
Important Factors Applicable in Bilateral Relationships and Conflict Resolution

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Abstract

Important factors applicable in bilateral relationships and conflict resolution are strategies, models, theories, and policies. In simple term, strategy is a long-term plan intended to achieve. An example to follow or imitate is a model. An idea to justify a course of action is a theory whereas law, regulation, and procedure used is a policy. Strategy embodies interest based priorities, which has short, medium, and long-term implications for a country. Model gives template that guides in constructing a system. Theory is essential tool for state craft. Guidance, constancy, accountability, efficiency, and clarity on how an organization operates are provided by policies. The objective of the paper is to examine important factors applicable in bilateral relationships and conflict resolution and highlight important relevant factors. To prepare the paper, qualitative methodology, explanatory research design, descriptive and analytical study design, and secondary sources of related textual and virtual documents are used. After discussion, relevant strategies of 'progressive nationalism, frequent dialogues and visits at high level, border diplomacy, pushing into regular constructive dialogues, playing diplomatic roles by a third country, and using International Boundary Research Unit (IBRU);' models of 'geo-economic and territorial project model of cross-border integration, bilateral trade flows, and partial settlement in resolving disputes;' theories of 'FDI inflow and bilateral political relationships, problem workshops, creation of international regime, and international organizations

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(IOs) brokered bargaining;’ and policies of ‘bilateral relationships, defense diplomacy, bilateral economic relations, bilateral diplomacy, nonalignment with equal friendships for all and diversification, an equal and respectful but not reciprocal relationships, leaders’ visits and diplomatic conflicts, third party intermediaries, enduring rivalries, pursuit of legal settlement, compromise or escalation or maintenance of status quo or swapping of territory, and uti possidentis or ground realities are highlighted to be adopted by the governments.

Introduction

Important factors applicable in bilateral relationships and conflict resolution are strategies, models, theories and policies. Today, countries in the world adopt most of these factors to strengthen and harmonize their bilateral relationships and resolve their conflicts which may be border or territorial disputes as well as political, economic, cultural or any other bilateral disputed subjects.

Strategy is a general long-term plan intended to achieve. “Strategy is a unified, comprehensive, and integrated plan designed to assure that the basic objectives of the enterprise are achieved” (Glueck). Having a clear and focused strategy is critically important to the success of any business. An example to follow or imitate is a model. “Model is a simplified representation of a system at same particular point in time or space intended to promote understanding of the real system” (Bellinger, 2004). Models can help to visualize or picture in mind something that is difficult to see or understand. Through the model, we can get an overview of the whole system and it is a standard that is to be followed for goal achievement. An idea to justify a course of action is a theory. “Theory is a set of interrelated constructs, definitions, and propositions that present a systematic view of phenomena by specifying relations among variables, with the purpose of explaining or predicting phenomena” (Kerlinger & Lee, n. d.). It is also said theory to be an orderly and integrated set of statements that describes and predicts behavior. Theories are vital and they guide and give meaning to what we see and a tool that enables to identify problems and plan a means for altering the situation. Law, regulation and procedure used is a policy. “Policies are general statements or understandings which guide managers’ thinking in decision making. They ensure that decisions fall within boundaries” (Koontz & O’Donnel). A policy is also a predetermined course of action, establishing the guidelines towards business strategies and objectives. It is the link between an organization’s vision, values and day to day operations. “Public policy is an action which employs governmental authority to commit resources in support of a preferred value” (Considine, 1994).

Strategy is a long-term plan that allocates how an institution plans to use its resources to support its activities. Conflict resolution strategy is as a panacea for promoting organizational unity. To keep disagreements from escalating while continuing to discuss each point of view and eventually reach a collaborative conclusion are the design of conflict resolution.

Model helps us to visualize a system as it is or as we want to be and permits us to specify the structure or behavior of a system. Model gives template that guides in constructing

a system. The model of conflict resolution is not to decide which is right or wrong. Its goal is to reach a solution that conflicting parties can live with. The patterns of how conflicting parties tend to feel, think, and act in the context of conflict and danger is described by the conflict model of Thomas-Kilmann which explains five styles of conflict management: avoiding, accommodating, compromising, collaborating, and competing (Thomas, 2008).

