

# Multilateralism in international affairs

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In news

External Affairs Minister stated that Multilateralism is in serious danger today as the bigger countries are focused on their own interest

## What is Multilateralism in International Affairs?

- According to Britannica Multilateralism, the process of organizing relations between groups of three or more states.
- Beyond that basic quantitative aspect, multilateralism is generally considered to comprise certain qualitative elements or principles that shape the character of the arrangement or institution.
- Those principles are an indivisibility of interests among participants, a commitment to diffuse reciprocity, and a system of dispute settlement intended to enforce a particular mode of behaviour.
- **In other words, Multilateralism refers to an alliance of multiple countries pursuing a common goal.**
- Multilateralism, in the form of membership in international institutions, serves to bind powerful nations, discourage unilateralism and gives small powers a voice and influence that they could not otherwise exercise.

## Proponents of Multilateralism

- The main proponents of multilateralism have traditionally been the middle powers, such as Canada, Australia, Switzerland, the Benelux countries and the Nordic countries.

- India also supports multilateralism which is reflected in its recent call for UN system reform

### **Some of the examples of Multilateralism**

International organizations, such as the United Nations (UN), WHO and the World Trade Organization, are multilateral in nature.