Term Paper

Write an Essay on Diplomatic Missions of International Organization

Introduction

Diplomacy is the management of international relations by communications, including negotiations at times leading to a bargain or agreement. Indeed, the emphasis on negotiation is viewed by most people as the essence of diplomacy; negotiating a treaty, reaching an executive agreement or bargaining with another state over the terms of a proposed agreement. The emphasis on a state as a key diplomatic actor; whether acting on its own or within international organizations, alliances and other coalitions is consistent with a realist perspective on diplomacy. Liberals also understand the importance of states, of course, but they are prone to considering officials and staffs of both international and Non-governmental organizations as important players that ought not to be overlooked.

Sustaining and improving the communications process in international relations may be as or even more important than the particular issues being discussed or negotiated. Therefore a person who is an official engaged in international negotiations is called a ‘Diplomat’. In ordinary conversations, the word ‘diplomacy’ and diplomat usually have a positive connotation. To say someone was ‘very diplomatic in dealing with the problem’ is a compliment that implies that the person is a good communicator; one who possesses understanding sensitivity, and effective interpersonal skills.

Diplomatic Missions

A diplomatic mission is a **group of people** from one state or **an international inter-governmental organisation** (such as United Nations, Commonwealth of Nations, [European Union](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/European_Union), African Union etc.) present in another state to represent the sending state/organisation officially in the receiving state. In practice, a diplomatic mission usually denotes the resident mission, namely the office of a country's diplomatic representatives in the capital city of another country. As well as being a diplomatic mission to the country in which it is situated, it may also be a non-resident permanent mission to one or more other countries. There are thus resident and non-resident embassies.

Article 2 of the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations 1961 provides that the establishment of diplomatic missions between States, and of permanent diplomatic missions, takes place by mutual consent. It is worthy to note that for every diplomatic mission, there is a ‘Head of Mission’ who is the person charged by the receiving state with the duty of acting in that capacity (Article 1(a) of the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations 1961). Article 14 of the convention went further to list the three (3) classes the Head of Mission; namely:

(a) That of ambassadors or nuncios accredited to Heads of State, and other heads of mission of equivalent rank;

(b) That of envoys, ministers and internuncios accredited to Heads of State;

(c) That of *chargés d’affaires* accredited to Ministers for Foreign Affairs.

In cases of dispute, it is common for a country to recall its head of mission as a sign of its displeasure. This is less drastic than cutting diplomatic relations completely, and the mission will still continue operating more or less normally, but it will now be headed by a chargé d'affaires (usually the deputy chief of mission) who may have limited powers.

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| Types of Diplomatic Missions |
| A country may have several different types of diplomatic missions in another country.  Embassy A diplomatic mission located in the capital city of another country which generally offer a full range of services, including consular services.  High Commission An embassy of a Commonwealth country located in another Commonwealth country.  Permanent Mission A diplomatic mission to a major international organization.  Consulate General A diplomatic mission located in a major city, other than the capital city, which provides a full range of services, including consular services. The person in charge of a consulate-general is known as a consul-general.  Consulate A diplomatic mission that is similar to a consulate general, but which does not provide a full range of services. The person in charge of a consulate is known as a consul.  Consulate Headed by Honorary Consul  A diplomatic mission headed by an Honorary Consul which provides only a limited range of services. |

Functions of a Diplomatic Missions

The functions of a diplomatic mission are stated in Article 3 (1) (a-e) of the convention which consist of the following:

(*a*) Representing the sending State in the receiving State;

(*b*) Protecting in the receiving State the interests of the sending State and of its nationals, within the limits permitted by international law;

(*c*) Negotiating with the Government of the receiving State;

(*d*) Ascertaining by all lawful means conditions and developments in the receiving State, and reporting thereon to the Government of the sending State;

(*e*) Promoting friendly relations between the sending State and the receiving State, and developing their economic, cultural and scientific relations.

