

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS TO A GLOBAL DIALOGUE ON FEDERALISM

1. What are the benefits to my organization or country in contributing to the Global Dialogue Program?

- **Country Roundtable:** The country roundtable is a unique opportunity for experts from diverse governmental and academic areas of knowledge and practice to exchange their views on common issues in a neutral environment. As one Belgian participant noted, *“All of the participants were particularly impressed by the format: a select group of 20 people who are directly involved in the issue and primed for a constructive exchange, using a backdrop of already-prepared questions. The group included various practicing experts in the area, academics from different institutions, and Flemish and Francophone, who rarely have the occasion to have a dialogue as we did, with much frankness and conviviality.”*
- **International Roundtable:** The international roundtable is a two-day event in which representatives from each country roundtable gather to engage in a comparative dialogue about the theme. The host country gains international exposure, plus the possibility of expanding the event by 1-2 days to hold an event specific to the host country’s needs with 12 international experts on hand. In December, 2005, federal and state finance ministries of Brazil hosted the international roundtable on fiscal federalism. The roundtable was followed by the “World Forum on Fiscal Federalism,” a two day event which utilized the presence of the top 12 international experts on fiscal federalism from the countries represented at the Global Dialogue international roundtable.
- **Publications:** The booklet highlights new insights, key issues, and items of international interest from the country roundtables; the book is intended to provide a thorough, comparative analysis of several countries’ perspectives on the theme. Those who contribute financially to a publication are acknowledged at the beginning of the publication. The publications are widely distributed at Forum events, are sold by our publisher, McGill-Queen’s University Press, and are already gaining a strong reputation in the field. Arnold Koller, former President of Switzerland, wrote of Volume 1 of the book series: *“This book is the written equivalent of listening to the wisdom of experience that other federal countries have to offer.”*

A Global Dialogue on Federalism books and booklets:

BOOK SERIES

Constitutional Origins, Structure, and Change in Federal Countries (2005), Volume 1

Distribution of Powers and Responsibilities in Federal Countries (2006), Volume 2

Legislative, Executive, and Judicial Governance in Federal Countries (Oct. 2006), Volume 3

BOOKLET SERIES

Dialogues on Constitutional Origins, Structure, and Change in Federal Countries (2005), Volume 1

Dialogues on Distribution of Powers and Responsibilities in Federal Countries (2005), Volume 2
Dialogues on Legislative, Executive, and Judicial Governance in Federal Countries (2006), Volume 3
Dialogues on the Practice of Fiscal Federalism: Comparative Perspectives (2006), Volume 4

*All of our publications are translated into French.

2. Would I have to funnel my contribution through the Forum of Federations, or could my funding go directly to an organization within my country?

Your contribution could go directly to an organization in your country if you are funding a roundtable, or directly to the publisher, if you are funding a publication.

3. How much does it cost for my country to be involved in a theme?

Cost of Country Roundtable: \$10,000 +
Cost of Country Coordinator Stipend: \$7,500 +
Cost of sending one representative to the international roundtable: \$4,500
Total: \$22,000*

*All figures are in Canadian dollars

4. How much does it cost to host an international roundtable?

The cost is dependant on the number of countries involved in a given theme. The figures below are based on the participation of 12 countries, with total participation in the international roundtable at 20 people.

Transportation: 20 x \$4,000 average per flight = \$80,000
Accommodation, meals, misc: 20 x \$1300 per person = \$26,000
Administrative = \$4,000
Total = \$110,000

5. How much does it cost to produce a book and/or booklet?

Booklet costs: \$10,000
[Note: booklets are available in both English and French, with the possibility of other languages in the future. If you are interested in supporting translating and printing costs of a booklet in an additional language, please contact the Forum of Federations].
Book costs: \$30,000

6. How much does the Forum of Federations invest in direct costs in supporting the Global Dialogue program?

Per theme: \$500,000 (direct cost). This cost includes 11-12 country roundtables; one international roundtable; and two publications.

