

**CONFERENCE REPORT**

# Joint Keynote

# Exploring a Just Peace in a Fragmented World



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## Joint Keynote

# Exploring a Just Peace in a Fragmented World

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This is a report on a Joint Keynote session titled “**Exploring a Just Peace in a Fragmented World**” held as part of the TRT World Forum 2018. The views, themes and discussion points expressed in this conference report are those of participants and speakers present at the TRT World Forum 2018 and do not reflect the official view of the TRT World Research Centre.

# Keynote Speech:

## Building a Just Peace in a Fragmented World

**Stef Blok**

*Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands*

**Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu**

*Minister of Foreign Affairs of Turkey*

**David Foster**

*Moderator*



- 1** *What are the threats that have evolved in this new global order?*
- 2** *How can the fragmented political landscape deviate from unilateralism to a collective multilateralism, addressing the emerging evolutionary phase of politics?*
- 3** *What is the importance of rule-based international order when working towards key institutional reform and collective action?*

# Summary

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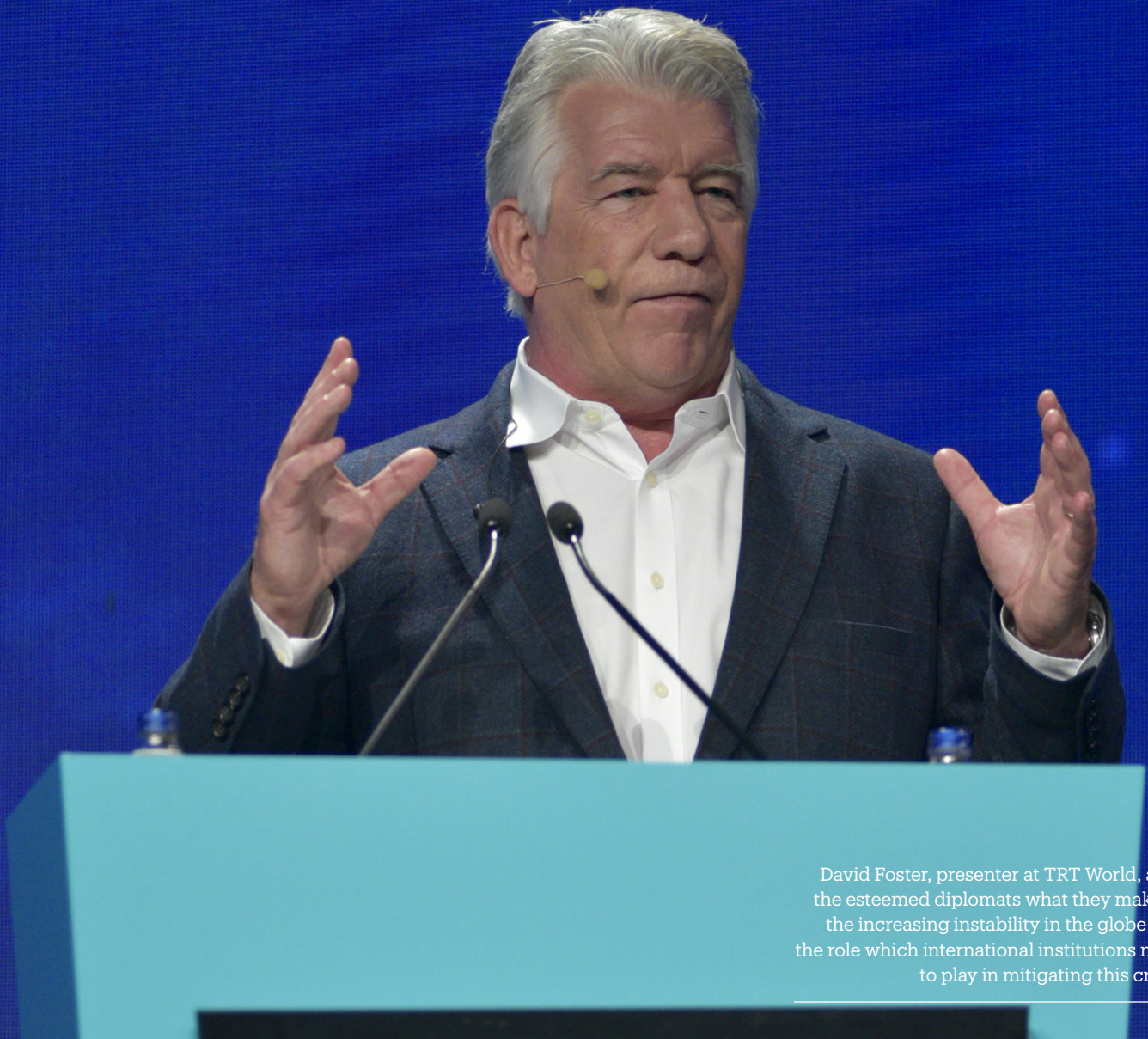
**T**he geopolitical order today remains constantly fragmented due to the pervasiveness of an unequal administrative and institutional directive. Therefore, addressing and taking steps to limit divisive policies across the globe becomes a subject to be addressed amongst major stakeholders. Correspondingly, persisting inequalities cannot be addressed without a co-operative social justice system. This makes it necessary to take various measures and policies thus enabling collective international cooperation, which will help reform systems and institutions that govern social rule, law, and order.

