



## THE WORLD POLICY FORUM

Governance Realignment

### China-West Relations and Alternative Narratives and Dynamics for the Global Order

#### Speakers:

##### Panelists:

- **Sergio Bitar**, Vice Chair of the Board, International Institute for Democracy and electoral assistance
- **Kerry Brown**, Professor of Chinese Studies and Director, Lau China Institute, King's College London
- **Dongxiao Chen**, President, Shanghai Institutes for International Studies (SIIS)
- **Susan Thornton**, Senior Fellow and Research Scholar, Yale University

##### Moderator:

- **Colin Bradford**, Non-Resident Senior Fellow - Global Economy and Development, Brookings Institution

#### Session description:

The challenge is how keep the world together in a single international community rather than end up with a bipolar global order, divided by ideological systemic competition, dual digital systems, and conflicting military -security tensions forcing other countries to choose sides. The US and China, so far, are facing off, confronting each other and clarifying their deep divides. How can these divisive dynamics be changed?

Only multilateral actions can change the dynamics of bipolar confrontation by forcing a situation in which the bilateral relationships are sorted out in a manageable multilateral setting (not the UN and not the G7) where leadership comes from smaller groups of countries and leaders on different issues.

The solutions we propose is to (1) explicitly empower various plurilateral groups of 6-8 countries to lead on different issues within the G20; (2) to have G20 ministers use the G20 as a vehicle for more ambitious global actions by G20 ministers, for example, having G20 ministers of health and environment meet throughout the year as a model for ministerials for other sectors, instead of having ministerial meetings only prepare decisions by heads of state and government once a year at G20 summits; (3) to have G20 leaders agree that they will bring selective military-security issues to the G20 summits adequately prepared by G20 foreign ministers and national security advisers; and (4) to address the issues of lack of consistency, implementation and follow through from year to year by creating a small, flexible secretariat that would be charged with seeing issues through from incubation, to consultation, to teeing up for leaders, to decisions, to communications, to implementation, to monitoring and evaluation.



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### Objectives:

In the context of 2021 in which conflicting narratives continue to prevail in US-China bilateral relations making geopolitical tensions the dominant force in the global order, setting the stage for systemic competition between autocracy and democracy, there is an urgent need for alternative narratives.

- The primary objective of this session is to convey the meaning and significance of CWD efforts and processes during the last year which demonstrate that working with China is more effective than talking about China without China in the conversation.
- The objective is to hear four perspectives from four key participants in the dozen CWD Zoom sessions over the last year, from China, from the US, from the UK and from Latin America, regarding CWD processes and content and how they might impact the ongoing conflicting narratives and the public discourse and processes of global governance.
- To underscore the importance of including China in the plurilateral leadership dynamics of the G20 as one of several key proposals to strengthen the G20, which will be the focus of the subsequent GSS2021 session involving a conversation with former prime ministers Paul Martin of Canada and Kevin Rudd of Australia.