



SIZE AND INFLUENCE:
HOW SMALL STATES INFLUENCE POLICY MAKING
IN MULTILATERAL ARENAS

Maria Tarp, Deputy Head of Department Public Diplomacy, Communication and Press, MFA



3 GUIDING QUESTIONS

1. How have developments in the international architecture changed the game – is there a new role for small and smart players?
2. What are the particular assets that small countries have at their disposal compared to larger countries – i.e. what constitutes the comparative advantages of small countries?
3. How can these assets be used in a ‘smart’ way to compensate for lack of size and ‘hard’ means of pursuing policies, and thus allow small states to punch above their weight?



Ad 1. How have developments in the international architecture changed the game – is there a new role for small and smart players?

- Bipolar > unipolar > multipolar world
- Interconnected world > global challenges > global solutions
- No one state can address this single handed > Multilateral system must be part of the solution
- More policy making outside the traditional structures (SC, GA, ECOSOC) within the 3 UN pillars of work (HR, P&S, Dev & Hum)
- Hard power > smart power and ability to foster cooperation
- Special role for small states?





Ad 2: What constitutes the comparative advantages of small countries?

What do we mean by small states – definition and assets?

- Foreign policy objectives that reflect a strong commitment to multilateralism and an international rule-based system;
- Strong public and political support for international engagement and development cooperation
- A highly internationalized, globally integrated and export-dependent economy (roughly half of the Danish GDP is generated through exports) that relies on a stable and rule-based global system;
- The absence of any inherent dominating strategic interests (and colonial baggage) within the peace and security area and a limited number of clearly defined agendas of interest;
- Reliance, in many instances, on multilateral institutions as significant vehicles for policy influence and delivery of aid and humanitarian assistance



CON' T: Ad 2: What constitutes the comparative advantages of small countries?

- Global perception and "the soft power index" - includes culture, political values and foreign policy
- DK case: Sustainable models of society – low corruption, transparency, green growth and technology and equality
- Part of comparative advantages > important backdrop for choosing the areas of focus



A STRONG DANISH BRAND





VIKINGS – anno 2015



SUSTAINABILITY BY CONVENIENCE



PLUNGING INTO A GREEN FUTURE



Ad 3: How can the asserts be used in a smart way?

- Sustainable Green Growth and gender
 - National experience and branding
 - Public-private partnership for green growth
 - Long-term engagement
 - Whole of government approach





Ad 3: how can the asserts be used in a smart way?

- Fragile states
 - Security and development policy
 - Peacebuilding architecture
 - Civilian capacity - Iraq and Afghanistan

FRAGILE



Multilateral Toolbox

Input	Operations	Response
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding the drafting of concept notes and policy papers on thematic issues • Organizing thematic and “friends of” meetings including with the organisations • Supporting and financing academic studies • Defining priorities in relation to special events such as an EU Presidency • Establishing research/best practice centers • Chair or co-chair working and friends of groups • Different funding modalities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitoring and evaluation missions, processes and papers • Funding experts to assist the organisation with key processes • Strategic secondments of staff to strategic positions within the organisations • Rostering and deployment modalities for surge personnel • Building extensive and active network of key staff in the organisations • Dialogue on performance and priorities • Coherent and strategic use of earmarked funds and stable levels of core funding 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Building alliances/networks with a broad and diverse group of member states • Possessing technical expertise to provide strategic feedback • Flexibility in budgeting to respond to opportunities and reward initiatives aligned to DK priorities • Link agendas across policy domains/arenas • Knowledge of performance frameworks, independent evaluations, budgetary dispositions etc. • Gain of influence at the policy level in UN HQs as well as in the field with regard to Danish priorities



CONCLUSIONS

- Focus on comparative advantages and possibilities
- Make use of track record, experience and perception
- Walk the talk
- Complementarity in multilateral and bilateral efforts
- Alliances and strategic partnerships



RECOMMENDATIONS

- Identify areas where national priorities and UN comparative advantages overlap
- Invest in strategic partnerships formal/thematic alliances
- Use of the informal toolbox:
 - Invest in thought leadership
 - Strategic funding modalities
 - Strong multilateral representations, diverse skill-mix

Thank you

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