To date in program: 4 years, 2 million (direct cost)

7. What is an example of a typical country roundtable participant list?

The participant profile depends on which theme is under exploration. The list below is from the Swiss roundtable for the theme of foreign relations. Note the geographic diversity of representatives from the municipal, provincial, and federal orders; civil society, and academia, allowing for different viewpoints on the subject.

Dr. iur. Hans Altherr
Member of Parliament (Council of States)

Raoul Blindenbacher
Vice President and Director of Global Programs, Forum of Federations

Mrs. Anne Bütikofer
Head of Unit for trans-border cooperation policies within the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs

Prof. Dr. Bernhard Ehrenzeller
Vice-President, University of St.Gallen

Prof. Dr. Rudolf Hrbek
Institute for Political Science
University of Tübingen

Prof. Dr. Arnold Koller
Chairman, Forum of Federations & Former President of Switzerland

Prof. Dr. Wolf Linder
Institut for Political Sciences
University of Berne

Dr. Kurt Nuspliger
Chancellor of the Canton of Berne

Thomas Pfisterer
Member of Parliament (Council of States)

Prof. Dr. Remigio Ratti
Director of the Italian-Speaking Swiss Radio and TV Broadcast

Ambassador Paul Seger
Head of the Directorate of International Law, Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs

Prof. Dr. Daniel Thürer
Director, Institute for International Law
University of Zurich

Dr. iur Hans Martin Tschudi
Former Member of the Government of the Canton of Basle-Town

8. Who are the Members of the Global Dialogue's Editorial Board?

The Board is composed of experts on federal governance representing the two sponsoring organizations and various global regions. The current members are:

Dr. Raoul Blindenbacher, Co-Chair
Vice President, Global Programs - Forum of Federations, Switzerland / Canada

Prof. Cheryl Saunders, Co-Chair
Director, Centre for Comparative Constitutional Studies - University of Melbourne, Australia /
President, IACFS

Prof. John Kincaid, Senior Editor
Director, Robert B. and Helen S. Meyner Center for the Study of State and Local Government -
Lafayette College, U.S.A.

Prof. J. Isawa Elaigwu
President, Institute of Governance and Social Research, Nigeria

Dr. Patrick Fafard
Research Fellow, Health Network, Canadian Policy Research Networks (CPRN), Canada

Prof. Thomas Fleiner
Director, Institute of Federalism - University of Fribourg, Switzerland

Ms. Meenakshi Hooja
Indian Administrative Service, Chairman, Rajasthan State Mines & Minerals Ltd., India

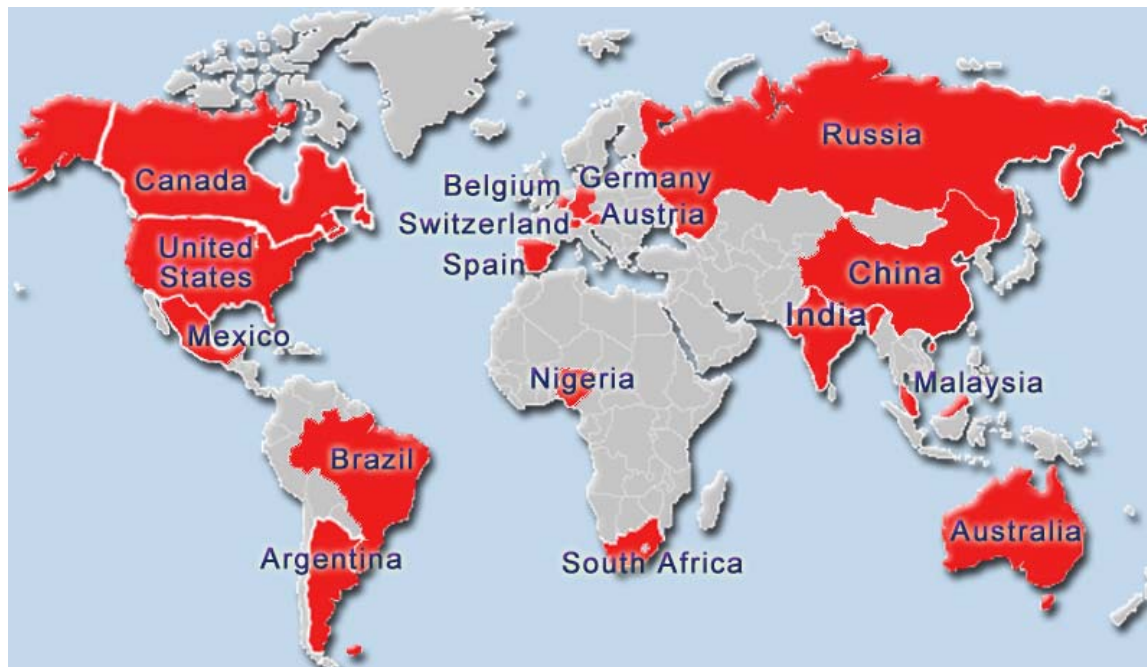
Prof. Fernando Antonio Rezende da Silva
Getulio Vargas Foundation, Brazil