Theory is a tool that enables to identify a problem and to plan a means for altering the situation. One of the first functions that theory performs is to define the terms and concepts used to describe, explain, or predict in the study of international relations (IR). “Theory remains essential for diagnosing events, explaining their causes, prescribing responses, and evaluating the impact of different policies. Theory is an essential tool for statecraft” (Stephen, 2005). The informal and formal process that two or more parties use to find a peaceful solution to their conflicts is guided by the conflict resolution theory. Karl Marx in 19th century introduced ‘conflict theory’. “Conflict theory is the idea that all of societies are in constant conflict because of a lack of resources” (Rossel & Manza, 2013). Competition among groups within a society or group of countries over limited resources is focused by the conflict theory.

Guidance, consistency, accountability, efficiency, and clarity on how an organization operates are provided by policies. Desired outcome that policy-makers wish to achieve is the objective of policy. The main idea of creating policy is to improve life for members of the public. Officials design policies that move the public closer to a desired state or public goal. To achieve timely, equitable, and satisfactory resolution at the lowest possible level, in a cost effective manner and with intention to deduce conflict recurrence is the goal of the conflict resolution policy.

Today’s diplomatic practices are a consequence of the revolution of information and communication technology (ICT) and the globalization of diplomacy. Each country should be careful to adopt relevant important factors while conducting bilateral diplomacy and resolving conflicts.

Lack of selection of important relevant factors to adopt has created problems to strengthen and harmonize bilateral relationships between friendly countries as well as resolution of conflicts.

The objectives of the paper are to examine the applicable important factors and highlight the relevant important factors to be adopted by the governments to strengthen and harmonize bilateral relationships and conflict resolution. This paper seeks the answers of the following questions.

- a. What are the important factors applicable in bilateral relationships and conflict resolution?
- b. Which important factors; strategies, models, theories, and policies; are relevant to adopt by the governments to strengthen and harmonize bilateral relationships and resolve the conflicts that have occurred mainly from border and territorial disputes and economic relations ?

The scope and significance of the study is to examine important factors; strategies, models, theories and policies; applicable in bilateral relationships and conflict resolution and highlight some of the relevant factors to be adopted by the governments.

Review of the Literature

Literature on important factors; strategies, models, theories and policies applicable in bilateral relationships and conflict resolution; are reviewed here thematically in sequence-wise order.

Subedi and Timilsina (2020) have mentioned that border issues were neither strategic nor truly nationalistic in Nepal political circle. They seem mostly opportunistic using anti-Indian sentiments to expand their voter base. Mostly, Nepal seems reactive rather than proactive in response to border disputes. Nepal needs to adopt 'proactive response' strategy in this matter.

Bercovitch and Jackson (2001) have mentioned that the strategy of 'negotiation or mediation' is likely to take place in the following contextual conditions. Negotiation is used when conflicts are relatively simple, low intensity, and conflicting parties are relatively equal in power. On the other hand, mediation is used in disputes of high complexity, high intensity, long duration, conflicting parties are unequal in power, and their willingness to settle disputes peacefully is in doubt.

Oliver (2001) has mentioned that scholars and practitioners have come to recognize the strategic role of 'public relations' as a matured discipline. Public relation has not only its strategic value and the management of relationships between an organization and all its stakeholders but also has a key communication role within other management operations.

The authors above have highlighted the strategies of 'proactive response, negotiation and mediation, and public relations.' These strategies are pertinent and contemporary in bilateral relationships and conflict resolution.

Rodriguez and Wilson (2002) have mentioned a model of 'relationship bonding on trust and commitment' between partners in international alliances. In the context of US-Mexican strategic alliances, this model was tested. Trust and commitment assisted in building interdependency between both partners was the result of the test. Commitment to the relationship as supported on high level of trust was perceived by both US and Mexican managers.

Erez and Gati (2004) have described the 'multilevel model' of bilateral cultural relationship and stated that a multilevel model of culture consisting of structural and dynamic characteristics explain the interplay between various levels of culture. Globalization as the macro level of culture affects through top-down processes and behavioral changes of the members in various culture.

