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THE ROLE OF INTERNATIONAL LAW IN ENSURING MONGOLIA'S NATIONAL SECURITY

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ABSTRACT

This article examines the role of international law in ensuring Mongolia's national security from the perspective of small-state security policy. The contemporary international security environment is no longer limited to traditional military threats, border disputes, and armed conflict. It is increasingly shaped by multidimensional factors such as human rights, information and cyber domains, economic and energy security, environmental risks, migration, transnational crime, and hybrid threats. Under such conditions, the legal system for ensuring national security must develop not only within the scope of domestic legislation but also in close connection with the generally recognized principles and norms of international law, international treaties, multilateral institutional mechanisms, international courts and dispute settlement systems, and legal regimes relating to human rights and collective security.

As a landlocked small state located between two great powers, with relatively limited demographic, economic, and material military resources, Mongolia has a particular need to use international law as a strategic instrument of national security. International law plays a crucial role in safeguarding Mongolia's independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity, inviolability of borders, human rights, multi-pillared foreign policy, international cooperation, peace support operations, disarmament commitments, and nuclear-weapon-free status.

The study applies document analysis, systemic legal analysis, comparative legal analysis, small-state security policy analysis, and theoretical synthesis of international law. The findings suggest that international law performs five key functions within Mongolia's legal system for ensuring national security: first, a guarantee function for protecting independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity, second, a normative function for strengthening human security, human rights, democratic governance, and the rule of law, third, a strategic function for supporting the external security of a small state through multilateral cooperation, international organizations, diplomacy, and legal mechanisms, fourth, a cooperation function for addressing non-traditional and transnational threats, and fifth, a regulatory function for guiding domestic legal and institutional reform.

The article concludes that Mongolia needs to strengthen the incorporation of international legal norms into domestic legislation, assess the implementation of international treaties, enhance professional capacity in international law, introduce international legal risk analysis into national security policymaking, and increase Mongolia's active contribution to the development and implementation of international law.

KEYWORDS

International Law, National Security, Small-State Security, Mongolia, International Treaties, Sovereignty, Human Security, Multilateral Diplomacy, Legal Reform

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Introduction

Ensuring national security is one of the most complex and multidimensional issues in contemporary politics, law, and international relations. Globalization, regional competition, geopolitical rivalry among major powers, rapid developments in information technology, vulnerabilities in cyberspace, economic interdependence, climate change, transnational crime, and human rights challenges have all expanded the traditional understanding of national security. Under these conditions, the legal framework for ensuring national security can no longer be confined to domestic legislation, the structure of state institutions, or the functions of security and defence agencies.

International law is a system of legal norms that regulates relations among states, protects independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity, prohibits the use or threat of force, requires the peaceful settlement of disputes, protects human rights, and promotes international cooperation. The Charter of the United Nations establishes such fundamental principles as the sovereign equality of states, the peaceful settlement of international disputes, the prohibition of the use or threat of force, and non-interference in domestic affairs (United Nations, 1945). For small states, these principles are not merely ethical norms of international relations; they constitute legal guarantees of independence and security.

For Mongolia, the significance of international law is particularly high. Mongolia is a landlocked small state situated between two great powers, with relatively limited demographic, economic, and material military resources. Therefore, Mongolia must ensure its national security not only through the balance of power or military capability but also through international law, multilateral diplomacy, mechanisms of international organizations, the system of international treaties, and a peaceful foreign policy. The Constitution of Mongolia declares Mongolia to be an independent and sovereign republic and includes democracy, justice, freedom, equality, national unity, and the rule of law among the fundamental principles of state activity (Mongolian Parliament, 1992). The National Security Concept of Mongolia defines national vital interests, independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity, human rights and freedoms, and the secure living conditions of citizens as core elements of national security (Mongolian Parliament, 2010).

The sources of the legal framework for ensuring Mongolia's national security include the Constitution, generally recognized principles and norms of international law, international treaties to which Mongolia is a party, domestic legislation, and other legal and regulatory acts. Therefore, international law is not merely an external source of Mongolia's national security law. It is also a guiding factor for domestic legal reform, policy decision-making, and international cooperation.

The purpose of this article is to identify the role of international law in ensuring Mongolia's national security and to analyze that role within the framework of small-state security policy.

The main research question is formulated as follows:

What guarantees, regulatory mechanisms, and strategic opportunities does international law provide for ensuring Mongolia's national security, and how should Mongolia use international law more effectively in its national security policy?

