



## GLOBAL GOVERNANCE, SECURITY, AND DEVELOPMENT

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**Abstract:** *Effective global governance is critical in dealing with global security and development challenges. This study examines the interplay between global governance, security, and development; highlights international institutions and cooperative frameworks for dealing with challenges to security and development; and assesses the effectiveness of global governance mechanisms at promoting security and sustainable development. The study adopted a qualitative approach, using a review of existing literature, case studies, and policy analysis. The study also explored the activities of global institutions, including the United Nations, the World Bank, and regional organizations, and how they are shaping policies related to security and development. The data gathered were subjected to content analysis. The findings of the study showed that global governance structures have effects on security, which in turn influence development outcomes, of which its effectiveness depends on geopolitical interests, institutional capacity, and stakeholder collaboration. Furthermore, international institutions contributed to peacebuilding and economic progress, while challenges, including political fragmentation, unequal resource distribution, and rising non-traditional security threats, limit their contributions. The study also showed that sustainable development is connected to security, given that economic instability and social inequalities always induce conflicts and undermine development. The study concluded that for global security and development to come to full realization, global governance requires a more inclusive, adaptable, and cooperative approach that balances national sovereignty with collective responsibility.*

**Keywords:** *governance; security; development; peacebuilding; cooperation*

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## **1. Introduction**

Global governance refers to the processes of governance that include collective efforts by global, national, and local actors to address the consequences of increasing interdependence and to foster a global order based on specific goals and values. It also serves as an analytical framework for understanding and explaining contemporary global political developments and socio-economic transformations (Qoraboyev, 2021). Thus, in an increasingly interconnected world, global governance, security, and development have become central to shaping international connectedness and tackling transnational challenges. Essentially, global governance has evolved into a framework of rules, institutions, and practices that guide and regulate international relations and cooperation among states, organizations, and non-state actors (Weiss & Wilkinson, 2018). This includes various mechanisms, such as international organizations like the United Nations (UN), World Bank, and International Monetary Fund (IMF), as well as regional bodies like the European Union (EU) and the African Union (AU), collaborating to address global issues.

Security undoubtedly remains a fundamental pillar of global stability, extending beyond traditional military concerns to encompass economic, environmental, and human security dimensions. In other words, security has evolved from state-centric approaches that focus on national defense to broader human security perspectives, which give precedence to the protection of individuals from threats such as poverty, disease, and environmental degradation (Buzan & Hansen, 2009). Consequently, contemporary global politics faces numerous security challenges, including terrorism, cyber threats, climate change, and pandemics, all of which require multidimensional responses. This underscores the importance of global governance mechanisms in promoting cooperative security arrangements.

Similarly, development is vital for international stability, as it addresses structural inequalities and fosters sustainable economic progress. This highlights why the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) focus on eradicating poverty, promoting social justice, and ensuring environmental sustainability (UNDP, 2020), integrating these goals into its programs. Given the economic development disparities between the Global North and Global South, along with challenges like corruption, political instability, and poor resource management, effective global governance structures are needed to coordinate international development. These structures can encompass aid, trade policies, and capacity-building initiatives, promoting sustainable growth and alleviating socio-economic inequalities.

Therefore, global governance, security, and development are interconnected; for instance, security threats can impede development efforts, while weak governance can exacerbate insecurity and economic disparities. A holistic and cooperative strategy is thus essential to navigate the complexities of the global system, achievable only through effective global governance.

To this extent, this study examines the interplay between global governance, security, and development; highlights international institutions and cooperative frameworks for addressing security and development challenges; and assesses the effectiveness of global governance mechanisms in promoting security and sustainable development.

## **2. The Interplay Between Global Governance, Security, and Development**

The connection between global governance, security, and development is deeply interwoven, and as such, each continues to influence the stability and prosperity of nations worldwide. Global governance, for example, provides the necessary institutional framework for cooperation and collaboration on security, while a secure environment facilitates development. Conversely, a sustained development environment reduces the likelihood of conflict and enhances global peace and stability.

To achieve global security and development, various institutions were established under global governance. These institutions assist in regulating international affairs; they include the United Nations (UN), the World Bank, and the International Monetary Fund (IMF). They play crucial roles in shaping policies linked to security and development. This illustrates why global governance is viewed not as a means to create a world government, but as a way to coordinate the actions of different actors or stakeholders to address transnational issues (Jang et al., 2016; van der Walddt, 2024).

Given their significance to human existence and quality of life, security and development have become two key areas receiving special attention from global governance institutions. The UN Security Council (UNSC) is tasked with maintaining international peace and security, not only by authorizing peacekeeping missions but also by imposing sanctions on any state that violates international law regarding peace. With respect to global development, organizations such as the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the World Bank focus on

poverty alleviation and economic development, supporting initiatives worldwide to enhance the long-term stability of economies and global development.