Makinley and Little (1977) have explained the 'analytical foreign policy' model of US bilateral aid allocation citing the two views. The allocation of aid in terms of humanitarian needs of the recipients is one view and the other view is in terms of foreign policy

interests of the donor. Although, the foreign policy view seen now clearly dominant.

The authors have described above the models of 'relationship bonding on trust and commitment, multilevel model, and analytical foreign policy' applicable in bilateral relationships and conflict resolution..

Yang (2021) has explained the theory of 'balance of relationship' citing that balance of relationship (BoR) theory universally applies in bilateral relationships and compliments the existing balance of power theory. Actors with different identities and interests strive for long-term stability by practicing self-restraint and improvising in order to relate a resemblance or shared identity in bilateral relationships.

Pouryousefi and Frooman (2017) have explained the 'agency theory' of bilateral economic relationship mentioning that agency theory as a cautionary tale is viewed by some business ethicists. It is impossible to carry out successful economic interactions in the absence of ethical behavior. A nuanced normative characterization of agency is presented by the cautionary tale view.

Yoon, et al., (2021) have described the 'internalization theory' mentioning that weak economic, political, and military relationships between acquiring and target countries induce emerging market firms (EMFs) to opt for full acquisition. The view of the internalization theory that highlights the EMFs preference of full ownership over partial ownership by coping with the political risks derived from weak bilateral relationships is supported here.

The authors above have mentioned the theories of 'balance of relationship, agency theory, and internalization theory' that are relevant in the context of bilateral relationships and conflict resolution.

Gardner (1999) has highlighted the policy of 'reconciliation' in bilateral political and military relationships citing that as an ideal in foreign policy, Germany has sought reconciliation since 1949. In four bilateral cases of reconciliation in Germany foreign policy, the mix of pragmatism and morality differs with Israel, France, Poland, and Czech Republic depending on history, institutions, leadership, and international context.

Geottich (2019) has described the policy of 'linearization of borders. To indicate vaguely an area or a frontier zone of a certain width or of certain places or jurisdiction in establishing control over territory is not considered enough regardless of place or context. Territories must have linear borders ideally consisting of precise one-dimensional points on earth's surface connected by straight lines that has been assumed since the late 19th century.

Paudyal (2013) has described the policy of 'dialogue and discussion' to resolve border disputes citing that millions of Nepali will become foreigners and our country's existence may end in near future if we watch silently and encroachment continues at the current rate. To solve border encroachment by mutual understanding, Nepal and India need dialogue and discussion.

The authors have explained above the policies of 'reconciliation, ideal of linearization

of borders, and dialogue and discussion.’ These policies seem quite pertinent and contemporary in present context to maintain bilateral relationships and conflict resolution.

All the reviewed literature above on important factors; strategies, models, theories, and policies applicable in bilateral relationships and dispute resolution; seem pertinent and contemporary in the present context. After reviewing literature, it is clear that further study on subject matter is needed.

Methodology

Qualitative methodology, explanatory research design, and descriptive and analytical study design are used to prepare the paper. Data collection is based on secondary sources of related textual and virtual documents analyzed inductively using three ‘Is’: insight, intuition, and impression/experiences.

Applicable Important Factors

Strategies

Dev (2016) has suggested adopting the strategy of ‘progressive nationalism’ in order to strengthen and harmonize bilateral relationships citing that unproductive, irrelevant, outdated, prejudiced, and suicidal views must be given up by the political parties. No compromise or surrender to the sovereignty and territorial integrity but establishing a trustworthy dependable, and mutually beneficial productive friendly relations for peace, stability, sustainable economic development, prosperity of the country, and the people is the strategy of ‘progressive nationalism.’

Shakya (2016) has pointed out that to strengthen and harmonize bilateral relationships, the strategies of ‘frequent dialogues and visits at high levels’ are needed. The misunderstandings on even serious anomalies which were not identified earlier also are eliminated by the dialogues. Close understanding will be deepened by the frequent visits. Frequent visits also bring trust, confidence, and cement the exemplary relationships further.

