



INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Strictly Confidential – Only to be disclosed with IFED Members

A faint, light-colored world map is visible in the background, centered behind the main title text.

Munich Security Conference 2026 Annual Meeting



INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Strictly Confidential – Only to be disclosed with IFED Members

Disclaimer

This document is an independent analytical synthesis prepared by the International Federation for Economic Development (IFED) for internal informational purposes only. It does not constitute an official publication, transcript, report, endorsement, or position of the Munich Security Conference, nor does it imply any affiliation, authorization, or validation by the Munich Security Conference or any referenced institution, government, or individual.

All observations, interpretations, and summaries reflect IFED's independent analysis of publicly discussed themes and expert commentary drawn from various sources and are not intended as policy recommendations, factual assertions of record, or representations of the views of third parties. The content herein represents IFED's interpretive framework and does not purport to be a verbatim record of any proceedings, speeches, or deliberations.

No Official Endorsement: References to specific individuals, organizations, governments, corporations, or institutions are made solely for analytical context and do not imply their review, approval, or endorsement of this document or its contents. No entity mentioned herein has commissioned, sponsored, reviewed, or validated this analysis.

Limitations of Analysis: While IFED has made reasonable efforts to ensure the accuracy of information synthesized from publicly available sources, this document may contain interpretive errors, omissions, or characterizations that do not fully reflect the nuance of original statements or the intent of speakers. Readers should not rely on this document as a substitute for primary source materials, official records, or direct consultation with relevant parties.

Not Financial, Legal, or Policy Advice: This document is provided for general informational and educational purposes only. It does not constitute financial advice, investment recommendations, legal counsel, or policy prescriptions. Readers should consult qualified professionals before making decisions based on information contained herein.

Forward-Looking Statements: Any projections, forecasts, or forward-looking statements included in this analysis are speculative in nature and subject to significant uncertainties. Actual events, conditions, and outcomes may differ materially from those described or implied.

Proprietary Analysis: The analytical framework, structure, cross-cutting themes, and interpretive conclusions represent IFED's proprietary intellectual work. This document is intended for authorized recipients only and may not be reproduced, distributed, or publicly disclosed without prior written permission from IFED.

Date Sensitivity: This analysis reflects conditions, statements, and information available as of January 31, 2026. Subsequent developments may render portions of this analysis incomplete or outdated.

No Liability: IFED, its officers, employees, and affiliates disclaim all liability for any damages, losses, or consequences arising from the use of, reliance on, or interpretation of this document. Users assume full responsibility for any actions taken based on information contained herein.

For questions regarding this document, its scope, or its limitations, please contact the International Federation for Economic Development directly.



INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Strictly Confidential – Only to be disclosed with IFED Members



IFED's Presidential Address

In February 2026, we gathered in Munich under the shadow of a report titled *Under Destruction* – and for the first time in this conference's sixty-two-year history, that title felt less like provocation and more like honest description. The international order is not pausing or adapting. It is fracturing. More than 200 government representatives from 120 nations came not to celebrate what remains, but to decide what must be built in its place. Three convictions will stay with me.

First, Europe has crossed a threshold from which there is no return. Defense spending has risen nearly 80 percent since before the invasion of Ukraine. Germany has committed to raising its expenditure from 2 to 3.5 percent of GDP by 2029. The EU has mobilized 800 billion euros for defense and committed 90 billion to Ukraine directly. By 2028, European defense investment will exceed American spending on equipment. But figures without doctrine are noise. Ukraine has endured 1,451 days of war, absorbing systematic strikes against its energy infrastructure – not as a byproduct of conflict but as its instrument. What Ukraine requires is not repair of Soviet-era power plants but a transition to decentralized, resilient energy architecture immune to the next strike. And any peace must rest on binding security guarantees from a coalition of 39 committed nations. Nothing about Ukraine without Ukraine. Any agreement that rewards territorial aggression with legitimacy does not end this war – it schedules the next one.

Second, trust has become the scarcest resource on earth, and its depletion connects every crisis we discussed. The nuclear non-proliferation regime is under strain it was not designed to bear. The dissolution of New START has removed a foundational guardrail. More alarming is



INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Strictly Confidential – Only to be disclosed with IFED Members

allied proliferation - longstanding non-nuclear states reconsidering their posture not because of adversarial aggression but because of uncertainty about the guarantees that persuaded them to remain non-nuclear. This is a present risk, not a distant one. In Gaza, one million people require immediate shelter and aid, yet a rare political opening exists: surveys show substantial support among both Israelis and Palestinians for a two-state solution. In Sudan, three years of war have produced 14 million displaced, 30 million needing aid, 7 million facing famine - the worst humanitarian crisis of the 21st century, receiving a fraction of the attention it demands. In Syria, 1.2 million refugees have returned to a country still absorbing more than 1,000 airstrikes since December. In Iran, 47 years of accumulated grievance have moved a population irreversibly from demanding reform to demanding change. In Venezuela, 9 million people have fled the largest migration crisis in the Western Hemisphere, from a country holding \$1.7 trillion in untapped economic potential, hollowed by a regime that borrowed \$60 billion from China and produced ruin.

Third, security is indivisible - and far broader than we have admitted. Food weaponization in Ukraine demonstrated that agricultural resilience is defense infrastructure. In 2023, developing nations paid \$847 billion in net interest - a 26 percent rise in two years - while humanitarian budgets were cut by nearly 50 percent. Seventy percent of fragile states are in or at risk of debt distress. Every dollar invested in prevention saves \$103 in conflict costs. Over 80 percent of world trade moves by sea, yet the Houthi presence in the Red Sea and Russia's shadow fleet operate in defiance of international law with insufficient coordinated response. Organized criminal networks - now hybrid entities bridging crime and terrorism, sustained by a cocaine price differential of \$3,000 per kilogram in Europe versus \$32,000 in the United States - fund the political corruption and judicial capture that hollow states from within. Climate change is not waiting its turn: a \$25 trillion projected hit to global real estate markets is not an environmental footnote but a systemic security risk. And AI is not a future consideration - it is a present transformation. Defending against AI-capable adversaries without employing AI is an invitation to disaster.

Two threads demand more than acknowledgment. The funding for organized anti-gender movements has grown from \$20 million in 2009 to \$250 million in 2023. This is not cultural debate. It is a well-resourced authoritarian strategy using social conservatism to fracture democratic coalitions and concentrate power. And with 270 million children out of school



INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Strictly Confidential – Only to be disclosed with IFED Members

globally, with young people bearing fiscal consequences of debt they did not incur and environmental consequences of emissions they did not produce, the crisis of intergenerational justice is eroding the democratic trust that sustains everything else we are trying to protect. Societies that deny their young people economic agency manufacture the instability their security budgets are then asked to contain.

We face genuine risks: nuclear frameworks eroding, authoritarian powers coordinating, populist movements exploiting legitimate grievances, humanitarian systems captured by geopolitical interest. We also possess genuine strengths: an EU economy ten times the size of Russia's, a European Investment Bank that lent a record 100 billion euros in 2025, and leaders who refuse - despite everything - to surrender to the diagnosis. **Rights are not given. They are always fought for. And this is the moment we are being called upon to fight for them.**

Antonia Martina Durisch

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, bold letter 'A' followed by a smaller, cursive 'D'.

President IFED



INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Strictly Confidential – Only to be disclosed with IFED Members

Report Date: March 1, 2026

Location: Munich, Germany

Total Sessions Analyzed: 54

Executive Overview

The 62nd Munich Security Conference brought together more than 1,000 confirmed participants from over 115 countries, including around 60 heads of state and government. Well over two thirds of all European heads of state and government attended, and the US sent its largest ever delegation - comprising more than a quarter of the entire US Senate. Over 50 leaders of international organizations attended, more than ever before, including the heads of the EU, NATO, ASEAN, the OSCE, the World Bank, the WTO, and numerous UN agencies. The most senior US and Chinese representatives were Secretary of State Marco Rubio and Foreign Minister Wang Yi - Russia was not invited, as has been the case since the full-scale invasion of Ukraine. Alongside the conference, a protest in solidarity with the Iranian people drew over 250,000 people onto the streets of Munich.

SESSION SUMMARIES

1. Global Security Realignment: Addressing Evolving Threats and Opportunities

Executive Summary:

The speakers collectively analyze the significant shifts in global dynamics, with a particular focus on the urgency for reforming international collaboration and defense strategies. This comprehensive synthesis reflects the mounting challenges posed by geopolitical realignments, the necessity of embracing collaborative defense mechanisms, and the importance of engaging the youth in constructing a more equitable global future. Across the discussions, participants emphasized the weakening of traditional international frameworks and the imperative to restore collective security, particularly amidst escalating threats from authoritarian states



INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Strictly Confidential – Only to be disclosed with IFED Members

such as Russia and China. Other areas of focus included integrating climate response into national security frameworks, enhancing educational investments for long-term stability, and confronting a global pushback against established human rights norms. The interplay between economic pressures and security needs surfaced consistently, highlighting how geopolitical and economic factors, such as resource management and debt crises, intertwine with security imperatives.

A key theme is the call for greater European sovereignty in defense matters, which includes increased defense budgets and a drive for technological innovation. Additionally, the documents underscore the effectiveness of existing alliances like NATO while advocating for new frameworks to support transatlantic cooperation. The focus on youth engagement and education emerges as a critical strategy for ensuring democratic resilience, addressing systemic economic inequalities, and creating a future-ready workforce. Recommendations across documents point towards multilateral engagements, economic investments in critical infrastructure, and policies that empower younger generations to take active roles in governance and societal development. Environmental discussions highlight the impact of climate challenges on global stability, urging nations to incorporate climate change mitigation strategies as central elements of their security plans.

In sum, the synthesis delineates a world at a crossroads, where renewing commitments to collaborative defense, reforming the international order, and investing in human capital through education are seen as foundational strategies to counter current threats while preparing for future resilience. The consensus centers around the need for inclusive dialogues, systemic reforms, and the strategic harnessing of collective capabilities to shape a stable and secure global environment.

Key Takeaways:

1. Diminishing trust in traditional international alliances necessitates urgent reform and the strengthening of new collaborative defense structures.
2. The importance of Europe taking greater responsibility for its own defense and increasing military investments to effectively counter regional threats.



INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Strictly Confidential – Only to be disclosed with IFED Members

3. The strategic integration of climate change responses into national security frameworks emerges as a crucial factor for maintaining global stability.
4. Heightened emphasis on youth education and engagement as vital components for ensuring democratic stability and economic prosperity in the long term.
5. A significant rise in geopolitical tensions driven by aggressive actions from authoritarian regimes such as Russia and China demands coordinated international responses.
6. Persistent challenges in human rights, notably gender and minority rights, call for renewed global solidarity and strategic interventions.
7. The role of technological advancements in defense must be leveraged for superior strategic capabilities, focusing on innovation and interoperability among allies.
8. Regional economic developments, such as the Trans-Caspian Corridor, present opportunities for enhanced connectivity and cooperative prosperity.
9. Emerging risks from unchecked migratory flows and economic inequality can destabilize societal cohesion, needing balanced policy responses.
10. Strategic reform in humanitarian assistance frameworks required to prioritize human needs over geopolitical interests for effective crisis management.

2. Seismic Shifts in U.S. Foreign Policy

Executive Summary:

The panel discussion, featuring Governor Gretchen Whitmer, Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, and Ambassador Matthew Whitaker, examines recent changes in U.S. foreign policy and its implications for global relations. The participants highlight concerns that the U.S. is in a weaker position compared to five years ago, citing strained relationships with allies and harmful economic impacts from tariffs and rising inflation. They discuss the need for a reaffirmation of democratic values and the various challenges posed by countries like China and Russia, emphasizing the importance of strong U.S. partnerships to navigate these challenges effectively. While there are differing views on the progress made in establishing NATO relationships, the overarching sentiment points to a pressing need to restore trust and cooperation among allies to ensure global stability. Opportunities to renegotiate trade agreements like USMCA were mentioned as potential steps forward to revitalize international relationships and strengthen economic ties.



INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Strictly Confidential – Only to be disclosed with IFED Members

Key Findings:

1. U.S. foreign policy has weakened compared to five years ago due to strained relationships with allies and rising tariffs.
2. The impacts of changing tariffs and rhetoric are felt particularly in states like Michigan, showcasing economic strain.
3. There is consensus on the need for an integrated approach to foreign policy that values partnerships with allies.
4. Concerns were raised about the growing threat from China and a resurgent Russia, underscoring the importance of military readiness.
5. Efforts to engage in difficult conversations with allies are viewed as necessary despite current tensions.

Economic Data:

1. GDP growth of over 4% in the U.S.
2. An increase of NATO spending targets to 5% in member countries.

Risks Identified:

1. Strained relations with allies could long-term compromise U.S. security interests.
2. Inability to effectively address economic challenges may lead to further instability.
3. The potential for an escalation of tensions with China and Russia impacts global security.

Opportunities:

1. Renegotiation of trade agreements like USMCA to strengthen economic ties with Canada and Mexico.
2. Increased defense spending across NATO member countries can enhance collective security.

Notable Quotes:

“Trust is earned one teaspoon at a time and lost by the buckets.”

“By making Canada our adversary, we have now forced North America to open up the door to that very possibility happening.”



INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Strictly Confidential – Only to be disclosed with IFED Members

3. Panel Discussion at Munich Security Conference: The New International Order

Executive Summary:

The panel discussion moderated by Sally Mink-Banks addresses the seismic shifts in the international order, focusing on power dynamics and emerging geopolitical realities. Key speakers, including Kaya Callas, Prince Faisal Bofan Al Saud, Major General Pedro Anolfo Sanchez Suarez, and Ambassador Michael Waltz, reflect on the obsolescence of the historical rules-based order characterized by institutions like the United Nations. They agree that conflicts are rampant, and accountability mechanisms are failing, leading to calls for reform in international governance. While acknowledging past Eurocentric viewpoints, the speakers highlight a growing recognition across regions that the current system is insufficient. The discussion also touches on the implications of rising global challenges, including climate change and misinformation, while illustrating varied regional perspectives, particularly emphasizing the role of the U.S. in the Western Hemisphere regarding drug-related violence. Ultimately, the panel concludes with cautious optimism for a more equitable and cooperative future amid significant risks.

Key Findings:

1. The historical international order, once focused on rules, is perceived as defunct, requiring urgent reform.
2. Power dynamics are increasingly shaping global relations, reflecting a 'might is right' mentality.
3. There is a pressing need for better accountability mechanisms within international laws and institutions.
4. Recent conflicts have highlighted the limitations of the UN and its inability to enforce peace effectively.
5. There is recognition among both developed and developing nations of the need for shared responsibility in addressing global issues.
6. Diverse perspectives from varied geopolitical regions can contribute to forming a viable new international order.



INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Strictly Confidential – Only to be disclosed with IFED Members

Risks Identified:

1. Economic disparity and inequality exacerbated by technological advancements.
2. Increased prevalence of drug-related violence and crime impacting regional security.
3. Proliferation of misinformation and its potential to destabilize nations.

Notable Quotes:

“The old world is gone. We live in a new era of geopolitics.”

“Every country is vulnerable to the worldwide scourge known as disinformation.”

“If we reform, then we should actually take into account the world as it currently is, where all the states are equal.”

4. Iran's Uprisings and Future Prospects: Insights from Reza Pahlavi

Executive Summary:

A detailed discussion focusing on the recent protests in Iran, primarily stemming from economic hardship, rising poverty, and the quest for democracy and human rights. Reza Pahlavi, the former Crown Prince of Iran and a prominent opposition leader, reflects on his family's history, the ongoing struggles against the Islamic Republic, and the current political climate in Iran. He notes a significant shift in the people's resolve, emphasizing that previous reform efforts have failed and that many Iranians now demand outright regime change. Pahlavi highlights the severe repression faced by protesters and calls for international intervention to assist in neutralizing the regime's repressive forces. He also presents his vision for a post-regime Iran, advocating for democratic governance free from tyranny. The dialogue navigates the challenges of uniting diverse opposition factions, the necessity of civil reconciliation after a potential regime change, and the importance of international support in establishing a democratic future for Iran. Pahlavi's appeals emphasize the urgency of solidarity among Iranians and the need for strategic partnerships with countries like Israel to address regional issues, including water crises. The discussion is framed within the broader geopolitical landscape, highlighting the critical role of Western nations in supporting Iranian civil society.



INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Strictly Confidential – Only to be disclosed with IFED Members

Key Findings:

1. The current protests in Iran reflect widespread discontent with the regime due to economic hardship and the lack of basic rights.
2. Reza Pahlavi positions himself as a unifying opposition leader opposing the Islamic Republic, which has remained in power for 47 years.
3. There is growing impatience among the Iranian populace for a complete regime change rather than reforms.
4. International intervention is seen as crucial to empowering the Iranian people against the regime's repressive tactics.
5. Pahlavi emphasizes the importance of a structured transition that includes the participation of defectors from the current regime.
6. Unity among various Iranian opposition groups is essential to achieve a successful outcome post-regime change.
7. Democratic values, including a separation of church and state and equal rights for all citizens, are foundational to the future vision for Iran.

