

# IMPERATIVE OF RESURRECTING MULTILATERALISM

**18** September  
2020  
Friday

**1100 - 1230 Hours**  
(Indian Standard Time)



**Pradeep Mehta**  
Secretary General  
CUTS International



**Kishore Mahbubani**  
Distinguished Fellow, Asia Research  
Institute, National University of Singapore



**Lydia Kulik**  
Head of India Studies at the SKOLKOVO  
Institute for Emerging Market Studies,  
Moscow School of Management



**Vijay Latha Reddy**  
Former Deputy National Security  
Adviser of India



**Henry Huiyao Wang**  
Founder and President  
Center for China and Globalization



**Asoke Mukerji**  
Former Ambassador of India to the UN

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 good 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?

**RSVP:**

**S K Soni, +91 9829094548, [sks@cuts.org](mailto:sks@cuts.org)**

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

To register: <https://bit.ly/2GBXn6t>