Shrestha (2021) has mentioned that diplomacy is an instrument for negotiation of a common challenge to find mutually acceptable solution in a non-confrontational and polite manner. Diplomatic approaches to demarcate, manage, and resolve the border and territorial disputes is the strategy of ‘border diplomacy.’

Subedi and Timilsina (2020) have indicated that keeping in view of the Modi’s ‘neighborhood first’ policy, Nepal needs to be resilient and adopt the strategy of ‘pushing India into regular constructive dialogues’ to resolve border and territorial disputes.

Shrestha (2022) has touched upon the strategy of ‘playing diplomatic roles by a third country’ and suggested to play a diplomatic role by the President Xi Jinping of China forwarding ‘Lipulekh Diplomacy’ and Limpiadhura, Lipulekh, and Kalapani may be regarded as ‘special economic zone.’

Shrestha (2022) has specified the strategy of using ‘international boundary research unit

(IBRU) which may appear to play a role of an impartial and competent arbitrator to resolve border and territorial disputes, if it is requested by the both parties. IBRU has been the world's leading centre on international boundary making and dispute resolution since its founding in 1989.

Models

Tagiew and Kovalchuk (2009) have explained 'nonmonetary bilateral cooperation' model of bilateral social relationship citing the example of social cooperation such as allocation of high level jobs or finding suitable partner to marry such nonmonetary cases.

Oh and Labinca (2006) have explained 'multilevel and multidimensional model of group social capital' in bilateral social relationship citing that greater group social capital resources lead to greater group effectiveness.

Yang, et al., (2022) have illustrated 'moderating effects of distance measures' model in bilateral cultural relationship citing that geography, culture, economy, and social and political distances are included in 'moderating distances measures.'

Li and Vashchilko (2009) have explained the model of 'dyadic military conflict, security alliances, and bilateral FDI flows' in bilateral military and economic relationships citing that from the perspectives of both state and investor, interstate military conflicts reduce bilateral investment and security alliances, particularly defense pact increases it.

Roy has explained the 'gravity model' of bilateral economic relationship illustrating that for analyzing the determinants of bilateral trade flow, 'gravity model' has long been a work house. The 'gravity model' in its most intuitive version, postulate that bilateral trade depends on the economic size of the trading partners which reflect market size, purchasing power, and a measure of economic distance between countries to reflect trade cost.

Pollins (1989) has pointed out the 'bilateral trade flows' model of political economy citing that to gain insight into the connection between the international politics and trade flows, the public choice approach to political economy is employed. Nations adjust trade ties to satisfy security as well as economic welfare goals.

McKinley and Little (1979) have illustrated the 'recipient need and donor interest' model of bilateral economic relationship citing that it has been an institutionalized diminution of transforming bilateral aid between high and low-income countries, 'donor interest' model plays a vital role.

Sohn (2014) has described the 'geo-economic and territorial project model of cross-border integration' in bilateral border relationship. Mobilization of the border as a differential benefits and generate value out of asymmetric cross-border interaction is the model called 'geo-economic' and the border resources involving convergence of both sides either through process of hybridization/innovation or territorial and symbolic recognition that borders entail is 'territorial project.'

Matters (2018) has pointed out the model of ‘partial settlement in resolving disputes’ which signal the desire to resolve disagreements and can lay the foundation for additional cooperation by binding trust and/or demonstrating the benefits of dispute resolution. Partial settlement should be associated with the resolution of remaining disagreements.

Powell and Wiegand (2014) have explained ‘regime type/rule of law’ model to resolve territorial disputes illustrating that high rule of law states are more likely to return to the international binding venues only if they have a positive experience with arbitration and adjudication. On the other hand, low rule of law states are not concerned with their record of successes/failures when resorting to international binding venues.

Theories

Arentze and Timmermans (2008) have described the theory of ‘social network’ in bilateral social relationship illustrating that ‘social networks’ are not static and at the same time new social links emerge and existing social links may dissolve. ‘Social network’ theory is that the utility that a person derives from social interaction is a function of dynamic social and informational needs. It is of similarity between the relevant characteristics of a person involved.

