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Turkic Perspectives in Teaching International Environmental Law: Toward Pluralistic Legal Education

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Abstract: *This paper explores the teaching of international environmental law from Turkic perspectives, offering a novel approach that integrates the historical, cultural, and institutional experiences of the Turkic world into the discipline. Against the backdrop of a weakening multilateral order and criticism of the UN, it argues that regional perspectives can strengthen the universality and legitimacy of international environmental law. Rather than merely examining how international environmental law is received in Turkic states, the study asks whether a distinct "Turkic international environmental law" exists. Drawing on the Organization of Turkic States' frameworks and initiatives in environmental protection, it examines how regional experiences can inform both the substance and pedagogy of the field. Teaching from Turkic perspectives emerges as both a pedagogical innovation and a normative contribution to a more inclusive global legal system.*

Keywords: *International Environmental Law; Organization of Turkic States; Pedagogy; Normative Innovation; Global Legal System*

INTRODUCTION

In 2025, the United Nations (UN), which occupies a central position not only within the system of intergovernmental organizations but also as a key actor in international political dialogue, will mark its 80th anniversary. Established in the aftermath of the Second World War, this international institution was entrusted with the mission of saving future generations from the scourge of war, reaffirming faith in fundamental human rights, promoting social progress, and improving living standards in greater freedom. Simultaneously, the primary responsibility for maintaining international peace and security was assigned to the UN's principal organ, the Security Council. As reflected in the purposes enshrined in the 1945 UN Charter, the peace and security of humanity, together with the protection of human rights intrinsically linked to them, are of paramount importance. This development marked the beginning of a new era in the history of international law, often referred to as Charter-based international law.

Today, international law faces a profound crisis, mainly due to the absence of effective enforcement mechanisms and compounded by contemporary challenges such as global power shifts, political polarization, the rise of nationalism, state sanctions against international institutions (e.g., U.S. sanctions against the International Criminal Court), climate change, emerging technologies, and the increasing influence of non-state actors. Moreover, powerful states often evade accountability while weaker ones are disproportionately targeted. The refusal of states to ratify core international treaties and the lack of robust enforcement mechanisms in human rights law further underscore the system's shortcomings.

International law is designed to be universal, which is where faith in multilateralism becomes essential. However, the UN Security Council, the main body responsible for international peace and security, has been paralyzed by geopolitical rivalries among its five permanent members, each with veto power. Calls to reform the UN, particularly the Security Council, have largely gone unanswered, leaving the system as a relic of the past, disconnected from the realities of the modern world order (Mustafayeva 2017, 187).

This situation has led to widespread disappointment and a loss of faith in the institution meant to safeguard the world from chaos and impunity for international crimes. As Diane Desierto recently noted in the European Journal of International Law, "the pushback against the structures, institutions, and sources of international law as we know it is all too real on a daily basis," and we now live in "times of deliberate abandonment not just of what ought to have been largely settled norms of international law since 1945, but also an outright repudiation by political majorities (and the leaders they enable) of the norms and institutions that have provided relative stability and forestalled World War III for the last eighty years" (Desierto 2025).

There is a clear retreat, or even an outright collapse, of multilateralism, accompanied by unilateral actions by states, including unauthorized uses of military force in violation of international law. As a result, international institutions, including the United Nations, are experiencing a significant erosion of authority and relevance.

What kind of world system do we need? "We need a multilateral system that is inclusive, interconnected, and effective," one that, as UN Secretary-General António Guterres emphasizes, reflects a renewed vision for multilateralism (United Nations n.d.). Such a system must acknowledge the realities of an increasingly interdependent world and be capable of addressing global challenges through collective action, mutual respect, and a firm commitment to international law.

This vision formed the core of the Pact for the Future, adopted by world leaders at the Summit of the Future on September 24, 2024. The historic document "reaffirms global commitment to the United Nations, the international system, and the principles of international law," while emphasizing the urgent need to strengthen global cooperation to address emerging challenges. Its primary goal is to ensure that international institutions are equipped to operate effectively in "a world vastly different from the one in which they were created" (United Nations 2024).

