

PROMOTING MULTILATERAL COOPERATION; BENCHMARKING GOVERNANCE PRACTICES FOR NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

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UNPACKING MULTILATERAL COOPERATION OR MULTILATERALISM

“**Multilateral cooperation** refers to interactions and agreements involving multiple countries or parties, typically aimed at addressing shared challenges, promoting mutual benefits, and fostering international cooperation.” - [Dictionary Search | IGI Global \(igi-global.com\)](#)

*This cooperation is based on and possible in countries with a foreign policy principle or “**multilateralism**” compared to unilateralism or bilateralism.*

Promoting peace

Preventing conflict

Responding to climate change

Preventing communicable diseases

Advancing trade & investment

Improving social welfare

UNPACKING MULTILATERALISM

A system of organizing relations between 3 or more states that is generally and historically based on key principles that shape the character of the relationship between the state parties;



- ✓ An indivisibility of interests among participants
- ✓ A commitment to diffuse reciprocity
- ✓ A system of dispute settlement intended to enforce a particular mode of conduct.



SIDE NOTE ON A RELATED & OFTEN CONCURRENT ALTERNATIVE

Unilateralism – a country may pursue its foreign policy goals independently. Doing so allows governments to act fast without having to compromise or discuss their plans with other countries.

NOTE - unilateralism does not necessarily mean countries advance their goals while disregarding other countries. Many countries may act to address economic or national security or address climate change and human rights challenges on their own.

| | Advantages | Disadvantages |
|---|--|--|
|  Unilateralism | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Decision-making independence• Decision-making speed | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Fewer resources to leverage• Less effective for global issues• Negative reputational impact |
|  Multilateralism | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Larger pool of resources• Burden sharing• Promotes unity• Increases credibility | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Time consuming• Requires compromise |

UNPACKING MULTILATERALISM – INDIVISIBILITY

Indivisibility of interests among participants: *this reinforces a principle in public international law that that establishes the sovereignty of states. Most well-known classic examples are:*

- ✓ *Most-favored-nation treatment in international trade.*
Guarantees equal trading opportunity under the GATT & WTO.
- ✓ *Collective security – in which states attempt to prevent, stop or repel aggression under UN, League of Nations, NATO and recently the Alliance of Sahel States.*



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UNPACKING MULTILATERALISM – DIFFUSE RECIPROACITY

A commitment to diffuse reciprocity: parties essentially commit to be willing to give/contribute without requiring an equivalent benefit but believing that it will be reciprocated. Generally, there is an expectation that there will not be an equivalence of obligations or concessions in any one instance, but a balance is expected over an ongoing, potentially indefinite, series of exchanges with the parties.

Ex. Dec. 10th 1999 when ECOWAS established ECOMOG which was collective security action by states would not be based on compensation.







UNPACKING MULTILATERALISM – COMPLIANCE & DISPUTE RESOLUTION

A system of dispute settlement & monitoring intended to enforce a particular mode of conduct. It is fundamental for states to feel secure of the returns of first two principles - treating their interests as indivisible & shared commitment of reciprocity. Therefore, multilateral agreements tend to include a mechanism for ensuring that countries act in accordance with the expected norms. This is sometimes done through peer review, which may suit more-informal arrangements, or the creation of a **formalized body** to which grievances may be taken.

