

Deciding and Financing Global Policy Initiatives: An Analysis of Multilateral Agencies and Programs

Hertie School of Governance, Berlin, Germany

Syllabus—Spring 2008
Convener: Inge Kaul

Course Contents and Objectives

This course will: 1) analyze and assess current patterns of decision-making in multilateral agencies and programs; and 2) explore how follow-up initiatives to agreed-upon policy priorities are being financed, notably how policy priorities and financing priorities are being matched.

The multilateral agencies that will be examined include among others, the United Nations (UN) General Assembly and Security Council, the International Monetary Fund, World Bank and World Trade Organization as well as the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (GFATM), the G-8, and/or others, depending on the interest of course participants. In addition, the course will focus on select global issues like climate change, the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), HIV/AIDS control, and peacekeeping in order to trace the negotiation history of these challenges and study how in these specific cases the matching between policy and financing priorities occurred, if at all.

The objective of the course is to: 1) familiarize students with the current structure and functioning of multilateral decision-making and the present system of international cooperation financing (ICF); 2) develop and apply criteria for assessing the current decision-making and financing arrangements (e.g. in terms of fairness, legitimacy, accountability as well as efficiency and effectiveness); and 3) explore feasible options for policy reform and enhancement. Of special interest will be the question of what lessons to draw from past experience and current theory for the follow-up process to the December 2007 Bali Conference on the UN Climate Change Convention.