As the world has changed dramatically since the founding of the United Nations, there is a growing consensus that its current configuration no longer reflects contemporary geopolitical, economic, and demographic realities. Reforming the UN, particularly its Security Council, has become increasingly urgent. This includes expanding permanent representation to ensure that all regions have a meaningful voice in decision-making processes.

Such a transformation would not only enhance the legitimacy and credibility of the UN system but also contribute to the democratization of global governance. More inclusive structures would allow broader participation in shaping international law, which Western legal and philosophical traditions have predominantly shaped.

For too long, the Western approach has dominated both the academic and practical discourse on international law. While international law aspires to universality, it is increasingly evident that specific historical, cultural, and geopolitical realities shape its foundations. This is

particularly apparent in how international law is taught and understood across different regions of the world.

In this context, a key question emerges: Is it time to reconsider international law through the lens of newly emerging global actors, such as the Turkic states? This inquiry is closely linked to the activities of the Organization of Turkic States (OTS), a relatively new subject of international law that has already established itself as an effective platform for regional dialogue. Such a perspective is especially relevant in an era when confidence in multilateralism and international institutions is waning.

The primary objective of this paper is to introduce a distinctive perspective in international law, and more specifically in international environmental law, grounded in the historical, cultural, and geopolitical realities of the Turkic nations. The aim is to address a significant gap in the academic landscape. While alternative schools of thought, such as TWAIL (Third World Approaches to International Law), post-socialist and Eastern European perspectives, and frameworks from China, Latin America, and Africa, have already gained recognition, Turkic perspectives remain largely underexplored in global legal discourse.

Accordingly, the research question of this study is not merely how international law, or specifically international environmental law, is received in the Turkic states, but whether there exists a distinct framework that could be described as "Turkic international environmental law."

LITERATURE REVIEW

As Hernandez notes, the Peace of Westphalia is traditionally regarded as the starting point of the modern state-centric system of international law, establishing one of the first contemporary frameworks for a multilateral legal order. This European state-system "then spread around the world through European colonialism, and its basic foundations remain relevant today" (Hernandez 2020, 5).

Critiques of international law as a product of Western civilization often focus on the US-led approach to the global order, in which a superpower effectively dictates the rules to the international community as a whole. Indeed, "the era of US-led multilateralism emerged first as idealistic hegemony led by Woodrow Wilson and secondly as an institutional and power issue" (Telò 2023, 45). However, the future of international law requires a more pluralistic and context-sensitive approach, one that embraces the multiplicity of voices and experiences shaping our increasingly fragmented world.

Against this backdrop, this paper draws on academic trends that highlight the importance of regional perspectives, particularly TWAIL (Third World Approaches to International Law), which emerged during the decolonization movements in Africa, Asia, and Latin America in the 1960s. As newly independent states entered the international system, they challenged the Eurocentric foundations of international law, arguing that it had historically served the interests of colonial powers. TWAIL scholars and practitioners across generations focused on the empire as the central concern (Anghie 2023, 26), seeking to expose the structural inequalities embedded in international legal norms and institutions (Acharya 2016, 342). They advocated for a more equitable and inclusive legal order that reflects the voices, experiences, and aspirations of formerly colonized nations.

The aim of this study is not to propose a revolutionary overhaul of international law, but rather to offer an alternative perspective, one that complements the existing system of international law as a legal discipline, rooted in the experiences and realities of the Turkic region.

Antony Anghie has noted that international law is rapidly expanding and fragmenting into specialized fields, and TWAIL scholars examine how these regimes affect the Global South and their potential to advance its interests. Research by TWAIL scholars has explored the impact of investment (Sornarajah 2015, 427), trade (Gonzalez 2002, 43), intellectual property (Aoki 2009, 77), human rights (Chimni 1998, 350), and international criminal law (Kiyani 2015, 109) on Third World populations. Their work also highlights how activists and regional courts, such as those in Africa and Latin America (Shelton 333, n.d.), have produced innovative jurisprudence beyond the traditional centers of international law (Anghie 1996, 33–34).

