

## **Summary of the Working Group on Global Governance Innovation and Renewal**

Private Roundtable at the 19<sup>th</sup> Doha Forum  
15 December 2019

After welcoming the participants to this year's Doha Forum, **Dr. Khalid Al-Khater, Director of Policy & Planning at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the State of Qatar**, shared that the Working Group on Global Governance Innovation and Renewal has a dual origin: first, a *Global Policy Dialogue* series on similar themes initiated one year before at the Doha Institute for Graduate Studies, followed by forums at the Stimson Center in Washington, D.C., at H.E. Ban Ki-moon's Global Green Growth Institute in Seoul, and the World Bank in Washington, D.C.; and second, the inaugural Doha Forum Report on the theme of this year's Forum, "[\*Reimagining Governance in a Multipolar World.\*](#)" He emphasized that the Working Group seeks to further advance the Doha Forum's vision of providing "a global platform for dialogue, bringing together leaders in policy to build innovative and action driven networks."

In his opening remarks as the session's co-chair, **Professor Ibrahim Gambari, Former Nigerian Foreign Minister and UN Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs and Founding Chair of the Savannah Center**, noted that the recent decision of the UN General Assembly to initiate work on a Political Declaration on the occasion of the UN's 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary next year and to convene a Leaders Summit, to be held on 21 September 2020, offers a unique opportunity to make progress on innovating and renewing the system of global governance, given the many challenges and threats facing our global institutions, many of which were established in the immediate aftermath of World War II. His fellow co-chair, **Ms. Ellen Laipson, President Emeritus of the Stimson Center**, outlined three major questions for the Working Group participants to consider:

- What are the most pressing gaps in global governance that merit urgent political attention (e.g., institutional, leadership, normative, legal, or operational changes)?
- How can we maximize UN 75 to achieve practical innovations toward strengthening and renewing the United Nations system? What new ideas, networks, capabilities, and partnerships can be leveraged to ensure that collective efforts meaningfully shape the Political Declaration that is to be negotiated, beginning in early 2020, by governments and adopted at the September 2020 UN 75 Leaders Summit in New York?
- Building on the 2019 Doha Forum Report's call for a UN Conference on Multipolar Governance and Global Institutions in 2023 (pp. 35-37), how could a "post-2020" intergovernmental process be designed to address *unfinished business* from the September 2020 Leaders Summit?

In providing an overview of the Working Group, **Dr. Richard Ponzio, Director of the Stimson Center's Just Security 2020 Program**, expressed the hope that this seasoned group of former

statespersons, experts, and policy-makers would collectively: (i) think through some of today's thorniest global governance problem-sets; (ii) consider how they intersect and speak to the need for systemic change; and (iii) offer—in the form of succinct and visually attractive global governance innovation policy briefs—targeted proposals for strengthening and renewing governance across borders. With an eye toward influencing the UN 75 Political Declaration, the September 2020 Leaders Summit, and any possible “Post-2020” process, he explained that it would be the responsibility of the Stimson Center, the Doha Forum, and the host institution of the author to publish and promote the findings and recommendations of a particular policy brief.

Delivering special remarks and engaging in a discussion with Working Group's members, **H.E. Ban Ki-moon, President and Chair of the Global Green Growth Institute and Eighth Secretary-General of the United Nations**, described how the multilateral system is under attack today precisely when strengthened global cooperation is needed more than ever, especially for confronting the two existential threats of climate change and nuclear proliferation. He welcomed the Working Group to join The Elders and other civil society groups in urging national political leaders to move beyond short-term and narrowly defined domestic agendas toward the building of a more effective system of global governance. He further emphasized how world leaders have a moral responsibility to promote a global vision and ideals of global citizenship that are consistent with the principles of the UN Charter.