### **3. Security: A Requirement for Global Development**

Security and development have become pivotal themes in global politics, attracting increasing attention from academia, international organizations, policymakers, and other stakeholders. Security is a fundamental requirement for global development; without it, activities related to economic growth, social progress, and political stability remain elusive. Countries lacking security face numerous challenges. It is not surprising, then, that nations plagued by war often struggle to achieve economic growth and social advancement. Countries engulfed in conflict and instability continually confront developmental, environmental, humanitarian, and other complex challenges (Milante et al., 2015). Insecurity that leads to war easily destroys infrastructure, inhibits economic activity, and weakens governance structures. Many countries, including Afghanistan, Somalia, and Syria, exemplify how prolonged insecurity hinders development, resulting in the displacement of people, deterring foreign investment, and straining social services. That is why Collier describes "civil war as development in reverse." He further states

The relationship between civil war and failures in development is strong and goes in both directions: civil war powerfully retards development; and equally, failures in development substantially increase proneness to civil war...unless the incidence of civil war is sharply reduced by international efforts a substantial group of the poorest countries are likely to be stuck in a 'conflict trap' – a cycle of war and economic decline. War digs a deep hole in the economy from which it takes many years to recover. Indeed, many of the costs of civil war occur after it is over (Collier, 2004, p. 1).

Consequently, it is recognized that development can only occur within a secure environment, establishing security as a prerequisite for development. In other words, security must come before development. However, while security is a crucial precondition for development, excessive emphasis on security efforts may hinder the achievement of long-term development (Bussmann, n.d.). The 1994 Human Development Report by the UNDP introduced the notion that security should be measured beyond military strength, encompassing protection from hunger, disease, and repression (UNDP, 1994). Human security, therefore, extends beyond military threats; it includes economic, environmental, and health-related risks, underscoring

the broader relationship between security and development. This perspective highlights the importance of development in fostering long-term security.

As a result, any country characterized by high levels of insecurity faces significant difficulties in achieving development (Dobbins, 2009). Such countries often experience failures in economic growth, low social cohesion, and integration, which may lead to further disasters like war, food shortages, and humanitarian crises.

#### **4. Development: Incentive for Global Security and Stability**

Security is viewed from the perspectives of physical or military security of states, while stability is seen as pertaining to the sustainability of the economic and socio-political order. However, the term security has been reevaluated in contemporary times to include the security of people and the state. Consequently, security has been redefined in a broader sense beyond just the threat of violence, as it now encompasses economic and social issues, such as individuals' welfare, employment, and the distribution of national wealth (Chandler, 2007). Thus, security is conceptualized as encompassing "economic security, whose nomenclature itself indicates the entanglement between the economy and security" (Diriba, 2019).

Economic development is crucial for states to generate the economic power necessary for their citizens. It aims to create a stable income for all, advance education and skill acquisition, diversify the job market, and provide various social welfare services and renewable resources that meet the demands of the people and society. This endeavor helps the state eliminate the economic causes of conflict, such as poverty, illiteracy, unemployment, resource scarcity, and low per-capita income. Sustainable economic development can enhance security and stability by reducing the risks tied to conflict driven by a poor economy. Thus, the more developed the economy, the lower the risk of insecurity, leading to more secure and stable global affairs and governance.

Development is vital in influencing and determining the effectiveness of global governance. It can affect the extent of countries' political power and authority, shape the nature and patterns of political cooperation among nations, and influence how global politics is conducted. Furthermore, it can determine how international laws are enforced for global integration (Diriba, 2019).

Consequently, sustainable development can reduce the likelihood of conflict by addressing the root causes of instability, such as poverty, inequality, and lack of access to resources. Therefore, economic growth, improved governance, and social

welfare programs foster a more stable and peaceful global order (Stewart, 2002). In this regard, international development efforts, including the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the World Bank's Fragility, Conflict, and Violence (FCV) initiatives, promote economic opportunities, education, and healthcare to encourage peace, as well as invest in development to prevent conflicts and build resilient societies (World Bank, 2020).

Despite the clear connections among global governance, security, and development, achieving harmony among them is a challenge. These challenges are linked to conflicting interests among countries at the global level, bureaucratic shortcomings, and recurring political instability that hinder effective cooperation. For example, international interventions in conflict areas, such as those in Iraq and Libya, have highlighted the difficulties of balancing security operations with long-term development objectives (Mouhoub, 2024). This stems from a belief that military interventions tend to focus on short-term stability rather than addressing the underlying economic and governance problems (Munir, 2023). The emergence of non-state actors, including terrorist organizations and multinational corporations, complicates governance efforts to maintain adequate security. These actors operate with extensive networks that cross borders and, at times, undermine state authority, thereby necessitating new approaches to international cooperation among global governance actors (Held & McGrew, 2002).