To answer this question, the article pursues the following objectives:

1. To clarify the theoretical relationship between international law and national security;
2. To analyze the place of international law within Mongolia's legal system;
3. To explain the relationship between the fundamental principles of international law, the system of international treaties, and Mongolia's small-state security policy;
4. To identify current challenges in the implementation of international law;
5. To propose legal, policy, and institutional measures for more effective use of international law in ensuring Mongolia's national security.

1. Theoretical Foundations: International Law and National Security

1.1. The Security Function of International Law

International law is a system of legal norms designed to regulate relations among states, protect the common interests of the international community, and maintain international peace and security. From the perspective of national security, international law performs several essential functions.

First, international law performs a **guarantee function**. The principles of sovereign equality, non-intervention in domestic affairs, respect for territorial integrity, prohibition of the use of force, and peaceful settlement of disputes provide the legal foundation for protecting the independence of small states. The United Nations Charter, by establishing the peaceful settlement of disputes and the prohibition of the use or threat of force, remains the cornerstone of modern international security law (United Nations, 1945).

Second, international law performs a **normative guiding function**. International legal regimes relating to human rights, international humanitarian law, refugees, international crimes, disarmament, environmental protection, and emerging areas of cyber and information security provide direction for improving national legislation.

Third, international law performs a **cooperation function**. Many national security challenges cannot be fully addressed through domestic policy alone. Transnational crime, terrorism, trafficking in persons, money laundering, cyberattacks, climate change, infectious diseases, and natural disasters require international cooperation, treaty-based mechanisms, and institutional coordination.

Fourth, international law performs a **strategic protection function for small states**. For a small state located between great powers, international law is not merely a collection of legal documents. It is a strategic instrument that expands diplomatic maneuvering space, creates opportunities for international support, strengthens foreign policy balance, and contributes to the protection of sovereignty.

Fifth, international law performs a **legal reform function**. International treaties, conventions, generally recognized principles, and recommendations of international organizations provide guidance for improving domestic legislation, strengthening institutional accountability, and enhancing implementation mechanisms.



Fig. 1. Core Functions of International Law in National Security

1.2. The Place of International Law within the Legal System for Ensuring National Security

The legal system for ensuring national security is not limited to the regulation of defence, intelligence, police, border protection, or emergency management institutions. It is a broader legal system aimed at protecting the security of the individual, society, and the state.

When this classification is examined through the lens of international law, several linkages become clear. In relation to human security, international human rights treaties and norms concerning civil and political rights, economic, social and cultural rights, children, women, persons with disabilities, and protection from torture play a central role. In relation to societal security, international legal regimes concerning development, labour, health, education, the environment, disaster risk reduction, and the fight against transnational crime are

highly relevant. In relation to state security, the United Nations Charter, sovereign equality, the prohibition of the use of force, inviolability of borders, international treaties, diplomatic relations, and the legal foundations of peacekeeping and peace support operations occupy a central place.

Table 1. National Security Objects and Their Linkage with International Law

<i>Object of National Security</i>	<i>Core Content</i>	<i>Relevant Area of International Law</i>	<i>Significance for Mongolia's Security</i>
Individual	Right to life, freedoms, health, safe environment	International human rights treaties, declarations, and conventions	Human security and democratic stability
Society	Social cohesion, sustainable development, information environment	Development law, labour, education, health, environmental treaties	Social stability and internal security
State	Independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity	UN Charter, sovereign equality, prohibition of the use of force	External security and diplomatic guarantee
Sectoral Security	Economy, information, cyber, energy, food, ecology	Transnational crime, cyber, environmental, trade and transport treaties	Legal basis for addressing non-traditional threats

Accordingly, international law should be examined at two main levels in relation to Mongolia's national security. The first level is **international law relating to human rights and human security**. The second level is **public international law for maintaining peace and security among states**, especially the United Nations Charter and the system of treaties and conventions developed within international organizations.

1.3. The Strategic Importance of International Law in Small-State Security Policy

Small states have limited capacity to protect their interests, sovereignty, and security by relying directly on the balance of power among great powers. Under such conditions, international law, multilateral diplomacy, and mechanisms of international organizations become strategic instruments of small-state security policy.

