

What role should global governance organisations play in promoting international security and stability over the next two decades?

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The global governance organisations have taken an important position in order to handle international common crisis in different sectors for over a half century. With accelerated globalisation, the role of the international organisations has been crucial to keep the balance of power among nations and to maintain international security and stability.

The development of the idea about global governance has been deeply related term 'globalisation'. Global governance is defined as 'the sum of the many ways individuals and institutions, public and private, manage their common affairs. It is a continuing process through which conflicting or diverse interests can be accommodated and cooperative action taken. It includes formal institutions and regimes empowered to enforce compliance, as well as informal arrangements that people and institutions either have agreed to or perceive to be in their interest...governance must now be understood as also involving non-governmental organisations, citizens' movement, multinational corporations and the global market' (CGG, 1995: 2-3). Therefore, the global governance organisations include the United Nations (UN), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation

(UNESCO), the World Trade Organisation (WTO), the European Union (EU), International Amnesty and so on.

The concept of international security and stability will be suggested as the extended notion of 'human security' including not only the basic needs of individuals for safety such as access to clean food and water, environmental and energy security, freedom from economic exploitation and protection from violence and so on; but also the varieties of human demands that must be satisfied such as engage to cultural activities, religious liberty and so on (Sachs, 2003).

This paper will address the role of the global governance organisations to promote international security and stability: as a cultural bridge in order to understand cultural diversity; a cultural catalyst for fostering creative and innovative industries; and a cultural facilitator to develop International unity with cultural relativism¹.

The three remarkable reasons of international conflicts

In order to suggest the role of the global governance organisations for maintaining global security and stability, it is vital to consider the fundamental facts what threaten international security and stability. There are numerous reasons why international dispute and crisis have been happened with disagreement of political/economic/social interests between communities. This paper will address three reasons misunderstanding different culture, international economic crisis, and political/social/cultural dispute.

Contemporary society has been defined as 'intercultural society' due to the increase of human mobility and the influence of transnational organisations/companies. For this reason, it is common in the modern city life to meet people from the other cultures which have never experienced. Thus, misunderstanding different culture has generated tensions between 'native and migrant people', 'travellers and citizens' and 'international negotiation in the

¹ Cultural relativism will hold that culture is an important element of the validity of a moral right or rule and it recognises a comprehensive idea of universal human rights and allows national/local variations and exceptions (Donnelly, 1984).

political/economic meetings'. In particular, it has brought about serious violence crashes within political/religious conflicts. For example, the case of Danish Cartoons about the Prophet Muhammad has shown a general misunderstanding of different culture which led outrage some Muslims. According to BBC, many Muslims commented that 'the cartoons are extremely and deliberately offensive, expressing a growing European hostility towards and fear of Muslim after '11/9'. And some Muslims insisted that the cartoons as an attack on their faith and culture designed to sow hatred'.

Since the end of the Cold War, the role of a country in economic/political/social intervention has been diminished within the development of transnational private sectors and the dominated regimes on Democracy and Capitalism as an international phenomenon. Particularly, the development of transnational corporations in global economy has been led to the lack of governmental regulation and intervention, and thus it is hard to protect or develop its domestic market without the support or agreement of the global governance organisations. With the influence of global market, a country's economic crisis has threatened the other countries' economy and followed by the national, regional and international conflicts caused by the increase of unemployment and poverty.

In the some parts of the Earth, there are many social/political disputes to continuously happen due to the different priority and culture of the communities. These conflicts have threatened the international security and stability through the violent movements such as terrorism and violent protests. For instance, the 9/11 has shown that the terrorism affects not only the political dispute but also the ethnical/religious bias through people's minds. Unfortunately, these prejudices on the different culture have influenced the other victims from related violence. Considering these causes, the fundamental role of global governance organisations should deal with these political and social tensions among countries with cultural.

The three roles of global governance organisations

There are numerous different organisations which govern international issues to depend on their priorities and interests. This paper suggests that the three main roles of global governance organisations to maintain international security and stability with 'cultural'.

Firstly, the global governance organisations can be ‘Cultural Bridge’ to make people to understand the cultural diversity. The idea of cultural diversity has dominated not only international policies of the UNESCO and the European Commission but also national and local policies in order to encourage cultural integration and understanding. The diversity issue has generated through the migration and the international working exchanges which caused by the increase of labour mobility. Many countries have been struggled with the problems of social exclusion and cultural solitary of the immigrated minority. Considering these social phenomena, the global governance organisations should become a ‘Cultural Bridge’ to integrate people through cultural diversity. Therefore, they should provide global citizen to understand the diversity of culture and to support people to involve their culture as important elements of forming international integration. The international organisations can set their policies within ‘cultural’ information which can be adopted by policy-makers in national/regional organisations in order to encourage cultural diversity in their communities.

Furthermore, ‘Cultural Catalyst’ is one of the roles of the global governance organisations which can foster creative and innovative industries in the world. The main stream in the industrial field has immediately changed with the development of technology. The technological evolution has contributed the international industries to expand their market and to reduce the working time and labour force. However, it also has created the increase of unemployment and the unfair relationships between employers in the developed countries and employees in the developing countries under the liberal market principle. In addition, the environmental issues such as climate change have continuously forced to replace over the existing non-environmental friendly industries to ecological industries. Consequently, the global governance organisations should become a ‘Cultural Catalyst’ which can encourage the creative and innovative industries which are environmental friendly and also provide enormous employment in the communities within high-skilled education. They should support both developing and developed nations to foster their creative and innovative industries through exchanges their experts and to make networks for cooperating their skills and technologies.

Lastly, the global governance organisations should play a role as ‘Cultural Facilitator’ in order to develop international unity with cultural relativism. Due to different priorities and cultures in the nations and regions, there are numerous political/social conflicts to continuously happen within demonstration and violent crashes occasionally. The global

governance organisations have performed the important part of mediator since the beginning of their establishments. However, they should change their role of mediator more relative and cultural regarding the differences of culture between communities within the notion of cultural relativism. Indeed, these organisations tend to reflect the idea of the majority or dominant society by means of the international criteria within leading discourse from the developed or powerful states. When the cultural differences are ignored by these international institutions, the negotiation for dealing with international dispute can fail or half of success, due to the fact that without cultural tolerance their agreement from the negotiation can be easily neglected by people who do not understand the needs of compromise with different culture.

As we have seen, the global governance organisations have played the important roles in the various parts in the international relations. Due to the cultural difference and global economic crisis, political/social disputes which threaten the international security and stability (based upon human rights, sustainable development, mutual respect and the alleviation of poverty) have frequently happened around the world. Consequently, the role of the global governance organisations should perform as a 'cultural bridge', a 'cultural catalyst' and 'cultural facilitator'.

The global governance organisations might already have the same role. However, they should be more engaged with 'cultural' over next two decades. With regard to the terms of culture as the diverse ways of human life, the 'cultural' of everyone should be respected every moment by the international organisations. Consequently, the term 'cultural' should be emphasised as the primary part when the international governance organisation set their policies.