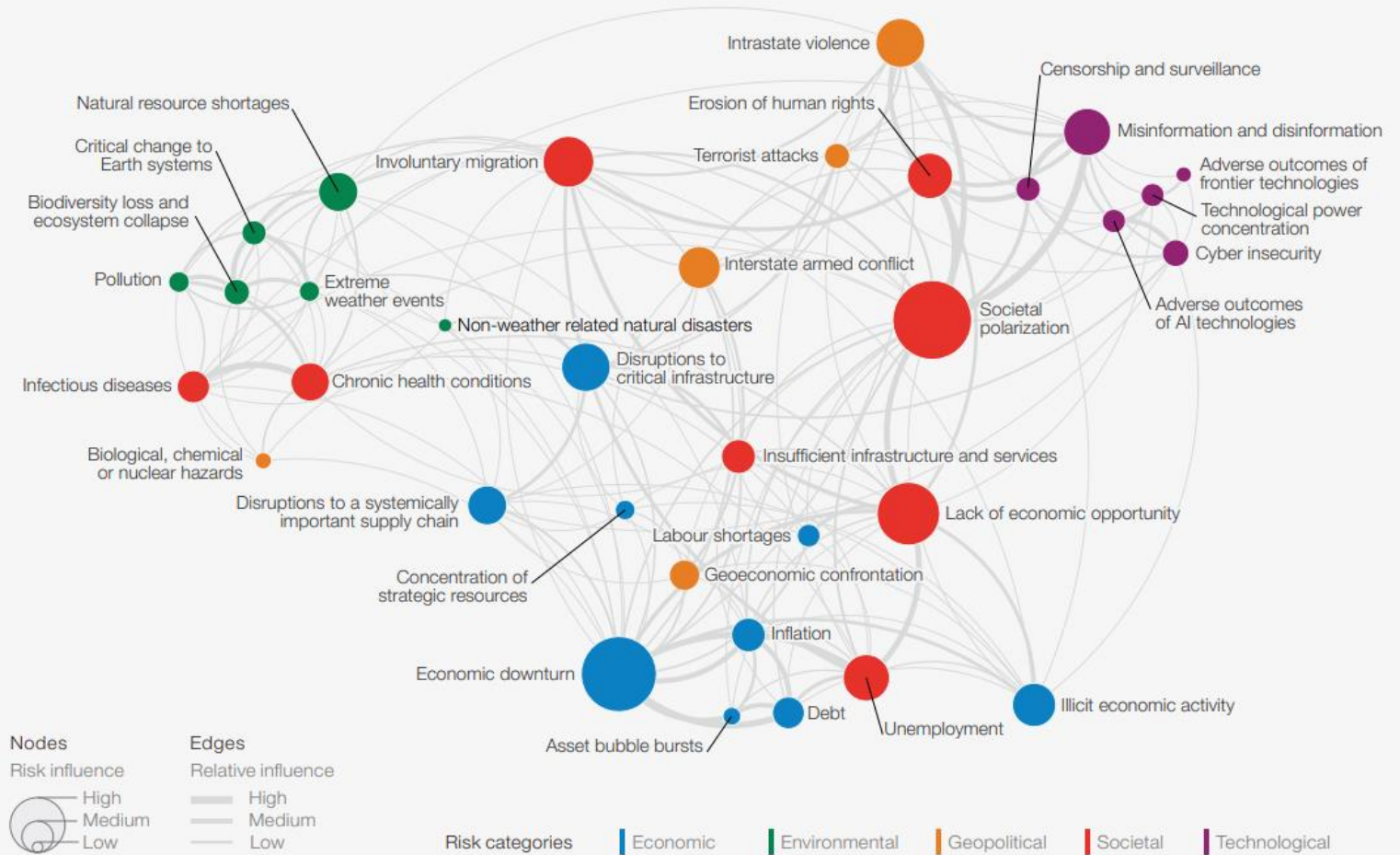


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RIGID & COMPLEX?

| |  Charter |  Club |  Concert |  Coalition |
|-----------------------|--|---|---|--|
| Basic approach | Focus on UN and other encompassing treaty-based bodies | Rally established democracies as basis for cooperation | Seek comity and joint action among world's major powers | Tailor ad hoc arrangements to each global contingency |
| Core virtue | Legitimacy | Solidarity | Capability | Flexibility |
| Assumptions | The United Nations and other formal, universal bodies grounded in treaty law offer the firmest foundation for international cooperation and world order. | The future of an open, rules-based international system depends above all on collective action among like-minded liberal states. | A stable world order requires major-power agreement on basic rules of state conduct and a commitment to collective crisis management. | Managing a complex global agenda requires an à la carte approach, with the constellation of players shifting with the specific challenge. |
| Advantages | Enhances cooperation through global membership, standing capabilities, legal foundations, and binding commitments | Allows democracies to define and defend principles and rules of an open world against their adversaries | Provides a pragmatic platform for managing strategic rivalry and for taking decisive joint action | Facilitates flexible, modular, and nimble, cooperation via an ad hoc, informal approach |
| Drawbacks | The UN and other large-membership bodies are vulnerable to sclerosis, principal-agent problems, regional bloc dynamics, lowest-common-denominator outcomes, and other pathologies. | Democracies don't always agree on rules; developing country democracies may be skeptical of the club approach; global problems do not sort themselves according to regime type. | Great power interaction does not guarantee great power cooperation, lacks global legitimacy, entrenches power asymmetries, and generates a normatively shallow order. | Multilateralism à la carte can raise transaction costs, undermine formal bodies, encourage forum shopping, and lack enforcement, legitimacy, and accountability. |