Mcclintock et al., (1984) have explained the theory of ‘equity and social exchange’ in bilateral social relationship. Human frequently consider fairness in their calculation of costs and benefits in their encounters with others is maintained by this theory

Milissen (2005) has highlighted the theory of ‘public diplomacy’ in bilateral cultural relationship illustrating that image cultivation, propaganda, and activities are nearly as old as diplomacy itself which is labeled new as ‘public diplomacy.’ ‘Public diplomacy’ goes as far as the Bible and international relations (IR) in ancient Greece, Rome, and Byzantium and the Italian Renaissance.

Sagan (1994) has explained the ‘organization theory’ and ‘deterrence theory’ in bilateral military relationship illustrating ‘nuclear weapons and deterrence.’ It is widely believed that nuclear weapons were an important factor in maintaining the ‘long peace’ between the USA and the Soviet Union during the ‘cold war.’ ‘Spreading nuclear weapons into areas where non-nuclear states face nuclear armed adversaries, since the chance of bilateral conflict becoming nuclear decreases to zero when all nations are nuclear armed (Mesquita & Riker, n. d.).’

Huang et al., (2019) have described the theories of ‘FDI inflow’ and ‘bilateral political relationship’ illustrating that there would be more FDI inflows into the country due to a decline in the level of economic and political uncertainties. However, FDI inflow will tend to deteriorate when the level of bilateral political relationship exceeds a certain threshold. An excessive level of political relation rules out the earning opportunities due to the decrease and removal of the preferential policy on supporting business in the over-maturation of the host country.

Polachek (1997) has explained ‘democratic peace theory’ in bilateral political relationship illustrating that democracies rarely fight each other. The fundamental factor

causing bilateral cooperation is trade. Countries seek to protect wealth-gain from international trade. Therefore, trading partners are less combative than non trading nations. Democratic dyads trade more than non democratic dyads and exhibit less conflict and more cooperation.

Beran (2005) has highlighted the ‘comprehensive normative theory of political borders’ in resolution of border disputes illustrating that this theory is formulated as a theory of moral right of political self-determination and secession and is consistent with democratic principles. This theory includes a theory of good borders and rightful borders, rightful unity of the state, and rightful secession.

Hill (1982) has indicated the ‘theory of problem workshops’ for conflict resolution illustrating that these workshops serve two functions: research of participant-observer variety which allows researchers to observe real world conflict behavior; and service, providing insight and training to the conflict participants regarding peaceful resolution of their conflict.

Weibull (2009) has described the theory of ‘creation of international regime’ for territorial dispute resolution citing the example of Peru and Ecuador. The conflict resolution process did not only focus in bringing peace by setting the border line but it also focused on the creation of an international regime to proportionate bi nation. The process also focused regional social and economic development, economic integration, and political cooperation.

Choi and Eun (2018) have explained two international relations (IR) theories ‘liberalism and constructivism’ for resolving territorial disputes. The complex and multifaceted nature of dispute over territory and their resolution calls for a synthetic interactive approach which to be based on a combination of the values of the two IR theories: liberalism and constructivism.

Shannon (2009) has highlighted the theory of ‘international organizations (IOs) brokered bargaining’ in territorial dispute resolution illustrating that organizations with intervenist capabilities encourage disputing members to attempt peaceful conflict resolution using territorial claim data.

Gensburge and Mc Adams (2003) have explained the ‘game theory’ and ‘expressive theory’ used by the international institutions for dispute resolution. ‘Game theory’ is to explain the power of international adjudication via set of ‘expressive theory’ which shows how law can be effective without sanction.

Policies

Haim (2016) has mentioned the policy of ‘international political alliance’ in bilateral political relationship citing that how trade flow is affected by network of international political alliances. When states are in the same alliance community and have more shared alliances, higher level of trade result is found. Because, governments align trade policies with national security interests and alliances matter in predicting trade outcome.

Bonoma (1976) has explained the policies of ‘conflict, cooperation, and trust’ in bilateral

social relationship illustrating that conflict, cooperation, and trust have traditionally been employed in a context- irrelevant fashion as general theoretical explanations for many social phenomena at the level of organism or person, group, organizations, societies, and even supranational system. These are central variables of power.