Risks Identified:

1. The risk of continued violent repression by the regime against protesters.
2. Potential backlash against Iranian civilians if the regime remains in power.
3. Concerns about international disengagement and missed opportunities for supporting Iranian freedom.

Opportunities:

1. A window for international support exists to facilitate regime change in Iran.
2. The chance to establish a democratic government that properly represents the Iranian populace and their aspirations.

Notable Quotes:

“There’s a sea of blood that separates today Iranian people with this regime.”

“This struggle is about freedom. This struggle is about the equality of all citizens. This struggle is about freedom of speech.”

“Our cause is for everyone to fit under this tent. And this tent could be as wide as it can get...”



INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Strictly Confidential – Only to be disclosed with IFED Members

5. Building on Momentum in the Middle East: Insights from the Panel Discussion

Executive Summary:

The panel discussion 'Building on Momentum in the Middle East: From Promise to Progress?' held at the Munich Securities Conference focuses on the ongoing Israeli-Palestinian conflict and developments in Syria and Lebanon. Composed of distinguished representatives from various countries and organizations, the panel highlights the considerable momentum for change in the region despite numerous challenges. A key finding from an Arab barometer survey indicates that both Israelis and Palestinians show considerable support for a two-state solution, suggesting that peace is a desired outcome among local populations. The conversation includes insights from Saudi Arabia, Syria, and Norway, emphasizing the need for political will to facilitate reconstruction and address fundamental issues tied to statehood, self-determination, and mutual coexistence. The discussion underlines a renewed commitment to peace initiatives, the importance of civil society, and the need for international engagement, while also recognizing the intricate links between conflicts in the region.

Key Findings:

1. A significant majority of both Israelis and Palestinians favor a two-state solution.
2. The current moment presents a rare opportunity for positive change in the Middle East despite existing conflicts.
3. Political will and engagement from international communities are essential for progress in peace negotiations and reconstruction efforts in Gaza and Syria.
4. Civil society plays a critical role in promoting political social inclusion and rebuilding trust in post-conflict societies.
5. There is a coherent link between ongoing conflicts; instability in one area can breed instability in others.

Economic Data:

1. 76% of Syrians support current policies according to survey findings
2. 10 million refugees from Syria are reportedly outside the country



INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Strictly Confidential – Only to be disclosed with IFED Members

Risks Identified:

1. Ongoing settlement expansions and Israeli policies undermining governance in the Palestinian territories
2. Low trust in the new Syrian government across parts of the Arab world
3. The potential for conflict to breed further instability in the region

Opportunities:

1. Possibility for regional cooperation and investment to support reconstruction efforts
2. The opportunity for an economic rebound in Syria with significant potential in tourism and natural resources

Recommendations:

1. Encourage continuous engagement with Syrian and Palestinian leadership to foster diplomatic relationships and trust
2. Support initiatives enhancing civil society involvement in local governance
3. Focus on creating conducive environments for investment in post-conflict recovery and development

Notable Quotes:

“Statehood is a right, not a reward.”

“The ongoing conflict in Palestine destabilizes its neighbors.”

“People can't eat flags, people eat food.”

6. Friedrich Merz at the Munich Security Conference: Strengthening Europe's Role

Executive Summary:

In an address at the Munich Security Conference, German Chancellor Friedrich Merz underscores the necessity for Europe to project power and assert its interests on the global stage. He emphasizes the intertwined nature of foreign policy, foreign economic policy, and



INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Strictly Confidential – Only to be disclosed with IFED Members

internal politics, advocating for a stronger economic foundation to bolster Europe's independence. Merz discusses the challenges facing Europe, including demographic shifts, the

need for a more productive workforce, and a concerted effort to adapt to globalization while maintaining unity among EU member states. He acknowledges concerns among younger generations regarding the future but expresses optimism about leveraging Europe's strengths to navigate challenges. The Chancellor highlights the importance of retaining a rules-based international order facilitated by fair trade agreements, as well as the significance of strategic economic reforms including deregulation and enhancing investment incentives. He concludes with a call for Europe to strengthen its collective voice, citing the need for cooperation and collaboration among member countries to achieve greater influence globally.

Key Findings:

1. Europe needs to assert its interests and avoid becoming subordinate.
2. Foreign policy is closely linked to economic strength and internal political dynamics.
3. Youth concerns about the future must be met with optimism and action.
4. Strategic reforms in deregulation and investment incentives are necessary for economic improvement.
5. A strong collective European voice is crucial in dealing with external pressures.

Economic Data:

1. 1-2% growth rate mentioned.
2. EU has a domestic product ten times that of Russia.

Risks Identified:

1. Demographic challenges leading to a decline in workforce.
2. Youth dissatisfaction and pessimism about the future.
3. Global political volatility impacting Europe's economic interests.

Opportunities:

1. Potential for economic growth through strategic reforms.
2. Strengthening trade agreements with nations like India.



INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Strictly Confidential – Only to be disclosed with IFED Members

3. Increased cooperation among EU member states for a unified voice.

Recommendations:

1. Focus on policies that strengthen economic performance and workforce productivity.
2. Develop proposals for better labor market integration.
3. Enhance EU's collective strength and economic independence through cooperation.

Notable Quotes:

“Europe has to learn to speak the language of power.”

“As a people’s economy, our performance needs to be improved.”

“We must not become a toy and want to perceive our interests together.”

7. Summary of Munich Security

Executive Summary:

During the Federal Press Conference, key figures associated with the Munich Security Conference discussed the forthcoming Munich Security Conference and the findings of the Munich Security Report 2026. They emphasized the precarious state of international order, which is undergoing significant challenges and efforts at deconstruction, particularly in light of the United States' pivot under recent leadership. Titled 'Under Destruction,' aims to highlight how various crises, including the urgent situation in Ukraine, reflect broader geopolitical instability. The conference opened with German Chancellor Merz, signifying Germany's critical role in European and global security discussions. With over 200 government representatives from approximately 120 states set to attend, including significant US Congressional representation, the conference aimed to foster dialogue on transatlantic relations, the role of Europe, global crises, and security challenges. Notably, the report reveals a growing perception in G7 countries that US reliability as an ally is diminishing, leading to increased insecurities. Key points from the conference addressed the need for nations to cooperate and mitigate the disruptive effects of US policy, especially in terms of trade and security. The presentations stressed a shift in dialogue aimed at restoring stability and



INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Strictly Confidential – Only to be disclosed with IFED Members

addressing public concerns about the effectiveness of current political systems.

Key Findings:

1. The international order is perceived as being under threat, with increasing calls for its deconstruction.
2. The upcoming conference is expected to reflect widespread interest due to numerous global crises, notably the situation in Ukraine.
3. Transatlantic relations are characterized by a trust crisis, with key allies perceiving the US as a less reliable partner.
4. There is a notable increase in feelings of helplessness among populations in G7 countries regarding the ability of political systems to improve future conditions.
5. Emerging leaders advocating for radical changes are gaining traction, with public discontent towards the status quo fostering potential political disruption.

Risks Identified:

1. Diminishing credibility and trust within international alliances.
2. Increasing political instability as fears about effective governance rise.
3. Potential for greater geopolitical conflicts due to the fractured state of international relations.

Notable Quotes:

“We are currently experiencing not only another phase of adapting the international order, but a situation in which central assumptions... are being actively questioned.”

“If institutions are perceived as failing and reforms are no longer credible, why should we then hold back those who promise to simply reject everything?”

“We must make greater joint armament efforts... if we do not want to end up as menu items at the table of geopolitics.”

8. China's Global Governance Initiative and International Relations



INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Strictly Confidential – Only to be disclosed with IFED Members

Executive Summary:

In a keynote address at the Munich Security Conference, China's Foreign Minister Wang Yi outlined his country's vision for global governance amidst rising international tensions. He

introduced the Global Governance Initiative (GGI), emphasizing principles like sovereign equality, multilateralism, and cooperation among nations to foster a more equitable world. Wang Yi noted the importance of revitalizing the United Nations as the central platform for international dialogue, arguing that its current shortcomings arise from a few countries' unilateral actions. He stressed the necessity for all nations, especially major powers, to uphold equal rights and responsibilities, suggesting that democracy in international relations is crucial for peace and cooperation. He highlighted the escalating conflicts globally, including in Gaza and Ukraine, emphasizing that peaceful dialogue is essential for resolution. Moreover, he expressed China's commitment to a stable international environment while denouncing divisive practices that undermine bilateral relations, particularly between China and the U.S. Wang Yi concluded by encouraging partnerships between China and Europe to foster mutual respect and collaborative governance.

Key Findings:

1. China advocated for the Global Governance Initiative (GGI) to promote sovereign equality and multilateralism.
2. Wang Yi emphasized revitalizing the UN as crucial for effective global governance.
3. The international system's dysfunction stems from unilateral actions by certain countries.
4. Global conflicts require commitment to dialogue, particularly the situations in Gaza and Ukraine.
5. China seeks to maintain stable relations with the U.S. while expressing willingness to mediate reconciliation in conflicts.

Risks Identified:

1. Potential for escalating conflicts if major powers engage in unilateralism.



INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Strictly Confidential – Only to be disclosed with IFED Members

2. The threat of renewed tensions in the Asia-Pacific region due to militaristic rhetoric from neighboring countries.

Opportunities:

1. Potential for enhanced China-Europe partnerships through mutual respect and cooperation in governance.
2. The rising global South presents an opportunity for a more democratic representation in global governance.

Recommendations:

1. Promoting talks for peace in conflict regions like Gaza and Ukraine.
2. Fostering a more balanced and effective European security architecture.
3. Encouraging multilateralism to validate cooperative international relations.

Notable Quotes:

“Unity brings strength, and only in unity can we find hope.”

“History always moves forward despite twists and turns.”

“We should not have dialogue for dialogue's sake.”

9. Closing Remarks by the Conference Chairman

Executive Summary:

The closing remarks by the Conference Chairman reflected on the successful culmination of the event and expressed gratitude towards contributors, particularly Wolfgang, for his leadership. The chairman highlighted the extensive participation and diverse opinions shared during the conference, notably concerning international security and the challenges facing the European community. Emphasizing the urgent need for European unity in response to the ongoing war in Ukraine, he called for collective action including strengthening defense capabilities and providing support to Ukraine. Key topics included the health of the international system, with varying opinions on its current state, and the commitment of



INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Strictly Confidential – Only to be disclosed with IFED Members

European nations to uphold shared values despite doubts about unity. The remarks concluded with acknowledgements to the organizing team and sponsors, and a recognition of the upcoming leadership transition within the foundation, signaling continuity into the future.

Key Findings:

1. The international security system is under significant strain, with contrasting views on whether it can be restored or needs complete rebuilding.
2. There is a pressing need for cohesive European action to defend values and address challenges, particularly regarding support for Ukraine against Russian aggression.
3. The conference saw a stronger European resolve and acknowledgment of shared responsibilities in defense strategy.

Recommendations:

1. Developing specific plans and actions for European defense cooperation.
2. Implementing the mutual assistance clause in the EU Treaty effectively.
3. Increasing support and defensive resources for Ukraine, particularly in air defense.

Notable Quotes:

“Our international system is under destruction.”

“How do we bring the mutual assistance clause, which is in the European Union Treaty, to life?”

“The question of how this war is going to end is actually an existential question for Europe.”

10. Long-Term Support for Ukraine: Strengthening Alliances Against Russian Aggression

Executive Summary:

President Volodymyr Zelensky's speech at the Munich Security Conference emphasized the need for continued and strengthened international support for Ukraine amidst ongoing Russian aggression. Zelensky expressed gratitude to various nations for their assistance, notably highlighting the importance of advanced weaponry and air defense systems, which are



INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Strictly Confidential – Only to be disclosed with IFED Members

critical for Ukraine's survival. He outlined the scale of Russian attacks, underscoring the need for the European Union to adapt quickly to support Ukraine, including necessary military supplies and economic assistance. Zelensky warned that time is of the essence as the conflict continues to evolve, urging the necessity for immediate action to prevent further devastation, stressing unity among allies as a critical factor in defense against Russian aggression. The Ukrainian leader called for security guarantees and the importance of preventing the potential for future conflicts by ensuring robust responses to Russian actions. Moreover, he advocated for Ukraine's integration into the European Union and discussed the geopolitical complexities surrounding negotiations with Russia while calling for a decisive stance from allies in advocating for Ukraine's interests.

Key Findings:

1. Ukraine has endured 1,451 days of war, with a significant number of Russian missile and drone attacks every month.
2. The support from allied nations, particularly in terms of advanced air defense systems, is crucial for Ukraine to fend off ongoing assaults.
3. Zelensky emphasized that every day without military support is a missed opportunity to protect lives.
4. Ample resources from allies can deter further Russian aggression while securing future peace in Ukraine and Europe.
5. Zelensky called for clear security guarantees to prevent future aggressions, asserting that a strong unified front is essential for effective defense.
6. Economic stability for Ukraine relies heavily on continued and enhanced international financial support.

Economic Data:

1. 90 billion euros committed by European leaders for Ukraine's support over two years.
2. Cost to Russia of occupying one kilometer of Ukrainian land is 156 soldiers.
3. Ukrainian forces eliminated 35,000 Russian soldiers in December alone.

Risks Identified:

1. Potential for increased Russian aggression and the need for rapid response from allies.



INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Strictly Confidential – Only to be disclosed with IFED Members

2. The risk of adversarial regimes like North Korea and Iran providing support to Russia.
3. Challenges in ensuring unity among European allies against Russian policies.

Opportunities:

1. Development of a joint defense policy in Europe and NATO, enhancing military capacity.
2. Potential for Ukraine's EU integration, which is viewed as a long-term stabilizing factor.

Recommendations:

1. Providing immediate and substantial military assistance to Ukraine, focusing on air defense.
2. Establishing clear, actionable security guarantees for Ukraine from the U.S. and Europe.
3. Facilitating increased investment in Ukraine's military-industrial complex to enhance self-sufficiency.

Notable Quotes:

“Every day matters in the war effort.”

“Putin does not live like ordinary people; he is a slave to war.”

“We can build a new security architecture together.”

11. Overview of the 62nd Munich Security Conference Opening Remarks

Executive Summary:

The 62nd Munich Security Conference opened with a focus on the increased global security threats and the degradation of a rules-based international order. Chairman Wolfgang Ischinger emphasized the critical state of the transatlantic relationship during unprecedented global challenges, urging European nations to unite for a more robust international presence. Highlighted were ongoing wars, including the situation in Ukraine, geopolitical tensions with Russia and China, and the need for collective action among democracies to safeguard shared values. In his remarks, Bavarian Premier Markus Söder reinforced the transatlantic bond,



INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Strictly Confidential – Only to be disclosed with IFED Members

acknowledged the uncertainty regarding U.S. leadership, and urged respect for German contributions to international security efforts. Chancellor Friedrich Merz expressed the urgency for Europe to acknowledge realities of power politics while maintaining commitment to transatlantic partnerships, strengthening military capabilities, and enhancing European sovereignty and resilience. The leaders outlined key objectives for reinforcing Europe's position in global politics, emphasizing collaboration with allies, adaptive military preparedness, and fostering economic strength amidst rising geopolitical risks.

Key Findings:

1. The international rules-based order is under significant threat, necessitating stronger European unity.
2. Transatlantic relations are at a critical juncture, requiring renewed commitment and respect between Europe and the U.S.
3. Germany aims to significantly enhance its military capabilities and defense investments in response to escalating global threats.
4. Europe must prioritize its sovereignty and become a more effective global player with a coherent security policy strategy.
5. The conference underscored the need for transparent communication regarding security partnerships and engagements with Russia.
6. Cooperation among democratic nations is essential to counter challenges posed by authoritarian regimes.

Economic Data:

1. Russia's GDP is approximately 2 trillion euros, while the European Union's GDP is nearly 10 times that amount.
2. Germany plans to invest hundreds of billions of euros in military and defense initiatives over the coming years.

Risks Identified:

1. The potential for increased geopolitical tensions leading to further conflicts.



INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Strictly Confidential – Only to be disclosed with IFED Members

2. Dependence on external powers like the U.S. for security, which may undermine European sovereignty.

Opportunities:

1. The potential for Europe to strengthen its defense industry and technological innovation in response to current threats.
2. The chance to reshape transatlantic relations for mutual respect and cooperation on security.

Recommendations:

1. Developing a coherent European security policy that complements NATO.
2. Engaging with new global partnerships to mitigate dependency on singular powers.
3. Enhancing military and technological investments to foster resilience.