Dr. Horst Risse
Secretary to the Joint Commission, Bundestag and Bundesrat on the Modernisation of the
Federal Order, Germany

Prof. Ronald L. Watts
Professor Emeritus, Institute of Intergovernmental Relations - Queen's University, Canada

9. Which countries have been involved in the Global Dialogue program to date?

To date, country roundtables have been held in the following countries:



10. On what basis are countries chosen to participate in a particular theme?

There are six countries which remain constant throughout every theme in the program: Australia, Canada, Germany, India, Switzerland, and the United States. The remaining countries are chosen on the basis of the following criteria:

- a) How relevant is the country's constitution, institutions, political reality, etc. to the current theme? Would this country serve as a useful example?
- b) Is this country a partner country of the Forum's?

11. What makes the methodology of the program unique?*

No single federal model is applicable everywhere. One cannot simply transfer an institutional model from one country to another without taking into account the varied conditions. Therefore, a different approach is required. A more effective means of improving federal governance is through "learning from each other."¹ One important distinguishing factor of this approach is its emphasis that all participants be regarded as equal partners in the exchange of experiences. This self-evident but, in practice, often neglected consideration is a fundamental condition if participants are to share and listen openly and, in turn, become inspired to create new applications of the federal idea. A further distinguishing factor of this learning approach, which is of particular importance for federations, is the ability to create suitable forums where the participants learn not only for themselves but also for their institutions and their countries.

The conceptual framework of the program "A Global Dialogue on Federalism" is designed to embrace this idea of learning from each other. The program entails a comparative

exploration of a dozen core themes in federal governance. Through a series of themed roundtables, participants representing diverse viewpoints in a representative and diverse sample of federal countries search for new insights and solutions. The new information emanating from the roundtables is used to produce comparative materials for worldwide distribution.

Each theme process entails a multiple number of stages which starts with the selection of a “theme coordinator.” Based on the most current research, it is this person’s task to create an internationally comprehensive set of questions covering institutional provisions and how they work in practice. These sets of questions are the foundation of the program, as they guide the dialogue at the roundtables and ensure consistency in the book chapters. The roundtables themselves are led by a “country coordinator,” and organized concurrently in a dozen selected federal countries. To create the most accurate picture of the theme in each country, the country coordinators invite a select group of practicing and academic experts with diverse viewpoints and experience who are prepared to share with and learn from others in a non-politicized environment. At the end of the day, the coordinators are equipped to write an article that reflects the highlights of the dialogue from each country roundtable. The resulting articles form the basis of the theme booklet, which is intended to be accessible, timely, and provide an entry point to the corresponding theme book. Once each country has held its roundtable, representatives gather at an international roundtable to identify commonalities and differences and to generate new insights. Such insights are incorporated into the country chapters in the theme books. The chapters reflect the fact that their authors were able to explore the theme from a global vantage point, resulting in a truly comparative exploration of the topic. The books and booklets are both translated into French.

