

A Global Conversation with Ambassador Luigi R. Einaudi

“MULTILATERALISM MATTERS”



On October the 5th, global governance students, had the honor to meet ambassador of U.S Luigi R. Einaudi.

In 1967, he attended Harvard University for his PHD, he's a member of the American Academy of Diplomacy, he was secretary general of the Organization of American States, and served under 9 presidents of the U.S. He was also the President's representative during the Peruvian-Ecuadorian war.

The title of the lecture given by the ambassador was "Multilateralism matters". He defined multilateralism as the cooperation between international entities.

In fact, the core of the discussion was on the importance of cooperation between different parties, rather than unilateralism. Based on this idea, he gave us a real life example of the benefits of multilateralism through the Peruvian-Ecuadorian war in 1981. In order to end the war, a cooperation between four countries was established; Brazil, U.S, Argentina, and Chile. During the 4 years negotiation period, the “big four” acted like a court and finally came up with a resolution to satisfy both parts.

According to Ambassador Einaudi's thoughts, there are three main principles one must follow in order to have a successful diplomatic process. The first being that multilateral consultation should be part of any international strategy because it can reduce confusion among parties involved in the consultations. The second main point was that for a solution to last, all parties must derive some benefit from the solution. In order to achieve that, all parties must respect laws and support local institutions. The third and final principle is one must prepare professionals who are capable of cooperating across borders. Understanding and having knowledge about one another is a very crucial asset in effective multilateralism.

Ambassador Einaudi left us with several quotes that had us reflecting; one of which was "Democracy is as important among countries as it is within them". This ensures that individual countries have the opportunity to speak up, and be active members of decision-making units.

We need to understand that despite the many advantages of multilateralism, it has it's limits, global understanding doesn't mean global agreement.

When Ambassador Einaudi concluded his speech, we had the chance to ask questions regarding U.S conflicts and international issues to which he answered brilliantly. One of the questions we asked was about whether he has any advice for us global governance students about certain characteristics that will lead us to achieve our goals. We were taken aback by his response, as he told us the best skill one can acquire is to know how to listen to others, to learn from each other and work as a team, which tied back to the beginning of his speech, where he talked about how multilateralism encourages communication among countries.

Now we know so much more about international cooperation and are very thankful for having the chance to attend a global conversation with Ambassador Einaudi.

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