

GLOBAL VISIONS

Tatiana Kastouéva-Jean, Research Fellow and Director of the Russia/NIS Center of Ifri

We spoke about your identity; we spoke about the region and now it is time to speak about your global visions. The invasion of Ukraine represents the most serious breakdown in the international order in several decades and Russia's goal is apparently to break the world order that it considered to be under American domination, with Russia seeking to create a multiple order. How do you see the world order at the end of this war? Which elements, for you, can structure democracy against illiberal regimes? We discussed a lot about China against the United States, as well as the industrial north against the global south. How will it affect your region and your country? What roles do you see for different international organizations, especially of course for the United Nations, and the United Nations Security Council, which has been quite helpless in this war, and the OSC, in which all three of you are members? What are your strengths and your weaknesses in this coming world order? For you, Mr. Vassilenko?

Roman Vassilenko, Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs of Kazakhstan

We think that multilateralism, as our Georgian colleague just mentioned, is the only way for mankind to advance, to survive, if you will. We live in an increasingly interdependent world and the pandemic has shown us how interdependent we all are. If we talk about where we stand, we stand for democracy, for the market economy, for the international rule of law, international law primarily, written down, clearly spelled out, and that is also, by the way, a difference with the so called international rules based order. We stand for international law, a law that is written, that is agreed upon by everybody. We also stand for international cooperation.

When we talk about the UN, I am reminded of the quote by Churchill about democracy being the worst form of government except for every other that mankind has tried. The UN, too, is not perfect of course, but it is the best institution we have had for the past 77 years now, and we perhaps need to reinvent the UN, but we need the UN. We need to strengthen the UN. Likewise, we need the OSC as a platform that has been instrumental in almost 50 years of its existence. It is also going through an existential crisis right now because of the breakdown of communications between the west and Russia on that platform as well, but we, as a country that chaired the OSC in the past, in 2010, and brought together all leaders of the OSC participating states to Astana, where they recommitted themselves to the vision of a united, indivisible Euro Atlantic and Eurasian security. That vision has unfortunately now been put aside, diplomatically speaking, but we think that institution, too, has not outlived its lifespan. It needs to be supported. We want to support it and we will continue to support the OSC.

Tatiana Kastouéva-Jean

Thank you very much. Olga, for your country?



Olga Rosca, Chief of staff of the Deputy Prime-Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and European Integration of Moldova

I certainly echo my colleague here on the need for effective multilateralism and how we all need to work together on various platforms. One thing that made me think when you mentioned the pandemic is that the pandemic has also taught us that nobody is safe until everybody is safe, and I think this is currently what we are talking about in Europe as we are all faced with the very negative effects of Russia's aggression against Ukraine. In that, that whole multilateral architecture of the world and Europe there is currently this emerging European political community, which Moldova will be hosting in June, originally the idea of President Macron. The debut meeting took place in Prague in October under the auspices of the European Council. This is, therefore, yet another platform to consolidate dialogue at the top level between European leaders to see how we can strengthen our collective security.

Tatiana Kastouéva-Jean

Thank you, Olga. Deputy Minister Darsalia, you started to speak about multilateralism. Have you something to add about the global vision of Georgia?

Lasha Darsalia, First Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of Georgia

Thank you very much. As you mentioned, I partially actually answered this question. We believe that we will have a rules based international system again where the sovereignty and territorial integrity of countries are respected, where governance is via democracies and where human rights issues are a priority. We really hope that we will have this international system back. Within this, from the Georgian perspective, we believe that in terms of the problems of countries like Georgia, of our size, that, again, the size, geographical location or the geopolitical environment will not be the key to decide to which part of the world countries belong, but that the key in deciding this will be democracy, human rights and respecting the international rules. This is how we see it from the Georgian perspective. We really hope, and I hope that it is not wishful thinking, that we will have the international system back based on the international rules, based on the Helsinki principles and all the principles of international law which were put in place after World War II and which are significantly challenged today.

Tatiana Kastouéva-Jean

Thank you very, Mr. Darsalia.