Major international organisations like the United Nations have failed to address and deal with threats which pertain to the changing global patterns. Irregular forms of migration, xenophobia, anti-minority sentiments and terrorism are constantly on the rise and pose risks scale that goes beyond regional communities. For that reason, the international impact that conflict-ridden societies generate cannot be ignored. As one can observe, the consequences of the 7 years war in Syria extends well beyond its shores. This is one of the biggest humanitarian crises since WWII: the Syrian conflict has killed hundreds of thousands; left over half the population displaced; and led to significant economic, educational and human losses.

Transformative and humanitarian measures, therefore, are necessary to ensure a stable peace process in conflict-ridden communities in order to impede further catastrophe. Such dealings do not just ensure a collective agenda to curtail arms and war; they also facilitate governing projects and establishes a long-term economic community-based framework which will drive society towards prosperity.

However, this does not mean that the key stakeholders should ignore the aspect of security and a rule-based collective order. None of the countries shall disregard its security concerns as long as terrorist threats persist, and for this reason, punitive actions need to be taken into account when necessary.

On the other hand, listing each crisis under security concerns also risks deterring a streamlined process of reconciliation and can exacerbate major humanitarian issues. As a result, a rule-based international order becomes vital reconciliation amongst key-players and streamlining decision-making prospects which factor in all domains of participation: security; rules-based order; and addressing humanitarian issues.



David Foster, presenter at TRT World, asks the esteemed diplomats what they make of the increasing instability in the globe and the role which international institutions need to play in mitigating this crisis.

In this respect, Turkey's effort in dealing with the Syrian refugee crisis cannot be ignored. Systematic and successful implementation of foreign policy measures has made Turkey one of the top humanitarian providers globally. The country has so far provided 8.1 billion dollars in humanitarian assistance mostly to Syria, Palestine, Iraq, Yemen, and South Sudan. Likewise, when the year 2017 also witnessed a "textbook example of ethnic cleansing" of the Rohingya community in Myanmar, Turkey came forward with a strong response to deal with the crisis. Their action in dealing with the Rohingya issue has been appreciated in the global international community, thereby providing the Rohingya with a prominent place in the world's agenda.

As one traces the history of the post-WWII era, it came with an agenda of establishing institutions and projects to ensure peace and equality. Such were the doctrines for the formation of the United Nations and the European Union. However, the sort of dynamism in today's global landscape differs from the global community witnessed 70 years ago. Different challenges in the political amphitheatre have gained momentum, and as major institutions remain incapable of addressing them, collective reform and transformation become essential. Bearing this in mind, the reforms that are to be implemented should be in harmony with the agenda of existing institutions and also respect the body of international law and justice that come with it.

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# Introduction

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Ongoing wars and areas of conflict in various regions in the global landscape has led to a series of events which the international order has failed to address in the present context. As a result, it is challenging for major organisations like the United Nations to reach their objectives in the field of peace and security. One of the key players in the global order, the United States, has been shifting towards unilateral policies, thus violating norms and fundamentals of the international prepositions for a working collective society to ensure harmony and prosperity for all countries.

Therefore, deployment of strategies to ensure just peace in a fragmented world cannot be rested upon a single participatory force. Collective transformative actions are the key to building rational and long-term prospects of economic growth and stability, thereby resulting in a win-win situation for all players and participants.