This issue has several specific implications for Mongolia. First, Mongolia's location between two great powers gives particular importance to foreign policy balance, the "third neighbor" policy, multilateral cooperation, and guarantees derived from international law. Second, because Mongolia's defence resources are relatively limited, ensuring security through political-diplomatic and legal means is strategically important. Third, active participation in international organizations, fulfillment of international treaty obligations, and contribution to peace support operations strengthen Mongolia's international reputation, trust, and diplomatic security resources.



Fig. 2. Strategic Role of International Law in Small-State Security Policy

2. Research Methodology

This article is based on qualitative research methodology. It employs the following methods.

First, **document analysis** is used to examine how international law, international treaties, and national security are reflected in the Constitution of Mongolia, the National Security Concept, the Law on International Treaties, the Law on Defence, and other relevant laws and policy documents.

Second, **systemic legal analysis** is used to examine international law as a legal subsystem for ensuring Mongolia's national security, as a source of domestic law, and as a guiding factor in policy development.

Third, **comparative legal analysis** is used to compare general patterns in how small states use international law, multilateral diplomacy, and mechanisms of international organizations in their security policies with Mongolia's specific conditions.

Fourth, the article applies a **small-state security policy approach** to interpret Mongolia's geopolitical position, landlocked status, and limitations in demographic, economic, and defence resources in relation to the strategic importance of international law.

Fifth, **theoretical synthesis** is used to integrate the relationship among international law, human security, sovereignty, multilateral diplomacy, and reform of national security law.

3. The Place of International Law in Mongolia's Legal System

3.1. The Constitution and Fundamental Principles of International Law

The Constitution of Mongolia is the foundational source of the national legal system. It establishes the principles of independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity, human rights and freedoms, the rule of law, and state organization. From the constitutional perspective, the legal foundation of Mongolia's national security is directly connected to four main elements: first, the sovereignty of the state; second, human rights and freedoms; third, national unity and the rule of law; and fourth, the legal capacity to conduct foreign relations.

The generally recognized principles and norms of international law reinforce these constitutional principles at the international level. Sovereign equality confirms Mongolia's status as an independent legal subject of international relations. The prohibition of the use of force provides a legal foundation for protecting Mongolia's territorial integrity and political independence. The principle of peaceful settlement of disputes is a particularly important channel of legal protection for a small state.

3.2. The Law on International Treaties and the Implementation of Treaty Obligations

International treaties occupy an important place in Mongolia's national security policy. The Law on International Treaties regulates the conclusion, ratification, approval, accession, and implementation of international treaties concluded in the name of Mongolia or the Government of Mongolia. This demonstrates that international treaties should not be understood merely as instruments of foreign relations. They are also instruments of domestic implementation, institutional responsibility, and state policy.

In the field of national security, it is essential to identify the responsible institution, implementing agencies, reporting mechanisms, monitoring procedures, and evaluation criteria for each international treaty. For an international treaty to be implemented effectively, several conditions are necessary.

First, treaty obligations must be incorporated into domestic legislation.

Second, the functions and responsibilities of implementing institutions must be clearly defined.

Third, reporting, monitoring, and evaluation mechanisms must be established.

Fourth, treaty implementation must be linked to budgetary resources, human resources, information systems, and institutional capacity.

Fifth, treaty implementation must be connected to national security risk assessment.

Table 2. Logic of Implementing International Treaties in National Security Policy

<i>Stage</i>	<i>Main Content</i>	<i>Security Significance</i>
1. Selection of Treaty and Decision to Accede	Based on national interests and security risk assessment	Rational foreign policy choice
2. Ratification or Approval	Ensuring compatibility with the Constitution and domestic legislation	Legal legitimacy
3. Incorporation into Domestic Law	Transforming obligations into laws, regulations, and standards	Basis for implementation
4. Institutional Responsibility	Identifying responsible and cooperating institutions	Accountability system
5. Budget, Human Resources, and Information Systems	Ensuring practical capacity for implementation	Effective execution
6. Monitoring and Evaluation	Measuring compliance and impact	Risk reduction
7. International Reporting and Cooperation	Reporting to the UN, treaty bodies, and international mechanisms	Trust, reputation, and diplomatic capital

3.3. The National Security Concept and International Legal Orientation

The National Security Concept defines Mongolia's national vital interests, main areas of national security, and fundamental principles of state policy. Its content is closely connected with international legal principles in several ways.

First, the objective of protecting independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity is directly linked to the principles of sovereign equality, prohibition of the use of force, and non-intervention in domestic affairs.