Notable Quotes:

“Never before in the more than 60 years of this conference have there been so many simultaneous rather fundamental challenges.”

“We need to be honest about our differences, but we should seek to help organize a constructive transatlantic reset if that is possible this weekend.”

“We assert our freedom with our neighbours, only with our neighbours and our allies and our partners.”

12. Decent Peace? The U.S. in the Indo-Pacific

Executive Summary:

In this conversation, there is a focus on the evolving strategic landscape of NATO and the Indo-Pacific, proposing a transition to NATO 3.0, which emphasizes a more equitable burden-sharing relationship where Europe takes responsibility for its conventional defense. The speaker notes that the U.S. aims to bolster military alliances while also recalibrating its focus towards Asia. The conversation touches on the importance of readiness and strength and



INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Strictly Confidential – Only to be disclosed with IFED Members

asserts that recent U.S. foreign policy under President Trump has shifted towards practical, results-oriented engagements rather than relying solely on abstract commitments to allies. The discussion outlines a support for strengthening allied nations' defense capacities and establishes criteria for a sustainable defense posture in Europe and its implications for nuclear deterrence strategies. The issues of China and its perceived, ascendancy, as well as the need for a cohesive deterrent strategy within the Indo-Pacific region, especially regarding Taiwan, are also highlighted, indicating a shift towards a more nuanced approach in the U.S. position towards China while maintaining collective strength with allies.

Key Findings:

1. The U.S. is advocating for NATO 3.0, which calls for Europe to take on more defense responsibilities.
2. A transition in focus toward the Indo-Pacific is underway as the U.S. seeks to balance interests in Europe and Asia.
3. The U.S. emphasizes the need for a results-oriented approach to military readiness and defense spending.
4. Allied nations are encouraged to enhance their defense industrial bases to contribute to collective security.
5. The evolving security landscape emphasizes nuclear deterrence as a key area of focus among allies.
6. An effective balance of power requires strong cooperation between the U.S. and its allies in the Indo-Pacific.

Economic Data:

1. \$1.5 trillion budget proposal
2. South Korea committing to 3.5% of GDP on defense

Risks Identified:

1. Potential for miscalculation in military engagements, especially regarding Russian and Chinese threats.
2. Concerns about the sustainability of the U.S. military's readiness while managing multiple global commitments.



INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Strictly Confidential – Only to be disclosed with IFED Members

Notable Quotes:

“Let's get down to business.”

“We are more in the delivering results and readiness business than in the cheap talk business.”

“We want to make sure that we and our allies are making commitments and we're following through on it.”

13. Degrees of Instability: Climate Security in a Warming World

Executive Summary:

The town hall discussion at the Munich Security Conference focused on the critical intersection of climate change and security, highlighting the escalating instability resulting from climate impacts and the urgent need for military responses to climate disasters. Erin Sikorsky moderated a panel featuring prominent figures such as Minister Sitharaman from India, who discussed the dual challenges of climate action and community resilience amidst climate shocks. The panel emphasized the importance of adapting military capabilities to diverse environments that climate change disrupts, as well as the need for technology cooperation to address these challenges. Minister Schneider from Germany underscored the integration of climate considerations into national security, while addressing the interconnectedness of ecological threats and economic growth. Senator Whitehouse expressed concerns regarding climate denial in the U.S. and warned against misinformation, highlighting the insurance industry's repercussions on economy and property values due to climate change. Greenpeace's head, Mads, stressed cooperative solutions and the urgent need for multilateral efforts to combat climate. The discussion advocated for balanced approaches to emission cuts and resilience-building to address both immediate human needs and long-term environmental stability.

Key Findings:

1. Climate change contributes to instability and increased military deployments globally.
2. Long-term emissions reduction must be balanced with immediate community resilience efforts.



INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Strictly Confidential – Only to be disclosed with IFED Members

3. Technological integration is essential for effectively addressing climate change challenges.
4. Economic impacts of climate change are presenting immediate threats to livelihoods and security.
5. Misinformation regarding climate science continues to pose significant risks to policy decisions.
6. Public-private partnerships are vital for effective climate action and resilience building.
7. Existing financial structures must prioritize equitable burden-sharing for climate action.

Economic Data:

1. Climate-related costs to military and security infrastructure run into billions of dollars.
2. Projected \$25 trillion hit to global real estate markets due to climate impacts.
3. India's spending on climate action has increased from 3.7% to 5.6% of GDP over six years.
4. Germany aims for a 90% reduction in emissions by 2040 and a 65% reduction by 2030.

Risks Identified:

1. Geopolitical competition over dwindling resources like food and water.
2. Economic repercussions from climate-induced property value crashes.
3. Increased instability due to climate disasters affecting security operations.
4. Widespread misinformation undermining effective climate action and policy.

Opportunities:

1. Potential for innovations in public-private partnerships to enhance climate resilience.
2. Global collaboration through treaties like the Global Oceans Treaty highlights actionable avenues.
3. Improved technologies reducing the cost of renewable energy generation.

Recommendations:

1. Integrating climate security considerations in national defense strategies.



INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Strictly Confidential – Only to be disclosed with IFED Members

2. Enhancing international collaboration to ensure technology sharing for climate adaptation.
3. Establishing equitable frameworks for financing climate initiatives, burden-shifting towards major polluters.
4. Prioritizing building resilience and adaptation strategies alongside emission reduction targets.

Notable Quotes:

“In a world of cascading risks, countries don’t have the luxury of only focusing on one thing at a time.”

“Climate change is not going to wait its turn.”

“The only sustainable strategy is stop burning fossil fuels.”

14. Double Trouble? Europe, the Indo-Pacific, and Connected Security Challenges

Executive Summary:

The panel discussion featured key defense and foreign affairs ministers from Australia, New Zealand, Japan, the Netherlands, and the U.S. to explore the interconnectedness of security issues facing Europe and the Indo-Pacific region. A central theme was the turbulent changes in the international order, highlighting Russia's aggression in Ukraine and the implications for East Asia. The ministers emphasized the importance of a strong U.S. presence in the Indo-Pacific, the necessity for regional countries to bolster their own defense capabilities, and the growing military cooperation among authoritarian regimes such as Russia, China, and North Korea. Discussions also touched upon the significance of a rules-based order and the role of middle powers in maintaining a collaborative security environment while adapting to a world dominated by power dynamics. The ministers called for increased cooperation, flexibility in military planning, and focused defense policies, particularly in light of the risks posed by accelerating military build-ups in China and the ongoing implications of the Ukraine conflict.



INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Strictly Confidential – Only to be disclosed with IFED Members

Key Findings:

1. The world is undergoing a significant structural transformation, with increasing confrontations in both Europe and the Indo-Pacific.
2. The security of Euro-Atlantic and Indo-Pacific regions is interconnected, with threats in one area likely to impact the other.
3. Japan's alliance with the U.S. is essential for regional stability, and Japan must also enhance its own defense capabilities.
4. European military presence in the Indo-Pacific is considered important to signal the relevance of international law and to counter growing authoritarian cooperation in the region.
5. The ministers stressed the importance of middle powers working together to navigate a more power-centric global order.

Risks Identified:

1. Increasing military cooperation among Russia, China, and North Korea threatens regional stability.
2. Power shifts and authoritarian aggression could further escalate conflicts in both Europe and East Asia.

Notable Quotes:

“Japan will contribute to the stability and peace of the international society.”

“We live in one world. We need friends in this very turbulent world.”

“The ability to respond and to enhance deterrence must be considered a priority to prevent future disputes.”

15. European Defense Townhall: Addressing Current Security Challenges

Executive Summary:

The European Defense Townhall addressed pressing defense issues facing Europe amid evolving geopolitical landscapes. The dialogue emphasized the importance of developing a



INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Strictly Confidential – Only to be disclosed with IFED Members

robust European defense framework that includes sovereignty in defense spending, strategic autonomy, and a collective response to hybrid threats, especially in light of Russia's aggressions. Panelists emphasized the need for increased military spending among European nations, collaboration within NATO, and advancing support for Ukraine as critical components in enhancing Europe's security. There was a consensus on the importance of establishing quicker decision-making structures to mitigate threats and the proposition of forming a European Security Council to facilitate that. Discussions also highlighted the interconnectedness of security and economic policies as well as the necessity of public awareness and trust in governance to bolster defense initiatives. The event culminated in recognizing the need for a united European front to withstand external pressures and threats, particularly from Russia and China.

Key Findings:

1. European defense spending must increase to effectively counter threats from Russia and other aggressors.
2. Collaboration among NATO allies is crucial for maintaining defense readiness and interoperability.
3. A European Security Council is recommended to expedite decision-making regarding defense matters.
4. Public awareness and engagement in defense policies are essential to counter extremist influences.
5. Continued support for Ukraine is essential for maintaining stability in Europe.
6. Hybrid threats require a comprehensive understanding beyond military approaches, incorporating cybersecurity and information warfare.

Risks Identified:

1. Dependency on Russian energy sources poses significant security risks.
2. There is a lack of unified strategy and rapid decision-making processes within current European defense frameworks.
3. Potential fragmentation among European nations could undermine collective security efforts.



INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Strictly Confidential – Only to be disclosed with IFED Members

Opportunities:

1. Increased defense spending can lead to stronger governmental unity and capacity to respond to threats.
2. Collaborative defense initiatives can enhance technological advancements and military capabilities within Europe.
3. Engagement of civil society can foster a more informed public regarding defense issues.

Recommendations:

1. Establishing a European Security Council to facilitate timely and effective decision-making.
2. Increasing investments in defense across European countries to meet or exceed NATO recommendations.
3. Enhancing public discourse and education around defense and security issues to build societal resilience.

Notable Quotes:

“We have to be very clear that security cannot just be left to preconceived notions of stability; it requires active engagement.”

“The war in Ukraine is not just a local problem; it is a fundamental challenge to the stability and sovereignty of Europe itself.”

“Defense and security policies must be anchored in a comprehensive understanding of the hybrid threats we face today.”

16. Europeans Assemble: Reclaiming Agency in a Rougher World

Executive Summary:

The panel discussion titled 'Europeans Assemble: Reclaiming Agency in a Rougher World,' focused on the European Union's role in global security and geopolitical challenges, particularly in the context of the war in Ukraine. Kaya Kalas, the EU's Vice President for Foreign Affairs, emphasized the need for Europe to reclaim its agency and take a more assertive stance on defense and diplomatic issues, highlighting three key priorities: strengthening Europe's defense in response to Russian aggression, promoting stability in



INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Strictly Confidential – Only to be disclosed with IFED Members

Europe's neighborhood through enlargement, and fostering international partnerships. Kalas refuted notions of European decline, noting ongoing interest in EU membership from non-European countries, and criticized Russia's capacity, underscoring that despite its aggressive posturing, it is not a superpower and faces significant internal challenges. The discussion further delved into the complexities of EU enlargement, notably Ukraine's potential accession, and the necessity for strategic decision-making and a unified European front amid divergent national interests. The importance of defense cooperation among EU member states, aligned with NATO, was also emphasized, alongside the need for economic investments to bolster Europe's position on the global stage.

Key Findings:

1. Europe must reclaim its agency and take a stronger role in global security.
2. The EU is not in decline; numerous countries are interested in joining.
3. Europe's defense strategy must be coherent and responsive to Russian aggression.
4. EU enlargement is critical for democracy and countering Russian imperialism.
5. Strengthening international partnerships is essential for stability and prosperity.
6. Investment in defense and military capabilities is becoming increasingly urgent.

Economic Data:

1. 1.2 million casualties in Russia's military actions
2. Poles are roughly 70% richer than Russians today
3. The EU has provided 90 billion euros in support for Ukraine.

Risks Identified:

1. Challenges in forming a cohesive EU foreign policy amidst national interests.
2. The potential for Russia to gain more at the negotiation table post-conflict.

Notable Quotes:

“Europeans also know what this fight is for, not only our excellent living standards, health, and happiness, but lessons we have learned from history.”

“Let's be clear-eyed about Russia: it is no superpower.”



INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Strictly Confidential – Only to be disclosed with IFED Members

17. Investing in People as a Security Investment: Insights from Senator Andy Kim

Executive Summary:

Senator Andy Kim emphasized the importance of investing in education as a fundamental aspect of global security. Speaking at the Munich Security Conference, he argued that security should not be limited to military and diplomatic considerations but should also focus on human development. With 270 million children currently out of school, Kim stressed the need to consider education funding as a critical security investment. He expressed urgency about addressing the increasing distrust in government and the growing inequality that affects democratic trust, particularly among the youth. Kim reflected on his personal journey influenced by the events of September 11 and drew a connection between his father's experience as a war refugee and the necessity of empowering young people through education. He advocated for courage among leaders to resist pressures from corporate interests and to genuinely serve public needs. Drawing on his experience in international relations and diplomacy, Kim highlighted the need for strategic collaboration to solve global challenges and instill hope in the younger generation, ensuring they do not succumb to helplessness. He also passionately addressed healthcare issues, particularly Alzheimer's caregiving, advocating for increased support for caregivers. He concluded by calling for a renewed commitment to developing a visionary approach in politics, one that inspires rather than merely reacts to crises.

Key Findings:

1. Education funding should be viewed as a security investment essential for global stability.
2. There is a rising sense of distrust in government, particularly among youth, requiring innovative approaches to rebuild that trust.
3. Effective political leadership necessitates courage, especially to resist corporate and special interests.
4. There is an urgent need for a strategic vision in governance that aligns with global challenges, rather than reacting to immediate issues.
5. The importance of caregiver support in health care is paramount, particularly for those impacted by Alzheimer's and dementia.



INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Strictly Confidential – Only to be disclosed with IFED Members

Notable Quotes:

“I often say that I believe that the opposite of democracy is apathy.”

“We can't just think about that in terms of military hardware and in terms of diplomacy.”

“If you want to go fast, you go alone. If you want to go far, you go together.”

18. Girls Just Want to Have Fundamental Rights: Fighting the Global Pushback

Executive Summary:

This panel discussed the ongoing global pushback against gender rights, LGBTQ rights, and broader human rights. It highlighted a coordinated effort led by far-right populist movements, which have been increasingly active in both Europe and the United States, leveraging social conservatism to achieve political goals. Key speakers shared their experiences and insights on the ramifications of this anti-gender backlash, emphasizing the necessity of solidarity and strategic responses among human rights advocates. Specific examples illustrated how financial flows have bolstered anti-rights campaigns. Attacks on the Istanbul Convention and threats to reproductive rights are particular areas of concern. Panelists also discussed how this climate of fear isolated marginalized communities and the importance of restoring democratic frameworks and civil society engagement to combat misinformation and rally support for equality. Additionally, threats to fundamental rights were framed not only in cultural terms but as mechanisms of authoritarianism aimed at undermining democratic principles. The discussions culminated in calls to action, stressing the significance of unity and continuous advocacy for the fundamental rights of all individuals.

Key Findings:

1. The anti-gender movement has increased from \$20 million in 2009 to \$250 million in 2023, indicating a significant rise in funding and organization.
2. Women and LGBTQ individuals are being targeted as political wedges in broader authoritarian agendas.



INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Strictly Confidential – Only to be disclosed with IFED Members

3. The pushback reflects a reaction to the successes of human rights movements over the past decades, signaling a dangerous rise in authoritarianism.
4. Sexual violence is used as a weapon in conflict, devastating communities and undermining social cohesion.
5. Erosion of civil society's operational space poses risks to democracy and rights advocacy.

Economic Data:

1. \$20 million (2009 funding for anti-gender movements)
2. \$250 million (2023 funding for anti-gender movements)
3. 65% of young US men oppose gender equality compared to previous decades

Risks Identified:

1. Emerging political authoritarianism that undermines gender equality and human rights.
2. Weaponization of gender issues to incite division and polarize societies.
3. Diminished funding for civil society and critical human rights organizations.

Recommendations:

1. Strengthening cooperation among civil society organizations across national borders.
2. Engaging in grassroots movements advocating for gender rights like 'My Voice, My Choice'.
3. Pushing for the ratification of international conventions like the Istanbul Convention to consolidate rights protections.

Notable Quotes:

“Rights are not just given. They are always fought for, and this is the moment we are being called on to fight for them.”

“Every act of creation is first an act of destruction.”

“The belief that one perception at birth should dictate who you are, how you act, what you do.”



INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Strictly Confidential – Only to be disclosed with IFED Members

19. Holding the Line: Defending Europe and Supporting Ukraine

Executive Summary:

The talk outlined the challenges facing Europe, particularly in its defense posture following ongoing threats from Russia, evidenced by the invasion of Ukraine. Key speakers emphasized the necessity for Europe to take greater responsibility in its defense and for NATO to adapt to this new reality. The U.S. was urged to support European allies while ensuring the transatlantic alliance remains robust. Significant threats arise from Russia's nuclear capabilities and military aggression, as well as China and other adversarial states. Current aid to Ukraine remained a critical point, with discussions around future commitments and ensuring they have the resources and equipment necessary to fend off attacks, especially through harsh winters. Speakers denoted that sustaining Ukrainian morale and defense capabilities is paramount, and emphasized the need for unity within NATO and stronger military collaboration and procurement among European nations. Ultimately, a call for a reliable peace and meaningful security guarantees for Ukraine, moving beyond outdated agreements to prevent future aggression from Russia.

