


<b>Möglicher Auftragnehmer / Projektpartner</b>	<b>Brookings Institution</b> , Washington: <a href="https://www.brookings.edu/">https://www.brookings.edu/</a> 	
<b>Budget</b>	Research (staff work) 27'000.- USD Editing of report 14'000.- USD Internal expert roundtable 7'000.- USD High-level launch event 12'000.- USD Total <b><u>60'000.- USD</u></b>	
<b>Dauer / Zeitspanne</b>	9-10 months	

### **Adaptive Multilateralism: New Threats, New Geopolitics, and the Consequences for the Multilateral System**

#### Background/Concept

In the last few years, the international situation has evolved in important ways. Most important is the **notable rise in geopolitical tensions in all regions**. At the same time, serious questions have emerged as to whether the current configuration of regional and multilateral institutions remain fit for purpose, or are ill-adapted to address the expanding list of global and transnational security challenges they confront.

Within this context, major powers are increasingly pursuing “**competitive multilateralism**” to reshape multilateral institutions to better accommodate their interests and concerns, and to blunt potentially adversarial initiatives. China and Russia in particular, albeit in different ways, are aggressively seeking to shape, and, where necessary, revise the United Nations system to take greater consideration of their priorities. The United States has moved to the sidelines, or moved to undermine important institutions. Meanwhile, key European actors have sought to defend the existing system, but sometimes without necessarily acknowledging the reality of new threats to which the current institutions are ill-equipped to respond. Simultaneously, the world has seen a proliferation of alternative multilateral institutions and frameworks, from the BRICS format to the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank. It remains unanswered as to whether these new forums and vehicles are complements or competitors to the Western-designed and -led institutions, or whether the truth lays in between.

This projects intends to undertake a new strand of research and policy analysis that addresses the emergence of competitive multilateralism among major powers. It starts from the premise that a country like **Switzerland has a crucial interest in functioning multilateral institutions and in playing an active role within these institutions. There is considerable room for such a role to be played.**

Since the Second World War, the Western powers have led the development of a robust set of organizations and institutions for managing international security challenges. After the end of the Cold War, these institutions underwent substantial innovation and adaptation, adaptations that were built on a bed rock of great and major power cooperation, and were designed to advance a human security as well as a state security agenda.

To document shifts in the institutional environment and to create evidence that can undergird policy adaptation, this project will **chart the relations between the existing multilateral institutions and the evolving threat landscape**. Starting with a dataset that documents not only global conflicts (interstate, internal, subnational, trans-national) but also points of inter-state tension and escalating friction, the project will assess the ability of the relevant institutions to provide effective responses to these new challenges.

In the course of this research and analysis, this project will undertake assessments of the state of play of select major multilateral security institutions (with a special focus on UN, OSCE, NATO). It will also examine the cross-cutting ways in which, through the competitive multilateralism, great powers and their coalitions are seeking to reshape longstanding multilateral concepts, institutions and working methods to advance their geopolitical agendas. If possible, the project would examine how the EU is acting in these institutions under the CSDP, how major EU powers (Germany, France) are positioning themselves, and if

the EU plays the role of the key actor it aspires to be, particularly in response to U.S., China and Russia. It will develop on the **possible active and constructive way Switzerland can play**.

<b>Relevanz für das EDA / erwartete Wirkung</b>	<p>Switzerland is heavily dependent upon and relying on a rules-based international order and multilateral system. This order and this system are under pressures. Mapping such pressures in multilateral security institutions and identifying opportunities for innovation and policy options is of direct relevance for Switzerland which has a crucial interest in functioning and strong multilateral institutions.</p> <p>Furthermore, the project provides an opportunity for a high-level follow-up with policy-makers and researchers in Washington in a policy area where Switzerland is invested and enjoys high credibility.</p> <p>Konsultiert wurden AIO und ASP.</p> <p>AIO: «Wir finden das Thema sehr relevant und dessen Bearbeitung ist enorm zeitgerecht – meines Erachtens sehr unterstützenswert».</p>
<b>Vorschläge Verwertung der Ergebnisse</b>	<p>The project will <b>map pressures</b> to international security institutions and <b>identify opportunities for innovation and policy options for Switzerland which has a crucial interest in functioning and strong multilateral institutions</b>. This mapping of institutions and within multilateral security institutions respectively will result in various <b>data visualizations</b> and <b>interactives</b> for both policy-makers and the public, as well as a report summarizing the state of play in key security domains.</p> <p>The project will assess the effectiveness of specific architectures and related trends in competitive multilateralism, as well as provide analysis of critical gaps and areas for innovation. In parallel, the project team will convene a workshop or roundtable on specific security and multilateral domains. A regional approach with a focus on European security in general and on Switzerland in particular would be useful.</p> <p>Additionally, the project team will organize a high-level launch discussion and seminar with practitioners and scholars, as well as senior officials.</p>

**Einreichfrist: Freitag, 14. Dezember 2018**

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