

# Chapter 5

## Multilateral Diplomacy: Conferences and International Organizations

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### **ABSTRACT**

*Multilateral diplomacy is a type of diplomatic activity in which several (three or more, up to 200) states simultaneously participate. Emerging in ancient times and practiced to a greater or lesser extent in all subsequent eras history of international relations, multilateral diplomacy has received particularly wide development - in the second half of the twentieth and early twenty-first centuries. This was due to the fact that after the second World War, international relations began to become universal, global character, which was manifested in the creation of the UN and many other international organizations, who dealt with problems affecting all countries of the world.*

### **INTRODUCTION**

Multilateral diplomacy is a form of diplomacy within international organizations, carried out under international organizations through delegations and permanent missions of states. The Diplomatic Dictionary gives the following definition of the concept of “multilateral diplomacy” - “diplomatic activity with the participation of representatives of several states.” The content of such activities is the work of “international intergovernmental organizations and conferences, holding negotiations, consultations, etc. (International Studies, 2024).

Multilateral diplomacy, as a separate and unique type of diplomatic activity, can be divided into the following main types:

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1. Diplomacy of international congresses and conferences.
2. Diplomacy of multilateral negotiation processes on specific international problems.
3. Diplomatic activities within international organizations (Karumidze, 2004).

Moreover, each of the varieties includes bilateral diplomatic work and bears all the features of bilateral diplomacy.

An important distinctive feature of multilateral diplomacy is the reduction to a single denominator of a large number of positions, the interaction of which can give a completely unexpected result when the point of view of not the strongest participant or the strongest group of negotiators becomes predominant.

A characteristic feature of multilateral diplomacy - and its great openness - is not due to the wishes of the participants or due to the nature of the issues under consideration, but because with a large number of participants in the process, maintaining the confidentiality of the discussion can be difficult. Greater openness of the decision-making process leads to greater consideration of public opinion.

The cumbersome nature of multilateral diplomatic processes predetermines their long duration, which entails greater dependence on the dynamic real international situation.

International organizations that play a significant role in resolving many issues of international relations can be considered a type of international conference. They differ from conferences, first of all, in the presence of permanent delegations or representative offices. This leaves a special imprint on the relationship between diplomats from different countries, who interact with each other on an ongoing basis, and not occasionally, as at conferences (Rondeli, 2003).

Multilateral diplomacy is a multi-layered job. Before an issue is submitted for consideration, it is carefully studied by experts and then at the working level.

Many academic researchers note the special role of the personal qualities of a diplomat in multilateral diplomacy, and the more complex the situation, the more important the personality of the negotiators; the higher the level of the meeting, the higher the rank of its participants, the more important the personality of the leaders of the delegation and their professionalism are.

As an independent and increasingly important type of multilateral diplomacy, it should highlight multilateral negotiation mechanisms created to solve specific international problems.

Multilateral diplomacy and multilateral negotiations give rise to several new aspects of diplomatic practice. Thus, an increase in the number of parties when discussing a problem leads to a complication of the overall structure of interests, the possibility of creating coalitions, as well as the emergence of a leading country in negotiation forums.

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