

# SUPRI Project Annual Report

## April 2019 - March 2020

### Group 1

# “Human Security and SDGs”

Group Members:

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The research group on Sustainable Development (Popovski, Tamai, Ishii and Nakayama) in 2019 submitted Category C application for Kakenhi grant “Verification of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) implementation system as a global governance” and initiated a new project “Global Governance 3.0”.

### **Verification of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) implementation system as a global governance**

The “2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development” initiated a new global governance model, known as “governance by goals-setting”. This project explores this new model, examines the status of the “Global Partnership for Sustainable Development” with a focus on Japan and investigates whether the SDG implementation system represents indeed a new form of global governance.

There are various opinions regarding the level of innovation and significance of the “Sustainable Development Goals” and how much

they differ from traditional international regimes, formed to address arms control, economic development, and global environmental protection. Kanie, for example, credits the SDGs with presenting a list of goals and targets of unprecedented size and detail as "a new global governance strategy." (Norichika Kanie, "New Global Governance Strategy for the 21st Century: Governance and SDGs by Setting Goals" [Edited by Norichika Kanie, "What are the Sustainable Development Goals? Agenda of Transformation for 2030," Minerva Shobo, 2017., Frank Biermann, Norichika Kanie, Rakhyun Kim, 'Global Governance by Goal-Setting: the Novel Approach of the UN Sustainable Development Goals', *Current Opinion in Environmental Sustainability*, 2017)

This project clarifies the specificity of the global governance and whether the SDGs implementation system can be evaluated as a new form of global governance. It looks at the actual state of the "Global Partnership for Sustainable Development" in the implementation policy set out in the 2030 Agenda, how the "Global Partnership" is formed, and whether it is fulfilling the function of governance.

The 2030 Agenda is "an action plan for humans, the planet and prosperity." This can indicate that we are members of a global society, that transcends the international community and goes beyond the conventional sovereign state system.

Several authors have developed the theoretical models of global governance and the concept of multi-level governance (Shinji Onoda "Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Multi-level Governance for Implementation", "Sustainability Research, No. 9, March 2019). They place an emphasis on constructivist ideas, arguing that the SDGs are based on inherent needs, principles, concepts and norms of the global society, and claiming that the "Global Partnership" is

functioning as a process for the propagation of the norms underlying the SDGs. Constructivist research has led to the emergence of new concepts and norms such as "inhumanity", "human security" and "responsibility to protect", which have led to the establishment of international treaties and regimes, such as the anti-personnel landmine treaty and the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, where in addition to states, non-state actors played a significant role.

The SDGs follow this process and represent an ambition to involve all actors on the planet both in norm-entrepreneurship, and in practical implementation, establishing a global social order. The 2030 Agenda describes the SDG implementation regime as aimed to bring together "governments, civil society, the private sector, UN agencies and other actors, mobilize all available resources and support the implementation of all goals and targets". In addition to the United Nations Global Compact and the Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN), governments and organizations have provided a variety of practical examples and stakeholder type guidance.

The project considers whether we can formulate a change from "international community" to "global society". Attempts to verify the formation of "global society" in a constructivist manner are ambitious and worthy of a challenge. Another challenge is how sovereign nations are going to respond to changes towards "global society".

The project focuses on the Japanese government's efforts to address the SDGs as a national policy. To this end, in addition to network organizations such as SDSN Japan and Global Compact Network Japan, and private organizations such as Keidanren and NGOs, the project also analyzes good business practices and describe their business content, scale, etc. In addition to establishing

categorization of governmental efforts and business practices, the project investigates also the motivation of the public and the private sector towards implementing the SDGs.

In addition to compiling and categorizing the data of Japanese governmental efforts and business practices into a comprehensive database, the project will undertake awareness survey on the “Global Partnership” and a cognitive survey on target organizations, as to find out how the SDGs are recognized and evaluated, and what are the motivations for promoting global partnerships, based on information published by the surveyed organizations. In addition, it will consider how the case studies of the survey have an impact on achieving the targets of the SDGs in accordance with specific indicators.

Finally, based on these survey results, the project will verify whether the SDGs are accepted as a code of conduct for various organizations, evaluate how effective the examples have been in achieving the SDGs, and to what extent this contributes to the development of global governance.

