



Centering the South: Thinking Globally about the War in Ukraine

Lunch Discussion on Saturday, February 18th, 1:30-3:00pm

Gelber Salon, Hotel Bayerischer Hof

Hosted by Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein, President of the International Peace Institute

Welcome Remarks by Ambassador Christoph Heusgen, Chairman of the Munich Security Conference

This past year has been an inflection point for the multilateral system, particularly in the area of peace and security. In addition to the gross violations that have been committed against the state of Ukraine and its people, the spillover effects of the war threaten to destabilize other regions. At the same time, ongoing security crises in Afghanistan, Yemen, Ethiopia, and elsewhere, require attention and resources that have in some cases been diverted because of the crisis in Europe. Such conditions necessitate a strong coming-together among member states and a strengthening of cross-regional ties. Yet, the sustained attention on Ukraine has given pause to some who perceive a double standard within the UN system and the broader international community. The purpose of this event is to examine how to protect bedrock principles of international law, while also pursuing positive change in a shifting international order that must be more responsive to member states whose needs and interests have historically been sidelined. Specific emphasis will be placed on including the views of members of the Global South and strengthening cross-regional ties among member states.

This high-level roundtable discussion will be moderated by IPI President Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein.

Among the questions discussed, participants will reflect upon the following:

- What have been the global consequences of the war in Ukraine?
- How have views on these effects differed in different regions of the world?
- How can the sustained focus on Ukraine advance a more consistent application of the international rule of law as necessary to enhance security and accountability for all?
- How does the present challenge to the multilateral system create entry points for positive change, in particular by expanding policy conversations to include the interests of a more diverse array of states?

This event is co-sponsored and supported by the New York Office of the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung.