

consequently up to grab to be finessed or to be empirically tested. From a policy perspective, the propositions reached through the use of comparative politics' methodologies are useful as long as they lend themselves to policy formulation.¹⁵

II - COMPARATIVE POLITICS' METHODOLOGIES

10. Diplomatic work has traditionally been predominantly bilateral. However, grassroots and in many cases governmental demands, formulated out of necessity, for multilateral and even global diplomacy have challenged the old approach. Simply put, it is because factors of interdependence - as well, paradoxically, as factors of fragmentation - are more important now than ever before. One has only to think about environmental and nuclear issues to realize the necessity of concerted international efforts. This had not been missed by External Affairs policy planners. In their "Foreign Policy 1991-92 Update", they wrote that "a changing power constellation, a growing international commitment to common values, an increasingly global economy, and a world beyond borders will shape the new global agenda. All of these related forces will pose significant challenges to traditional notions of sovereignty; managing interdependence will increasingly characterize foreign

¹⁵ The expanding literature on comparative politics and on its methodologies would be useless unless some application of it can be envisaged in the "real world". This paper only offers one possibility.