



Zoom Webinar on Friday the 11th September 2020

04.30 PM (IST) / 07.00 AM (ET)/ 08.00 AM (BA) 11.00 AM (GMT)

(The Seminars were initially planned at Constitution Club in New Delhi & Loyola College, Chennai on 5th and 12th September 2020)

UN75 - Commemoration of the 75th Anniversary of the United Nations: shaping our future together

Cooperating together with Office of the Special Adviser on the preparations for the Commemoration of the 75th Anniversary of the United Nations, the Institute of Social Sciences, New Delhi, Asian Youth Centre, Chennai, South Asian Institute of Policy Dialogue, the South Asian Federalists, Bangalore and the UN2020 Campaign invites intellectuals to participate in the Dialogue process, the results of which would be submitted as part of UN75 Declaration to the UN high-level UN75 meeting on Sept 21, 2020 in New York UNHQ.

Introduction:

To mark its 75th Anniversary in 2020, the United Nations has launched the biggest-ever global conversation on the role of global cooperation in building the future we want.

UN75 declaration will be the outcome of the high-level UN75 meeting on Sept 21 in New York-UN HQ. Prior to this dialogue groups are organized around the world and the recommendations of/from these events around the world would feed into the draft UN75 declaration.

The UN75 Secretariat in New York outlines the following as to the reason for holding such Dialogue. Tackling issues such as the **climate crisis, inequality, new patterns of violence and the major changes** we are seeing in population and technology in order to achieve the **Sustainable Development Goals** - our shared vision for the future - will require cooperation across borders, sectors and generations.

But just when we need collective action more than ever, support for global cooperation is flagging. In many countries, public trust in traditional institutions is in decline and relations between countries are under strain. Dialogue – and Action – on global issues could not be more urgent. Through these conversations, the UN aims to build a global vision for 2045 – its centenary, increase understanding of the threats to that future, and support enhanced international cooperation to realize that vision.

There is dire need for strengthening the only global governance structure that we have - the UN. While democracy is imperative from the level of village 'panchayat' , democratic governance at every level in the society is of paramount importance – from local, state, national, regional and at the UN. However, there is currently a democratic deficit at the UN with the veto power at the Security Council. Over the years several proposals have been put forward to reform the UN- including the reform of the UN Security Council and also creating a Parliament at the UN. There are [scholars like Prof Joseph E. Schwartzberg](#) who have researched on pros and cons of diverse actions. Currently the preamble of the UN states, ” We the people...”is a misnomer as it is only international civil servants who are debating at the UN and not democratically elected people.

From January 2020, started the 75th anniversary year of the Organization, the UN will work with partners to initiate dialogues within and across borders, sectors and generations. The aim is to reach as many people as possible: to listen to their hopes and fears; learn from their experiences; and empower them to think and act globally. The Heads of Member States would either meet in person or through zoom at the UN on 21st September, while there would be side events planned

around 16-18 September, 2020. We were hoping that the COVID 19 situation would improve and we would be in a position to hold our physical events on 5th and 12th September in India. Now we have changed it to webinar, kindly organized by UN2020 secretariat in Ottawa in which 100 people could participate

The UN is turning 75 next year and we want to hear from **YOU**: What are your ideas for #ShapingOurFuture?

The Seminar hopes to make the United Nations relevant to all the people.

Audience: MPs (current and former), Academicians, journalists, representatives from NGOs, former and current UN and Government officials among others would participate, though there would be around 9 speakers, there is one hour time for discussion for you to speak. As there are participants from Europe, North and South America, besides Asia, we have kept the event to begin from 4.30pm India time.

Agenda - **September 11, 2020, 4.30-7 pm**

Introduction:

Panel of Speakers:

Moderator: Mr. Fergus Watt (Coordinator, UN2020, Canada)

15 Minutes each

1. Mr. Fernando Iglesias, *Diputado nacional 2007/2011 y 2017/2021 (Argentina): UN and UNPA(United Nations Parliamentary Assembly)*
2. Mr. Asoke Mukerji, Former Permanent Representative of India to the UN : **UN Reform**
3. Mr. Shashi Tharoor MP, Former Undersecretary - General UN: **UN Vision 2045**
4. Mr. Mani Shanker Iyer Former MP & Dr George Mathew, Chair, ISS, **Strengthening Democracy and the UN**
5. Ms Nishtha Sathyam, Deputy Country Representative for UN Women: **UN and Gender Justice**
6. Mr. Ravi Nair, South Asia Human rights Doc Centre, **UN & Human rights**
7. Mr. Faruq Faisal., Dhaka, Regional Director Article 19 - **Article 19 and the UN**
8. Dr. W. James Arputharaj / Ms Shobha Shrestha, Kathmandu, Control Arms Coalition , **Disarmament and the UN**

9. Dr Nambi Appadurai, Director & Strategy Head' of the Climate Resilience Practice of World Resources Institute: **UN and Climate Change**

Q & A/ Dialogue: 06.00 - 07.00

Outcome Document: The dialogue held would be documented and feedback sent to UN75 Secretariat at the UN.

Organizers:

Dr George Mathew, Chair, Institute of Social Sciences

Dr James Arputharaj Williams, President South Asian Federalists/South Asian Institute of Policy Dialogue (+91 9871100363)

www.un.org/un75

August 28, 2020

Main Event organizer: Institute of Social Sciences

The Institute of Social Sciences (ISS) was founded in 1985 primarily "to build a community of concerned scholars and activists for ushering in a humane and just society."

The research advocacy and other activities of the Institute for the last three and a half decades have had a positive impact on the socio-political process and policy making in the country as well as internationally. The Institute takes pride in the fact that it contributed significantly to the Constitution Amendments (Rural and Urban local governments-1993), their development and implementation, administrative reforms, women's empowerment, human rights and various other areas. The Institute is now internationally recognized for its role as a 'think tank', resource centre and clearing house of information on decentralization, local governance, participatory democracy and women's empowerment.

The Institute, over the years had cooperation with the U N Country Office in New Delhi, UNDP, UNICEF, UN WOMEN, UNFPA and so on for several programmes and projects. Dr. Mahbub ul Haq; H.E. Helen Clark were among the UN dignitaries who have been guests and speakers of the Institute programmes.

The Institute's present programmes focus on SDG implementation as well.