Second, the objective of ensuring human rights, freedoms, and the secure living conditions of citizens is connected with international human rights law.

Third, the peaceful, open, multi-pillared orientation of foreign policy relies on multilateral diplomacy, mechanisms of international organizations, and the system of international treaties.

Fourth, non-traditional threats and issues relating to information, economic, environmental, energy, and food security require international cooperation, treaties, standards, recommendations, and multilateral regulation.

4. Core Functions of International Law in Mongolia's National Security

4.1. Protection of Independence, Sovereignty, and Territorial Integrity

One of the fundamental functions of international law is to protect the independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity of states. For a small state, this function is especially important. For Mongolia, independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity are at the center of its national vital interests.

The international legal guarantees of Mongolia's national security are reflected in several ways. First, Mongolia's borders and territorial integrity are protected by generally recognized principles of international law. Second, the prohibition of the use of force provides a legal guarantee for Mongolia's political independence and sovereignty. Third, within international organizations, particularly the United Nations, Mongolia can express its position, seek support, and pursue peaceful settlement of disputes. Fourth, bilateral and multilateral treaties provide a legally stable foundation for relations with neighboring states and other partners.

4.2. Protection of Human Security and Human Rights

Human security has become central to the contemporary understanding of national security. Human rights and freedoms, the right to life, conditions for living in a safe environment, access to health, education, information, and protection from discrimination directly affect the internal quality of national security.

International human rights law performs a normative function within Mongolia's legal system for ensuring national security. International treaties, declarations, and conventions on human rights guide the harmonization of domestic legislation with human rights standards, the incorporation of human rights criteria into state activities, and the development of a human-centered approach to security policy.

For a small state, human security is directly related to internal stability, social trust, the legitimacy of the state, and the stability of democratic institutions. Weak protection of human rights increases social vulnerability and, consequently, internal risks to national security. Therefore, international human rights law should not be treated as separate from national security policy but as one of its foundational components.

4.3. Multilateral Diplomacy and Collective Security

Multilateral diplomacy occupies a special place in Mongolia's small-state security policy. International law institutionalizes multilateral diplomacy and provides small states with a voice, participation, and legal protection through the United Nations and other international organizations.

The UN system is the broadest platform of international law for small states. The General Assembly, the Security Council, treaty bodies, specialized agencies, human rights mechanisms, and the international judicial system provide small states with opportunities to present their security concerns within an international legal framework.

For Mongolia, participation in peace support operations is one important dimension of multilateral diplomacy. It contributes to international peace and security while also strengthening Mongolia's international reputation, trust, defence diplomacy, and professional military capacity. For a small state, such participation helps establish the image of a security-contributing country and expands the country's diplomatic security resources.

4.4. Disarmament, Nuclear-Weapon-Free Status, and Strategic Stability

Another important area of international law for Mongolia is disarmament, nuclear-weapon-free status, and strategic stability. Located between two nuclear-weapon states, Mongolia attaches particular importance to its nuclear-weapon-free status, international disarmament initiatives, and confidence-building measures as legal pillars of national security.

International law is significant for Mongolia in two respects. First, it enables Mongolia to link its policy of keeping its territory free from nuclear weapons with international legal norms and diplomatic support. Second, through active participation in international mechanisms for disarmament, non-proliferation, and confidence-building, Mongolia can contribute to international peace and security.

4.5. Addressing Non-Traditional and Transnational Threats

Many contemporary national security challenges are transnational in nature. These include terrorism, organized crime, trafficking in persons, illicit drug trafficking, money laundering, cybercrime, infectious diseases, climate change, water, food and energy security, and environmental degradation. Such issues cannot be addressed solely through domestic legislation and national institutions.

International law provides the legal basis for cooperation in addressing transnational risks. For Mongolia, joining and implementing international treaties and conventions, exchanging information, organizing joint operations, and cooperating with international organizations are practical requirements of national security.

