



Выполнила: студентка 4-го курса  
группы Ю-101

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INTERNATIONAL LAW IS  
THE BODY OF CUSTOMS,  
PRINCIPLES, AND RULES  
RECOGNIZED AS  
EFFECTIVELY BINDING  
LEGAL OBLIGATIONS BY  
SOVEREIGN STATES AND  
OTHER INTERNATIONAL  
ACTORS.



**INTERNATIONAL LAW STEMS FROM THREE MAIN SOURCES:  
TREATIES AND INTERNATIONAL CONVENTIONS, CUSTOMS  
AND CUSTOMARY USAGE, AND THE GENERALLY ACCEPTED  
PRINCIPLES OF LAW AND EQUITY.**



**JUDICIAL DECISIONS RENDERED BY INTERNATIONAL TRIBUNALS AND DOMESTIC COURTS ARE IMPORTANT ELEMENTS OF THE LAWMAKING PROCESS OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY**



- Resolutions of international organizations, the United Nations in particular, may also affect the growth of the so-called customary international law that is synonymous with general principles of international law

- Traditionally, international law consisted of rules and principles governing the relations and dealings of nations with each other, though recently, the scope of international law has been redefined to include relations between states and individuals, and relations between international organizations.



Public international law, concerns itself only with questions of rights between several nations or nations and the citizens or subjects of other nations.

Private international law deals with controversies between private persons, natural or juridical, arising out of situations having significant relationship to more than one nation.



In recent years the line between public and private international law have become increasingly uncertain. Issues of private international law may also implicate issues of public international law, and many matters of private international law have substantial significance for the international community of nations.



# SOURCES OF INTERNATIONAL LAW

- Customary law and conventional law are primary sources of international law. Customary international law results when states follow certain practices generally and consistently out of a sense of legal obligation. Recently the customary law was codified in the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties.



□ Conventional international law derives from international agreements and may take any form that the contracting parties agree upon. Agreements may be made in respect to any matter except to the extent that the agreement conflicts with the rules of international law incorporating basic standards of international conduct or the obligations of a member state under the Charter of the United Nations. International agreements create law for the parties of the agreement.



They may also lead to the creation of customary international law when they are intended for adherence generally and are in fact widely accepted. Customary law and law made by international agreement have equal authority as international law. Parties may assign higher priority to one of the sources by agreement. However, some rules of international law are recognized by international community as peremptory, permitting no derogation. Such rules can be changed or modified only by a subsequent peremptory norm of international law.