Thus, the interplay between global governance, security, and development underscores the need for cooperation in addressing global challenges. While global governance has established mechanisms for managing security and development issues, achieving a balanced approach remains challenging due to political, economic, and institutional barriers.

## **5. International Institutions and Cooperative Frameworks for Addressing Security and Development Challenges**

International security frameworks are cooperative systems that involve nations worldwide for mutual safety and stability. They are essential for addressing global threats and maintaining peace, relying on collective strategies and shared responsibilities. These frameworks have evolved over time, through various treaties, alliances, and organizations that respond to changing geopolitical landscapes to balance power, prevent conflicts, and promote diplomacy as tools for conflict resolution (Total Military Insight, 2024).

In contemporary times, international security frameworks have not relented in their efforts to tackle transnational challenges to security and development globally. They provide platforms for cooperation, policy coordination, and resource mobilization to address conflicts, poverty, climate change, and human rights violations, among other challenges (Keohane, 1984).

The development of global security frameworks can be traced back to early international agreements and treaties signed by various countries to maintain peace and order among themselves and the world at large. This initial development laid the foundation upon which more complex systems of collective security and cooperation have been built.

It is noteworthy that following World War I, the League of Nations was established to prevent further wars through diplomacy and collective security mechanisms. Although the League of Nations ultimately failed, it emphasized the need for a structured approach to international relations and security. The aftermath of World War II brought substantial changes and led to the formation of the United Nations in 1945. The United Nations introduced a more robust and institutionalized method for addressing threats to global security, as the organization's Charter highlighted the importance of cooperation and the collective responsibility of member states. Over time, many regional and bilateral agreements reflecting the diverse security needs of different areas have emerged. Important developments, such as the establishment of NATO in 1949 and the European Union's security collaborations, illustrate the ongoing evolution of international security frameworks in response to changing geopolitical landscapes. Other institutions for global peace and development include the UN Security Council (UNSC) and Peacekeeping Missions. The UNSC is tasked with maintaining international peace and security through strategies such as resolutions, sanctions, and peacekeeping operations. It is also responsible for deploying peacekeepers to conflict areas to stabilize regions and protect citizens. For instance, it has sent peacekeeping missions to the Democratic Republic of Congo (Mission de l'Organisation des Nations Unies pour la Stabilisation en République démocratique du Congo - MONUSCO) and South Sudan (United Nations Mission in South Sudan - UNMISS). This demonstrates the role of the UN Security Council (UNSC) and Peacekeeping Missions in conflict resolution and post-war recovery (Williams, 2010).

The UN Development Program (UNDP), on the other hand, has been working to eradicate poverty and promote sustainable development globally. The UNDP has implemented projects that have brought improvements in governance, education,

and infrastructure. Similarly, the World Bank and the IMF are key financial institutions that support economic stability and development in fragile states. For example, the World Bank provides financial and technical support to developing countries, particularly to reduce poverty, improve infrastructure, and build capacity. The IMF ensures global financial stability through emergency loans, policy advice, and economic monitoring. It supports countries in economic crises; for instance, it has helped nations like Argentina and Greece implement structural reforms that restored their financial stability (Nemiña, 2012).

The European Union (EU) has also been established to integrate security and development through foreign aid, economic partnerships, and conflict resolution. Through the EU's coordination, the Common Security and Defense Policy (CSDP) has facilitated joint military and civilian missions in conflict zones. The extent to which the European Union is working to integrate security and development is captured thus

Under the Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP), the EU takes a leading role in peacekeeping operations, conflict prevention, and the strengthening of international security. It is an integral part of the EU's comprehensive approach towards crisis management, drawing on civilian and military assets. Currently, some 3,500 military personnel and 1,300 civilian personnel are deployed around the world. Since the first CSDP missions and operations were launched back in 2003, the EU has undertaken over 40 overseas operations, using civilian and military missions and operations in several countries in Europe, Africa, and Asia. As of today, there are 21 ongoing EU CSDP missions and operations, including 12 civilian, eight military, and one civilian and military initiative (European Union, 2025, para. 1).

Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and Civil Society are also integral to global security and development efforts. NGOs, including Amnesty International, Oxfam, and the International Crisis Group, contribute significantly to global governance. They advocate for human rights, humanitarian aid, and conflict resolution and operate in conflict zones, providing essential services where governments are unable or unwilling to act appropriately. Thus, NGOs have become key players in the global order by bridging the gap between international institutions and local communities (Banks, 2021). Civil society organizations also hold governments accountable for their actions and inaction, promoting transparency and mobilizing grassroots efforts for peace and development.