Pannier (2020) has described the policy of 'bilateral relations' in bilateral cultural relationship illustrating that 'bilateral relations' are the founding element and the core of diplomatic work in international relations (IR). Since their emergence and formalization in Europe with modern states in the seventeenth century, bilateral relations are coming back to the fore front to overshadow multilateralism in the contemporary international system.

Stovey (2012) has explained the policy of 'defense diplomacy' in bilateral military relationship illustrating that China's defense diplomacy has broadened in the pursuit of new foreign policy and security goals in consonant with global trends. China has stepped up arms sale to the region, military exchanges and naval ship visits, initiated annual defense and security dialogues, and combined training and exercises.

Beebon (1997) has described the policy of 'bilateral economic relations' illustrating that despite the internalization of economic activity and naturally associated diminution of economic policy making autonomy, national policy settings continue to display a surprising degree of divergence and remain important determinants of economic outcome.

Rozental and Buenrostro (2013) have explained the policy of 'bilateral diplomacy' illustrating that to enhance relations among nations, diplomacy is based on crafting ways. When, where, and how a specific country to country relationships will become more relevant is determined by 'bilateral diplomacy.'

Rose (1971) has highlighted the King Mahendra's foreign policy of 'nonalignment with equal friendships for all' and 'diversification' to balance both the neighbors, India and China. The devised tactics to achieve these objectives was first a careful balancing relevant external forces in order to minimize their capacity to restrict Nepal's freedom of maneuver, maximize the benefit (e.g., foreign aid) derived there from and contribute to Nepal's security. The second was a cautious tacking back and forth between Nepal's two great neighbors as circumstances seemed to dictate.

Gautam (2016) has mentioned the policy of 'an equal and respectful but not reciprocal relationships' of the 'Gujral Doctrine' to strengthen and harmonize bilateral relationships. One country gives more what it has and receives more of what its neighbor can share. Absolute equality and reciprocity may be an ideal. These are neither practical nor essential for good neighborly relations.

Song et al., (2020) have highlighted the policy of 'leaders' visits and diplomatic conflicts' in bilateral political relationship citing that leaders' visits can significantly increase FDI inflows and out flows but diplomatic conflicts have less impact on FDI.

Raymond (1996) has outlined the policy of 'third party intermediaries' for conflict

resolution highlighting that democracies rarely fight one another. Shared norms fostered by a democratic political culture promote peaceful conflict resolution. Joint democratic dyads allegedly have a greater inclination than other types of dyads to entrust third party with judicial competency to settle their disputes.

Huth (1996) has described the policy of ‘enduring rivalries’ in territorial disputes illustrating the example of out of 129 territorial disputes in the international system from 1950-1990, only 36 territorial disputes developed into enduring rivalries during this period.

Allec and Huth (2006) have highlighted the policy of ‘pursuit of legal settlement’ for territorial disputes illustrating that a common source of armed conflict and war is yet territorial disputes. Governments have resolved dozens of territorial disputes through recourse to international arbitration or adjudication during the twentieth century.

Westcott (2017) has explained the policy of ‘compromise or escalation or maintenance of status quo or swapping of territory’ for territorial dispute resolution illustrating that when particularly major powers have border disputes, they find difficulties to resolve disputes by using the policy of ‘compromise’ or ‘escalation.’ Therefore, they fall back upon a policy of ‘status quo maintenance.’ Territorial swap can be one of the plausible solutions. If both the parties are democratic states, ‘democratic peace theory’ may work.

Kumar (2021) has suggested the policy of adopting the principle of ‘uti possidentis’ (as you possess, so shall you possess) or ‘ground realities’ for resolving border and territorial disputes illustrating that the colonizers had drawn borders without keeping in mind the sociopolitical realities. The idea of boundary can never be separated from culture, history, nature of political groupings of the people, and the territory occupied by them. So, to resolve border and territorial disputes, one option would be to follow the policy of adopting ‘Uti possidentis’ principle or redraw the borders based on ‘ground realities.’