Correspondingly, the biggest challenge in today's period comes with uncontrolled migratory patterns. The complexity of the issue remains tied to economic, social and security concerns in an era of globalisation; where societies remain interconnected and people become increasingly mobile. Likewise, many migratory patterns emerge from societies that remain under conflict, persecution and environmental degradation.

Therefore, the responsibility to assure safety and prospects of afflicted people requires actions beyond borders, as it touches people beyond states and in all walks of life. However, such issues do not only necessitate material solutions. As one witnesses an increase in anti-immigrant sentiments coupled with xenophobic attitudes, it becomes vital for major political players to address their population and provoke sentiments towards reconciliation, acceptance, and peace.

Thus, reform becomes the key in mediating a joint collaborative framework amongst major players. Similarly, it becomes important that reform takes place within principles and interests of a common system of international law amongst key participants. The working reform should look at the situation and its resolution by taking into regard key elements of justice, security and equality of all significant players and victims.

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# A Fragmented Global Order

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The 21st century comes with a global order which remains disproportionately divided with inequalities persisting everywhere. An upsurge of far-right movements across the globe has fuelled xenophobic attitude towards different groups; terrorism has led to the participation of non-state forces to dictate the political sphere; irregular migratory patterns due to conflicts are not held responsible by major governing actors and institutions.

Migration remains one of the major issues. In recent years, a total of 65 million people worldwide left their homes in search of better social prospects, with many of them remaining displaced as they left their homelands which are face constant war and unwanted interventions. The challenges that immigrants face later in their host country communities is another factor that needs to be addressed. Considering the issue with a narrow lens of security leads to the build-up of negative perceptions through which a fragmented and uncooperative system emerges.

Similarly, the threat of cyber-crime and the spread of fake news has led to a falsification of facts in an increasingly interconnected world. This has led to false imaginings of cultures, people and various segments of different societies; resulting in hate, prejudice, and xenophobic attitudes. It therefore becomes a tedious task for policymakers to grapple with the nature of fake news and to understand its implications for society, democracy, and even truth itself. The rise of the far-right in many European societies is a prime example, setting itself with a grave challenge to ensure a thoughtful reform in the present-day political schema. It is also reflective of the inability of the European Union to build on a lasting architecture of European integration.



Consequently, it becomes necessary to move away from traditional modes of thought in global affairs as states no longer remain primary actors. It needs to be underscored that global politics today is influenced by non-state groups, posing an enormous challenge towards a level playing field for states. The communication revolution, globalisation and the sophistication that comes with an arms race have increased the capacity of these organisations and terrorist groups to instigate violence with their operational innovations.

When one analyses today's century within the post-World War II context, democracy and collective reform remains challenged as key-players fail to address and ensure policies, which leads to division and fragmentation. Constant neglect of collective reform, therefore, undermines the systems and institutions which were anchored to achieve peace, stability, and prosperity for the world. Unilateral and protectionist measures amongst different power-players have led to the concept of trade wars to emerge, as a result, harming the free trade rules-based trading system in the world. The targets of such measures, therefore, are the developing countries in the world. As a result, their potential for growth and prosperity is impeded, and inequality persists as a constant issue.

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Mevlut Çavuşoğlu, the Turkish Foreign Minister, restates the need for internal reform within the UN in order to allow regional powers and smaller countries greater participation in decision-making processes.

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# In need of Reform and Justice

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As various challenges emerge in the political sphere, reforming global institutions within the spectrum of social justice becomes necessary amongst different key member states. Thus, by allowing a mediation of dialogue between different participatory states, a collective action can be established which abides with institutional agendas while respecting the global rule of law.

This lays in alignment with the response of Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's statement: "The World is Bigger than Five" - which he addressed at the United Nations Security Council in 2016. He pressed upon the failure of governance and reconciliation amongst major powers, along with structural failures of key institutions in looking into humanitarian issues and grievances of the populations around the world who are in constant need. Correspondingly, it becomes important to work together towards reform with a rules-based international system.

Likewise, other regional organisations, such as the European Union, Council of Europe and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation also need to undergo transformative measures in order to provide feasible and fair political solutions. They also need to address the challenges of today, along with ensuring sustainability in governance for the future.

Therefore, deals which are formed to pursue development, transformation, conflict resolution, and justice to assure future stability of a country in warfare, must also be worked through a shared political process. Matters in Syria, for instance, require a collective effort on development and resolution, thus enabling prosperity for everyone. Similarly, measures for a post-conflict solution should not be limited to taking action for a small frame of time. For example, Iraq has entered a transformative process with the formation of its own government. Nevertheless, as threats of terrorist activities still brew in its region, counterterrorism efforts against the PKK and ISIS must be supported by different national participants.

