

Seven Questions To Be Considered As Debate-Opening Remarks

Bertrand de la Chapelle, Institut Français des Relations Internationales

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I - Reform or Refoundation ?

Reforming international institutions was a Loch Ness Monster for years: talked about a lot but never seen. Only recently has it gained momentum. Why is now becoming a real subject?

A world unification is under way under the auspices of trade and financial deregulation on one hand and transport and communications revolutions on the other. We did not plan it, it came as the result of convergent evolutions, each with its own momentum. But it is a deep underlying trend.

In many respects this change is comparable to the industrial revolution. And as the industrial revolution ultimately brought changes in governance models (representative democracies replacing traditional monarchies) we feel the new world order needs new int.

recognised as a regional grouping accepting no members from Latin America or Asia and dealing with these regions through special co-operation agreements. But the closed nature of the G8 is criticised when it is perceived as playing the role of a world directorate.

Other institutions are "inclusive", universal by vocation, like the United Nations system. But we must remember they were not bor

VI - Global Government or Governance Mechanisms?

The very idea of a global government raises fears as much as hope. Already at the nation-state level, a centralised government seems ill-adapted to solve everyday's life problems and fears of undue control of citizens brings a desire to reinforce local authorities, considered closer to the population. Within the European Union, federalists and nationalists clash over the issue of "subsidiarity" with no clear definition of the term. Repartition of power between different levels seems difficult from a theoretical point of view.

On the other hand, some technical subjects are more and more frequently handled by specialised agencies : health and food security, telecom regulation, antitrust and competition... Furthermore, international co-operation between such bodies increases and seems more and more necessary.

As a matter of fact, most global issues are both implying multiple disciplines or actors and defining specific sectors of their own. Sometimes regulations can be implemented for one specific industry (for instance the wood and paper industry) more easily than in comprehensive approaches and treaties.

So the **sixth question** is about the nature of the global architecture we are talking about. What blend if any between generic structures (a global government) and specific ones (dedicated governance mechanisms) ? Can a global architecture be built progressively, subject by subject ? And what would be the first fields to initiate such a process ?

VII - What Role for Technology?

The digital revolution accelerates the globalization process. Without computers and networks, no unified financial markets, no supply-chain systems and no outsourcing of manufacturing in lower wage countries.

Similarly, steam engines and transportation (railroads in particular) were key factors in the industrial revolution. But they also were instrumental in the coming of age of parliamentary democracy. Thanks to new means of transportation, deputies could come back to their provinces in days instead of weeks and keep contact with their constituents through quick and regular postal mail.

The same could happen with IT. We see Internet as a technological and economical revolution. We only begin to understand how big a social change it brings and its potential impact on policy-making. The web requests my r a -

of teleconferencing or television.

So the **seventh question** is about digital democracy. What new participative governance mechanisms become possible through an innovative use of IT? Could they sometimes - and when should they - complement or replace today's democratic system based on representatives and majority votes ? Given the fact that any part of the world is now one day away from any other by plane, what combination of physical presence (summits and other conferences) and online participation?

Conclusion

Discussions in various fora beyond ours address the issue of a Global Architecture. All adopt of course the perspective of their respective members. But no one has the full legitimacy to treat it alone. The European Union is facing the same dilemma in trying to draft a Constitution. If the lessons from the "European Declaration of Rights" are any indication, a wide preliminary debate is a minimum condition for legitimacy but no formula for representation of all interested parties has yet been broadly accepted.

So, whatever the answers to the points above are in our group, here lies **the last and probably core question**. Where will the mandate for drafting new institutions come from? How can it be indisputable and how can it handle the question of a fair and legitimate representation of the numerous stakeholders from public, private and associative sectors?

In this respect, the coming World Summit on the