JAKARA, 14 FEBRUARY 2023. As Co-host of T20 Indonesia, the Centre for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) hosted a roundtable discussion with a theme of “Rethinking Global Cooperation in the Fractured World”. This was an opportunity to reflect on the successes and challenges of T20 2022, as well as to consider the best path forward in 2023 as it is India’s turn to host. This event invited experts from think tanks as well as T20 and G20 officials to share their thoughts on what lies ahead for global cooperation in 2023. This Session was moderated by Riatu Mariatul Qibthiyyah, Senior Research Associate LPEM FEB UI, and concluded with a brief Q&A Session.
The event was opened by Chair of the CSIS Board of Directors, Djisman Simandjuntak, who noted that global challenges such as combating climate change and achieving a green energy transition require us to collaborate. He was also optimistic that India, as a champion of cooperation among developing countries, would be well placed as a leader to overcome the challenges of fragmentation, and rebound stronger from the crises and economic shocks of the past few years.

The Rockefeller Foundation Asia Regional Office Vice-President Deepali Khanna commented that being collaborative also requires being inclusive and elevating voices from the Global South, as well as from Civil Society Organisations and the private sector. She also appreciated the value of T20 as the idea bank of the G20, and emphasized its importance in finding solutions to modern problems that can be accepted by all nations.

CSIS Executive Director Yose Rizal Damuri reflected on the challenges that G20 2022 faced, including the need for flexible agendas to respond to developing challenges. He also noted that the success of G20 2022 cannot simply be measured by the documents that were produced, but also the substantive discussions that occurred, and the commitment to collaboration that was achieved.

Chair of G20 India Sujan R. Chinoy explained the way that the modern international order is fractured by ‘6 Ts’: trade, technology, territory, terrorism, tenets, and trust. He also reminded us of the importance of morality in multilateral forums for ensuring that outcomes are inclusive and action-oriented.

John Beirne, Vice-Chair of Research and Senior Research Fellow at the Asia Development Bank Institute, commented on the increasing disillusionment with multilateral institutions around the world, and the resulting rise in protectionism, trade restrictions, and risk-aversion. He stressed the importance of being able to prioritise our objectives in forums such as G20 and G7, as well as being able to understand the global net gains that can be drawn from collaboration, rather than using an inward country-specific lens.
Anna Katharina-Hornidge, Director of the German Institute of Development and Sustainability (IDOS), explained the crisis of multilateralism that has occurred in recent years, and the resulting prominence of interest- and topic-based alliances that stretch across continents, territories, and income-levels. She also discussed the potential of a Sustainable Development Goals Stimulus Package in order to elevate the ability of all countries to rebound stronger in coming years.

Executive Director of T20 India Secretariat Sunaina Kumar previewed India’s objectives as host of G20 2023, such as being a defender of multilateralism, putting development at the heart of discussions, and striving to reform global institutions to make them more robust and inclusive. She also noted the importance of a balanced agenda that addresses issues that are relevant to both developing and developed economies, among them digitization, sustainability, gender, and economic growth.

Finally, the discussion was closed by Co-sherpa of G20 Indonesia Raden Edi Priyo Pambudi, who advocated for combining both competition and collaboration in order to yield the benefits of both approaches. He argued that a spirit of compromise and flexibility is vital for continuing the success of G20 2022 in years to come.

To see the full coverage of the T20-T7 Roundtable Discussion, please watch our recorded live stream on YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/csisindonesia