Table 3. Non-Traditional Threats and International Legal Responses

<i>Type of Threat</i>	<i>Impact on National Security</i>	<i>International Legal Instrument</i>	<i>Required Measures for Mongolia</i>
Terrorism	Direct risk to the security of the state, citizens, and institutions	International conventions and UN resolutions against terrorism	Legal and institutional coordination; information exchange
Transnational Crime	Affects law enforcement and societal security	Convention against transnational organized crime	Cooperation among investigation, courts, border and customs authorities
Cyber Risks	Affects information, infrastructure, and continuity of public services	International mechanisms on cybercrime and information security	Cyber law harmonization and professional capacity
Climate and Environment	Affects food, water, health, and pastoral livelihoods	International environmental treaties	Risk assessment and adaptation policy
Infectious Diseases	Affects human security and the economy	WHO regulations and international health rules	Health preparedness and cross-border information exchange
Information Influence	Affects social trust and political stability	International principles on human rights, information, and cyberspace	Information resilience and regulatory reform

5. Current Implementation of International Law in Mongolia: An Analytical Overview

5.1. Strengths

Mongolia's international legal policy has several important strengths.

First, Mongolia has a foreign policy foundation consistent with the principles of international law. Mongolia prioritizes independence, sovereignty, peaceful foreign policy, multi-pillared relations, and international cooperation.

Second, Mongolia actively participates in international organizations. Through the United Nations and other international organizations, Mongolia has opportunities to express its position on international peace and security, human rights, and development.

Third, Mongolia is a party to a broad range of international treaties and conventions. Treaties relating to human rights, international humanitarian law, the environment, the fight against crime, economy, trade, transport, and diplomatic relations connect Mongolia's legal environment with international standards.

Fourth, Mongolia's contribution to peace support operations strengthens its diplomatic security resources. This enhances Mongolia's international reputation, trust, and opportunities for cooperation.

Fifth, Mongolia's policy on nuclear-weapon-free status and disarmament provides a distinctive position within the international legal environment.

5.2. Weaknesses and Challenges

Alongside these strengths, several challenges affect Mongolia's ability to use international law effectively in national security policy.

First, the national mechanism for implementing international treaties is uneven. While some treaty obligations are well reflected in the work of specific institutions, in other areas the responsible institution, financing, reporting, and evaluation mechanisms remain insufficiently clear.

Second, there is a need for a more systematic assessment of the consistency between international treaties and domestic legislation. If treaty obligations are not fully reflected in sectoral laws, regulations, standards, and institutional mandates, implementation may remain largely formal.

Third, international legal risk analysis is not yet used regularly in national security policymaking. Any policy, law, or strategy should be assessed in advance for its consistency with treaty obligations, human rights standards, agreements with neighboring states, and the possibility of international disputes.

Fourth, there is a strong need to increase professional human resources and research capacity in international law. The national security sector requires experts with deep knowledge of treaty law, international organizations, implementation mechanisms, dispute settlement systems, and the practice of international courts.

Fifth, emerging areas of international law related to non-traditional threats must be better linked to domestic policy and legislation. These areas include cybersecurity, information influence, artificial intelligence, climate security, food security, and energy security.

Table 4. SWOT Analysis of the Implementation of International Law in Mongolia

<i>Category</i>	<i>Content</i>
Strengths	Tradition of peaceful and multi-pillared foreign policy; active participation in the UN; broad accession to international treaties; experience in peace support operations; nuclear-weapon-free status
Weaknesses	Uneven evaluation of treaty implementation; weak inter-institutional coordination; irregular use of international legal risk analysis; shortage of specialized human resources
Opportunities	Strengthening multilateral diplomacy; launching initiatives in human rights, cyber, environment, and disarmament; expanding international research cooperation
Threats	Great-power rivalry; weakening of the international legal order; transnational threats; cyber and information influence; gap between treaty obligations and implementation capacity

6. Measures for More Effective Use of International Law in Mongolia's National Security Policy

6.1. Strengthening the National Mechanism for Implementing International Treaties

Mongolia should treat the implementation of international treaties as an integral component of national security policy. For this purpose, each international treaty should have a clearly designated implementing institution, cooperating institutions, implementation indicators, reporting frequency, monitoring methodology, and risk assessment mechanism.