Prof. Hideki Tamai, principal investigator, Director of SUPRI, and institution founded with the spirit of establishing a fortress to protect the global peace. He has been working on research activities from the standpoint of humanism, altruism and creativity, against the egoistic anthropocentrism. This orientation is in tune with the human security concept of "protecting the irreplaceable central part of human life and realizing the freedom and potential of all". The principal investigator will bring along various institutions with whom he has been working on research on human security.

Prof. Vesselin Popovski, research coordinator, is an expert on international law, the Paris Agreement and the SDGs and will play an important role in providing an analytical perspective from

international law research, which views the SDGs as a new type of international agreements, based on soft law, which promotes independent participation of stakeholders, different from previous international agreements.

Prof. Masashi Nakayama, research coordinator, also an expert in international law, has a wealth of achievements, especially on global governance and the role of the United Nations for human security, and has worked to refine the concept of global governance.

Professor Hideaki Ishii, research coordinator, will focus on the interconnectedness of targets in the SDGs based on his past work on human security issues and the correlation between economic development and disarmament.

The project investigators have been sharing knowledge with internal and external researchers and practitioners, participating in academic conferences on the concept and practice of the SDGs. Some research results have been obtained on the implementation system of the SDGs (Shulla et al., 'The contribution of Regional Centers of Expertise for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development' [Journal of Cleaner Production, Vol. 237, November 2019], Berrone et al., 'EASIER: An evaluation model for public-private partnerships contributing to the sustainable development goals' [Sustainability, Vol. 11, Issue 8, April 2019]. The Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) continues to publish monitoring based on the SDGs indicators and provides practical manuals.

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## Global Governance 3.0

### Background of the Idea

In 1945 the United Nations was established in what can be called the first major comprehensive international institutionalization, or “Global Governance 1.0” (GG 1.0). The League of Nations was an attempt in the same direction, but it could not become global). The global governance experience during the Cold War was far from successful, due to ideological rivalry and mistrust between the East and West.

In 1985 Gorbachov came to power in the USSR and his “perestroika” and “openness” triggered a new era, signing unprecedented treaties between the USA and USSR reducing nuclear and conventional weapons. At the same time the dictator Marcos was ousted in the Philippines, a wave of democratization spread in Latin America and Eastern Europe, the end of apartheid in South Africa and other significant changes, including technological such as the emergence of Internet and global communications. The liberation of Kuwait from Iraq in 1990 is just one example of what has been called a “New World Order” which allowed the United Nations to make a remarkable progress towards more international co-operation and globalization. We can see 1985-2014 as a period of a build up of “Global Governance 2.0” (GG 2.0). However, the Russian annexation of Crimea and military support for rebels in Eastern Ukraine, the arrival of the Trump Administration and the exit of Britain from the EU presented a major blow on global governance in 2014-2020.

### Purpose, Research Questions and Significance

With the rise of BRICS, the reluctance of the USA to continue to

play a major geopolitical role and the uncertainties surrounding the European Union, can we revisit the GG 2.0 and think of a potential Global Governance 3.0? The purpose of the project will be to address this and the following questions: What would be the main features of Global Governance 3.0 (GG 3.0)? Would GG 3.0 be able to close the gaps between the expectations and the delivery of the global governance institutions. Although there have been some remarkable achievements in eradicating diseases and dealing with epidemics and alleviating humanitarian suffering in disasters, there has been also a general dissatisfaction with the lack of efficiency in global governance — both in policies and in institutions - across the world, and particularly within the younger generations. As a result there is also a growing insistence and activism to rejuvenate the UN through the work of several think tanks and NGOs. The UN needs re-empowerment, as it dramatically failed to stop the conflicts in Syria, Yemen and several African countries; the atrocities against Rohingya in Myanmar and minorities elsewhere. Instead of seeing denuclearization, North Korea and, potentially, Iran have developed nuclear weapons, presenting a threat to the peace. In 2015 the UN Member States agreed on the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, but following from that they failed to make sufficient pledges in nationally determined contributions and climate actions, and the planet might move fast to 3 plus degrees, which is already a catastrophic threshold. The world has become over-armed, over-heated and the number of refugees and displaced by human-made and natural disasters is record-breaking. Can GG 3.0 successfully deal with the global challenges?

The significance of the project will be to think originally and innovatively about the challenges facing the Global Governance in

the 21st century, to assess evolving attitudes towards GG 3.0 both in developed countries (Japan, the UK, European states) and developing countries (India, Brazil, South Africa, ASEAN countries) and to propose forward looking findings.

