

ACUNS PANEL: MULTILATERALISM VS. CONSTITUTIONALISM

26th June, 10:30-11:30

Speakers:

- Moderator: Richard Samuel Deese, Senior Lecturer, Social Sciences, Boston University

Panellists:

- Roger Kotila, President, Democratic World Federalists, Psychological Factors in UN Charter Review and the Earth Constitution: touched upon the influence of psychopaths in leadership roles. A world judiciary system with enforcement that would apply to everyone is urgent. UN Charter reform should happen. Also, to include the Earth constitution. Asks UN GA to take seriously the request for UN Charter review. Social factor of change in society: Youth are part of this change as world citizens. The UN GA will need to declare the P5 and Security Council illegitimate and take the range of power.
- Laura Lock, Youth Climate Ambassador, The UN we want: Youth and the Future of Climate Democracy: UN not able to face global challenges such as climate crisis. Fragmented international frameworks is an issue. We lack citizen's representation at a global scale. Climate democracy would be very effective in introducing climate governance. intersectionality suggests you cannot respond to an issue without considering others such as inequality, racism etc. Role of youth: activism and advocacy. Importance of intergenerational effort to fight climate change. We do not ask to be in positions of power but to listen to us and act on demands of young people. This is the same with minority groups.
- Augusto López-Claros, Executive Director, Global Governance Forum, Leveraging UN reform through a World Parliamentary Assembly. In our proposal there is the idea that our world parliamentary assembly would have a largely advisory board. The proposal is very ambitious in terms of scope, so those powers can be limited. That forum should be formalized. It could be an adjunct body to the UN. European institutions work democratically and therefore cohesion is easier in the European context. One possibility is to set up the assembly on a voluntary basis. Like set up 30-40 countries with democracies in the developing world. In terms of the P5, this PA should not be seen as threat because it will just be an advisory body and contribute to world issues like climate crisis. Big changes need the engagement of civil society.
- Shahr-Yar Sharei, Executive Director, Center for UN Constitutional Research, Multilateralism Vs. Constitutionalisation of the UN?: UN Charter review under 109.3. Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly is older than the EU and never developed. There are over 50 parliamentary assemblies in the world and they do not have enough power. EU took 50-60 years for the EU Parliament to be put in place and the UK is now leaving. This is due to the failure in elaborating an EU Constitution back in 2000.