Similarly, taking an action-oriented approach towards integrated migratory policies should be the mark in Europe's agenda for a sustainable future. As the population of the continent is projected to decline in subsequent decades, migratory policies that assimilate an incoming



The Foreign Minister of the Netherlands, Stef Blok, highlighted the need to work within the rules-based international order, while underscoring its importance in countering terrorism worldwide.

populous should be mentioned. In that regard, the European Union needs to address these issues to ensure a joint task force and a working reform. One key example is the reform in the European Court of Human Rights, which has increased in its effective capacity to react towards challenges of the present world.

However, the solutions for the aforementioned problems should be achieved within the framework of a rule-based international system. Therefore, addressing issues with realistic measures in one's policy needs to be enshrined and entrusted upon. Likewise, acting towards a reform and also abiding under predictability and confidence, as confidence is one of the most important components for positive international cooperation and participation. It must be emphasised that the need for reform should be constructive and help an organisation to pursue its agenda and not divert from it.

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# Initiatives by Turkey and the Netherlands

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Situations arising from conflicts and war in the political arena come with varied consequences. These consequences do not remain restricted in the affected geographical area but snowball beyond borders towards various international regions. As mentioned earlier, one of the biggest consequential issues which arose in Europe and Turkey was the impact of the war in Syria, allowing a heavy influx of migration to be calculated and overcome.

Turkey, realising the humanitarian issue which came with the problem, systematically implemented assistance and is now a key humanitarian actor, hosting around 4 million Syrian refugees. The country's internal governmental structures have been innovative in their efforts to accommodate the incoming Syrian population. Therefore, this is reflective of Turkey's foreign policy, which is in alignment with enterprising and humanitarian foreign policies.

Similarly, the application of such policy measures becomes necessary to implement in neighbouring regions and beyond. The recent pact in Idlib with Russia is another measure and sets itself as an example of joint collective action. It did not just contain the impending catastrophic outcome, but also addressed and controlled another migratory influx that could have happened.

Moreover, the Netherlands has been a key participant to ensure orders and rules prevail in the global scheme of politics and society. Therefore, to provide a credible working mechanism, holding onto security and various alliances becomes a key factor. The established NATO alliance is a vital network to ensure the security of a region. Equally, the Netherlands' establishment of the International Criminal Court is an institutional example which looks forward to creating a dialogue with the Security Council in referring most serious crimes that imbue in the geopolitical scale. Similarly, it was highlighted that Turkey's participation in the ICC would lead to more effective action to combat humanitarian issues together.

Defending multilateralism is a key priority for Turkey with its European Union members in coming time. Turkey and the Netherlands have agreed to normalise bilateral relations and one of the key areas they look forward to co-operating in is counterterrorism. Prime Minister Mark Rutte's valuable efforts were seen when he took steps towards collaborative action in promoting controlled migration and resettling 20,000 Syrians in the Netherlands.

The joint cooperative example set up by the Netherlands and Turkey to mitigate the immigrant issue, with Turkey's effort in its humanitarian aid both within and outside its borders, remains commendable in the international arena. Similarly, its combined efforts with the Idlib pact came with a twofold element: to prevent catastrophic outcomes in a region of conflict, and to control another migratory influx in its own country as well as with its neighbours.

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# Conclusion

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The system of multilateralism and international cooperation set up after World War II seems to be under pressure and threat in a changing global dynamic. The underlying principles of maintaining solidarity, sharing of goods and inflicting no harm towards other states is under risk, as various aggressive forces emerge, instigating a fragmented political landscape. Also, as political discourse is witnessing a shift towards key personalities and non-state actors, the multilateral system needs to evolve and reform under these forces. Responsibility towards a collective response from all global players, therefore, becomes necessary to ensure peace, justice, and prosperity.

This calls for the realities of the world today to be recognised within key institutions and amongst political actors. Similarly, as justice fails to prevail without abiding with the tenets of law and order, it needs to be ensured that these principles must be the top priority amongst all actors working towards reform. A robust approach towards multilateralism within changing realities is an instrument which can be used to provide justice in post-war societies. Only when recognizing the changing needs of the international community, can reform be effective and successful.