Teaching international law, and in particular international environmental law, from an Asian perspective has also attracted significant scholarly interest. To explore this subject from both regional perspectives and historical development, a modern approach is particularly valuable. For this reason, this paper presents the Asian approach to teaching international environmental law through the framework of the Teaching and Researching International Law in Asia (TRILA) Programme, established by the Centre for International Law at the National University of Singapore. As part of this programme, a series of webinars was organized, which the author of this paper attended. A key aspect of these sessions is the distinctive Asian narrative embedded in the syllabus.

Stellina Jolly, from the Faculty of Legal Studies at South Asian University (India), emphasized the importance of recognizing multiple narratives in teaching international environmental law. She noted that in Asia, the challenge lies in balancing sustainability with economic growth and development, and highlighted the need to harmonize global legal norms with regional priorities, particularly by addressing the perspectives and legitimacy concerns of the Global South in climate governance. In her teaching, she examines not only international frameworks such as the UNFCCC, the Kyoto Protocol, and the Paris Agreement but also the role and inclusion of Asian jurisdictions within these processes (TRILA Programme 2025).

Similarly, Gregorio Rafael Bueta, from the School of Law at Ateneo de Manila University (Philippines), stressed the interdisciplinary and evolving nature of international environmental law, noting its intersections with human rights, humanitarian law, indigenous rights, energy, trade, and waste management. At his university, environmental and climate law is taught as a single, broad subject, presenting the additional challenge of covering its complex, interconnected scope (TRILA Programme 2025).

Jolene Lin, Associate Professor at the Faculty of Law, National University of Singapore, emphasized "the importance of identifying the audience and teaching context." At NUS, international environmental law is offered as an elective course, similar to other environmental law modules, a practice also common across universities in the Turkic states. Likewise, as in many universities across the Turkic region, "there are no dedicated undergraduate or postgraduate courses in international environmental law," and prior knowledge of international law is not a prerequisite for enrollment. Lin's thirteen-week syllabus for Transnational Environmental Law covers a wide range of contemporary topics, including the role of non-state actors, corporate liability, marine plastics pollution, climate change litigation, and transnational

environmental crimes, complemented by practical components such as student presentations and field visits (TRILA Programme 2025).

Most professors involved in the project also noted the challenge of relying on Western-centric textbooks, leading them to combine diverse sources, including regional articles, case law, podcasts, and guest lectures, to incorporate local perspectives and practical insights that enrich theoretical discussions.

Drawing in part on these traditions, this article seeks to explore not only how international environmental law can be applied by the peoples of the Turkic states, but also how it can be taught from a regional perspective, primarily within the normative and legal framework developed under the Organization of Turkic States (OTS).

While international law has been examined from numerous thematic, regional, and national perspectives, scholarship addressing it specifically from Turkic perspectives remains scarce. This study aims to fill that gap by complementing the existing body of literature with an inquiry into how international law, particularly international environmental law, can be approached through the lens of the Turkic region.

METHODOLOGY

This article forms part of the research conducted by the author within the framework of the project "Teaching International Law: A Turkic Perspective", funded by the Turkic Academy[1] research grant (Turkic Academy 2025). The study employs doctrinal legal analysis, comparative analysis, and case law review. Its findings are further informed and discussed through webinars and roundtables, with active participation from the project's authors and contributors.

It is worth noting that this project seeks to explore how the historical, philosophical, and institutional experiences of Turkic states can enrich the global understanding of international law, while also proposing an innovative pedagogy that integrates non-Western perspectives into the international law curriculum. This initiative encompasses not only historical case studies and regional legal practices but also the emergence of Turkic regionalism as a new force in multilateralism. Through workshops, curriculum development, and scholarly exchange, the project aims to present an inclusive, pluralist, and dynamic vision of international legal education.

Regarding the implementation of this vision, several questions naturally arise: What exactly do international lawyers from the Turkic world propose? A new methodology? Or perhaps an original scholarly approach with the potential to develop into an independent school of thought grounded in shared cultural values and legal heritage? It is important to stress that this is not an attempt to suggest that current international law is flawed. Instead, it seeks to address the gap between what international law "promises and what it delivers" (Dembour 2022, 44).