Key Findings:

1. Europe must take greater initiative in its own defense and reduce reliance on U.S. support in conventional military capacities.
2. NATO is evolving to become more European while maintaining a strong transatlantic connection.
3. Germany plans to increase defense spending to 3.5% of its GDP by 2029.
4. Unity and predictability among NATO allies are essential to counter external threats from Russia and other adversaries.
5. Substantial, credible security guarantees for Ukraine are essential to prevent future Russian aggression.
6. There is an urgent need for increased military support and supplies for Ukraine as the conflict continues.

Economic Data:

1. Germany's defense spending target of 3.5% by 2029.



INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Strictly Confidential – Only to be disclosed with IFED Members

2. The European Union has allocated 90 billion euros in military support to Ukraine.
3. The cost of a year of war for Ukraine exceeds 100 billion US dollars.

Risks Identified:

1. The unpredictable nature of Russian military actions and potential new fronts of conflict.
2. Complacency could undermine collective defense efforts among NATO allies.
3. Russia's growing collaboration with China and Iran poses further strategic threats.

Recommendations:

1. Europe should enhance military capabilities and take full responsibility for its security.
2. Reform and strengthen international organizations to better address global security issues.
3. Maintain solidarity within NATO to ensure a unified response to adversarial actions.

Notable Quotes:

“In a world of fragility, we cannot afford complacency.”

“We must provide credible and reliable security guarantees.”

“Unity is our strength; we cannot allow internal or external powers to divide us.”

20. Illicit Affairs: Confronting Criminal Networks Across Borders

Executive Summary:

The discussion centered on the increasingly critical role of tackling cross-border criminal networks, particularly related to drug trafficking and organized crime. The session highlighted the interconnectedness of various illicit activities, including drug trafficking, human trafficking, and financial crimes, emphasizing that the rise of criminal networks necessitates effective international cooperation. Colombia's Defense Minister, Pedro Arnulfo Sanchez-Suarez, reflected on Colombia's historical struggle with drug cartels and the shift in criminal dynamics over the years, advocating for a balanced approach that combines



INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Strictly Confidential – Only to be disclosed with IFED Members

military action and social solutions. European officials, such as Commissioner Magnus Brunner and Interpol Head Valdez de Urquiza, underscored the importance of information-sharing and collaboration among nations to combat these threats. The discussions revealed the urgent need for a holistic approach that integrates human rights considerations into security strategies and the ongoing risks posed by evolving technology in facilitating crime. Furthermore, the rise of hybrid groups that straddle organized crime and terrorism emerges as a significant challenge, complicating law enforcement efforts globally, necessitating a continuous reevaluation of strategies to adapt to these evolving threats.

Key Findings:

1. Criminal networks are increasingly interconnected, using shared methods for drug trafficking, human trafficking, and other crimes.
2. Colombia exhibits varying approaches to tackling drug trafficking, needing a combination of military and social strategies.
3. International cooperation is essential in combatting cross-border criminal activities, particularly through information sharing.
4. The rise of hybrid criminal organizations complicates law enforcement efforts, blurring the lines between organized crime and terrorism.
5. A human rights perspective is crucial for sustainable solutions in law enforcement to ensure public trust and institutional integrity.

Economic Data:

1. One kilogram of cocaine costs \$3,000 in Europe and can reach up to \$32,000 in the U.S.
2. The panels noted a significant disparity in drug pricing across regions, with Australia seeing prices of \$115,000 per kilogram.

Risks Identified:

1. Hybrid groups operating as both organized crime and terrorist entities pose a challenge.
2. Technological advancements give criminals an edge over law enforcement.
3. Failure to address corruption within states allows criminal organizations to flourish.



INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Strictly Confidential – Only to be disclosed with IFED Members

Recommendations:

1. Adopting a dual approach of military and social strategies to effectively combat drug trafficking.
2. Enhancing international collaboration and information-sharing mechanisms.
3. Considering a human rights-based approach in law enforcement to build public trust.
4. Developing technology and training programs for law enforcement to adapt to modern challenges posed by criminal networks.

Notable Quotes:

“The drug problem is a global problem.”

“Human rights is not a trade-off; it should be the essence of law enforcement.”

“If we make pressure at one side, the criminals will move to the other side.”

21. Syria's Post-Revolution Future Insights

Executive Summary:

During a session moderated by Mina Al-Arabi, Syrian Foreign Minister Assad Hassan al-Shibani discussed Syria's current situation following a year of political changes. He highlighted both achievements and challenges, such as establishing a new government and ongoing security concerns. The discourse emphasized the importance of national dialogue, inclusivity, and a focus on rebuilding Syria post-war, amidst a backdrop of ongoing humanitarian issues and the impact of sanctions. Despite some successes, the Minister acknowledged the security failures in certain regions and the need for cooperation between various ethnic and religious communities in Syria. The panelists addressed the complexities of foreign relations, particularly with Israel and the US's role in lifting sanctions while ensuring stability. Discussions also touched on women's representation, the integration of different communities, and the importance of economic investment for Syria's recovery. The ultimate goal presented was a united Syria, re-established with its diverse identity, moving forward in a path of peace and development.



INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Strictly Confidential – Only to be disclosed with IFED Members

Key Findings:

1. Syria has made progress in forming a new government and national dialogue.
2. Ongoing security issues and internal conflicts pose significant challenges.
3. Regional stability requires addressing foreign interventions, especially from Israel.
4. Inclusivity in representation, particularly for women and ethnic minorities, remains critical.
5. Lifting sanctions is viewed as essential to enable foreign investment for reconstruction.
6. Establishing trust and dialogue between communities is necessary for long-term peace.

Economic Data:

1. 1.2 million Syrians have returned to their country according to UN statistics.
2. Over 1,000 airstrikes in Syria targeting civilian and military sites have been noted since December 8.

Risks Identified:

1. Security failures leading to local unrest.
2. Challenges in maintaining peace between different ethnic and religious communities.
3. Potential foreign interventions destabilizing the country.

Opportunities:

1. Neighborhood reconstruction and development through international cooperation.
2. Investment in vocational training to create jobs and reduce violence.

Recommendations:

1. Encourage international investment in Syria's recovery efforts.
2. Facilitate continuous dialogue among Syrian communities to promote reconciliation.
3. Ensure inclusive representation in the new government structures.

Notable Quotes:

“We need to avoid the trap of conflicting identities and focus on our national identity.”

“We cannot exclude anybody; every community in Syria is important to our future.”



INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Strictly Confidential – Only to be disclosed with IFED Members

22. Climate Change and Future Concerns: A Discussion with Carsten Schneider

Executive Summary:

In this dialogue Carsten Schneider, Germany's Minister of the Environment, emphasized the importance of addressing the climate crisis, which he identified as one of the foremost global threats overshadowed by discussions of war and security. Schneider advocated for the development of innovative technologies that can reduce emissions while sustaining economic prosperity. He expressed concern over the political landscape in the U.S. where climate protection rules have been repealed, stressing that the sidelining of science for ideological reasons, exemplified by the Trump administration's policies, poses significant risks. Schneider highlighted the increasing vulnerability of regions heavily impacted by climate change, such as the Sahel and Middle Eastern areas, where many people's livelihoods are threatened, potentially leading to greater migration pressures. He acknowledged the necessity for controlled and strategic responses to mitigate these challenges. Schneider also touched upon the urgency of climate adaptation investments globally, citing Germany's commitment of funds for rainforest preservation and a recent initiative for global water security. In a hopeful tone, he encouraged young people to remain optimistic about the future, despite their fears about climate change, asserting the value of having children and fostering a resilient society.

Key Findings:

1. Climate change is a critical global threat that requires urgent attention and action.
2. Political decisions, especially in the U.S., are increasingly disregarding scientific evidence and undermining international climate agreements.
3. The necessity for technologies that balance economic growth and emission reductions is paramount for sustainable development.
4. Regions such as the Sahel and Middle East face severe climate impacts, necessitating global investments to prevent forced migration.
5. Democracies are uniquely positioned to implement effective climate policies that are socially and economically balanced.



INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Strictly Confidential – Only to be disclosed with IFED Members

Economic Data:

1. Germany committed 1 billion euros for rainforest preservation.

Risks Identified:

1. Sidelining of scientific evidence due to ideological political movements.
2. Increased migration pressures as livelihoods are threatened by climate change.
3. Potential loss of prosperity and increased costs from inadequate climate action.

Opportunities:

1. Development of green technologies with economic benefits.
2. Potential for fostering a global leadership role in climate action through innovative technology.

Recommendations:

1. Invest in climate adaptation and resource management in vulnerable regions.
2. Promote international cooperation for water security and climate resilience.
3. Encourage long-term investment strategies aligned with sustainable growth in democratic frameworks.

Notable Quotes:

“The climate crisis is one of the biggest threats in general, but it is no longer such a big issue.”

“If we didn't have the Paris Climate Agreement we would be at 5°C and now we are at 3°C.”

23. Lars Klingbeil Discusses European Strength, Defense, and Youth Concerns

Executive Summary:

In an interview at the Munich Security Conference, German Vice Chancellor and Finance Minister Lars Klingbeil discusses key issues facing Europe, including military support for Ukraine, investment in infrastructure, and the challenges facing the younger generation. Klingbeil emphasized the need for Europe to take a stronger stance against threats,



INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Strictly Confidential – Only to be disclosed with IFED Members

particularly from Russia, stating that Belarus and other Eastern European locations remain under threat. He argued that support for Ukraine aligns with European values and stresses the importance of investments in modernization, including healthcare and defense. While recognizing the anxieties of young people regarding housing and pensions, he believed they should understand that current investments will create a safer future. He noted the importance of voluntarily encouraging military service over mandatory conscription and highlighted the necessity for more efficient systems in government spending, particularly in healthcare. Addressing the rise of the AfD party, Klingbeil insisted on a unified political front to respond to populist threats without resorting to outright banning, emphasizing legislative due process if necessary. The discussion highlighted the balance between maintaining social state funding while increasing defense budgets and the importance of clear communication to alleviate public concerns.

Key Findings:

1. Europe must present a united front against threats from Putin.
2. Support for Ukraine is framed as a defense of shared European values.
3. Investment in infrastructure and modernization is essential for a secure future.
4. The younger generation is facing unprecedented challenges requiring government attention.
5. Voluntary military service is preferable to conscription.
6. The AfD's practices merit scrutiny, but a prohibition process must be legally justified.

Notable Quotes:

“Ukraine also defends our values...”

“We have to see how we can legally deal with the AfD.”

“I think we have a task to protect our country from the enemies of democracy.”

24. Life Under Destruction: Building-Blocks for a New Gaza



INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Strictly Confidential – Only to be disclosed with IFED Members

Executive Summary:

A discussion panel from the Munich Security Conference addressing the current situation and future reconstruction plans for Gaza, featuring key international figures including foreign ministers and diplomats. The conversation emphasized the urgent need for humanitarian assistance amidst ongoing security concerns, with approximately one million Gazans requiring aid and shelter. Panelists discussed the proposed governance structure, emphasizing that a united Palestinian Authority is essential to any peace process. There are significant discussions around the disarmament of Hamas and the legitimacy of the proposed 'Board of Peace' led by the U.S. The need for a transitional authority to control Gaza and a sustainable two-state solution are highlighted as critical points of negotiation. There's also acknowledgment of growing distrust among Palestinians towards their leadership and the necessity for political and humanitarian advances to rebuild hope. The failure to unify Gaza and the West Bank, alongside escalating violence and settlement expansion in the West Bank, are seen as major barriers to a lasting resolution. Overall, the panelists stress that without political foresight and Palestinian representation in peace discussions, all efforts risk being futile.

Key Findings:

1. One million people in Gaza are in urgent need of shelter and humanitarian aid.
2. The transitional authority must be established for effective governance in Gaza.
3. Disarmament of Hamas is deemed critical for any peace process or Israeli withdrawal.
4. There is a pressing need to unify Gaza with the West Bank politically and operationally.
5. Trust in the Palestinian political leadership is declining among the populace.
6. Urgent humanitarian and recovery assistance is required to ameliorate conditions rapidly.

Risks Identified:

1. A return to war if the second phase of the ceasefire is not implemented.
2. The failure to address security issues could cement divisions in Gaza and between Gaza and the West Bank.
3. The increasing marginalization of the Palestinian Authority could hinder political progress.



INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Strictly Confidential – Only to be disclosed with IFED Members

Recommendations:

4. Establish a transitional authority to govern Gaza effectively.
5. Ensure Hamas disarmament to facilitate a peaceful political environment.
6. Increase transparency in the management of funds for Gaza's reconstruction.
7. Enhance humanitarian aid measures to quickly improve living conditions.
8. Promote Palestinian representation in peace processes to build trust and legitimacy.

Notable Quotes:

“The most important issue is the security issue. We need to look at the security with an objective eye.”

“If Gaza returns back to war, there's no place for the Board of Peace.”

“We need to keep the hope alive because we cannot go into desperation.”

25. Locking Arms: Strengthening Defense Industrial Cooperation - Panel Discussion Summary

Executive Summary:

The panel discussion titled 'Locking Arms: Strengthening Defense Industrial Cooperation' focused on the urgent need for enhanced collaboration in defense industries among several nations. Moderated by Jana Puljerin, the panel included representatives from Australia, Canada, France, the United States, and the aerospace industry, specifically Airbus. Each speaker provided insights into their respective countries' defense strategies and the importance of breaking down barriers to foster cooperative production and innovation. Key points included Australia's commitment to creating a seamless defense industrial environment through initiatives like AUKUS, Canada's significant reinvestment in its armed forces and a new defense industrial strategy, and Europe's struggle with fragmentation while striving to build a unified defense technological base. The necessity of cooperation was stressed, particularly in the context of geopolitical threats such as Russian aggression, which necessitates swift adaptation in defense capabilities.



INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Strictly Confidential – Only to be disclosed with IFED Members

The discussion highlighted systematic inefficiencies within defense procurement processes and emphasized the need for agile methodologies that align innovation with rapid production. Several panelists cited the advantage of dual-use technologies and stressed that defense investment must be publicly justified through job creation and economic benefits to maintain public support. The panel concluded with optimism about the potential for future cooperation in defense sectors, while acknowledging existing political volatility and competition within Europe that complicates collaboration.

Key Findings:

1. There is an urgent need for increased defense industrial cooperation among allied countries to enhance military capabilities.
2. Australia, Canada, and the EU are investing significantly to modernize their defense industries, indicating a shift towards collaborative projects.
3. The Ukrainian conflict showcases the need for rapid technological adaptation in warfare, highlighting lessons for defense procurement.
4. Geopolitical threats, such as Russian aggression, reinforce the necessity of adequate defense investments and unity among allies.
5. A more agile procurement methodology will stimulate innovation and better address modern defense challenges.
6. Cross-nation collaboration, including with smaller defense-tech companies, is essential for maximizing military production efficiently.

Economic Data:

1. \$529 million investment in the European Space Agency by Canada
2. Largest reinvestment in Canadian Armed Forces in 60-70 years amounting to hundreds of billions in equipment procurement

Risks Identified:

1. Political volatility affecting long-term defense commitments and cooperation.
2. Fragmentation within European defense markets hindering competitiveness and efficiency.



INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Strictly Confidential – Only to be disclosed with IFED Members

Opportunities:

1. Growth of joint defense capabilities through strategic partnerships among allied nations.
2. Potential for innovation and economic growth linked to defense investments.
3. Increased collaboration with emerging tech companies to modernize defense solutions.

Recommendations:

1. Governments should increase collaboration with industry and share risks to drive innovation.
2. Adopting a more agile approach to procurement that focuses on solving military problems rather than detailed specifications.
3. Enhancing public understanding of the necessity of defense investments to secure sustained political and community support.

Notable Quotes:

“We must treat our allies as allies. You are not our dependents. You are our partners.”

“If we don't grow the pie through greater defense industry, then all we're going to do is spend more money on the same amount of capability, which is just an act of insanity.”

“Investing in defense is the creation of jobs. It is investing in innovation and research. And it is basically boosting the economy.”

26. MSC Innovation Night 2026 Summary

Executive Summary:

The MSC Innovation Night 2026 focused on the integration of artificial intelligence (AI) in defense, emphasizing its importance in military strategy and operations amidst escalating global threats. Key figures, including Sven Weisenberger and Dr. Eric Schmidt, highlighted the necessity for Europe to harness AI technology to maintain a competitive edge against adversaries like Russia and China. The event further examined the limitations of existing technologies and the urgency for European countries to enhance their AI infrastructure.



INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Strictly Confidential – Only to be disclosed with IFED Members

Initiatives discussed included the Cyber Innovation Hub's AI tools for tactical operations, specifically the development of SmartLead and IDCAT, which streamline decision-making and integrate drone capabilities into military tactics. The discourse underlined the need for interoperability among NATO members and faster innovation cycles, driven by collaboration between military and private sectors. Attendees were encouraged to remain agile, embrace technological advancements, and prepare for future warfare dynamics, establishing a pivotal year for AI deployment in defense.

Key Findings:

1. AI is critical for achieving decision superiority in military operations.
2. The integration of AI and drones in combat scenarios can significantly reduce reaction times and improve operational effectiveness.
3. There is an urgent need for Europe to enhance its AI capabilities to compete globally.
4. Collaboration between military, startups, and industries is essential to accelerate innovation in defense technologies.
5. Establishing interoperability among NATO nations is crucial for effective military responses.
6. Investment in digital infrastructure and sovereignty is necessary for developing advanced military capabilities.

Economic Data:

1. Germany's parliament has tripled the budget for its Cyber Innovation Hub.
2. \$10-\$20 billion is estimated for creating open-source models in Europe.

Risks Identified:

1. Dependency on external technologies exacerbating vulnerabilities in defense systems.
2. Potential for adversarial attacks targeting AI systems utilized by military.

Opportunities:

1. Leveraging AI to improve logistics and operational efficiency in military contexts.
2. Expansion of innovation partnerships between armed forces and private sector can foster advancements.



INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Strictly Confidential – Only to be disclosed with IFED Members

Notable Quotes:

“Defending against AI-capable adversaries without employing AI is an invitation to disaster.”

“The next war will be around data.”

“AI wins not by replacing the soldier, but by giving the soldier the ultimate advantage, and that's the gift of time.”

27. Kick-Off for the 2026 Munich Security Conference

Executive Summary:

The kick-off event for the 2026 Munich Security Conference emphasized the evolving global security concerns and the importance of constructive dialogue among nations. Key speakers discussed the state of international relations, highlighting growing disruptions to the liberal international order. The recent aggression from Russia, particularly in Ukraine, and escalating tensions in the Middle East were flagged as urgent matters for discussion. The event also introduced the Munich Security Report titled 'Under Destruction', which outlined challenges to global governance stemming from both domestic and international sources, notably critiquing the current U.S. foreign policy and its implications for allied nations. Discussions included the necessity for Europe to take greater responsibility for its security, the role of technology in defense, and the significance of international cooperation to navigate a fragmented world order. The conference aims to facilitate interactive discussions on these pressing issues, featuring participation from high-level officials, including ambassadors and ministers from various countries.

Key Findings:

1. The international situation has deteriorated, with increased aggression from Russia and instability in various regions including the Middle East.
2. The U.S. appears to be retreating from its historical commitment to the liberal international order, causing concerns among allies.



INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Strictly Confidential – Only to be disclosed with IFED Members

3. Public perception of the U.S. as an ally is declining in several countries, notably a significant drop in views from Canadian respondents.
4. A need for Europe to enhance its defense capabilities and assume greater responsibility for its security is acknowledged.
5. The emergence of political disruption is raising questions about the sustainability of current international order.
6. There is a growing sentiment of helplessness among Western populations regarding global challenges.
7. Discussions must shift from complaints to actionable solutions for addressing security and geopolitical tensions.

28. Strengthening Defense and Economy: Insights from Markus Söder at Munich Security Conference 2026

Executive Summary:

In an interview at the Munich Security Conference, Bavarian Prime Minister Markus Söder emphasized the critical role of the United States in Germany's economic and defense sectors. He expressed concern over the possible difficulties Germany would face without American support, highlighting the importance of NATO contributions and seeking to increase Germany's military expenditure from 2% to 5%. Söder advocated for a more proactive stance on defense, stating the necessity for Germany to take on more responsibility amidst multiple global crises, particularly due to the war in Ukraine. He discussed the significance of fostering a robust defense industry in Bavaria, where a considerable share of defense companies are based, and highlighted recent innovations such as hypersonic missile tests by local startups. Furthermore, he underscored the need for less bureaucratic red tape and more favorable conditions for businesses to thrive, driving technological advancements and economic growth. In terms of national service, he suggested a return to mandatory service for young men, hinting at the inclusion of women in the future, though he acknowledged political challenges. Söder also touched on societal anxieties regarding global conflicts and economic prospects,



INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Strictly Confidential – Only to be disclosed with IFED Members

portraying a forward-looking yet cautious approach to Germany's place in a shifting world order.

Key Findings:

1. German defense and economy significantly rely on American partnership.
2. A call to increase Germany's NATO contribution from 2% to 5%.
3. Bavaria is emerging as a hub for defense innovation, with many startups contributing to military technology.
4. Bavaria's new armament law aims to streamline processes for defense industry settlement.
5. Söder advocates for a return to mandatory national service for young men, potentially including women in the future.

Economic Data:

1. 7 billion euros invested in high-tech initiatives in Bavaria
2. currently 2% of GDP spent on defense, aiming for 5%

Risks Identified:

1. Dependence on the United States for economic and defense capabilities.
2. Increasing global instability, particularly due to the Ukraine conflict.

Opportunities:

1. Potential growth of Bavaria as a leading defense technology hub.
2. Possibility of improved national service and its implications for societal engagement.

Recommendations:

1. Enhancing military spending to bolster NATO commitments.
2. Creating favorable conditions for defense startups in Bavaria.
3. Streamlining bureaucratic processes for businesses in the defense sector.

Notable Quotes:

“Without the Americans, it will be very, very difficult for us.”



INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Strictly Confidential – Only to be disclosed with IFED Members

“We have to get stronger. Defense and economy.”

“We cannot solve all problems in the world at once.”

29. Munich Security Report 2026 Highlights

Executive Summary:

The Munich Security Conference (MSC) 2026, chaired by Wolfgang Ischinger, addressed the significant global crises impacting international order, with the report titled 'Under Destruction' emphasizing ongoing challenges. This year it stood out due to numerous simultaneous conflicts worldwide, highlighted by the war in Ukraine. Ischinger mentioned that the conference would open with Germany's Chancellor Merz speaking to set a tone focused on European and global security. Key discussions centered on the evolving role of Germany in Europe, transatlantic relations under strain, and the implications of U.S. foreign policy changes. The speech revealed a growing perception of the U.S. as a less reliable ally among NATO states, exacerbated by the rise of destructive political movements. The MSC hosted over 200 government representatives from approximately 120 countries, signifying a broad interest in collaborative security discussions. The speaker urged the need for collective European defense strategies and systemic improvements to address the crises effectively. Additionally, important dialogues on technological advancements and their security implications are expected, setting an agenda for future challenges.

Key Findings:

1. The international order is under significant threat, with widespread crises in Europe and beyond.
2. Majority sentiments across NATO countries indicate decreased trust in the U.S. as a reliable ally.
3. The report identifies the rise of 'demolition men' in politics who are fostering destructive trends.



INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Strictly Confidential – Only to be disclosed with IFED Members

4. Public sentiments in G7 nations show beliefs that current policies will worsen future prospects for upcoming generations.
5. Massive political and economic dysfunctionality is contributing to feelings of helplessness among populations.

Risks Identified:

1. Growing global insecurity and systemic challenges to international order.
2. Increased risk perception regarding inequality and economic crises attributed to U.S. policies.
3. Erosion of democratic principles in light of rising populist movements.

Recommendations:

1. Strengthening collaborative European defense initiatives and capabilities.
2. Fostering multilateral relationships to counter U.S. policy disruptions.
3. Enhancing public trust through credible governance and systemic reforms.

Notable Quotes:

“We are currently experiencing not only another phase of the adaptation of the international order, but a situation in which central assumptions... are actively questioned.”

“The only stabilizer of the system is becoming an irritating factor, leading to new insecurities.”

“If institutions are perceived as failing, why should we hold back those who promise to simply tear everything down?”

30. Mushrooming: Tackling Growing Nuclear-Proliferation Risks

Executive Summary:

The panel discussion addressed the vulnerabilities and threats facing the nuclear non-proliferation regime amidst shifting international geopolitics. The panelists, including experts from the International Atomic Energy Agency and significant academic institutions, discussed concerns regarding the erosion of nuclear deterrence, particularly in Europe and



INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Strictly Confidential – Only to be disclosed with IFED Members

the implications of countries reconsidering nuclear armament due to the perceived unreliability of the U.S. as a security provider. The discussion highlighted rising risks such as allied proliferation, where U.S. allies may seek their own nuclear capabilities, and potential changes in global nuclear dynamics, especially with China and Russia's expanding arsenals. The conversation also emphasized the importance of diplomatic efforts to maintain nuclear stability and the need for frameworks that ensure disarmament commitments among nuclear states.

Key Findings:

1. The nuclear non-proliferation regime is under significant strain from geopolitical shifts.
2. Countries traditionally aligned with non-proliferation norms are reconsidering their nuclear strategies due to reduced trust in U.S. security guarantees.
3. There is an emergent risk of allied proliferation, particularly in Europe, where allies express concerns about U.S. reliability.
4. The dissolution of arms control treaties, particularly the New START treaty, heightens dangers of a renewed nuclear arms race.
5. All parties acknowledge the necessity for the IAEA's role in maintaining nuclear oversight, especially in situations involving Iran.

Risks Identified:

1. Erosion of the nuclear non-proliferation regime.
2. Possibility of increased nuclear capabilities among U.S. allies.
3. Potential for an arms race involving the U.S. and Russia post-New START.

Recommendations:

1. Strengthening diplomatic ties and frameworks to mitigate nuclear risks.
2. Encouraging discussions on alternative security arrangements to reassure allies.
3. Reinforcing the role of the IAEA in monitoring nuclear compliance.



INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Strictly Confidential – Only to be disclosed with IFED Members

Notable Quotes:

“The nonproliferation regime is one of those still remaining elements of predictability and certainty that we have in a world which is otherwise uncertain.”

“The threat or the disgruntlement with the regime is not from the Global South primarily, but there’s this new possibility of allied proliferation.”

“It would be a terrible thing to see more countries armed with nuclear weapons.”

31. Nadia Calviño on EIB's Role in Security and Investment for Young People

Executive Summary:

In an interview at the Munich Security Conference, Nadia Calviño, President of the European Investment Bank (EIB), highlighted the crucial role the EIB plays in fostering security across Europe through substantial investments. In 2025, the EIB reached a record of 100 billion euros in various financing avenues, focusing on energy infrastructure, housing, education, and healthcare, which are vital sectors for young people and families facing crises. Calviño emphasized the significance of investing not only in military aspects but also in societal resilience, energy security, and technology leadership. The EIB is committed to promoting gender equality through its projects and has introduced specific initiatives to empower women, especially in the context of post-war recovery in Ukraine. She advocated for an interconnected approach to investment that supports multiple sectors simultaneously, assuring that current defense spending does not detract from funding for education and housing. The conversation reiterated the EIB's legacy of enhancing European infrastructure and urged unity among member states to tackle future challenges effectively. Calviño concluded by stressing the importance of sustainability and innovative solutions for long-term success, encouraging young Europeans to engage in these efforts for their future.

Key Findings:

1. The EIB achieved a record of 100 billion euros in financing in 2025, emphasizing diverse investments including energy, housing, and security.



INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Strictly Confidential – Only to be disclosed with IFED Members

2. Strong societal infrastructures are essential for security, going beyond military expenditures to include education and healthcare investments.
3. The EIB aims to promote gender equality across all projects and has launched initiatives supporting women entrepreneurs.
4. Investments in critical infrastructure and new technologies are vital for sustaining peace and addressing future challenges.
5. The EIB has a successful track record in mobilizing private investment alongside public funding for large infrastructure projects.
6. Calviño stresses the importance of unity among EU member states to strengthen European security and resilience.

Economic Data:

1. 100 billion euros in lending by the EIB in 2025

Risks Identified:

1. Continued dependence on fossil fuel producers poses a significant risk to energy security.

Opportunities:

1. Investing in education, health, and housing is key for securing a prosperous future for young people across the EU.
2. Technological advancements can help prevent conflicts and improve security.

Recommendations:

1. Encouraging collaborative investments across key sectors including technology, education, and health to ensure resilience and security.
2. Highlighting gender issues in investment plans to increase the rate of female participation in the workforce and leadership roles.

Notable Quotes:

“Peace is the starting point for everything.”

“Security is much more than tanks and rockets.”



INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Strictly Confidential – Only to be disclosed with IFED Members

“The EIB is the climate bank.”

32. Open Corridor Policy? Deepening Trans-Caspian Cooperation

Executive Summary:

The panel chronicles a discussion focused on the Trans-Caspian International Transport Route, also known as the Middle Corridor, that connects China and Europe. Key participants included Azerbaijani President Aliyev, EU Commissioner Marta Kos, and Professor Henry Wang. The discussion highlighted the significant increase in cargo traffic along the Middle Corridor, growing from 350,000 tons in 2021 to an expected 4.5 million tons by 2025. Acknowledging Azerbaijan's role as a regional transportation hub, President Aliyev emphasized ongoing investments in infrastructure, including railroads and fiber-optic projects, which bolster connectivity between Europe and Asia. The panel also addressed geopolitical dynamics, particularly the competition with routes through Russia and the positive changes following a peace agreement between Azerbaijan and Armenia, which could enhance regional collaboration. Participants underscored the strategic importance of creating sustainable investments and infrastructure, and the potential for tripling traffic volumes by 2030, thus emphasizing the economic advantages associated with the Middle Corridor. Opportunities for trilateral cooperation and the involvement of private sectors from Europe were discussed to capitalize on these developments.

Key Findings:

1. Cargo traffic along the Middle Corridor is projected to increase from 350,000 tons in 2021 to 4.5 million tons in 2025.
2. Azerbaijan is enhancing its infrastructure to become a significant transit hub, with targets to process up to 500,000 twenty-foot equivalent units (TEU) by 2025.
3. The Trans-Caspian transport corridor could triple traffic volumes and halve transit times by 2030, providing substantial cost savings for businesses.
4. Peace agreements between Azerbaijan and Armenia are expected to open new trade routes, enhancing regional cooperation.
5. There are increasing opportunities for the EU to engage private sectors effectively in financing connectivity projects.



INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Strictly Confidential – Only to be disclosed with IFED Members

6. The Middle Corridor's development can support geopolitical stability and economic growth across Eurasia.

Economic Data:

1. 350,000 tons (2021 cargo volume)
2. 4.5 million tons (2025 projected cargo volume)
3. 100,000 TEU currently using Azerbaijan's routes with targets of 200,000 and 300,000 in the following years
4. 1 trillion USD investment by China in the Belt and Road Initiative

Opportunities:

1. Enhancing economic ties between Europe and Asia through improved connectivity.
2. Trilateral cooperation among Azerbaijan, Armenia, and Turkey post-peace agreement.
3. Increased involvement of private sector investments in regional infrastructure projects.

Notable Quotes:

“Azerbaijan has been largely investing into the physical infrastructure, including seaports, railroads, highways, and air cargo transportation.”

“The Trans-Caspian transport corridor could triple traffic volumes by 2030, halve transit times and save tens of millions of costs annually.”

“Peace can be achieved when you really have peaceful process. Signing the document is important.”

33. Reengaging with the Sahel: Key Insights from Experts

Executive Summary:

The panel captured a discussion focused on the multifaceted crisis in the Sahel region, emphasizing that the situation warrants a comprehensive approach beyond mere security solutions. Experts described the Sahel as facing a 'crisis of convergence' driven by governance failures, economic instability, and a burgeoning youth population struggling with



INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Strictly Confidential – Only to be disclosed with IFED Members

unemployment. The importance of engaging local populations in discussions and addressing the underlying social issues alongside security concerns has been highlighted as essential for sustainable solutions. The role of external actors, particularly the European Union and the United States, is scrutinized in light of their past policies and how those have contributed to the current instability. The subsequent need for a renewed diplomatic engagement that emphasizes economic development, human security, and addressing regional cooperation was stressed. Panelists expressed concerns over the influence of Russia in the Sahel, suggesting that Western nations must recalibrate their strategies to regain trust and effectively support local governance.

Key Findings:

1. The Sahel crisis is driven by multiple, intertwined factors including governance failures and economic instability.
2. A security-first approach has exacerbated issues rather than addressing underlying causes.
3. Improving local governance and building trust with the Sahelian populations is crucial for long-term stability.
4. The EU must engage diplomatically while prioritizing human security and socioeconomic development.
5. There is a pressing need to counter the rising influence of Russia in the region, which is leveraging the instability to expand its reach.
6. A holistic approach that includes consultation with local communities is essential for sustainable solutions.