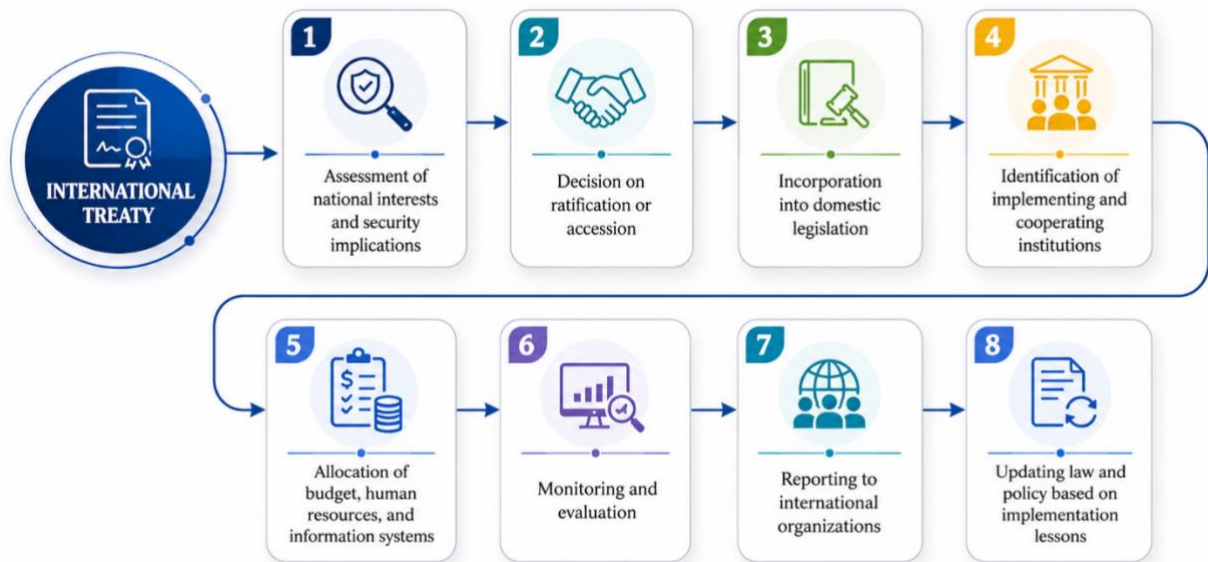


Fig. 3. Proposed National Mechanism for Implementing International Treaties

6.2. Introducing International Legal Risk Analysis into National Security Policymaking

When developing national security policies, laws, and strategies, Mongolia should assess whether the proposed document is compatible with international treaty obligations, human rights standards, international judicial practice, agreements with neighboring states, and the regional security environment. This may be called **international legal risk analysis**.

Such analysis should answer the following questions:

1. Is the proposed policy, law, or strategy consistent with Mongolia's international treaty obligations?
2. Is there any risk of conflict with international human rights standards?
3. Could it affect bilateral or multilateral agreements with neighboring states?
4. Could it create the possibility of an international dispute?
5. Could it affect Mongolia's reporting obligations to international organizations or treaty bodies?
6. Would it have positive or negative long-term effects on the security interests of a small state?

6.3. Enhancing Professional Capacity in International Law

Professional capacity in international law is essential for Mongolia's national security sector. Relevant areas include the law of treaties, international human rights law, international humanitarian law, international judicial practice, the law of international organizations, the law of landlocked states, disarmament law, international law relating to cybersecurity, and environmental law.

To enhance such capacity, the following measures are necessary:

- organizing specialized training in international law for public officials;
- increasing the participation of international law experts in national security policy research;
- developing a research unit and database on treaty implementation;
- creating joint research programmes on international law and national security in universities and research institutions;
- expanding cooperation with international organizations, foreign universities, and research centers.

6.4. Increasing Mongolia's Contribution to International Law

Mongolia should not only be a recipient and implementer of international law. It also has the potential to become an initiator and contributor in specific areas. Mongolia can increase its role particularly in the following areas:

1. Nuclear-weapon-free status, disarmament, and non-proliferation;
2. Interests of landlocked states and legal regimes relating to transit and trade;
3. Peace support operations and international peace and security;
4. Climate change, desertification, water, pastureland, and ecological security;
5. Nomadic civilization, food security, and sustainable pastoralism;
6. Small-state security and legal experience in multilateral diplomacy;
7. International principles for responsible behavior in cyberspace and information security.

6.5. A Systemic Approach to Harmonizing Domestic Legislation with International Law

Implementation of international treaties is not solely the responsibility of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs or the Ministry of Justice and Home Affairs. It is connected with the policies, laws, regulations, standards, and institutional mandates of all sectors. Therefore, Mongolia needs a systemic approach to harmonizing domestic legislation with international treaty obligations.

