases, strengthening of interstate relations (Kinash, 2022; Sanclemente, 2022). In addition to the general principles of international law, international security law also contains sectoral principles (Figure 3).

## Figure 3. principles of international law, international security law also contains sectoral principles



Source: (Belyevtseva, 2021).

Therefore, ensuring peace and international security largely depends on the comprehensive influence and development of international law, which objectively promotes the unity of countries and peoples, establishes a universal international legal order, and protects human rights within this order, freedoms and interests, cultural and natural heritage and other civilian objects, regulates relations related to the use of means and methods of armed struggle,



and forms an effective international system for combating violations of the norms and principles of international law.

#### 5. Conclusions

In a comprehensive assessment, it becomes evident that our contemporary world is confronted with an array of exceptionally grave challenges to international security. These challenges encompass a spectrum of issues, including but not limited to violence, aggressive warfare, the looming specter of deploying radioactive, nuclear, biological, and chemical weaponry, and the ever-present threat of terrorism. What makes these international threats particularly daunting is their disregard for national boundaries; they transcend territorial limits and are intricately interconnected. Addressing these multifaceted threats necessitates a concerted effort at various levels-international, regional, and national. Any endeavor by a single nation to safeguard its security in the face of these multifarious perils is inherently destined for failure. The magnitude and complexity of these threats underscore the indispensability of collective action involving all stakeholders in the international political arena. In this context, effective international cooperation emerges as the cornerstone of mitigating these crises. Collaborative efforts, fostering diplomatic channels for conflict resolution, and upholding the tenets of international law must be at the forefront of our approach. Moreover, as the landscape of global security evolves, it becomes imperative to develop innovative normative instruments that can adapt to the ever-changing dynamics of the modern world. By leveraging these collective strategies and initiatives, the international community can aspire to surmount these pressing challenges and ultimately pave the way for greater stability and enduring peace in our interconnected world.



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