

14. International organisations

Always spell out the full name on a first reference in each chapter, web page and article, followed by its abbreviation or acronym in parentheses.

Follow the spelling used by the organisation itself, which you can check on the group's official website. Most UN-affiliated bodies have now adopted the “-iz” spelling of “organization”:

Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)
World Health Organization (WHO)
International Labour Organization (ILO)

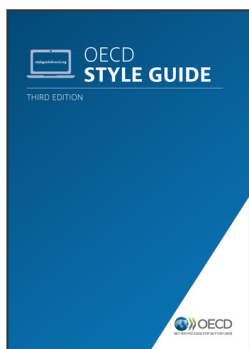
Other names, abbreviations and acronyms to note:

- The North Atlantic Treaty Organisation uses the “-is” spelling.
- ISO is the abbreviation of the International Organization for Standardization, but the similarly named International Organization for Migration is abbreviated IOM. There is also an IMO, the International Maritime Organization.
- The General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade still exists as a document, but the body that administers it, formerly also called GATT, is now the World Trade Organization (WTO). Be sure to differentiate with respect to the UN-affiliated World Tourism Organization, which should be referred to as “UNWTO”.
- Use “the Commission” when referring to the European Commission. Do not refer to the European Community; replace with the European Union.

Similar guidelines generally apply to national organisations. Many countries adopt official English versions of the names of certain institutions, ministries and agencies, and have preferences as to their abbreviations in English, the local language, or both. If you use the name in the original language, provide the official English name or, lacking that, a translation:

the *Société nationale des chemins de fer français* (SNCF) or French Railways;
the *Estrategia Energética y Medioambiental* (ESEMA) or Strategy for Energy and Environment.

See also: *Abbreviations and acronyms*, pp. 52-55; *Bibliographical referencing: Sources and citations*, pp. 56-64; *Spelling*, pp. 100-102.



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