#### **Future Plan**

The project will aim to collect latest research from established scholars and views from top experts on global governance, and also will seek contributions from younger scholars, recent PhDs through calls for papers. They will be invited to submit draft papers for edited book and to present them and participate in a workshop in Toda Institute for Peace in Yotsuya where all participants will also provide feedback to the other papers. For the purposes of the project the networks of the Academic Council of the UN System (ACUNS) will be utilized, and this global network can provide an additional global visibility of the project through its numerous communication channels.

The project will hold regular workshops with top scholars, bringing the latest knowledge on how the SDGs and PACC can be implemented with assistance from global funds and facilitation mechanisms. The workshops assess how developed countries approach the SDGs and PACC, and how new players in global governance — China, India, Brazil, South Africa, ASEAN — signal preference to less formal and more flexible international agreements, where instead of ‘sanctions committees’, we observe the emergence of ‘facilitation committees’, and where transparency and accountability replace monitoring and verification.

The project runs for three years 2020-2023 and will include fieldwork with experts from developing countries to assemble their views on



the NDCs and allow for a rigorous brainstorming.

The project outcomes are articles in peer-reviewed academic journals, op-eds in significant newspapers, dialogue with stakeholders. The project will have its website, presenting the progress and the investigators present papers at significant conferences to disseminate the project’s findings and will write annual reports on the progress and tasks remaining.

#### **Other research activities by members of the SUPRI cluster on Sustainable Development**

On 3 May 2019 Popovski participated in the Conference on United Nations Reform with a paper “United Nations Charter Constitutional Revision”, at the O.P. Jindal Global University, Sonipat, Haryana, India. On 6-7 June 2019 Popovski took part in the Global Policy Dialogue convened by the Stimson Centre in Washington DC, preparing the report on Renewal and Innovation of Global Governance for the 75th Anniversary of the United Nations in 2020. He was the leading speaker of the discussion on the ‘peace and security’ panel with a paper “UN Peace and Security Architecture: Stagnation or Redundancy?”, and also offered commentaries at the paper on ‘law and justice’. Based on this work, Popovski presented at the Soka University Faculty Development Seminar on 17 July 2019. The research and writing activities of the Stimson Centre’s working group continued and on 14-15 December 2019 Popovski took part in the prestigious Doha Forum, annual gathering of top think-tanks and presented a paper on “New Cold War and Peace(Non)building”. Also at the Doha Forum Popovski presented the working group’s new proposal on upgrading the UN Peacebuilding Commission into Peacebuilding Council. As part of his engagement with the Japanese

Peacebuilding Forum Popovski made a keynote speech “Lack of United Nations Reform”, at a meeting with Japanese MPs in the Diet, Nagatacho, Tokyo, on 24 September 2019, moderated by the Ambassador Shinyo, former Permanent Representative of Japan to the UN. On 2 November 2019 at a Seminar “Peacebuilding and Global Governance in Turbulent World” , in the JICA Institute, Ichigaya, Popovski presented the paper “Upgrading Peacebuilding Commission into Peacebuilding Council”.

Popovski also continued his research on climate change, sustainability and SDGs. He was among the speakers of the JCPAC Japanese Conservative Union Conference, Tokyo, 31 August - 1 September 2019 with a paper on “Tokyo 2020 Sustainable Olympics”. On 9 September 2019 Popovski presented “History of Climate Change Science and Denial”, a Keynote Address at the United Nations University, Tokyo. On 22-23 October 2019 in Seoul, Korea, during the Global Green Week, organized by the Global Green Growth Institute, Popovski presented the papers “Climate Change Solutions Acceleration” and “America First, or America Last?: US Withdrawal from the Paris Agreement”. Popovski engagement with the World Economic Forum (WEF) in Davos continued in 21-24 January with the moderation of the panel “The Role of Global Universities in Promoting Sustainable Futures”, where the rectors of several top world-class universities made presentations.

Other activities by Popovski include the presentation on “Anti-Corruption and Money Laundering in BRICS”, at the FGV University, Sao Paulo Brazil, 6-8 November 2019 and the paper “Legal Disruption and Smart Contracts” at the Academic Conference of the Law School of Sydney University on 9-11 February 2020.

During the reporting period Popovski presented his latest book

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“Palgrave Handbook on Global Approaches to Peace” (Routledge  
2019) at several academic forums.