

IMPERATIVE OF RESURRECTING MULTILATERALISM

3 September
2020
Thursday

1830 - 2000 Hours
(Indian Standard Time)



Pradeep Mehta
Secretary General
CUTS International



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Moderator



Lakshmi M. Puri
Former Assistant Secretary-General
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Pascal Lamy
Chair
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Jorge Heine
Research Professor
Pardee School of Global Studies, Boston University
and Former Ambassador of Chile to India



Bruce Stokes
Executive Director
Transatlantic Task Force: Together or Alone?
German Marshall Fund

In his address to a recently held meeting of the ASEAN-India Network of Think Tanks, Indian Foreign Minister, Dr S Jaishankar remarked that “multilateralism has failed the test as the world lives through an unprecedented challenge in the wake of the coronavirus pandemic which has thrown up 'trust' as the most valued commodity in international relations today”.

“Just when multilateralism was most in demand, it did not rise to the occasion. If we saw little leadership, it was not just due to the admittedly anachronistic nature of key international organisations. Equally, it reflected the intensely competitive nature of current international politics,” he added.

This sums up the current state of the world, and there is a remarkable similarity between the world that we are witnessing today and that about a century ago - during the inter-war years, which resulted in the demise of the League of Nations. While at that time a rising power refused to join the international comity of nations, this time another rising (and expansionist) power is doing everything that goes against 'trust'.

It in this context we need to understand the implications and aftermath of a number of disruptions that the world has witnessed recently. Starting with an expansionist approach in the South China Sea and in the Himalayas, and followed by Sino-American trade and technology war and the COVID-19 pandemic, there is complete disregard to a rules-based multilateral system of governance on the part of a regime which, ironically, benefitted most from it in the sphere of trade, connectivity and poverty reduction.

Therefore, what is needed is 'trust-building' among the nations for the delivery of global public goods in a fair and equitable manner so that there is peace, security, stability and prosperity for all. That is possible if a better sense about the virtues of being a 'good international citizen' prevails. Can it happen? What should be the role of traditional as well as emerging powers for making that happen?

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The webinar will be organised through Zoom platform.
The meeting link will be sent to the registered participants.

To register: <https://bit.ly/3gBla2R>