



Chris Hondros/Getty Images

EN English

1

Building an Inclusive, Networked UN

Jun 23, 2021 | MARÍA FERNANDA ESPINOSA, DANILO TÜRK

UN Secretary-General António Guterres' call for networked and inclusive multilateralism is prompting a healthy and consequential rethink of global governance. Reforms in this area can help the UN system keep pace with a wide range of pressing international challenges.

QUITO/MADRID – Great-power competition, the troubling rise of xenophobic nationalism, existential environmental threats, and the ongoing COVID-19 onslaught present major global governance challenges. Against this backdrop, world leaders have tasked United Nations Secretary-General [António Guterres](#) with recommending steps to advance the far-reaching commitments contained in last year's so-called [UN75 Declaration](#), in which the General Assembly pledged to ensure “the future we want.”

The secretary-general's much-anticipated report, *Our Common Agenda*, is due this September, and it would benefit from a follow-through vehicle to weigh the report's recommendations and deliberate on and adopt his best ideas. We therefore support the [proposal](#) for a World Summit on Inclusive Global Governance involving a wide range of participants.

Since Guterres [addressed](#) the General Assembly's 75th anniversary meeting last September, he has repeatedly emphasized the need for “networked multilateralism,” in which “the United Nations family, international financial institutions, regional organizations, trading blocs, and others work together more closely and more effectively.” And on April 24 this year, International Day of Multilateralism and Diplomacy for Peace, he [called](#) for “inclusive multilateralism that draws on civil society, business, local and regional authorities, and others, and shares power more broadly and fairly.”

REGISTER

or

Subscribe now for unlimited access to everything PS has to offer.

Already have an account? [Log in](#)

Subscribe to Project Syndicate

Enjoy unlimited access to the ideas and opinions of the world's leading thinkers, including long reads, book reviews, topical collections, short-form analysis and predictions, and exclusive interviews; every new issue of the *PS Quarterly* magazine (print and digital); the complete *PS* archive; and more. **Subscribe now to *PS Premium*.**

SUBSCRIBE

MARÍA FERNANDA ESPINOSA

Writing for PS since 2021

4 Commentaries

María Fernanda Espinosa, a former president of the UN General Assembly, is a member of GWL Voices for Change and Inclusion and a fellow at the Robert Bosch Academy.

DANILO TÜRK

Writing for PS since 2021

2 Commentaries

Danilo Türk, a former president of Slovenia, is President of the Club de Madrid, an organization of more than a hundred former democratically elected presidents and prime ministers.

Get our weekly newsletters

Politics

Economics

Economics

Politics

How Abe Changed Japan

BILL EMMOTT reflects on the slain former prime minister's legacy and transformation of his country's foreign policy.

0

An Inflation-Adjusted Social Contract for Europe

DANIEL GROS shows why, despite soaring energy costs, the eurozone is not facing a 1970s-style wage-price spiral.

0

Boris Johnson Leaves Behind a Sterling Mess

BARRY EICHENGREEN Investors appear to view the British pound more like the currency of a troubled emerging market than of a stable advanced economy. And now, with Prime Minister Boris Johnson's resignation and the attendant political uncertainty, sterling is poised to sink further.

1

The End of Boris's Illusion

RAJ PERSAUD By clinging on through scandal after scandal, UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson has certainly demonstrated the power of positive thinking. But the problem with "Prozac leadership," as some researchers call it, is that it can take a politician – and a country – only so far before reality reasserts itself.

0

— The Big Picture —

FREE TO READ

Japan's Fallen Giant

The assassination of Abe Shinzō has deprived Japan of its greatest postwar leader, and Asia of a visionary who was leading the construction of a viable framework for regional peace.

But no bullet can diminish Abe's impact on his country and the world, as his recent call for greater US clarity on Taiwan, his other commentaries for *Project Syndicate*, and Minxin Pei's and Bill Emmott's discussions of his seminal influence on Asia show.

1

— Subscribers Exclusive —

Inflation Dos and Don'ts

JOSEPH E. STIGLITZ & DEAN BAKER Most commentators on both the left and the right believe that US interest rates should be increased, but not by more than is needed to achieve a soft landing. The primary disagreement is over whether rates are increasing "too much and too fast," and how preemptive we should be.

3

— Politics —

Are the BRICS Breaking Up?

SHASHI THAROOR explains India's unease at the five-country bloc's current direction and possible enlargement.

0

— Politics —

Is Taiwan the Next Ukraine?

KOICHI HAMADA considers whether US abandonment of strategic ambiguity is really the best way to deter a Chinese invasion.

0

On Point	Sections	Videos	Get our weekly newsletters
Say More	Columnists	Podcasts	
Big Picture	Archive		<input type="text" value="your@email.com"/>
Subscribe	About Us	Syndication	
Donate	Careers	Submission policy	
Rewards	Contact	Member Publications	
	FAQ		
	Newsletters		