

“Global Values in a Changing World”
Synergy of State and Society in a Globalized World

Second Lecture: **‘Meeting Global Challenges: Regaining Sovereignty’**

Speaker: **Inge Kaul**, Hertie School of Governance

Moderator: Anton Hemerijck, VU University

On Monday 8 November, Inge Kaul delivered the second lecture in the SID Lecture Series 2010-2011, ‘Global Values in a Changing World’. Inge Kaul worked for more than twenty years at the UNDP and is now adjunct-Professor at the Hertie School of Governance in Berlin.

Summary

In her lecture, Kaul stressed the concept of *‘Responsible Sovereignty’* as the key principle of a new world order. In the divided world we are living in today, filled with challenges that cross national borders, policy-makers need to find strategies to secure the value of our currencies in the competition for energy security and other problems related to globalization, such as



climate change and the spread of communicable diseases. To find solutions for this ever-denser web of crises, international cooperation based on global coherence is required instead of the zero-sum game based on the national interest that states are playing today. Kaul elaborated further upon the benefits to be found in international cooperation. Together with increasing market integration and a growing volume of cross-border economic activity, many unintended and negative spill-over effects of globalization seem to challenge

nation-states all at once. In order to mitigate the effect of these negative consequences, corrective action based on strong global coherence is needed. However, negotiations in the field of international cooperation are still shaped by individual countries that are solely interested in achieving their own relative gains.

To come to a solution, Kaul asked the public to review the actions of our governments in a broader sense, and to remind them of their duties, not only within their own country, but also on a global scale. Kaul outlined her concept of ‘responsible sovereignty’: to create a norm of living in a world in which we have a certain amount of respect for each other’s

freedoms. This global freedom is a key public good that fosters social cohesiveness and peace at local and national levels. We can fulfil this ambition by enabling a worldwide debate on this issue, as was done in the process of formulating the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. In this case, the concept of human rights slowly took root locally and then spread internationally. Furthermore, states should hold each other responsible for their actions. Kaul argued that it is time to create an international commission on responsible sovereignty in order for the idea to move beyond pure academic discussion and into the realm of policy.

In the discussion that followed, Anton Hemerijck started by asking which actors should follow-up on the idea of responsible sovereignty. He questioned politicians as agents of change given the fact that they are mainly occupied with electoral support and are therefore not keen to promote risky strategies whose benefits might only be apparent in the long run. A question was raised on the future of global institutions. According to Kaul, our hope should be focused on the multi-polarity at the global level, in which the main powers are increasingly interested in each other's actions. Apart from that an overarching global institution is required. This should take the form of a commission that deals with global public goods and which thinks in terms of global equality and win-win situations. In achieving this, Kaul pleads for patience: the change of institutions at a global level is by definition a lengthy process.



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