The session's co-chairs then welcomed four brief presentations on proposed UN75 Global Governance Innovation Policy Briefs by **Dr. Adriana Abdenur, Coordinator of the Peace and Security Division at the Igarapé Institute** (Rio de Janeiro), on “*The Conflict-Climate Governance Nexus*”; by **Professor Vesselin Popovski, Vice-Dean of the Jindal Global Law School and Executive-Director of the Centre for the Study of the United Nations** (New Delhi), on “*Innovating the Security Council and Peacebuilding Commission*”; by **Dr. Arunabha Ghosh, Founder and CEO of the Council on Energy, Environment, and Water** (New Delhi), on “*The Future of Environmental Multilateralism*”; and **Ms. Maja Groff, Convener of the Climate Risk Governance Commission and International Lawyer** (The Hague), and her co-author **Dr. Joris Larik, Assistant Professor of International and EU Law at Leiden University and Senior Researcher at the Stimson Center's Just Security 2020 Program**, on *Renewing the International Court of Justice and International Criminal Court*.

Employing the Chatham House Rule in the exchange that subsequently ensued, Working Group discussants (see names and biographical information listed in the annex below) shared the following expert advice regarding the preparation of the proposed UN75 Global Governance Innovation Policy Briefs:

- The current political atmosphere at the UN can be described as “toxic”. Powerful countries have already started to signal that they would oppose serious reform proposals. Nothing can be achieved without consensus at the United Nations, and consequently, adopting “win-win” yet still ambitious recommendations will prove difficult. Multilateralism represents a way to manage, rather than supersede, geopolitics. Depending on the issue, for many powerful countries the UN can serve as either a constraint or force-multiplier. Rather than attempting to reform the entire UN system, it would be more effective to focus on a clear set of priorities, ideally linked to other ongoing UN processes (e.g., the “Financing for Development” agenda).
- As scholars of global governance reform, we need to think both realistically—and yet still *boldly*—about what is possible. How can we creatively strike a proper balance between innovation and realism that takes into account the interests of major powers? How can more

“democratic multilateralism” increase people’s access—including women and youth—to global decision-making and to better address challenges faced by ordinary people in their everyday lives?

- The environment and, in particular, climate change, represent areas where we can reinvigorate broad-based support—especially among the younger generation—for multilateral cooperation. Touching each of the UN’s major pillars of operation, current environmental crises can inform and catalyze the need for significant changes across the entire international system. At the same time, those with both the ability and duty to act on global climate matters—including out of respect for the rights of future generations—must speed up the pace of climate diplomacy. Given growing consciousness-raising, 2020 could also present a real opportunity to stem current alarming trends regarding biodiversity loss. Action on environmental issues can also be furthered through (1) even greater integration with the broader 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; and (2) the skillful leveraging of new technologies.
- When seeking to achieve global governance renewal, it is sometimes more effective to generate new norms and standards in smaller, more informal groupings of states (e.g., G20 or G7/8) and then, when ripened, to bring them to the UN’s 193 Member States.
- Reform of the UN Security Council, even with leadership from within the elected “E-10” non-permanent members, is unlikely to happen as “geopolitics is currently dead.” Without consensus among non-permanent Council members about the possible addition of new permanent members through the present Intergovernmental Negotiations, the five permanent, veto-wielding members (P-5) are essentially being handed an “easy pass” on having to take a position on this long-standing, critical reform issue. Moreover, some powerful P-5 members believe the Council is operating exactly as it is supposed to (despite the failure to prevent horrific atrocities against civilians in Syria, Yemen, and elsewhere). While three current, large E-10 members (Germany, India, and South Africa) have the potential to improve the Council’s working methods, it seems that some E-10 members are ill-equipped and lack a sense of purpose on the Council.
- Through its “Ad-Hoc Working Group on the Revitalization of the UN General Assembly,” the UNGA is focusing increasingly on the implementation of earlier resolutions, as well as further improvements in the selection of the Secretary-General.
- The International Court of Justice is increasing in importance with recent “landmark decisions” and “vibrant elections” for qualified judges.
- We need to better employ existing UN mechanisms and frameworks, such as the Peacebuilding Commission, which are under-appreciated and under-developed. A greater emphasis on prevention, through new tools such as a proposed “Peacebuilding Audit”, could enable the PBC to help operationalize the Secretary-General’s prevention agenda. The P-5 members of the Security Council must be convinced to invest more in the PBC, rather than view it as potentially undermining their authority in the Security Council.
- We can expect strong, capable leadership from the Permanent Representatives of Sweden and Qatar as co-chairs and co-facilitators of the UN 75 Political Declaration process. What are the “carrots” and catalysts they can employ to persuade countries about much needed changes to

the international system? For example, then U.S. President Franklin Roosevelt understood the importance of drafting the UN Charter *during* World War II, to prevent the Charter’s framers from the risk of losing momentum. In other words, what is our theory of change for overcoming obstacles to progress and achieving political buy-in from powerful stakeholders?