United Nations

United Nations is an international organization which was formed by different countries of the world coming together to form a Treaty to promote world peace and to form an international-friendly ties with other states. The United Nations adopted the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations on the 16th April 1961 at the United Nations Conference on Diplomatic Intercourse and Immunities held in Vienna (U.N. Doc./Conf.20/13). The convention entered into force on the 24th April 1964. By 2006 185 states had been parties.

The United Nations have diplomatic missions which are known simply as Permanent Missions. A permanent diplomatic mission is typically known as an Embassy, and the head of the mission is known as an ‘Ambassador’. The term "Embassy" is commonly used also of the building or section of a building in which the work of the diplomatic mission is carried out, but, strictly speaking, it is the diplomatic delegation itself that is the embassy, while the office space is called the ‘Chancery ‘; a term that may be reserved to the main office space to the exclusion of buildings or other areas devoted to consular or cultural affairs. The Diplomatic missions of the United Nations are located at [Geneva](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Geneva) in Switzerland, [New York](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_York_City) in USA, [Nairobi](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nairobi) in Kenya and [Vienna](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vienna)

A Permanent Representative (sometimes called a UN ambassador) is the head of a [diplomatic mission](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Diplomatic_mission) to the [United Nations](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_Nations). Of these, the most high-profile UN [Permanent Representatives](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Permanent_Representative) are those assigned to [headquarters](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_Nations_Headquarters) in [New York City](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_York_City). However, member states also appoint Permanent Representatives to the other UN offices.

The members of a diplomatic mission can reside within or outside the building that holds the mission's chancery, and their private residences enjoy the same rights as the premises of the mission as regards inviolability and protection.

Commonwealth of Nations

The commonwealth nations is another international organization that was formed as a need to bring together countries that were colonised by Britain. Why? Obviously to create a kind of friendly tie amongst the Britain colonised States.

The Diplomatic Missions between Commonwealth countries are known as ‘High Commissions’ and their heads are “High commissioners”. This is because ambassadors are exchanged between foreign countries, but since the beginning of the Commonwealth, member countries have nominally maintained that they are not foreign to one another (the same reason as the naming of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office). An ambassador represents one head of state to another and an ambassador's letters of credence are addressed by one head of state to another. The senior representative of a Commonwealth country to another was therefore called a high commissioner, accredited not to the head of state but to the government of the receiving country, but at the same time considered the equivalent of an ambassador. Still today, even if two Commonwealth countries have distinct heads of state (monarch or president), each one's senior diplomatic representative to the other continues to be called a High Commissioner, whether he or she represents a sending government or a sending head of state.

African Union

The African Union (AU) is an international organization which consists of all 55 countries on the African continent. It was established on 26 May 2001 in Addis Ababa in Ethiopia, and it was launched on 9 July 2002 in South Africa. The African Union is made up of both political and administrative bodies. The highest decision-making organ is the Assembly of the African Union, made up of all the heads of state or government of member states of the AU. The Assembly is chaired by Idriss Déby, President of Chad. The AU also has a representative body called the Pan African Parliament, which consists of 265 members elected by the national legislatures of the AU member states. Its president is Roger Nkodo Dang.

The African Union has its permanent mission at Addis Ababa in Ethiopia and also has another mission at Washington D.C in U.S.A. The African Union maintains special diplomatic representation with the United States, and the European Union. The African Union Representational Mission to the United States of America is the first bilateral diplomatic mission of the African Union. Officially launched on July 11, 2007 in Washington, DC, its mandate is to undertake, develop and maintain constructive and productive institutional relationships between the African Union and the executive and legislative branches of the U.S. government, the African Diplomatic Corps, the Africans in the Diaspora, and the Bretton Woods Institutions through.

The African Union also have diplomatic relations/partnership with Asia, India, Turkey, Arab, European Union etc.

Other International Organization Includes the [Food and Agriculture Organization](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Food_and_Agriculture_Organization) with its permanent mission at Rome in Italy, [European Union](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/European_Union) with its permanent mission at Brussels in Belgium, [UNESCO](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/UNESCO) with its permanent mission at Paris in France

Reference

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<https://au.int/en/washingtonmission>