

Terms of Reference

KAS New York Study: The Dawn of Minilateralism: Competition and Synergies with the United Nations System

Background and context

KAS New York will undertake a study to examine the role of minilaterals and their implications on the United Nations (UN) system. The emergence of “minilaterals” (groupings situated between bilateralism and multilateralism) has the potential to shape norms and alter the balance of geopolitical power, and therefore merits a serious consideration of how this trend will impact the UN system during a time of geopolitical stress. In light of these dynamics, the study will take a particular focus on the interplay between minilateralism, geopolitics, and the outlook for cooperation and competition with the UN system in global governance. The study will systematically analyze the intersection of objectives, interests, and thematic policy agendas of minilaterals and of the UN system to understand the trajectory for cooperation and competition.

Key deliverables

The expert will be required to submit a study that must include a comprehensive examination of the following key elements:

- a) A structured overview and framework for minilaterals classified by region and policy area.
- b) Driving geopolitical factors underlying the emergence of minilaterals.
- c) The role and function of minilaterals within the wider multilateral system.
- d) Identification of areas of synergy and competition between minilaterals and the UN.
- e) Practical suggestions on how to leverage synergies and minimize areas of competition.
- f) Considerations for the UN system in a world of growing minilaterals.

The scope of the assignment includes the planning and development of the research design; drafting of an outline and timeline for the study; conducting a literature review; gathering data and developing an original analysis; drafting and revising the study; and presenting the study in one virtual and one in-person event. The respective study will range from 40 to 50 pages.

Timeframe and budget for the assignment

The expert is required at a daily rate of 500 USD for a period of 26 days amounting to a total budget of 13,000 USD. A preliminary draft is required in early January 2025. KAS New York will review the preliminary draft and provide one round of input to be incorporated by the expert. A final draft is required by February 2025. The expert will be the main discussant in one virtual event and one in-person event at the KAS New York Office taking

place in the first quarter of 2025 with the goal to disseminate the study findings to the expert and diplomatic community.

Qualifications

The successful candidate should possess the following qualifications:

- a) Ph.D. degree in International Studies, Political Science, International Development, Social Sciences, or a related field is required.
- b) At least ten (10) years of relevant professional experience in research or higher education positions focused on international relations, multilateral diplomacy and multilateralism, international and regional organizations, and political science is required. International experience and knowledge of research networks engaged in the multilateral system is a strong asset.
- c) A strong track record of research and publications on the topics of international relations, multilateralism, the UN system, regional organizations and global governance is required.
- d) Experience presenting original research at conferences and events, as well as strong written and verbal communication skills, are essential.

Please send your CV and a brief proposal for the study to Erica Mumford at erica.mumford@kas.de. All applications must be received by September 13, 2024.