- Conducting both global and regional multi-stakeholder dialogues will prove critical to ensuring that creative and timely ideas from diverse perspectives are brought into the development of the UN 75 Political Declaration. There is a real opportunity to blend regional innovations with global multilateral approaches, thereby creating new kinds of transnational alliances to address long-standing global problem-sets.
- The 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the United Nations represents an opportunity to advance global citizenship ideals and general support for multilateral cooperation, not only specific global policy and institutional reform proposals.

In concluding the private roundtable discussion of the Working Group on Global Governance Innovation and Renewal, **Ms. Maureen Connolly, President of Partnerships for Social Change and Fellow at the One Earth Future Foundation** (Boulder, Colorado), invited participants to the UN75 San Francisco Global Forum, planned for 24-25 June 2020, to forge new kinds of global public-private partnerships and to encourage new kinds of thinking and action on the future of global governance; **Mr. Fergus Watt, International Coordinator of the UN2020 Initiative** (Ottawa), welcomed participation in the UN2020 civil society-led coalition focused on influencing the UN 75 Political Declaration, including through a NGO Forum in May 2020 in New York; and finally, **Dr. Magnus Jiborn, Head of Research for the Global Challenges Foundation** (Stockholm), shared details on the “Together First” campaign, including activities such as the new Climate Risks Governance Commission and an online portal and conversation platform to feed diverse perspectives into the UN’s 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary commemoration and beyond.

The Working on Global Governance Innovation and Renewal was timed to coincide with the Doha Forum’s special plenary session on “The United Nations at 75: A Time for Renewal and Innovation”, also held on the afternoon of Sunday, 15 December 2019. Moderated by **Steven Clemons, Editor-at-Large of *The Hill***, the panel included remarks by **H.E. Ban Ki-Moon, H.E. Professor Ibrahim Gambari, H.E. Professor Tijjanni Muhammad-Bande, President of the UN General Assembly, H.E. Dr. Rosemary DiCarlo, UN Under-Secretary-General for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs, H.E. Fabrizio Hochschild, the UN Secretary-General’s Special Adviser for UN 75, H.E. Achim Steiner, UN Development Program Administrator, and H.E. Vladimir Voronkov, UN Under-Secretary-General for Counter-Terrorism**. The Working Group members will continue their efforts and remain committed to advancing reforms to improve the 21<sup>st</sup> century global governance system and if deemed useful, the informal Working Group may convene again during the UN75 San Francisco Global Forum and possibly once more at the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary Doha Forum in December 2020.

## **Annex I**

### **Agenda**

<b>Welcome Remarks</b>	H.E. Dr. Khalid Al-Khater
<b>Welcome by Co-Chairs</b>	H.E. Professor Ibrahim Gambari Ms. Ellen Laipson
<b>Overview of the Working Group</b>	Dr. Richard Ponzio
<b>Special Guest Remarks</b>	H.E. Ban Ki-Moon
<b>Lead-off speakers</b>	Dr. Adriana Abdenur, <i>The Conflict-Climate Governance Nexus</i> Professor Vesselin Popovski, <i>Innovating the Security Council and Peacebuilding Commission</i> Dr. Arunabha Ghosh, <i>The Future of Environmental Multilateralism</i> Ms. Maja Groff and Professor Joris Larik, <i>Renewing the International Court of Justice and International Criminal Court</i>
<b>Discussants</b>	Professor Karen Smith Professor Sultan Barakat Amb. Adonia Ayebare Ms. Karin Landgren H.E. Jeffrey Feltman H.E. Michal Mlynar Ms. Michèle Griffin Dr. Sam Daws  Discussion with the wider members of the Working Group  Co-Chairs briefly summarize the discussion and share their thoughts on the way forward
<b>Brief Updates on related initiatives</b>	UN75 San Francisco Global Forum, 24-25 June (Maureen Connolly) UN2020 Initiative (Fergus Watt) Together First Campaign (Dr. Magnus Jiborn)

