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## Why Think Tanks Matter Global Forum

Participación del Embajador Ricardo Ernesto Lagorio, Secretario General del CARI, en el “Why Think Tanks Matter Global Forum”, organizado por el Think Tank and Civil Society Program de la Universidad de Pensilvania.

The world is going through a reckoning. To quote Dean Acheson, we are once again *Present At The Creation*.

And, thus, we need a *compass heading*.

To design this roadmap, I am going to resort to Isaiah Berlin's interpretation of the Greek poet Archilochus, in the sense that we must both be a hedgehog and a fox.

My hedgehog, one *big thing*, is *We The People*- the initial words of the UN Charter- and my Fox, knows *many things*, are: Multilateral Culture; Cooperation and Collaboration; Diplomacy and de-militarization of political responses, and as underpinning technological ecosystem.

### HEDGEHOG

It is a fierce coincidence that last year, when commemorating the 75th anniversary of the creation of the Organization of the United Nations, the first truly global crisis emerged, a *We The People* crisis.

That is why almost half of the world population had to lock itself at home, transformed into sanitary shelters. (By the way, we never remotely resort to nuclear bunkers like this...)

Beyond the impact of the nature of the Pandemic, this crisis strips the limits of the current international scaffolding to foresee, address and give concrete solution to problems that affect *We The People*, issues that, most likely, will be recurring in the future.

The international governance system's decision-making process remains centered around the nation-state. However, it is necessary to involve non-state actors, and to encourage and promote a *We The People*-centered approach, likewise.

By resorting, for instance, to a more common use of the *Arria Formula* mechanism at the Security Council.

### FOX

Multilateralism is a convention, which must be carefully constructed and agreed upon in order to be sustainable over time.

Nowadays, Multilateralism cannot be limited to the systemic and state level.

Civil society, academia, nongovernmental organizations, the media, and Think Tanks should be part of a renewed constituency of multilateralism.

You do not cheer Multilateralism, you do practice Multilateralism.

Multilateralism is not just about institutions; it is also about culture. A *sustainable* multilateralism will not be such unless it has solid foundations, and is perceived as effective and efficient by its main constituency: *We The People*.

This new cultural underpinning must include and address the issues that affect *We The People*, and not just those of States as such.

- Strengthen the overall UN System, in particular those soft power-oriented agencies such as: WHO, UNICEF, UNESCO, FAO...

- Pay more attention to *social dynamics*, particularly of the weak and youth,

- In addressing global issues, give more relevance to the Multilateral approach, and incorporate the direct input of civil society and non-governmental actors.

- *De-militarize* diplomacy and further negotiations and dialogue, as well as agreements and concessions.

In facing these challenges and in helping to overcome the low tide of Multilateralism, Think Tanks should play a leading role.

Thus, I want to conclude by suggesting a *Plaidoyer for We The People*, and that Think Tanks work together in drafting a *Manifest on Multilateralism*.