

**THE UNITED NATIONS  
MEETS THE 21<sup>st</sup> Century:  
CONFRONTING THE  
CHALLENGES OF GLOBAL  
GOVERNANCE**

# The Main Gaps the UN has Met in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

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1. Knowledge
2. Norms
3. Policy
4. Institutions and
5. Compliance

# Four Essential Roles of the UN

1. Managing knowledge
2. Developing norms
3. Promulgating recommendations
4. Institutionalizing ideas

# Managing Knowledge

1. Recognizing the existence of a problem
2. Collect solid data about the nature of the problem
3. Understand its causes to understand the problem

# Developing Norms

The UN helps to solidify a new norm of behavior often through summit conferences and international panels and commissions.

# Developing Norms



Norms are essential to the functioning and existence of society; therefore, social interaction is viewed through normative lenses from bilateral relations to relations among national leaders.

# Formulating Recommendations

The next step: formulation of a range of possibilities (policies) about how governments and their citizens and IGO's can challenge behavior.

# Institutionalizing Ideas

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Institutions can facilitate problem solving even though they do not possess any coercive power.

# The UN's Role in Global Governance:

- ▶ Identifying and diagnosing problems
- ▶ Developing norms (principled ideas)
- ▶ Formulating recommendations (operational ideas)



The United Nations—the arena for state decision-making, the professional secretariats and civil society –have filled these ideational functions for five types of gaps: knowledge, norms, policies, institutions and compliance.