## **Annex II**

### **Participants List**

Dr. Adriana Abdenur, Coordinator of the Peace and Security Division, Igarapé Institute (Rio de Janeiro)

H.E. Amb. Adonia Ayebare, Permanent Representative of Uganda to the United Nations

H.E. Dr. Khalid Al-Khater, Director, Policy & Planning Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, State of Qatar

Ms. Al Anoud Al-Kuwari, Youth Advocate, Education Above All Foundation

Ms. Raghad Al-Saadi, Principal, Polar Lights Prime, LLC

Dr. Kuniko Ashizawa, American University (Washington, D.C.) and Senior Adviser, New Diplomacy Initiative (Tokyo)

H.E. Ban Ki-Moon, President & Chair, Global Green Growth Institute (Seoul) and Eighth Secretary-General of the United Nations

Professor Sultan Barakat, Director, Center for Conflict and Humanitarian Studies, Doha Institute for Graduate Studies

Ms. Maureen Connolly, President, Partnerships for Social Change and Fellow, One Earth Future Foundation (Boulder)

Mr. Steve Clemons, Editor-at-Large, The Hill (Washington, D.C.)

Dr. Sam Daws, Project on UN Governance and Reform, Centre for International Studies, University of Oxford

Ms. Sahana Dharmapuri, Director of Our Secure Future (Women, Peace, and Security), One Earth Future Foundation (Boulder)

Hugh Dugan, Chief Hostage Negotiator, U.S. Department of State

Ms. Hamideh Dorzadeh, Youth Advocate, Education Above All Foundation

H.E. Jeffrey Feltman, former UN Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs and U.S. Assistant-Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs

William French, Head of Communications, The Elders (London)

Professor Ibrahim Gambari, Former Nigerian Foreign Minister, UN Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, and Founding Chair of the Savannah Center for Diplomacy, Democracy, and Development (Abuja)

Dr. Arunabha Ghosh, Founder and CEO, Council on Energy, Environment, and Water (New Delhi)

Ms. Michèle Griffin, Senior Policy Adviser to the UN Secretary-General, Executive Office of the Secretary-General

Ms. Maja Groff, Convener of the new Climate Risk Governance Commission and International Lawyer (The Hague)

Dr. Magnus Jiborn, Head of Research, Global Challenges Foundation (Stockholm)

Mr. Dave Kim, Governance Specialist and Special Advisor to the President & Chair, Global Green Growth Institute (Seoul)

Ms. Jane Kinninmont, Head of Programmes, The Elders Foundation (London)

Ms. Ellen Laipson, Distinguished Fellow and President Emeritus, The Stimson Center

Ms. Karin Landgren, Executive-Director, Security Council Report (New York)

Dr. Joris Larik, Assistant Professor of International and EU Law, Leiden University and Senior Researcher, Just Security 2020 Program, The Stimson Center

Mr. Michael Liu, Founder and Secretary-General, Chinese Initiative on International Law (Beijing and The Hague)

H.E. Michal Mlynar, Permanent Representative of Slovakia to the United Nations

Mr. David Nussbaum, Chief Executive, The Elders (London)

H.E. Amb. Abdullahi Omaki, Executive-Director, Savannah Center for Diplomacy, Democracy, and Development (Abuja)

Ms. Cristina Petcu, Research Associate, Just Security 2020 Program, The Stimson Center (Washington, D.C.)

Dr. Richard Ponzio, Director of the Just Security 2020 Program, Senior Fellow at The Stimson Center (Washington, D.C.)

Dr. Vesselin Popovski, Vice-Dean, Jindal Global Law School and Executive-Director, Centre for the Study of the United Nations (New Delhi)

Mr. Shoaib Rahim, Senior Advisor to the Ministry of Peace, Government of Afghanistan

Mr. Mohammed Yasir Saleti, Investigation Team Leader, UN Mediation Team (Syria)

Professor Karen Smith, Special Advisor of the Secretary-General on the Responsibility to Protect, United Nations and University Lecturer, Leiden University

Mr. Fergus Watt, International Coordinator, UN2020 Initiative (Ottawa)