

GNS Call for volunteers

Interested in the dynamics and politics of UN and other global negotiations? “[Global Negotiation Support](#)”, a new and promising initiative of the Institute developed to support Chairs/Facilitators of UN and other multilateral processes, is offering an opportunity to join for substantive and strategic roles.

While the roles do not come with a remuneration, they offer the valuable opportunity of direct exposure to the handling by Chairs/Facilitators and unfolding of major negotiations, conferences and summits – and possibly on-site participation. The selected volunteers would work directly with the “Global Negotiation Support” lead, Jerome Bellion-Jourdan, and benefit from his insights from the world of diplomacy.

The below outline for the overall tasks is indicative and could be refined depending on the background/interest/availability of selected candidates. The tasks could also evolve as the project expands.

Role 1 – Chair’s roles and prerogatives: state of the art

Responsibility to undertake a desk-research to further expand the knowledge of existing publications/materials on the theory/practice related to the role and prerogatives of Chairs/Facilitators of UN and other negotiation processes. The desk-research would entail:

Academic/media publications

- Producing an exhaustive list of academic publications (with links/Pdf versions) on the role of Chairs in multilateral negotiations in English/French and possibly other languages
- Researching interviews/testimonies with past Chairs/Facilitators of major multilateral negotiations

Practical material

- Scanning the webpages of UN main bodies, UN agencies and other international organisations to collect documents (directly/indirectly) relevant on the role of chairs: rules of procedures, manuals
- Looking into the material of major Summits/Conferences to detect the the rules/practice on the role of the Chairs

The exact scope of the desk-research would be defined depending on the availability/timeline, and in consultation with GNS lead, Jerome Bellion-Jourdan. It could also lead to some more in-depth analytical work: reading/summarizing key findings.

Role 2 – The global negotiation landscape: mapping and monitoring

Responsibility to develop methods for GNS to map and monitor the landscape of UN negotiations: from intergovernmental processes to elaborate norms (e.g. International

Negotiation Committee on Plastic Pollution) to the preparation of Summit and Conferences (e.g. World Summit on Social Development due in Doha in November 2025).

In light of the very large number of processes, this role is strategic as it would inform GNS decisions to select and anticipate where it could/should offer its services, and to remain up to date on progress in the processes where it has or would like to engage.

Mapping

- Look into existing tools made available by the UN / other entities providing an overview of existing and forthcoming negotiations
- Develop and implement mapping methods tailored to the GNS needs

Monitoring

- Monitor the webpages of negotiation bodies and Summits/Conferences to provide updates on developments informing GNS activities: official documents such as evolving draft negotiating documents; negotiation timelines
- Monitor other platforms/media providing strategic information on the politics and dynamics of negotiation, with a focus on the role of the Chair/Facilitator as well as Bureau/Secretariat

The mapping/monitoring responsibilities would translate in regular or ad hoc alerts/reports to the GNS lead.

Ideal profile:

- Broad knowledge of/real interest in the United Nations and multilateralism
- Ability to work autonomously and in an organized manner
- Ability to produce clear documents with accuracy and clear reference to sources
- Fluency in English, ideally combined with one/several UN languages (Arabic, Chinese, French, Spanish, Russian)