“OUR OWN PHASE OF DEVELOPMENT”



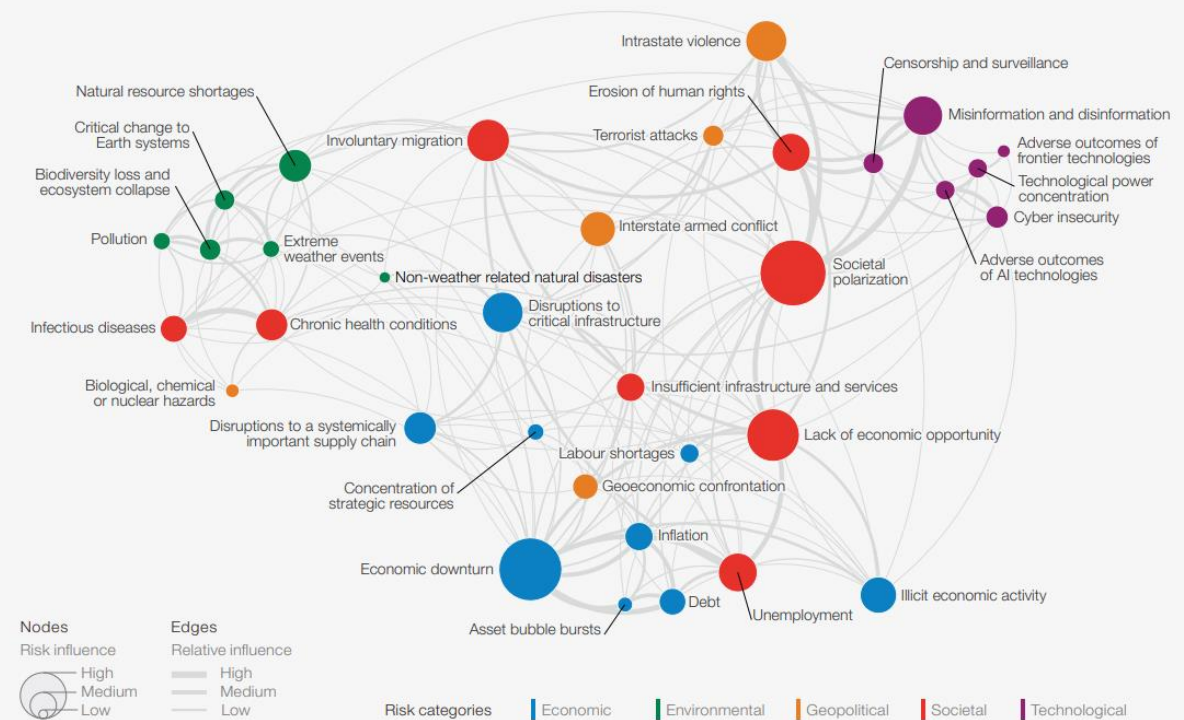
Source
World Economic Forum Global Risks
Perception Survey 2023-2024.

This year’s GRPS has brought together leading insights on the evolving global risk landscape from 1,490 experts across academia, business, government, the international community, and civil society. Responses for the GRPS 2023-2024 were collected from 4 September to 9 October 2023. Global risks and opportunities are truly global and do not spread in phases of development.



“OUR OWN PHASE OF DEVELOPMENT”

- National development is truncated by global risks and accelerated by opportunities.
- Global risks that become challenges are likely to have more acute effects on underdeveloped countries.
- *COVID-19 death tolls may have been lower but recovery in economic terms has been slower.*
- Food security and economic stability are critical for peace but meeting these challenges is harder for poorer nations because it requires levels of investment and coordination that can be challenging to fund without cooperation.