International institutions and cooperative frameworks for addressing security and development challenges, including the UN, World Bank, IMF, NATO, and other



regional organizations. And they have been indispensable in providing mechanisms for conflict resolution, economic stability, and sustainable development. Consequently, these institutions must be further strengthened to enhance global cooperation in tackling future security and development challenges.

#### The Effectiveness of Global Governance Mechanisms in Promoting Security and Sustainable Development

The dynamic and complex nature of global governance has necessitated the establishment of international organizations. These organizations are crucial in facilitating cooperation, coordination, and regulation among nations across various spheres, including the economy, security, environmental protection, and human rights (Saaïda, 2023). International organizations provide a platform for fostering multilateralism. In this context, multilateralism refers to an alliance of multiple countries in the global arena, pursuing a common goal in international relations. This shared objective is founded on principles of inclusivity, equality, and cooperation to promote a more peaceful and sustainable world. Multilateralism entails organizing relations between and among groups of countries and facilitating cooperation on numerous issues. It creates a common ground for countries to collectively address global challenges and forge agreements (Senadeera, 2023). Thus, multilateralism has been able to mitigate power imbalances by enabling smaller nations to voice their perspectives in shaping global policies, thereby promoting inclusive decision-making processes. This includes forums such as the United Nations General Assembly, the World Trade Organization, and the G20, all of which are instrumental in fostering global cooperation and coordination (Saaïda, 2023).

Global governance mechanisms, including institutions such as the United Nations (UN) and its affiliated organizations, play significant roles in addressing global security and sustainable development. These mechanisms have largely succeeded in peacekeeping, conflict resolution, and environmental sustainability; however, they face structural and operational challenges that limit their effectiveness.

The UN and its affiliated organizations, such as the UN Security Council (UNSC), play a key role in conflict prevention and resolution through peacekeeping operations, diplomatic mediation, and sanctions enforcement. The UN has recorded successes in peacekeeping missions in Namibia (United Nations Transition Assistance Group - UNTAG) and Liberia (United Nations Mission in Liberia - UNMIL), significantly contributing to long-term stability in those regions. Nonetheless, challenges in peacekeeping are evident in ongoing conflicts in places

such as Ukraine, Sudan, and Gaza, where the UNSC's actions have been hindered by geopolitical rivalries and the veto power of permanent members (Weiss, 2019).

Similarly, organizations like the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and the African Union (AU) continue to play critical roles in regional security. For instance, NATO's role in conflict deterrence and the AU's peacekeeping missions in Somalia (The African Union Mission in Somalia - AMISOM) validate regional efforts to complement global security frameworks. However, financial and logistical constraints impede the operational efficiency of these organizations from fully achieving their objectives (Acharya, 2020).

Thus, the fragmented nature of decision-making processes poses a significant barrier to effective global security governance, compounded by bureaucratic inefficiencies, low or lacking enforcement mechanisms, and geopolitical interests, all of which impede timely intervention in crisis zones (Thakur, 2021).

Regarding sustainable development, the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development marked a milestone in international development cooperation. For example, financial mechanisms are in place to support sustainability through institutions like the Global Environment Facility (GEF). The GEF addresses some of the planet's most pressing challenges in an integrated manner. It provides financial assistance to developing countries to tackle their complex challenges and work towards meeting international environmental goals. Over the past three decades, the GEF has allocated more than \$26 billion in financing, primarily in the form of grants, and has mobilized an additional \$148 billion for priority projects driven by countries (Global Environment Facility, 2025). Further to the above,

GEF funds are available to developing countries seeking to meet the objectives of international environmental agreements. Support is provided to government agencies, civil society organizations, private sector companies, research institutions, and other partners to implement projects and programs related to environmental conservation, protection, and renewal (Global Environment Facility, 2025, para. 2).

Nonetheless, concerns about the adequacy and accessibility of funding persist, particularly for vulnerable nations facing disproportionate climate-related risks (Kramarz & Park, 2019). Despite international commitments to sustainable development efforts, these endeavours continue to be restricted by various challenges. Nevertheless, global governance has made significant contributions to security and sustainable development in many countries worldwide through its various institutions.

## 6. Conclusion and Recommendations

From the above discussion, it is clear that global governance continues to play a crucial role in addressing global security and development challenges. Its existing frameworks have significantly contributed to international stability, progress, and development. The study, therefore, concluded that for global governance to fully achieve its goals regarding global security and development, it requires a more inclusive, adaptable, and cooperative approach that balances national sovereignty with collective responsibility. To realize this, global governance institutions must be more responsive to the needs of diverse stakeholders. Additionally, they must promote stronger cooperation between developed and developing nations. Therefore, for global governance to fully achieve global security and development, the international community must prioritize cooperation over competition, multilateralism over unilateralism, and sustainable policies over short-term gains.

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