Against this backdrop, the paper conducts a comprehensive review of academic literature, reports, legal documents, and diplomatic initiatives within the Organization of Turkic

[1] The Turkic Academy is an international organization established under the aegis of the Organization of Turkic States, dedicated to facilitating and supporting scientific and educational cooperation among Turkic states. For more information, see: https://turkicacademy.org/en

States in the field of environmental protection and climate change. Using doctrinal and comparative legal analysis, the study examines the existing global and regional legal frameworks governing these issues. It concludes with proposals for developing a more pluralistic syllabus for teaching international environmental law from a Turkic perspective.

STRUCTURE, PRINCIPLES, AND EMERGING JURISPRUDENCE IN INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL LAW

International environmental law has gradually evolved into a fragmented and unsystematic legal regime, comprising diverse legal developments such as judicial decisions, unilateral state practices, and treaty-making processes, all of which have contributed to the emergence of fundamental norms and principles in environmental protection (Hernandez 2019, 496). The evolution of this specialized regime within international law has been significantly shaped by multilateral diplomacy, with landmark conferences such as Stockholm (1972) and Rio de Janeiro (1992) establishing key norms and principles of international environmental law. Although non-binding, the provisions of the Stockholm Declaration (United Nations 1972) and the Rio Declaration (United Nations 1992) have exerted considerable influence and have been further codified in international environmental treaties.

A notable feature of international environmental treaties is the "framework approach" (Redgwell 2000, 89–107). Unlike classical international treaties, framework treaties rely on general principles and institutional arrangements, making their implementation more dynamic and flexible. Typically, such treaties are accompanied by protocols or annexes that provide more specific standards of protection and, in some cases, legally binding provisions. A prominent example is the 1992 United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), which serves as the foundation for subsequent agreements, including the 1997 Kyoto Protocol and the 2015 Paris Agreement (Hernandez 2019, 502).

Another distinct characteristic of international environmental treaties, closely tied to multilateral diplomacy, is their non-reciprocal nature. This refers to situations in which the obligations of one state party are not directly contingent upon or equivalent to the obligations of other parties. In the context of environmental treaties, this non-reciprocity is reflected in the principle of "common but differentiated responsibilities," which recognizes that while all states share responsibility for addressing global environmental challenges, their duties differ according to their capacities and historical contributions to the problem.

For instance, Article 3(1) of the UNFCCC acknowledges the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities among states regarding climate change (United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, 1992). Similarly, Article 6 of the 1992 Convention on Biological Diversity obliges states to adopt "as far as possible and as appropriate general measures for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity." Article 17 of the same treaty further prescribes the exchange of information "from all publicly available sources, relevant to the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, taking into account the special needs of developing countries" (United Nations 1992).

Another distinguishing feature of multilateral environmental treaties lies in the consequences of breaching their obligations. Violations can result in environmental harm that affects multiple states or the international community as a whole. This is evident in the

Convention on Biological Diversity, which explicitly recognizes "the common concern of humankind" in the preservation of biological diversity (United Nations 1992).

Such an approach can be traced to obligations *erga omnes*, i.e., duties owed by a state "toward the international community as a whole" (Barcelona Traction 1970, para. 33). These obligations are binding on all states, irrespective of whether they are parties to a specific treaty. Consequently, a state may invoke responsibility under international law even if it is not directly affected by the breach (Obligation to Prosecute or Extradite 2012).

More recently, this principle was confirmed in a long-awaited Advisory Opinion of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) on the Obligations of States in respect of Climate Change. For the first time, the ICJ recognized environmental obligations of *erga omnes* character, including the duty to protect the climate system and other environmental components from anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions, the customary obligation to prevent significant transboundary harm, climate change mitigation duties, and arguably the duty to cooperate in environmental protection (International Court of Justice 2025).

It is worth noting that the ICJ concluded that states' obligations to protect the climate system and other parts of the environment from anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions, including the duty under customary law to prevent significant transboundary harm, are *erga omnes* obligations. In the treaty context, the Court emphasized that the UNFCCC and Paris Agreement frame climate change as a "common concern of humankind" requiring a "global response," thereby establishing that states' treaty obligations to safeguard the climate system are *erga omnes* partes (para. 440). The ICJ affirmed that climate change mitigation obligations are owed to the international community as *erga omnes* duties (para. 443). In contrast, their treaty-based counterparts, namely, the core mitigation commitments under these climate change treaties, constitute *erga omnes* partes obligations (para. 441) (Pezzano 2025).