Table 5. Directions for Harmonizing Domestic Legislation with International Law

<i>Direction</i>	<i>Required Measure</i>	<i>Expected Result</i>
Legal Compatibility	Conduct comparative analysis with international treaty obligations	Legal gaps and contradictions are reduced
Institutional Responsibility	Clearly identify implementing institutions	Accountability and reporting are improved
Human Rights Standards	Introduce human rights criteria into security policy	Human-centered security is strengthened
Monitoring	Develop methodology for evaluating treaty implementation	Actual results become measurable
Research and Information	Develop treaty database and research reports	Quality of decision-making improves
Foreign Policy Linkage	Connect implementation with multilateral diplomacy	International reputation and trust increase

7. Discussion

When examined through the framework of small-state security policy, the role of international law in ensuring Mongolia's national security leads to several important conclusions.

First, international law is not merely a legal instrument of foreign relations for Mongolia. It is a strategic subsystem within the legal framework for ensuring national security. This subsystem covers independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity, human rights, multilateral diplomacy, and cooperation against transnational threats.

Second, for a small state, international law is a combined instrument of "soft power" and "legal protection." For a state located between major powers and limited in material resources, international law cannot fully replace the balance of power. However, it provides legal guarantees, diplomatic support, international forums, and networks of cooperation.

Third, international law serves as an important guiding factor for domestic legal reform. In areas such as human rights, cybersecurity, environment, transnational crime, terrorism, disarmament, and health security, international treaties, standards, and recommendations provide sources for improving national legislation.

Fourth, Mongolia needs a more advanced institutional mechanism for linking international treaty implementation with national security policy. Accession to treaties is only the starting point. Effective implementation must be ensured through domestic legislation, institutional mandates, budgetary allocation, human resources, monitoring, and evaluation.

Fifth, Mongolia has the potential not only to use international law actively but also to contribute to its development in selected areas. These include nuclear-weapon-free status, the interests of landlocked states, peace support operations, climate change, and the sustainability of nomadic civilization.

Conclusions

International law plays a strategically important role in ensuring Mongolia's national security. In the contemporary security environment, national security cannot be guaranteed solely through domestic legislation, the capacity of security institutions, or military preparedness. For Mongolia, a landlocked small state located between two great powers and limited in demographic, economic, and material defence resources, international law serves as a legal guarantee of independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity; a foundation for multilateral diplomacy; a standard for the protection of human rights; a mechanism for cooperation against transnational threats; and a guiding factor for domestic legal reform.

The findings of this study suggest that international law performs five core functions in ensuring Mongolia's national security: a guarantee function; a normative guiding function; a multilateral cooperation function; a strategic protection function for a small state; and a regulatory function for guiding domestic legal reform.

However, for Mongolia to use international law more effectively in national security policy, it must strengthen the national mechanism for implementing international treaties, harmonize domestic legislation with international obligations, introduce international legal risk analysis, enhance professional and research capacity in international law, and increase Mongolia's initiatives and contributions to international law.

Therefore, international law should not be viewed as an external condition of Mongolia's national security policy. It should be understood as an inseparable component of the legal system for ensuring national security and as a strategic instrument of small-state security.

Recommendations

1. **Establish an integrated national mechanism for implementing international treaties.** The implementing institution, cooperating agencies, reporting procedures, monitoring arrangements, and evaluation indicators should be clearly identified for each international treaty.

2. **Introduce international legal risk analysis into national security policymaking.** During the development of laws, policies, and strategies, Mongolia should assess treaty obligations, human rights standards, agreements with neighboring states, and the possibility of international disputes.

3. **Conduct systemic assessments of domestic legislation for compatibility with international treaties and conventions.** Regular analysis should be conducted in areas such as human rights, cybersecurity, terrorism, transnational crime, environment, health, and disarmament.

4. **Strengthen professional human resources in international law.** Mongolia should prepare researchers, policymakers, and legal experts specializing in treaty law, the law of international organizations, human rights law, humanitarian law, cyber law, and the law of landlocked states.

5. **Create a research database on international law and national security.** Such a database should include Mongolia's international treaties, implementation reports, monitoring results, recommendations from international organizations, and analysis of the compatibility of domestic legislation.

6. **Increase Mongolia's active participation in international organizations.** Mongolia can launch initiatives within the UN and other international organizations on small-state security, nuclear-weapon-free status, the interests of landlocked states, peace support operations, climate change, and information security.

7. **Strengthen education and training in international law at the level of state institutions.** Regular training should be organized for officials in national security, defence, law enforcement, foreign affairs, emergency management, and border protection sectors on international law, implementation of international treaties, and human rights standards.

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