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QUESTION: WHAT IS THE POSITION OF THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES IN THE PRESENT WORLD ORDER?

The international order as a system of relations and ideas about the foundations that should underpin the relations between states and generally in the world, started to form in the sixteenth century when diplomatic relations were established alongside with future contours of the system of ‘great powers’ in Europe.

The New International Economic Order (NIEO) was a set of proposals put forward during the 1970s by some developing countries through the [United Nations Conference on Trade and Development](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_Nations_Conference_on_Trade_and_Development) to promote their interests by improving their [terms of trade](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Terms_of_trade), increasing development assistance, developed-country tariff reductions, and other means. It was meant to be a revision of the international economic system in favor of [Third World](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Third_World) countries, replacing the [Bretton Woods system](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bretton_Woods_system), which had benefited the leading states that had created it especially the [United States](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States). This order was demanded by the [Non-Aligned Movement](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Non-Aligned_Movement). Further, this followed an agenda for discussions between industrial and developing countries, focusing on restructuring of the world's economy to permit greater participation by and benefits to [developing countries](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Developing_country) which is also known as the "North-South Dialogue". Also, along with the declaration, a Program of Action and a Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States were also adopted in December 1974.

Meanwhile, in the 1970s and 1980s, the developing countries pushed for the New International Economic Order and an accompanying set of documents to be adopted by the United Nations General Assembly. Subsequently, however, these norms became only of [rhetorical](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rhetoric) and political value, except for some partly viable mechanisms, such as the non-legal, [non-binding](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Non-binding) Restrictive Business Practice Code adopted in 1980 and the [Common Fund for Commodities](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Common_Fund_for_Commodities) which came in force in 1989.

However, developing countries have become increasingly active participants in global policymaking. Moreover, they have used their influence not only to further their own narrowly defined national interests, but also to shape the normative framework. They have emphasized concerns such as enhancing the fairness and justice of international negotiations, and fostering a better balance between growth and development as well as public and private interests. An instance is their engagement in furthering policy coherence between protecting intellectual property rights and meeting public health goals. Thus, International cooperation in this modern time is more open. Also, countries of the global South have moved forward at different speeds, with only some of them, mainly the more advanced emerging market countries, able to join the group of major global policy-shapers. Many other countries are still global ‘policy takers’. Among the main factors holding back fuller participation appear to be capacity constraints and, no doubt often justified, sovereignty concerns. Also, developing countries have so far pursued a strategy of integration that accepts the existing system as a given fact. Yet signs are multiplying that this phase may soon be coming to an end. They also suggest that international cooperation could become ever more difficult at a time when it is most urgently needed. The countries of the global North have responded to the increasing power of the global South as a global policy-shaper with growing sovereignty concerns of their own. Developed countries have followed a strategy of venue shifting, taking issues of importance to them into forums like the Bretton Woods institutions, in which some scholars have argued that decision-making is still weighted in their favor, or by setting up informal, smaller negotiation venues where they can define the agenda as well as the circle of participants. An early expression of this strategy was the creation of the Group of 7 major industrialized countries in the 1970s. Another strategy has been growing reliance on bilateralism. Together with increasing South’s cooperation and regionalism, these trends have led to a world of multilateralism that, in the words of Haass (2010), is more fluid, less predictable.

In conclusion, developing countries would have to fight, work together with the developed countries in order to preserve and maintain a place in the new world order which has been in continual change over time. And this would create a greater possibility tom maintain its infrastructure, social and economic development.