Source
World Economic Forum Global Risks
Perception Survey 2023-2024.

MULTILATERAL SUCCESS FACTORS

1. CLEAR & SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

- a. Well defined with clear goals.
- b. Goals should common interest of members.
- c. Consensus and buy-in

8. STRONG ACCOUNTABILITY MECHANISM

- a. Consequences for non-compliance
- b. Incentives for meeting benchmarks

2. MEASURABLE & QUANTIFIABLE METRICS

- a. Objectively quantifiable metrics.
- b. Enable accurate assessment.
- c. Standardization of benchmarks for accurate comparison.

7. COMMUNICATION & IMPROVEMENT

- a. Frequent communication on progress
- b. Feedback mechanisms to help refine benchmarks.

3. TRANSPARENCY & ACCESSIBILITY

- a. Process of setting measuring benchmarks should be transparent to engender trust and accountability.

6. INCLUSIVE STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

- a. Involving a board range of stakeholders beyond governments to civil society, the private sector can enhance legitimacy and buy-in

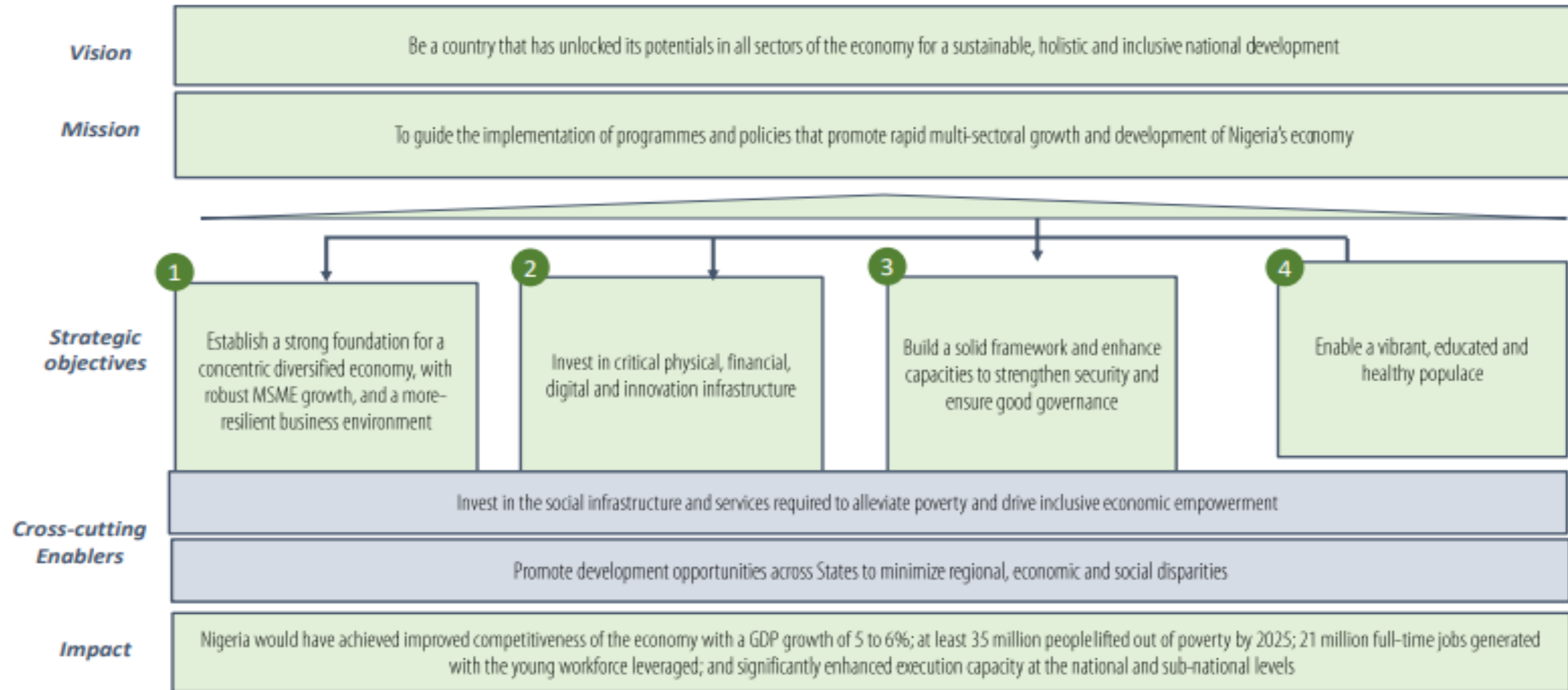
4. MONITORING & RELIABLE DATA COLLECTION