Risks Identified:

1. Spillover effects from Sahel instability threatening regional security.
2. Increased Russian presence and its potential to destabilize the region further.
3. Youth unemployment leading to vulnerability to radicalization and unrest.

Recommendations:

1. Encouraging regional cooperation among Sahelian states to address security challenges collectively.



INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Strictly Confidential – Only to be disclosed with IFED Members

2. Investing in local governance and socioeconomic development to mitigate the root causes of conflict.
3. Engaging youth populations in political and economic processes to foster a sense of agency and stability.

Notable Quotes:

“‘A crisis of convergence’ describes the intertwined challenges facing the Sahel, necessitating a regional and holistic approach.”

“Military action alone cannot achieve a sustainable solution; we must address the root causes.”

“The next thing he said was he's very proud because since 2021 to 2026, he's managed to reduce the budget given to security from 30% down to 22%.”

34. Building a Strong and Independent Europe in a Volatile World

Executive Summary:

This talk outlined the urgent need for Europe to enhance its independence and security in the context of rising geopolitical tensions, particularly stemming from Russia's aggression towards Ukraine. European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen emphasized the necessity for Europe to take full responsibility for its own security and prosperity, advocating for increased defense spending and a stronger collective defense posture under NATO. She noted a significant rise in defense budgets due to the war in Ukraine, projecting that by 2028, European defense investment will surpass that of the United States. The call for a new European security strategy was pivotal, requiring integration of various sectors, including trade, tech, and data, to protect the continent against external threats. She asserted that mutual defense must be prioritized within Europe, utilizing existing treaties creatively to foster collaboration among member states. Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, Sir Keir Starmer, echoed these sentiments, highlighting the shared challenges Europe faces and the importance of coordinated defense strategies among allies while reaffirming the need for increased military capability to deter aggression. Both leaders stressed that the transatlantic alliance remains crucial, acknowledging the changing role of the U.S. in global defense and the



INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Strictly Confidential – Only to be disclosed with IFED Members

need for Europe to bolster its own defenses proactively. They concluded by calling for imaginative new partnerships and continued collaboration to ensure a peaceful, democratic Europe that stands resilient against threats.

Key Findings:

1. Europe must enhance its independence and defense capabilities in response to external threats, particularly from Russia.
2. Defense spending in Europe has increased nearly 80% since before the war in Ukraine.
3. By 2028, European defense investment is projected to exceed U.S. spending on defense equipment.
4. A unified approach among European nations is crucial to ensuring effective mutual defense and security strategies.
5. Strategic enablers in technology and supply chains must be developed to strengthen Europe's defense posture.
6. Collaborative defense efforts, exemplified by partnerships like the Coalition of the Willing and the Joint Expeditionary Force, should be formalized.
7. Achieving peace and stability in Europe requires a robust industrial base aligned with defense needs.

Economic Data:

1. 800 billion euros mobilized by the European Union for defense
2. Defense spending projected to exceed 5% of GDP across Europe
3. The UK announced over £500 million for air defense supplies to Ukraine

Risks Identified:

1. Continued Russian aggression and rearmament pose significant threats to European security.
2. Dependence on U.S. defense capabilities must be re-evaluated amid shifting global dynamics.
3. Fragmentation in defense industries across Europe leads to inefficiencies and potential security vulnerabilities.



INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Strictly Confidential – Only to be disclosed with IFED Members

Recommendations:

1. Formalizing and strengthening defense collaborations among European nations.
2. Investing in dual-use technologies to enhance defense and economic capabilities.
3. Developing a comprehensive European security strategy that integrates trade, technology, and defense.
4. Encouraging rapid innovation in defense production to meet urgent security needs.

Notable Quotes:

“An independent Europe is a strong Europe, and a strong Europe makes for a stronger transatlantic alliance.”

“The quickest way for this conflict to end is for Russia to stop its aggression.”

“Peace and freedom, these two are interlinked, and it has to be the goal of security policy to protect them.”

35. Radmila Šekerinska on NATO's Path Forward

Executive Summary:

In a discussion Radmila Šekerinska, NATO's Deputy Secretary General, reflected on the shifting perceptions of security in Europe. She highlighted a critical turning point since 2014, which intensified after the Russian invasion of Ukraine in 2022. Many Europeans, who once viewed peace as a guarantee, now must confront a less secure reality. Šekerinska emphasized the necessity for NATO, comprised of 32 member nations, to adapt and strengthen its collective security efforts, particularly in light of emerging threats in the Arctic and increasing aggressiveness from Russia and China. She noted instances of renewed commitment from European allies in meeting defense spending goals despite earlier underperformance. A key factor in NATO's future success would lie in the transatlantic relationship and a call for European allies to contribute more significantly to their own defense. She tackled the false narratives propagated by Russia regarding NATO expansion, clarifying that NATO is fundamentally a defensive alliance. The conversation touched upon the unique perspectives



INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Strictly Confidential – Only to be disclosed with IFED Members

women leaders bring to security discussions, underscoring the imperative for unified strength in the face of real threats to European and global security.

Key Findings:

1. The perception of security in Europe has shifted significantly, especially following recent conflicts.
2. NATO must adapt to new global threats, particularly from Russia and China in the Arctic.
3. European allies are stepping up their defense investments to meet upcoming spending thresholds.
4. Transatlantic cooperation remains crucial for future security but requires more significant contributions from European allies.
5. NATO's commitment to collective defense is essential and is often misunderstood in the context of its expansion.
6. Economic Data:
7. 3.5% GDP threshold for defense spending expected to be met years ahead of the 2035 deadline.

Risks Identified:

1. Increased aggression from Russia and China in the Arctic region.
2. The proliferation of disinformation narratives undermining NATO's role and intentions.

Notable Quotes:

“Many Europeans believe that peace is granted and that we should not think about defense that much.”

“We expect European allies in Canada to do more; they shouldn't expect the U.S. to do all the heavy lifting.”

“NATO defines itself and clearly acts as a defensive alliance.”

36. Panel Discussion on Geopolitics of Energy Resources



INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Strictly Confidential – Only to be disclosed with IFED Members

Executive Summary:

The panel discussion addressed the changing landscape of global energy politics, with emphasis on the importance of diversifying energy sources and aid, particularly in the context of the ongoing conflict in Ukraine. Officials highlighted the critical need for Europe to enhance its energy infrastructure, secure alternative gas supplies, and support Ukraine's energy resilience amidst Russian attacks targeting its energy grid. Various countries, such as Norway and Germany, shared insights on their support to Ukraine, ranging from financial aid to gas supply commitments. Discussions also covered the strategic importance of critical minerals, particularly from regions like the Democratic Republic of Congo and Argentina, stressing the need for resource-rich nations to gain footholds higher up the supply chain rather than just extracting raw materials. The conversation hinted at the risks of compromising climate goals due to energy diversification needs and underscored the necessity for cohesive investments in both traditional and renewable energy sources to remain competitive globally.

Key Findings:

1. Europe's dependency on U.S. LNG is at 60%, emphasizing a need for diversification.
2. Ukraine's energy infrastructure is under severe threat from Russian attacks, requiring immediate support.
3. Germany is the largest contributor to the Ukraine Energy Recovery Fund, pledging nearly \$500 billion.
4. Critical minerals like lithium and cobalt are vital for energy transitions and geopolitical strategies.
5. Countries rich in natural resources should focus on adding value to their resources rather than just extraction.

Economic Data:

1. Germany's contribution to Ukraine Energy Recovery Fund approximately \$500 billion.
2. Argentina holds 20% of the world's lithium reserves.

Risks Identified:

1. Over-reliance on single energy sources could lead to vulnerabilities.
2. Climate goals may be compromised due to the urgent need for energy diversification.



INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Strictly Confidential – Only to be disclosed with IFED Members

3. Russia's aggressive actions could further destabilize global energy security.

Opportunities:

1. Investment in critical minerals draws global players like BHP and Rio Tinto into Argentina.
2. Decentralizing energy production in Ukraine can enhance resilience against attacks.

Recommendations:

1. Strengthening energy infrastructure and foster partnerships for resource diversity.
2. Focussing on sustainable and resilient energy solutions for conflict-affected regions.
3. Promoting regional cooperation in critical mineral development and processing.

Notable Quotes:

“We need much more, of course, to help them. Not only to repair the Soviet-style concentrated power plants, but also to help them transition into a more sustainable energy production system.”

“Energy markets bind the world together. This was not a conversation I thought we would be having here in Europe a few years ago.”

37. Reboot or Repair? Toward A New Development Paradigm - Opening Townhall

Executive Summary:

The talk captured the discussions from the opening town hall of the Munich Security Conference, focusing on the need for a new paradigm in development cooperation amid changing global dynamics. Key speakers addressed the intersection of development, security, and diplomacy, emphasizing that development should not just be viewed through the lens of foreign aid but as essential for global stability and geopolitical relations. The conversation highlighted the shifts in approaches due to budget constraints and geopolitical rivalries, particularly in light of national interests that limit traditional donor contributions. Panelists



INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Strictly Confidential – Only to be disclosed with IFED Members

stressed the importance of creating job opportunities in developing regions, particularly Africa, as a preventive measure against conflict and instability. The necessity for listening to partner countries and enhancing their capacity for economic self-sufficiency, rather than perpetuating dependency on aid, formed a pivotal part of their discourse. The discussions underscored the urgency for both reform in development cooperation and innovative partnerships to meet the challenges of the evolving international order.

Key Findings:

1. Development cooperation must evolve to address budget cuts and geopolitical shifts.
2. Investment in development is critical for preventing conflicts and stability worldwide.
3. Partner countries must take ownership of their development priorities, moving away from traditional aid dependency.
4. Global cooperation is needed to address crises like climate change, security, and food insecurity.
5. Public funds should catalyze private investment to stimulate growth in developing regions.
6. Strengthening local economies and capacity building is essential for sustainable development.

Economic Data:

1. Worldwide development agenda amounts to approximately \$200 billion.
2. Europe contributes around 43% of development funding.

Risks Identified:

1. Shrinking development budgets jeopardizing long-term stability initiatives.
2. Increasing geopolitical competition affecting development aid.

Opportunities:

1. Intra-African trade presents vast economic potential.
2. Emerging technological advancements can facilitate development efforts.



INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Strictly Confidential – Only to be disclosed with IFED Members

Recommendations:

1. Shifting development cooperation to prioritize country ownership and collaboration.
2. Focussing on creating jobs and fostering private sector investment in developing regions.
3. Enhancing capacity building and combat illicit financial flows.

Notable Quotes:

“Development is preventive security; it addresses the root causes of conflicts.”

“Africa is not to stay like an assistant continent; we would like to work ourselves.”

“Investing in development is at the same time an investment in global stability.”

38. Rep. Sarah McBride Discusses Youth Empowerment and Education

Executive Summary:

In a discussion Congresswoman Sarah McBride emphasized the importance of empowering young voices in shaping democratic values and policies. She asserted that youth are not just the future but the present, with their voices holding significant weight in current political discourse. McBride critiqued the current U.S. administration for its potential dismantling of the Department of Education, which plays a critical role in ensuring equal educational opportunities, particularly for marginalized communities. She stressed that education is vital for democracy, proposing that young people need more representation in government to foster a sense of belonging and connection. As the average age of first-time homebuyers rises to 40, she highlighted the urgent need for real, tangible policies to address the aspirations of young individuals and combat feelings of hopelessness in the current climate. McBride concluded by underlining the responsibility of leaders to listen to and represent the voices of young Americans to ensure democracy remains accessible and effective for all generations.

Key Findings:

1. Young voices are critical in shaping today's political landscape.



INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Strictly Confidential – Only to be disclosed with IFED Members

2. The dismantling of the Department of Education poses risks to civil rights and educational opportunities.
3. There needs to be increased youth representation in government.
4. Young people are experiencing a crisis of belonging, exacerbated by social media and disconnection.
5. Tangible policies are necessary to instill hope and demonstrate government accountability to youth.

Economic Data:

1. The average age of first-time homebuyers in the U.S. is 40.
2. Homeownership starts at an average age of 33-34 in the UK.

Risks Identified:

1. Dismantling the Department of Education risks dismantling protections for civil rights.
2. Growing disconnection among youth threatens democratic participation.

Recommendations:

1. Increasing representation of young people in government.
2. Implementing tangible policies that address the needs and aspirations of youth.
3. Fostering connections and dialogue between government and young citizens.

Notable Quotes:

“Young voices are not the voices of tomorrow, they're the voices of today.”

“If you're not at the table, you're on the menu.”

39. Sanna Marin on Education, Women & Europe's Future

Executive Summary:

In an insightful discussion with Vika Tivu, former Finnish Prime Minister Sanna Marin emphasized the crucial intersection of education, female leadership, and robust societal



INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Strictly Confidential – Only to be disclosed with IFED Members

security. Marin reflected on her own educational journey from a humble background, highlighting how education transforms lives and is fundamental for societal progress. She stressed the need for young people to assume roles of responsibility and power, while simultaneously acknowledging the institutional duty to empower these emerging leaders. Addressing the distinct challenges women face in leadership, Marin advocated for solidarity among women and men to dismantle systemic barriers and double standards. She connected education to national security, arguing that an informed populace is essential to combat misinformation and strengthen democracy against authoritarianism. Marin insisted that values such as equality, justice, and rule of law are vital for effective leadership and urged Europe to unite around these principles in its strategy for a more secure future. Throughout the conversation, Marin called for active participation in political processes and mutual support to counter growing global challenges.

Key Findings:

1. Education is vital for personal and societal transformation.
2. Young people must be granted authentic power and responsibilities to affect change.
3. Gender double standards persist in leadership roles, and it's crucial for women to support one another.
4. Education should be viewed as an integral part of national security strategies.
5. Democratic values must guide leadership decisions amidst rising authoritarianism.

Risks Identified:

1. The growing appeal of authoritarian models in Europe.
2. The challenge of misinformation and disinformation online.

Recommendations:

1. Encouraging youth participation in governance and at leadership tables.
2. Fostering educational programs that enhance overall societal security.
3. Conducting active efforts to support female leaders.

Notable Quotes:

“Half of the world's power and resources belongs to women.”



INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Strictly Confidential – Only to be disclosed with IFED Members

“If we don't take that power ourselves, somebody else will use it and they don't always have the best intentions in mind.”

“Together we are strong.”

40. Senator Coons Discusses Global Partnerships and Law Enforcement Accountability

Executive Summary:

In an interview, U.S. Senator Christopher Coons addressed critical issues surrounding U.S. international relations and law enforcement accountability. Coons emphasized the importance of U.S. actions on the global stage and the urgent need for accountability within Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). He was working on the ICE Accountability Act with Senator Elizabeth Warren, which aimed to establish a congressional commission to monitor and enforce best practices and accountability measures for ICE agents, including the use of body cameras. He noted a significant public outcry from constituents in Delaware for better oversight of law enforcement, especially amidst ongoing concerns about civil rights. Additionally, Coons reflected on his past experiences in Africa during the anti-apartheid movement, which shaped his perspective on American foreign policy. He also expressed concern over the humanitarian situation in Gaza, particularly regarding humanitarian aid and the complexities of U.S. foreign policy in the region. The senator highlighted the risks of miscalculation that could lead to larger conflicts globally and called for addressing underlying issues of economic justice and inequality to prevent future conflicts.

Key Findings:

1. The public is demanding greater accountability and oversight of ICE agents.
2. The proposed ICE Accountability Act aims to formalize standards similar to local law enforcement.
3. There is a significant need for trust between communities and law enforcement.
4. Coons emphasizes the effect of U.S. foreign policy actions on the global perception of the U.S.



INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Strictly Confidential – Only to be disclosed with IFED Members

5. The humanitarian crisis in Gaza requires urgent attention and clearer pathways for support.
6. Miscalculations between superpowers present a risk of escalating conflicts.

Risks Identified:

1. The risk of miscalculations leading to conflicts among superpowers.
2. The humanitarian crisis in Gaza and potential backlash from withholding aid.

Notable Quotes:

“There must be trust between the community and police.”

“If we fail to address the core issues that make people hungry, unhealthy, and inequality prevalent, that also propels conflict.”

“I’m seeing Russia, Iran, North Korea, and China cooperating more.”

41. Spotlight on Arctic Security

Executive Summary:

The panel discussion focused on security issues in the Arctic region, highlighting the concerns over rising geopolitical tensions, particularly involving Russia and China. Various leaders, including Prime Ministers and Defense Ministers from the Arctic nations, discussed the establishment of NATO's Arctic Sentry framework intended to enhance military capability and presence in this crucial area. They noted the urgency of adapting NATO's focus to include the Arctic due to climate change, which is reshaping geopolitical dynamics by opening new navigation routes and increasing influence from global powers. Greenland's leaders emphasized their commitment to security cooperation within NATO while affirming their sovereignty. The panelists also addressed the historical discussions around Greenland's status, pointing out the manipulation of its sovereignty by foreign powers as a significant concern. The conversation underscored the necessity for Arctic nations to collaboratively enhance surveillance, infrastructure, and multi-national defense capabilities against emergent threats,



INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Strictly Confidential – Only to be disclosed with IFED Members

reinforcing the importance of shared values in fortifying Arctic security amidst growing global tension.