The Inter-American Court of Human Rights (IACtHR), in its Advisory Opinion 32/25 (AO-32/25), went even further, becoming the first international judicial body to explicitly recognize the prohibition against causing irreversible damage to the climate and the global environment as a *jus cogens* (peremptory) norm of international law. This norm derives from the most essential values of the international community, with the protection of human existence constituting the foundational condition for all other human rights (Columbia Law School 2023).

The role of courts, both the ICJ and regional tribunals, is particularly significant in the fragmented system of environmental law, contributing to the progressive consolidation of the non-derogable prohibition of irreversible environmental harm. The climate emergency has catalyzed a new wave of international judicial engagement, in which courts are increasingly articulating the normative foundations of states' obligations to prevent and remedy climate harm. This jurisprudence is critical when states, such as the United States, withdraw from climate treaties like the Paris Agreement, as obligations to address climate change are *erga omnes*, binding on all states regardless of treaty participation.

This forms the core narrative and traditional sources used in teaching international environmental law. It is followed by substantive international law addressing various regimes, including the regulation of greenhouse gases and climate change, transboundary air pollution, protection of the atmosphere, conservation of the marine environment, hazardous substances, plastic pollution, nature conservation, and protection of biological diversity.

Importantly, this approach is grounded in fundamental principles of international law and is imbued with the spirit of multilateralism, cooperation, and the consolidation of states' efforts to tackle environmental challenges.

This issue has acquired particular salience in the contemporary era, as trust in multilateral diplomacy, including within the institutional framework of the United Nations, has markedly eroded. International law is increasingly perceived as either ephemeral or subject to selective interpretation and double standards, particularly by the permanent members of the Security Council. The world now needs an inclusive, interconnected, and effective multilateral system, as emphasized by the UN Secretary-General (United Nations 2020), at a moment when the organization has reached its eightieth year and faces an existential crisis. This crisis is evident in the UN's inability to fulfill the core purposes entrusted to it by humanity eight decades ago. While the tasks of maintaining peace and security remain unchanged, they now demand greater consolidation of efforts, stronger regional voices, and the emergence of new centers of power beyond the historically exclusive circle of the Security Council's permanent members, whose actions have, in many respects, rendered the institution hostage to their own vested interests.

In this context, what is required is not a revision or abandonment of the international legal system, but the articulation of alternative perspectives emerging from regions and new centers of power that have already demonstrated their credibility as reliable platforms for interregional dialogue. Such perspectives not only enrich the universality of international law but also help restore confidence in multilateralism by broadening its foundations beyond the historically entrenched dominance of a few states.

Among these actors, the Organization of Turkic States (OTS), with its growing institutional capacity and normative ambition, illustrates how regional frameworks can strengthen multilateralism. Established in 2009, the OTS (Nakhchivan Agreement 2009) has developed into a platform for multifaceted cooperation among Turkic states, grounded in shared identity, history, culture, and traditions. At the same time, the OTS emphasizes adherence to the UN Charter and universally recognized principles of international law. Through regular dialogue and constructive engagement with the international community, it "seeks to make a significant contribution to the maintenance of global and regional peace, stability, and sustainable development" (Charter of the Turkic World 2024).

Against this backdrop, integrating the Turkic worldview into the study and teaching of international law is crucial, as it provides valuable insights from a region with a rich history of legal, political, and philosophical thought. By recognizing the significance of shared Turkic heritage and experiences, legal scholars from across the region can help make the international legal system more inclusive, reflective, and responsive to the diverse communities it serves.

As part of the project "Teaching International Law: A Turkic Perspective," funded by a grant from the Turkic Academy, this paper focuses on teaching international environmental law as a case study. This focus reflects both the author's area of specialization and the pressing urgency of the topic, as environmental pollution and climate change constitute among the most critical challenges of our time.

