

A more “networked” UN for stronger multilateralism: how would it work?

Briefing for MPs on UN processes

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SPEAKERS

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A debate about the future of multilateralism and the UN is heating up in New York in the run up to next year’s Summit of the Future. According to a recent report of the High Level Advisory Board on Effective Multilateralism, the UN needs to facilitate a more “networked and inclusive multilateralism” engaging a variety of “stakeholders” such as civil society, the private sector, and local and regional governments.

Despite a formal submission of the IPU to the HLAB last October, the report does not include a role for parliaments contributing to UN decision-making processes. Meanwhile, some member States are concerned the

concept of a “networked UN” is antithetical to the UN’s inter-governmental nature.

This briefing seeks to clarify the concept of a more “networked UN” and explore multi-stakeholder participation in UN processes. For more background, see here.

- Are new proposals for greater inclusion of “stakeholders” in UN processes significantly different from existing consultative arrangements?
- Does the role of parliaments at the UN differ from that of other stakeholders?
- How can parliaments help strengthen people’s faith in multilateralism and in the UN?

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