- a. Regular reporting and tracking.
- b. Identify challenges early.
- c. Ensure collection and access to timely accurate data

5. ALIGNMENT WITH NATIONAL POLICIES

- a. This is critical to integrate them into the domestic agenda if they aren't already don like in the NDP.
- b. This helps commitment to achieving them

2021 – 2025 NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN



CROSS CUTTING ENABLERS OF THE NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES – NIGERIA 2021 - 2025

Invest in the social infrastructure and services required to alleviate poverty and drive inclusive economic empowerment

Promote development opportunity across states to minimize regional, economic and social disparities.



ON DEVELOPMENT - BENEFITS FROM SOME MULTILATERAL COOPERATION INITIATIVES



Nigeria Electrification Project (NEP): domesticated by alignment with the Rural Electrification Strategy. FGN secured \$350m from the WB and \$200m from the AfDB to increase access to electricity through solar power solutions and mini-grids in rural and underserved areas.



Nigeria Integrated Infrastructure Development Project: Supports infrastructure development in transport, energy, and water sectors. (\$1.4 billion)

Agricultural Transformation Agenda Support Program (ATASP): Enhances agricultural productivity and food security by improving infrastructure and access to markets.



THE WORLD BANK



European Union (EU) funds Nigeria's Energy Sector (9m Euros): Small Hydro Power Development for Agro-industry Use in Nigeria and Advancing Nigeria's Green and Just Transition to Net Zero through Circular Economy Practices – aim to enhance energy accessibility and promote circular economy practices to address pollution and climate change.

GOVERNANCE PRACTICES - INSTITUTIONAL BENEFITS FROM SOME MULTILATERAL COOPERATION INITIATIVES



Financial sector regulation of Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing: although Nigeria was grey listed what is measured can be addressed unlike before we had the relevant agencies and capacities are being built across the financial sector. Nigeria is a member of the West Africa FATF-styled body. The cost of AML, IFF, TF on our economy and social dev is high (IDPs and economic cost).



Ease of Doing Business: when the WB ran this program it was very helpful in guiding countries and led to the establishment of the Presidential Enabling Business Environment Council (PEBEC) that has worked extensively to develop a benchmark that is now codified as the Business Facilitation Act for regulatory agencies to improve efficiency and amendments to CAC.

Corruption Risk Forecast: this is a unique tool that can be used as a benchmarking resource developed by CIPE in partnership with the European Research Center for Anticorruption and State Building (ERCAS). It measure society's capacity to control corruption by measuring public integrity and transparency, then forecasts progress on corruption reduction of a country by carefully articulated projections.

IN CONCLUSION

Promoting Multilateral to benchmark governance practices that align with the political, social, and development plan of the country is essential given the risk landscape and globalized world that we now live in, **BUT** it is **ONLY** as effective as the commitment of the member(s) states. To be an ideal member state of multilateral initiatives and to make the most of them, the nation should:

- **Align it with the National agenda which has buy-in from its citizens.**
- **Follow the tips for success and avoid inhibitors such as not tailoring, and dimensioning implementation based on the countries' geopolitical and socioeconomic context, capabilities, and needs.** *E.g. transitioning to renewable energy is a complex multilateral issue that requires different approaches by country.*
- **Be resourceful, proactive, and intentional about reducing waste and inefficiency so that there is no overreliance on donor funding to achieve governance targets.**
- **Be intentional about inclusion and stakeholder coordination before and continuously.**
- **Be involved and proactive about diplomacy and rule-making to shape the future by monitoring, improving and continually adapting the goals of the multilateral initiative.**



I LOOK FORWARD
TO AN INSIGHTFUL
DISCUSSION

THANK YOU!

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