INCORPORATING TURKIC PERSPECTIVES INTO THE TEACHING OF INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL LAW

The OTS Initiatives as a Teaching Resource

Within the framework of the OTS, several significant initiatives have been undertaken to strengthen regional cooperation on environmental governance and climate change. This article does not provide a comprehensive analysis of all initiatives and mechanisms, as such an examination falls beyond its thematic scope. However, these efforts are presented as part of the regional experience of the Turkic world, proposed here as a subject for study and teaching within international environmental law.

One of the most notable achievements is the establishment of the OTS Civil Protection Mechanism (Organization of Turkic States 2023), which emerged in response to the devastating earthquake in Türkiye in 2023 and has since been recognized as a milestone in regional disaster preparedness and response.

The OTS has also advanced climate and sustainability agendas through the Partnership for Climate, Innovation, Green Economy, and Trade, launched at COP29 in Baku in 2024 (Organization of Turkic States 2023). This initiative builds on the Garabagh Declaration adopted at the Informal OTS Summit in July 2024 and the Turkic Green Vision: Unity for a Sustainable Future (Organization of Turkic States 2023), endorsed at the Bishkek Summit in 2024, reflecting the collective commitment of Member States to address climate change, foster innovation, and promote sustainable development.

In parallel, the OTS has facilitated the signing of the Declaration of the First Meeting of the Ministers Responsible for the Environment and Ecology (Organization of Turkic States 2023), which lays the foundation for both long-term and short-term strategies in areas such as biodiversity protection, climate policy, and environmental governance. Complementing these measures, regional cooperation in meteorology has been strengthened through the Integrated Meteorological Early Warning System initiative and a dedicated COP29 event coordinated by the OTS (Organization of Turkic States 2023), aimed at enhancing resilience to climate-related risks through improved forecasting and early warning capacities.

Taken together, these initiatives demonstrate the OTS's growing capacity to prioritize environmental governance and disaster management at the regional level. For teaching international environmental law, they provide valuable case studies that complement literature traditionally dominated by global and Western-centric perspectives. Incorporating these materials into the classroom allows students to critically examine how the Turkic world addresses environmental challenges through institutional design, normative commitments, and technical cooperation.

This approach not only diversifies the sources of international environmental law education but also highlights the role of regional intergovernmental organizations in shaping legal responses to climate change and other environmental challenges. In this sense, the Turkic experience can be positioned as a distinctive contribution to the pedagogy of international environmental law, offering students both comparative insights and a deeper understanding of the interplay between global norms and regional practice.

This article focuses primarily on initiatives undertaken within the OTS framework. Nevertheless, it is equally important to examine the experiences of member and observer states individually, considering their domestic measures, legislative strategies, and environmental governance frameworks, as well as their implementation of international obligations arising from the universal treaties discussed in the previous chapter.

It is also noteworthy that Azerbaijan hosted COP29 (Conference of the Parties 2024), and Türkiye has submitted a bid to host COP31 (Ministry of Environment, Urbanization and Climate Change 2025), demonstrating the active engagement of Turkic states in the global climate agenda. This engagement positions the Turkic world not only as a venue for high-level climate diplomacy but also as a meaningful platform for monitoring progress, facilitating global climate dialogue, and advancing the implementation of international environmental agreements.

Against this backdrop, organizing COP simulations in Turkic universities, alongside Model OTS initiatives (similar to Model UN) focused on regional climate issues, would further strengthen this role. Such initiatives would provide experiential learning opportunities, foster youth engagement, enhance policy literacy, and prepare future leaders to actively contribute to climate action and diplomacy both within the Turkic world and on the global stage.

Challenges of Turkic Perspectives in Teaching International Environmental Law

The International Environmental Law course would likely be offered as an elective within law faculties or relevant interdisciplinary programs in Turkic states. Currently, many universities across the region do not offer an independent master's program specifically focused on international environmental law. This reality necessitates careful consideration of learning objectives, key outcomes, and course structure.

The situation is further compounded by the scarcity of traditional textbooks or academic resources that present international environmental law from a Turkic perspective. As a result, similar to teaching practices in other regions, case studies from the Turkic world, as well as journal articles, blog posts, interviews, and podcasts, become essential teaching materials. Such diverse sources provide practical and context-specific insights while encouraging critical engagement with how the Turkic world interprets and applies international environmental law. Incorporating these materials into the curriculum allows students to explore both theoretical frameworks and lived experiences, fostering a richer, more pluralistic understanding of environmental governance and its regional particularities.

