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Thesis defended by Marie Guimezannes "Non-governmental organizations and international law.", under the supervision of Ms Wanda Mastor (IRDEIC)

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## **A b s t r a c t**

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Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) have experienced tremendous growth in the twentieth century. They are now thousands and conceived as essential elements of democratization of international governance. In the field of development aid, they also are increasingly important, alongside States. Thus, international development NGOs have an ambivalent nature: both participants in the international regulation processes of a sector, and actors within this sector. A third facet is emerging in terms of aid effectiveness: that of producing private standards. The reflection on the effectiveness of aid started in the 2000s and led to the adoption of two sets of principles for public and private actors. Since the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness in 2005, States have developed a conception of effectiveness based on the reorientation of the aid relationship towards the recipient State, around five principles (ownership, alignment, harmonization, managing for results and mutual accountability). They have matured this reflection in various high-level forums and have increasingly included NGOs in their discussions. NGOs have, in parallel, conducted their own thinking and have adopted key principles to improve the way they operate, such as respect for human rights, transparency or equality. Focusing on the effectiveness of international law, it is thus interesting to study how these two sets of principles are articulated but also the relationship existing between different actors of the aid who are inextricably linked but who jealously protect their independence. Ultimately, this leads us to consider the general developments in international governance, in a particular area, that has not been studied much by doctrine yet.