Discussions

Out of these ‘progressive nationalism, frequent dialogues and visits at high levels, border diplomacy, pushing into regular constructive dialogues, playing diplomatic roles by a third country, and using international boundary research unit (IBRU)’ strategies; the relevant strategies to strengthen and harmonize bilateral relationships and conflict resolution are: ‘progressive nationalism, frequent dialogues and visits at high levels, border diplomacy, pushing into regular constructive dialogues, playing diplomatic roles by a third country, and using international boundary research unit (IBRU).’

Out of these ‘nonmonetary bilateral cooperation, multilevel and multidimensional model of group social capital, moderating effects of distance measures, dyadic military conflict, security alliances, and bilateral FDI flow, gravity model, bilateral trade flows, recipient need and donor interest, geo-economic and territorial project model of cross-border integration, partial settlement in resolving disputes, and regime type/rule of law models;’ the relevant models to strengthen and harmonize bilateral relationships and conflict resolution are: ‘geo-economic and territorial project model of cross-border integration, bilateral trade flows, and partial settlement in resolving disputes.’

‘Social network, equity and social exchange, public diplomacy, organization and deterrence, FDI inflow and bilateral political relationship, democratic peace theory, comprehensive normative theory of political borders, problem workshops, creation of international regime, liberalism and constructivism, international organizations (IOs) brokered bargaining, and game theory and expressive theory are applicable theories in bilateral relationships and conflict resolution. Out of these theories, the relevant theories to strengthen and harmonize bilateral relationships and conflict resolution are: ‘FDI inflow and bilateral political relationship, problem workshops, creation of international regime, and international organizations (IOs) brokered bargaining.’

Applicable policies in bilateral relationships and conflict resolution are: ‘international political alliances, conflict, cooperation, and trust, bilateral relations, defense diplomacy, bilateral economic relations, bilateral diplomacy, nonalignment with equal friendships for all and diversification, an equal and respectful but not reciprocal relationships, leaders’ visits and diplomatic conflicts, third party intermediaries, enduring rivalries, pursuit of legal settlement, compromise or escalation or maintenance of status quo or swapping of territories, and uti possidentis or ground realities.’ The relevant policies to strengthen and harmonize bilateral relationships and conflict resolution are: ‘bilateral relationships, defense diplomacy, bilateral economic relations, bilateral diplomacy, nonalignment with equal friendships for all and diversification, an equal and respectful but not reciprocal relationships, leaders’ visits and diplomatic conflicts, third party intermediaries, enduring rivalries, pursuit of legal settlement, compromise or escalation or maintenance of status quo or swapping of territory, and uti possidentis or ground realities.’

Conclusion

Important factors applicable in bilateral relationships and conflict resolution are strategies, models, theories, and policies. In simple term, strategy is a long-term plan intended to achieve. An example to follow or imitate is a model. An idea to justify a course of action is a theory whereas law, regulation, and procedure used is a policy. Strategy embodies interest based priorities, which has short, medium, and long-term implications for a country. Model gives template that guides in constructing a system. Theory is essential tool for statecraft. Guidance, consistency, accountability, efficiency, and clarity on how an organization operates are provided by policies. After discussions, the following relevant important factors; strategies, models, theories, and policies applicable to strengthen and harmonize bilateral relationships and conflict resolution; are highlighted.

- a. Relevant strategies: ‘progressive nationalism, frequent dialogues and visits at high level, border diplomacy, pushing into regular constructive dialogues, playing diplomatic roles by a third country, and using international boundary research unit (IBRU).’
- b. Relevant models: ‘geo-economic and territorial project model of cross-border integration, bilateral trade flows, and partial settlement in resolving disputes.’

- c. Relevant theories: 'FDI inflow and bilateral political relationships, problem workshops, creation of international regime, and international organizations (IOs) brokered bargaining.'
- d. Relevant policies: 'bilateral relationships, defense diplomacy, bilateral economic relations, bilateral diplomacy, nonalignment with equal friendships for all and diversification, an equal and respectful but not reciprocal relationships, leaders' visits and diplomatic conflicts, third party intermediaries, enduring rivalries, pursuit of legal settlement, compromise or escalation or maintenance of status quo or swapping of territory, and uti possidentis or ground realities.

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