As emphasized throughout this article, the aim of such an initiative is twofold: to offer an alternative perspective from the region and to address gaps within the fragmented paradigm of international environmental law. Moreover, the project of teaching international law from Turkic perspectives in general, and international environmental law in particular, should be understood as part of a broader objective: ensuring the representation of regional actors in international law when addressing global environmental challenges that require the concerted efforts of states, both within universal and regional intergovernmental organizations. A more pluralistic curriculum today can contribute to a broader geographical representation of regional voices in the governance of humanity's global problems tomorrow.

CONCLUSION

Based on the above discussion, it can be concluded that modern challenges and threats require an immediate and effective response from the international community. The United Nations, as the sole universal intergovernmental organization tasked with ensuring international peace and security, has fallen short of its primary charter objective; it has not "saved future generations from the scourge of war." Eighty years after its establishment, it is evident that the UN often fails to respond to pressing challenges in a timely manner and has become susceptible to political paralysis, particularly within the Security Council, where permanent members frequently act solely in their own interests.

Criticism of the Security Council also extends to its structural composition, which many argue does not adequately reflect the balance of power in twenty-first-century international politics, nor the actual contributions of states to maintaining international peace and security. Against this backdrop, calls for reform of the UN and the global order, which have historically been dominated by a Western narrative, including in international law, have gained momentum. As argued in this paper, Western approaches have long shaped both the academic discourse and practical implementation of international law. While the discipline aspires to universality, it is evident that specific historical, geopolitical, and cultural contexts shape its foundations. This reality becomes particularly apparent when examining how international law is taught and interpreted across different regions.

In this context, regional critiques of international law have resurfaced, particularly from emerging centers and regional organizations. The OTS, which in a relatively short time has developed into an effective platform for regional dialogue, represents a promising actor, demonstrating the potential of regional approaches to strengthen multilateralism and broaden the diversity of voices within the global legal order.

Of particular relevance to this paper is the observation that integrating Turkic perspectives into the teaching of international law, and more specifically, international environmental law, offers not only a new pedagogical framework but also a normative contribution to the discipline. The experiences of the Turkic world in environmental protection, exemplified by the OTS Civil Protection Mechanism, the Turkic Green Vision, and other climate and sustainability initiatives, provide valuable case studies for rethinking how international environmental law can be conceptualized, taught, and practiced from this perspective.

Developing a more pluralistic syllabus for teaching international environmental law from a Turkic perspective is therefore essential, not only to diversify academic discourse but also to reflect the practical contributions and normative approaches emerging from the Turkic world to global environmental governance.

The analysis presented in this article demonstrates that teaching international environmental law from Turkic perspectives is not merely an academic exercise but a necessary step toward a more inclusive, pluralistic, and responsive international legal system. This study makes a foundational contribution to the emerging discourse on regional approaches to international law, offering both theoretical insights and practical resources that can enrich global environmental governance and advance the teaching and practice of international environmental law.

This study has several limitations. First, it focuses primarily on the initiatives and experiences of the OTS and its Member States, without providing an exhaustive analysis of all regional or national environmental governance practices. Second, while it emphasizes the pedagogical implications of Turkic perspectives in teaching international environmental law, it does not include empirical classroom-based testing of these approaches. Third, the study relies on secondary sources, policy documents, and regional declarations, which may not fully capture the practical challenges of implementation or the diversity of opinions within Member States. Finally, the paper's thematic scope prevents a comprehensive examination of all global environmental law developments or alternative regional perspectives.

These limitations highlight the need for future research incorporating empirical data, broader regional comparisons, and long-term assessments of pedagogical impact. Such avenues will be pursued within the framework of the research project "Teaching International Law: A Turkic Perspective", funded by the Turkic Academy research grant, with outcomes to be consolidated in a forthcoming monograph authored by scholars from across the Turkic world.

CONTRIBUTOR

The author contributed solely to the intellectual discourse that forms the foundation of this article, as well as its writing and editing, and assumes full responsibility for its content and interpretation.

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