



ATLANTIC MEMO # 14

Global Governance in 2020

Atlantic-community.org hosted a student essay competition on the future of Global Governance in the year 2020. The student entries emphasized four issues that are impacted by the global nature in which the world today operates. The four issues are

- Institutions
- Trade and Finance
- Human Rights
- Environment, Climate Change and Energy

1. The institutional approach to global governance needs to be reassessed.

Many student essays focused on the institutional approach to global governance. Broadly speaking, the opinions formed around the importance of global, regional and national actors. In his article, [John Dalziel Frew](#) argues for a more globalized approach, saying that a consensual approach to decision making offers the best solution for a globalized world. Regional organizations also have a critical role to play, and regionalized global governance strategies would be preferable to UN action as regional bodies are more appropriately suited to influence governance within their own areas ([Simona Lipstaite](#)). The case for a more national approach is put forward by [Tobias Weise](#), who proposes that states should effectively utilize their own power and responsibility in shaping the world, rather than placing their faith in international organizations.

2. Economic problems require direct action on a global level.

[Soyen Park](#) says that the scale of the current economic crisis makes it hard to predict what the future role of institutions such as the IMF and the World Bank will be in 2020. In times of such uncertainty state leaders will need to understand and respond to global interactions when making decisions ([Niketa Kumar](#)). Increased levels of global trade will necessitate the creation of a central body to ensure that each nation “promotes politically liberal policies,” explains [Scott Hartley](#).

3. Improve human rights via economic rejuvenation.

Promoting human rights is intertwined with fostering economic development, and ultimately international security can only be maintained once human rights have been secured globally ([Alyssa Ramsey](#)). Such security issues will place greater scrutiny on the role of United Nations Security Council and some of its powers should be transferred to the General Assembly ([Kay-Michael Dankl](#)).

4. Counter climate change with greater investment, cooperation and data sharing.

Establishing a “fourth sector” composed of scientific work and research drawn from the government, commercial sector, non-governmental organizations, academia and civil society is necessary to address the challenges posed by climate change ([Noah Chutz](#)). Implementing technology transfer must overcome competing private sector interests to allow co-operation between developed and developing countries ([Sam Vanderslott](#)). A more drastic overhaul, suggested by [Jordan Levine](#), is required to implement a system that accounts for the “social and ecological consequences of human activity” across the world.

To see the full results of the Global Governance 2020 student essay competition, please read the article online, "[Global Governance in 2020: Winners Announced!](#)" or visit our website at www.atlantic-community.org.

Atlantic Memos showcase the best ideas and arguments from debates in the Open Think Tank on atlantic-community.org. All policy recommendations in this document were made by registered members of the Atlantic Community.

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