*To read a complete explanation of the conceptual framework of the program, refer to the first chapter in the book “Constitutional Origins, Structure, and Change in Federal Countries,” Edited by John Kincaid and G. Alan Tarr.

12. Who is the other main partner organization of the Forum in supporting the Global Dialogue Program?

The International Association of Centers for Federal Studies (IACFS) is an association of centers and institutes throughout the world with interests in independent research and publication about political, constitutional, legal, administrative, fiscal, economic, historical, and philosophical issues relevant to political systems which have federal features. The IACFS was established in 1973 to further the study and understanding of federal principles and patterns in all their variety. Concerning the Global Dialogue program, the IACFS and its member centers contribute their own international network as well as theoretical expertise on federalism that is informed by practice and experience in authoring and editing comparative work of the highest quality.

www.iacfs.org

13. Who are the Forum’s other partners in supporting the Global Dialogue program by either a direct or in-kind contribution?

- Akwa Ibom State University of Technology, Uyo, Nigeria
- Caixa Economica, Brazil

- Centre for Comparative Constitutional Studies, University of Melbourne, Australia
- The Center for Fiscal Policy, Russian Federation
- Centre for Socio-Legal Studies and Research (SLSR), Nigeria
- Center for State Constitutional Studies, Rutgers University, USA
- Centre for the Study of Public Affairs, University of Calgary, Canada
- The Commonwealth Grants Commission, Australia
- Community Law Centre, University of Western Cape, South Africa
- Comparative Federalism and Federation Research Committee of the International Political Science Association (IPSA)
- Concordia University, Canada
- Consejo Argentino para las Relaciones Internacionales (CARI), Argentina
- David M. Kennedy Center for International Studies, Brigham Young University, USA
- Department of Political Science, University of Brussels, Belgium
- Department of Political Science, University of Toronto, Canada
- Department of Political Science, Wake Forest University, USA
- Escola de Administração Fazendária (ESAF), Brazil
- European Centre for Research on Federalism Tübingen, Germany
- Facultés Universitaires Saint-Louis, Belgium
- Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), Canada
- The Financial and Fiscal Commission, South Africa
- Government of Australia
- Government of Austria
- Government of Canada
- Government of India
- Government of Mexico
- Government of Nigeria
- Government of Switzerland
- INDETEC, Mexico
- Infrastructure Canada
- Institut du Fédéralisme, University of Fribourg, Switzerland
- The Institut für Europäische Integrationsforschung, Germany
- Institut für Föderalismus, University of Innsbruck, Austria
- Institut für Föderalismusforschung, University of Hannover, Germany
- Institute of Applied Economic Research (IPEA), Brazil
- Institute of Governance and Social Research, Nigeria
- Institute of Law and Public Policy, Russia
- Institute of Social Sciences, India
- International Association of Centers for Federal Studies (IACFS)
- Law School, Adelaide University, Australia
- The Malaysian Institute of Economic Research, Malaysia
- National Academy of Law and Social Sciences of Cordoba, Institute of Federalism, Argentina
- National Confederation of Industry, Brazil
- The National Institute of Public Finance and Policy, India

- The National Ministry of Finance of Brazil
- Nigerian Institute of Advanced Legal Studies, Nigeria
- Public Interest Legal Support and Research Centre (PILSARC), India
- Robert B. & Helen S. Meyner Center for the Study of State and Local Government, USA
- School of Social Sciences, Universiti Sains Malaysia, Malaysia
- Secretariat of Finance of the State of Bahia (SEFAB), Brazil
- University of Cape Town, South Africa
- University of Western Ontario, Canada
- Urals State Law Academy, Russia
- The World Bank Institute

ⁱ Raoul Blindenbacher and Ronald L. Watts, “Federalism in a Changing World: A Conceptual Framework for the Conference,” *Federalism in a Changing World: Learning from Each Other*, eds. Raoul Blindenbacher and Arnold Koller (Montreal and Kingston: McGill-Queen’s University Press, 2003), pp. 19-20.