Key Findings:

1. NATO's Arctic Sentry mission aims to enhance military presence and response capability in the Arctic.
2. Russia and China are viewed as potential threats in the Arctic, necessitating increased collaboration and investment by NATO allies.
3. Greenland's role in Arctic security is significant, with leaders advocating for greater involvement in surveillance and defensive strategies.
4. The changing climate is reshaping geopolitical dynamics in the Arctic, requiring updated security protocols.
5. Allied nations underscore the importance of maintaining sovereignty and respecting international law while discussing regional security.
6. Collaborative defense strategies among Arctic nations are deemed essential to counter perceived threats from non-Arctic powers.

Economic Data:

1. \$80 billion in defense spending planned by Canada by 2035
2. 5% increase in defense spending projected by Canada by 2035

Risks Identified:

1. Rising geopolitical tensions in the Arctic due to Russian and Chinese activities.
2. Historical discussions around Greenland as a target for foreign acquisition, notably from the U.S.
3. Impact of climate change on navigation routes and security dynamics.

Recommendations:

1. Increasing NATO's permanent presence in the Arctic to deter potential threats.
2. Enhancing surveillance and infrastructure investments in the Arctic region.
3. Prioritizing cooperative defense strategies among Arctic nations.



INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Strictly Confidential – Only to be disclosed with IFED Members

Notable Quotes:

“The Arctic region is enormous, and we have more issues in other parts of it than we have around Greenland.”

“We need to acknowledge the changing global threat environment and the importance of supporting each other.”

“We agree on the need to do more on Arctic security.”

42. The Crisis of Humanitarian Assistance and the Need for Change

Executive Summary:

A discussion led by Udo Jude Ilo, CEO of the Hague Institute for Innovation of Law, focusing on the current challenges within humanitarian assistance. The participants highlighted a significant and troubling shift in humanitarian aid dynamics, emphasizing the decision-making is increasingly influenced by geopolitical interests. Recent OECD data show a potential 17% drop in global development aid, which could result in an additional 9.4 million preventable deaths by 2030. Discussions revolved around various crises, including conflicts in Sudan and Ukraine, illustrating how human suffering, often disproportionately affecting civilians, is exacerbated by the erosion of international humanitarian laws and political will. The panelists also explored the necessary reforms within the humanitarian system, underscoring the importance of treating humanitarian needs with political urgency rather than merely as issues of efficiency or funding. The necessity for a holistic reevaluation of funding models, as well as the moral responsibility of state leaders to protect civilians, was a recurrent theme.

Key Findings:

1. Humanitarian assistance is increasingly driven by the geopolitical interests of donor countries, diluting the focus on actual humanitarian needs.
2. Projected declines in global development aid could lead to millions of preventable deaths by 2030.



INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Strictly Confidential – Only to be disclosed with IFED Members

3. The number of global armed conflicts has increased dramatically, affecting civilian populations disproportionately.
4. A crisis of diplomacy and political commitment is directly linked to the growth of humanitarian emergencies.
5. Local and global partnerships in humanitarian action need strengthening to improve response effectiveness.
6. Adherence to international humanitarian law is diminishing, resulting in more civilian casualties and eroded protections.
7. Political accountability and commitment to protecting civilians is essential for meaningful humanitarian intervention.

Economic Data:

1. Global development aid projected to drop by up to 17%
2. Potential for an additional 9.4 million preventable deaths by 2030 if funding trends persist.
3. Aid workers killed in conflict zones numbered 617 the previous year.
4. In the last year, humanitarian budgets have been cut by nearly 50%.

Risks Identified:

1. Increased targeting of aid workers due to the erosion of international humanitarian law.
2. Imminent health crises resulting from declines in humanitarian funding and aid.
3. The potential rise in political instability and conflict due to the neglect of humanitarian crises.

Recommendations:

1. Rethinking funding models to prioritize humanitarian needs over geopolitical interests.
2. Strengthening local partnerships and expertise in humanitarian response efforts.
3. Enhancing political will and accountability regarding compliance with international humanitarian law.



INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Strictly Confidential – Only to be disclosed with IFED Members

Notable Quotes:

“Today's survivors are tomorrow's victims.”

“We have to stop the behavior that creates humanitarian crises.”

43. Spotlight on Maritime Security Discussion

Executive Summary:

The spotlight discussion on maritime security, moderated by Mina al Arabi, highlighted the pervasive impact of maritime threats on global trade and communication. With over 80% of world trade dependent on waterways and vast networks of underwater cables, the importance of maritime security has been underscored. Panelists, including leaders from Yemen, Singapore, the EU, and ASEAN, shared regional perspectives on current maritime security threats, influenced heavily by geopolitics, terrorism, and transnational crime. Yemen's precarious situation due to Houthi control and Iranian influence posed grave risks to maritime security. Other panelists emphasized the shifting focus of threats over time, with previous concerns like sea piracy diminishing in significance, while drug trafficking and human trafficking remained potent issues. The panelists advocated for collaborative efforts among nations to strengthen maritime security frameworks, uphold international norms, and address emerging technological threats like cyber vulnerabilities in underwater infrastructures. Maritime security has been framed not merely as a regional issue but one necessitating global cooperation, as breaches in one maritime area will have widespread repercussions.

Key Findings:

1. Maritime security is critical, with over 80% of world trade relying on maritime routes.
2. The Houthi presence in Yemen represents a lasting threat to regional maritime safety, exacerbated by Iranian support.
3. Geopolitical tensions, particularly between major powers like the US and China, complicate regional security dynamics.
4. Traditionally high-priority threats such as sea piracy have declined, while drug and human trafficking remain pressing issues.
5. Collaboration and capacity building among regional states are essential to effectively address maritime security challenges.



INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Strictly Confidential – Only to be disclosed with IFED Members

Risks Identified:

1. Iranian influence on militant groups in Yemen threatening global trade and maritime lanes.
2. Environmental and safety risks posed by illegal maritime activities, including the Russian 'Shadow Fleet'.
3. Decline of trust in international maritime norms, leading to increased geopolitical tensions.

Opportunities:

1. Improved regional cooperation mechanisms through forums like ASEAN and the EU.
2. Potential for utilizing emerging technologies to enhance maritime surveillance and security.
3. Collective focus on critical infrastructure protection can lead to increased collaboration among states.

Recommendations:

1. Engaging in unified international efforts to combat militant influence on maritime security.
2. Strengthening legal frameworks and operational norms guided by UNCLOS to mitigate conflicts.
3. Increasing capacity building initiatives for littoral states to help them better manage maritime security.

Notable Quotes:

“The problems at sea don't start at sea; they start on land.”

“It is not just militarization that will solve our maritime security challenges, but a multifaceted approach.”



INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Strictly Confidential – Only to be disclosed with IFED Members

44. Discussion on Peace Deals in the Middle East

Executive Summary:

A panel discussion featuring key figures involved in peace negotiations related to Gaza, including Mirjana Spogliaric, president of the International Committee of the Red Cross, Sigrid Kog, a former UN envoy, and Massad Faris Boulos, senior advisor to the U.S. President for Arab and Middle Eastern affairs. The conversation revolved around historical peace agreements, the current humanitarian situation in Gaza, and the intricate dynamics of securing lasting peace through political and humanitarian strategies. Panelists emphasized the role of humanitarian actions often setting the foundation for peace negotiations, noting that successful peace deals are grounded in international law and require the commitment of numerous stakeholders, particularly the United States. They expressed hope for renewed focus on the two-state solution, tension surrounding the disarmament of Hamas, and the necessity for sustained political pressure and economic investment to ensure a viable peace process.

Key Findings:

1. Peace deals often begin with humanitarian gestures, such as prisoner exchanges.
2. Past agreements, like the Oslo Accords, were significant despite not being fully implemented.
3. The current situation in Gaza requires urgent humanitarian interventions to protect civilian rights.
4. Disarmament of Hamas is critical for long-term peace and demilitarization efforts.
5. Successful peace processes hinge on international cooperation and political commitment.
6. The humanitarian situation in Gaza remains severe, with a need for immediate aid and sustainable recovery plans.

Notable Quotes:

“Peace is an end outcome, an end state. It's a journey towards.”

“The Palestinians have been waiting for too long.”

“You can't achieve a full and final peace from day one.”



INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Strictly Confidential – Only to be disclosed with IFED Members

45. Spotlight on Security Guarantees for Ukraine

Executive Summary:

The discussion focused on the urgent need for security guarantees for Ukraine amid ongoing conflict with Russia. It highlighted Ukraine's readiness to negotiate peace while insisting on maintaining its territorial integrity. The speakers expressed optimism about the role of American leadership in facilitating peace talks, with notable emphasis on the necessity of continued pressure on Russia to secure a favorable outcome. The document outlined the significant military and economic challenges faced by Russia, suggesting that its ongoing aggression is increasingly unsustainable. The discussions also emphasized establishing robust security guarantees for Ukraine, necessary to deter future acts of aggression and underpin a stable peace agreement. This coalition of allies aimed to provide multilayered support, including military presence and logistics for peacekeeping efforts following a ceasefire. The talk raised concerns about the adequacy of existing European military capabilities and the critical importance of strengthening defense capabilities across Europe, particularly with the backing of the United States. The potential complexities of future negotiations regarding territory, as well as the need to avoid pressuring Ukraine into unfavorable concessions, were openly acknowledged. The overall sentiment suggested that the path to enduring peace involved steady commitment to Ukraine's sovereignty and a robust, well-planned security architecture backed by a coalition of nations.

Key Findings:

1. Ukraine possesses viable proposals for peace talks but insists on maintaining territorial integrity.
2. Russia's military actions have led to significant casualties and economic strain, presenting a faltering position.
3. The United States is crucial in providing binding security guarantees to support Ukraine effectively.
4. A coalition of 39 countries is committed to creating robust security guarantees for Ukraine post-ceasefire.
5. Future negotiations must ensure that Ukraine's sovereignty is upheld, without placing undue pressure for territorial concessions.



INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Strictly Confidential – Only to be disclosed with IFED Members

Economic Data:

1. 90 billion loan to support Ukraine's financial stability over the next two years.
2. Predicted Russian recession by 2026 due to military expenditures and sanctions.

Risks Identified:

1. Potential pressure on Ukraine to concede territory for peace.
2. The danger of Russia exploiting ceasefire agreements to regroup and escalate future aggression.

Notable Quotes:

“Ukraine will never accept any formula that costs our territorial integrity and sovereignty.”

“If we need to get to peace, we need those security guarantees.”

46. Transatlantic Cooperation: Subnational Perspectives

Executive Summary:

A conversation moderated by Nina Habchigian, involving Minister President Hein of Hesse and Governor Gavin Newsom of California, focusing on the state of transatlantic cooperation. They explored the significance of transnational partnerships at the state level amid current global disruptions. Hein reflected on Hesse's historical ties to America, emphasizing the importance of local partnerships, economic exchanges, and scientific collaborations that enrich their states despite the turmoil at the national level. Newsom described California's vast population diversity and its leadership in clean energy initiatives while advocating for grassroots solutions amid frustrations with national leadership. The discussion highlighted shared values of liberty, democracy, and pluralism that bind these regions together. Both leaders expressed concerns about the rise of far-right politics threatening democratic values in their respective countries and the importance of maintaining these transatlantic relationships amid changing political landscapes.



INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Strictly Confidential – Only to be disclosed with IFED Members

Key Findings:

1. Transnational partnerships at the subnational level are crucial to maintaining shared values despite national disruptions.
2. The historical ties of regions like Hesse to America symbolize deeper collaborative opportunities.
3. California's leadership in clean energy exemplifies a proactive approach to climate change at the state level.
4. Both leaders stress the importance of addressing emerging far-right political challenges that threaten democratic values.
5. Investing in local economies and harmonious partnerships can bolster democracy and social inclusivity.

Risks Identified:

1. The rise of far-right parties with anti-democratic sentiments in both the U.S. and Europe.
2. Potential instability and fracturing of traditional governmental relationships due to political shifts.

Opportunities:

1. Strengthening economic partnerships and scientific collaborations between states.
2. Utilizing the grassroots influence of local leaders to advocate for pressing international issues.

Notable Quotes:

“The future happens there first. We're America's coming attraction.”

“Don't promise too much, but keep every promise you make.”

“Only the dealmakers profit off the deals, but not the people.”



INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Strictly Confidential – Only to be disclosed with IFED Members

47. Venezuela's Path to Democracy: Insights from Maria Corina Machado

Executive Summary:

In a media conversation led by NPR host Mary Louise Kelly, Maria Corina Machado, the Venezuelan opposition leader and Nobel Peace Prize recipient, discussed the ongoing crisis in Venezuela and her vision for the country's future. She highlighted the severe impact of the Maduro regime, including the largest migration crisis globally and a humanitarian emergency. Machado emphasized the need for international support and decisive action for a transition to democracy, reflecting on the recent engagement by the United States and the release of political prisoners. She articulated her faith in the will of the Venezuelan people, their desire to return to a free Venezuela, and outlined a strategy that involves dismantling oppressive structures while initiating systemic reforms. Machado expressed her profound gratitude toward the U.S. for its support in Venezuelan liberation efforts and discussed the geopolitical implications of restoring democracy in Venezuela, aiming to transform it into an economic powerhouse for the Americas. As she prepares to return to her homeland, she called on international allies, especially from Europe and the Americas, to intensify actions against the regime and support Venezuelans in reclaiming their rights and rebuilding their nation. Machado also stressed the urgency of establishing trustworthy electoral systems to facilitate upcoming democratic elections.

Key Findings:

1. 27 years of brutal devastation under the Maduro regime have caused the largest migration crisis in the world.
2. Over 9 million Venezuelans wish to return home, contingent on the establishment of democracy and security.
3. Recent political prisoner releases demonstrate a mobilizing effect on Venezuelan society, pushing for democratic transitions.
4. The U.S. has emerged as a vital ally in Venezuelan liberation efforts, marking a shift in the political dynamic.
5. Venezuela possesses significant natural resources that could position it as an energy and technology hub if properly governed.



INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Strictly Confidential – Only to be disclosed with IFED Members

Economic Data:

1. \$60 billion in loans from China to the Chavista regime reduced to around \$16 billion
2. Over \$1.7 trillion in potential business opportunities in various sectors in Venezuela

Risks Identified:

1. The ongoing presence of a repressive regime and potential violence during the transition to democracy.

Opportunities:

1. The chance to rebuild Venezuela's institutions and turn it into an economic hub for the Americas.
2. A potential democratic transition could inspire similar movements in neighboring countries.

Recommendations:

1. International actors should take definitive steps to dismantle the Maduro regime's criminal structures.
2. Enhancing diplomatic and targeted support to isolated groups perpetrating repression in Venezuela.
3. Accelerating processes for establishing legitimate electoral systems and inviting expatriate Venezuelans to participate in the political process.

Notable Quotes:

“Venezuela will be free because of its people.”

“We believe that many things have to be addressed simultaneously in Venezuela because of the degree of destruction.”

“We need a date for elections and we need certainty that freedom and respect for all will take place.”



INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Strictly Confidential – Only to be disclosed with IFED Members

48. Debt Crisis and Global Security: A Public Forum Discussion at Munich Security Conference

Executive Summary:

The session focused on the escalating debt crisis affecting global security dynamics, particularly within developing nations. The discussion highlighted that over 3.4 billion people live in countries where debt servicing compromises health and education funding. In 2023, developing nations faced a staggering \$847 billion in interest payments, leading to increased poverty, reduced social spending, and an eroding social contract between states and citizens. The correlation between high debt levels and conflict was emphasized, as nine out of ten countries with the lowest human development indices currently experience instability. Experts called for a modernization of international financial architecture to facilitate better debt management without sacrificing social welfare. Key suggestions included the establishment of a debtor's club for better negotiation and transparency, the responsible borrowing and lending principles, and cooperation between multilateral development banks (MDBs) to unleash necessary capital for development. The panelists reiterated that addressing these debt challenges requires not only innovative financial solutions but also political will and comprehensive strategies for sustainable growth and stability.

Key Findings:

1. 3.4 billion individuals live in nations prioritizing debt servicing over essential services like education and healthcare.
2. Developing countries have incurred \$847 billion in debt servicing costs in 2023, leading to a 26% increase in two years.
3. High debt is a primary driver of insecurity and instability, particularly in low-income countries.
4. 70% of fragile and conflict-affected countries are at risk of debt distress, indicating a strong link between debt and social instability.
5. Innovative financial mechanisms, including debtor's forums and responsible borrowing principles, are necessary to restructure global debt.
6. Investment in social capital and development can yield significant returns, with every dollar invested in prevention saving up to \$103 in related conflict costs.



INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Strictly Confidential – Only to be disclosed with IFED Members

Economic Data:

1. 3.4 billion people affected by over-prioritized debt servicing
2. \$847 billion paid in net interest by developing nations in 2023
3. 26% increase in debt servicing costs over two years
4. 70% of fragile countries in or at risk of debt distress

Risks Identified:

1. Increased poverty levels due to debt servicing overshadowing social investments.
2. Eroding social contracts leading to conflict and instability in developing nations.
3. Potential liquidity crises stemming from rising interest rates and poor international economic policies.

Opportunities:

1. Creation of a debtors' forum for better negotiation and transparency among borrowing nations.
2. Potential for technology and AI to enhance domestic resource mobilization.
3. Increased investment in health and education to counteract economic downturns.

Notable Quotes:

“Debt is not just a financial failure; it is a security risk as well.”

“70% of countries in fragile and conflict-affected situations are now in or at risk of debt distress.”

49. Spotlight on the State of Russia: Economic Resilience and Military Strain Amid International Pressure

Executive Summary:

A comprehensive discussion regarding the current state of Russia, particularly focusing on its political, economic, and military dynamics. Despite ongoing military conflicts and internal repression, the Russian economy is described as functioning poorly but not collapsing entirely.



INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Strictly Confidential – Only to be disclosed with IFED Members

The officials from Sweden and the US expressed their frustration with the limitations of past sanctions and highlighted the urgent need for stronger military and economic pressures on Russia to support Ukraine effectively. They emphasized that current efforts lagged significantly behind what is deemed necessary for an effective response to Russian aggression. The discussion also shifts towards military supply needs for Ukraine, asserting that adequate arms support is crucial for Ukraine to enhance its defensive capabilities against Russian forces. Additionally, there was a strong emphasis on the need for unity and increased military support from NATO allies, with various senators proposing new legislation aimed at imposing substantial tariffs on countries sustaining the Russian economy, particularly highlighting the role of China, India, and Brazil in the ongoing conflict.

Key Findings:

1. The Russian economy is struggling but remains resilient, adapting to severe conditions over time.
2. There is significant internal repression not only of civilians but also among Russia's elites, raising concerns over the regime's sustainability.
3. International allies, particularly from the Nordic region, have provided substantial military aid to Ukraine but agree that more assistance is crucial.
4. Current sanctions against Russia are viewed as inadequate; a call for comprehensive maritime service bans and other sanctions on Russian energy exports is emphasized.
5. There is bipartisan support in the US Senate for legislation designed to increase pressure on Russia and support Ukraine.
6. The importance of securing long-lasting peace through accountability and the return of abducted children is noted as vital for any agreement.
7. Collaborative efforts among Western nations, including effective military support and economic sanctions, are essential to deter future Russian aggression.

Economic Data:

1. Last year, Sweden provided one third of NATO's total military support to Ukraine.
2. Russia's oil revenues are reported to be declining, threatening its war economy.



INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Strictly Confidential – Only to be disclosed with IFED Members

3. Europe has spent roughly \$500 billion on defense last year, compared to the US's nearly \$900 billion.

Risks Identified:

1. A potential third invasion by Russia if Ukraine is not adequately supported.
2. The possibility of Ukraine entering into an unfair peace agreement under political pressure.

Recommendations:

1. Implementing a full maritime services ban on all Russian energy exports.
2. Increasing military support to Ukraine, including advanced weaponry such as Tomahawk missiles.
3. Encouraging the defection of Russian elites to destabilize the current regime.
4. Legislation should be passed that enables tariffs on countries supporting the Russian economy.

Notable Quotes:

“Wars don’t end when the last dollar or ruble is spent, but when the systems can no longer sustain them.”

“Nothing about Ukraine without Ukraine.”

50. US Secretary of State Marco Rubio's Speech at the Munich Security Conference

Executive Summary:

During his address at the Munich Security Conference, US Secretary of State Marco Rubio emphasized the importance of transatlantic unity in the face of global challenges, including the war in Ukraine, conflicts in the Middle East, and broader geopolitical tensions. He recalled the historical context of the conference, which began in a divided Europe, and outlined how the West has overcome past adversities through cooperation. Rubio critiqued the idea of a 'global order' that neglects national sovereignty and warned against the dangers of unchecked immigration and economic outsourcing. He advocated for a strong, united front between the



INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Strictly Confidential – Only to be disclosed with IFED Members

US and Europe to navigate contemporary challenges and to promote shared interests, emphasizing the necessity of reform in international institutions. Rubio closed by highlighting the deep cultural and historical ties between the US and Europe, asserting that the future prosperity of both depends on a renewed commitment to their common values and heritage.

Key Findings:

1. The US is committed to renewing and strengthening transatlantic relations.
2. Historical context is vital in understanding current global challenges.
3. A critique was made against the idea of a world without borders, emphasizing the importance of national sovereignty.
4. Reforming and rebuilding international institutions is necessary for effective global governance.
5. The US emphasizes the need for economic independence and a robust manufacturing base.
6. National security must be rooted in a strong cultural identity and shared heritage.
7. Cooperation between the US and Europe is crucial for addressing global threats.

Risks Identified:

1. Deindustrialization and loss of supply chain sovereignty.
2. Mass migration threatening societal cohesion.
3. Over-dependence on international institutions undermining national interests.
4. Developing new technologies and industries, such as AI and space travel.
5. Reclaiming economic independence and strengthening supply chains.

Recommendations:

1. Reinforcing transatlantic alliances and partnerships.
2. Focussing on reclaiming industrial capabilities and manufacturing strength.
3. Controlling national borders to preserve sovereignty and cultural integrity.
4. Reforming global institutions to better serve national interests.



INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Strictly Confidential – Only to be disclosed with IFED Members

Notable Quotes:

“We cannot continue to allow those who blatantly and openly threaten our citizens and endanger our global stability to shield themselves behind abstractions of international law.”

“What we want is a reinvigorated alliance that recognizes that what has ailed our societies is not just a set of bad policies, but a malaise of hopelessness and complacency.”

51. The West–West Divide: What Remains of Common Values

Executive Summary:

A discussion centered around the question of whether the West, as a unified entity defined by shared values and interests, still exists amid growing divisions. The panelists, which included prominent figures from various European countries and the U.S., debated significant geopolitical issues such as the responses to the Ukraine crisis and the ongoing conflict in Gaza, emphasizing perceived hypocrisy in Western values. Each speaker brought unique perspectives on the cultural and civilizational divides within Western nations, notably between conservative and progressive ideologies. They discussed how these divisions manifest in differing interpretations of rights and freedoms, as well as the implications for international relations. Secretary Clinton argued that the ideological battle within the West has intensified, exacerbated by rising populism and nationalism. Panelists concurred on the need for an open dialogue to explore these tensions without labeling opponents negatively, while pointing out the risks of exclusionary practices that undermine the shared democratic values that they advocate for. The conversation reflects a broader inquiry into the future of European and transatlantic cooperation.

Key Findings:

1. The West is experiencing a significant ideological rift that questions its unity and shared values.
2. Conservative and progressive ideologies in the U.S. and Europe are increasingly at odds, especially in interpretations of freedom and rights.



INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Strictly Confidential – Only to be disclosed with IFED Members

3. The contrasting responses to conflicts like Ukraine and Gaza reveal perceived hypocrisy within Western nations.
4. Open and respectful dialogue is necessary to address the divisions and conflicts of values within the Western alliance.
5. The strength of democratic values may be at risk if divisions continue to widen between nations.

Notable Quotes:

“I see it as a very almost healthy debate. Because if people are not thinking about what their rights are and should be, if they're not willing to stand up and claim them, then that to me is the great civilizational challenge.”

“We need to stick to the proper definition of conservatism. Edmund Burke was a conservative. Winston Churchill was a conservative.”

“Ukraine fights for Ukraine's future, Ukraine's freedom, Ukraine's sovereignty and independence. So we should help them, of course.”

52. Panel Discussion on the Conflict in Sudan: Three Years of War and Paths to Peace

Executive Summary:

A panel discussion regarding the ongoing war in Sudan, which has led to significant humanitarian crises including 14 million displaced people, 30 million in need of aid, and 7 million facing famine. Mr. Kamal Idris, the appointed Prime Minister by Sudan's transitional council, discussed various peace processes, including the 'Peace Roadmap' supported by international figures. Idris emphasized the importance of protecting civilians and establishing ceasefire agreements but indicated that no concrete ceasefire has been achieved. The panelists also addressed the roles of the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) and foreign involvement, particularly by the United Arab Emirates. Concerns regarding the humanitarian impact, especially on women and children, dominated the conversation, highlighting abuses such as sexual violence in conflict zones. The need for a coordinated ceasefire and the urgency of international pressure to halt arms flows and support were emphasized. The session ended



INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Strictly Confidential – Only to be disclosed with IFED Members

with a call for action from international communities while acknowledging the dire circumstances faced by Sudanese citizens.

Key Findings:

1. The humanitarian crisis in Sudan is extensive, with millions displaced and in need of aid.
2. Multiple peace initiatives exist, but a clear compromise and agreement remain elusive.
3. The humanitarian ceasefire is viewed as crucial but has not been concretely agreed upon.
4. The ongoing external support, particularly from the UAE, has complicated peace efforts.
5. There are critical and urgent human rights violations occurring, especially against women and children.
6. Sustainable peace requires a Sudanese-led operational strategy, rather than externally imposed solutions.

Risks Identified:

1. Continued violence from both military factions and external backers threatens regional stability.
2. The ongoing humanitarian crisis could lead to further displacement and social unrest.

Recommendations:

1. Developing a coordinated strategy for a ceasefire involving all factions and support networks.
2. Increasing pressure on external parties, particularly the UAE, to limit their involvement in the conflict.
3. Focussing international aid on preventing humanitarian catastrophes, specifically addressing the needs of displaced populations.

Notable Quotes:

“Sudan is today, but tomorrow is many neighbouring countries. And this is a direct threat to the international peace and security.”



INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Strictly Confidential – Only to be disclosed with IFED Members

“Sudan is the worst humanitarian crisis of the 21st century.”

“What the Sudan needs is a long-term solution, not half-measures that perpetuate cycles of violence.”

53. Under Reconstruction: A World Order for the Next Generation Panel Discussion

Executive Summary:

The panel discussion addressed the future of global order, emphasizing the essential role of youth in shaping political landscapes. Led by UNIC Security Conference CEO Benedikt Wagner, the panel features young leaders Yasemin Ansari, Basia Hassan, Björn Jung, and Hanna Leopold. The discussion revolved around critical questions such as the impact of perpetual crises on young people's trust in institutions, the need for long-term thinking in policymaking, and the necessity of intergenerational justice. Panelists expressed concerns over current policies affecting youth, notably regarding climate change, economic inequality, and job security, suggesting that transformational rather than incremental changes are required. They argued for the inclusion of youth voices in decision-making processes and highlighted the importance of addressing economic disparities that lead to distrust in democracy. The conversation also touched upon social and foreign policies, focusing on empowering young people as the next generation of leaders and decision-makers in a multipolar world.

Key Findings:

1. The next generation is critical in reconstructing the world order and should be included in decision-making processes.
2. Current policy decisions affecting climate, student debt, and job security impact the trust young people have in democratic institutions.
3. Transformational changes in economic policies are needed to address youth concerns, rather than mere incremental adjustments.
4. Global challenges require youth-led initiatives, and their engagement in politics is increasing.
5. Disparities in economic security and wealth distribution have led young people to feel more alienated from traditional democratic structures.



INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Strictly Confidential – Only to be disclosed with IFED Members

Economic Data:

1. The richest 10% of the UK population owns nearly 60% of the nation's assets, highlighting growing wealth inequality.

Notable Quotes:

“We need bold, big changes for the future, not incremental change but transformational change.”

“Until we have a meaningful place at the table with actual decision-making power, it's just still going to be tokenism.”

“The reality is we need to ensure that we don't have any nuclear capabilities.”

54. Vox Populi? Responding to the Rise of Populism

Executive Summary:

A panel discussion focused on the rise of populism and the perceived betrayal of working-class constituents by traditional political parties in Europe and the United States. Participants reflected on their personal experiences, with Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez sharing her journey from a working-class background to becoming a Congresswoman, emphasizing the disconnect between political elites and the concerns of everyday people. The discussions spotlight examples from Germany, where the Social Democrats have aligned with centre-right economic policies, contributing to the rise of more extreme parties like the AfD. Assertions were made that effective responses to populism necessitate addressing the underlying economic and social grievances of citizens, as well as ensuring that democracy remains robust against authoritarian impulses. Specific concerns such as income inequality and political populism undermining democratic institutions were raised, alongside the challenges of communication in the age of social media which can fragment public discourse. The panel underscored the necessity for bold leadership that genuinely listens to constituents' needs to counter the allure of populist agendas.



INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Strictly Confidential – Only to be disclosed with IFED Members

Key Findings:

1. The traditional political parties are perceived as having abandoned their working-class bases, leading to the rise of populist parties.
2. Effective responses to populism require addressing economic inequalities and providing candid solutions to the citizenry's concerns.
3. There is a growing call for a shift towards working-class-centered politics to combat authoritarianism and promote sustainable democracy.
4. The role of social media is critical as it exacerbates divisions and complicates shared public discourse.
5. The necessity for bold leadership is emphasized, with a focus on delivering substantive changes rather than relying solely on populist rhetoric.

Risks Identified:

1. Increased political instability and authoritarianism due to rising income inequality.
2. Fragmentation of public discourse caused by social media and misinformation.
3. The potential for populist parties to gain influence if traditional parties do not address core voter grievances.

Recommendations:

1. Political parties must prioritize addressing socio-economic inequalities to regain trust from the working-class electorate.
2. Promoting a participatory political discourse that recognizes and validates citizen concerns.
3. Encouraging regulations that ensure democratic values are upheld in the age of digital communication.

Notable Quotes:

“The choice is no longer left and right, the choice is kind of between the people and the elite.”

“We have to have a working-class-centered politics if we are going to succeed, and also if we are going to stave off the scourges of authoritarianism.”



INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Strictly Confidential – Only to be disclosed with IFED Members

55. War of Nutrition: Resilience Against Food Weaponization

Executive Summary:

A discussion focusing on the strategic and geopolitical implications of food security, particularly in the context of modern conflicts. It emphasized moving food security discussions beyond purely humanitarian concerns to address its national and international security dimensions. The conversation emphasized the need for an integrated approach that considers food systems as critical infrastructure within a geopolitical context. Key points discussed included the use of food as a weapon in warfare (notably in the Ukraine conflict), the impact of climate change on food security, and the importance of building resilient agricultural systems that can withstand hybrid threats. Various experts from organizations like NATO, the European Union, and IFAD contributed perspectives on the necessity of addressing food security within military and defense frameworks, advocating for more robust risk assessments and multilateral cooperation to enhance global food supply chains and ensure human security. They also touched on the interconnectedness of food, water, and climate security and the need for developing local capacities to mitigate vulnerabilities to food weaponization.

Key Findings:

1. Food security must be integrated into national security discussions as a critical aspect of resilience in times of hybrid warfare.
2. The weaponization of food has significant implications for both military effectiveness and civilian livelihoods, particularly observed in the Ukraine conflict.
3. Global dependencies on food imports, especially fertilizers and grains, create vulnerabilities that can be exploited in geopolitical conflicts.
4. The interdependence between food, water, and climate security requires comprehensive and coordinated approaches to prevent conflicts and humanitarian crises.
5. Strategic investments in local agricultural systems are essential for achieving food self-sufficiency and resilience against global shocks.



INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Strictly Confidential – Only to be disclosed with IFED Members

Risks Identified:

1. Weaponization of food in conflict zones, undermining national security and exacerbating humanitarian crises.
2. Dependence on food imports creates vulnerabilities that can be exploited by adversaries.
3. Impact of climate change on food production threatens global food security.

Opportunities:

1. Building resilient food systems can enhance national and global security while fostering economic stability.
2. Investment in local food production can create jobs and reduce reliance on external food sources.

Recommendations:

1. Incorporating food security into national defense strategies and discussions.
2. Promoting international cooperation and investment in resilient agricultural systems.
3. Implementing comprehensive agricultural policies that mitigate dependency on single-source food supplies.

Notable Quotes:

“You can't build a continent on an empty stomach. You can't win a war on an empty stomach.”

“Food security is a reflection of all such conflicts, from agriculture to the transfer to even the war zones.”

Cross-Cutting Themes

The ongoing geopolitical realignment reflective of diminished trust in historical alliances, primarily marked by the perceived unreliability of the U.S. as a global ally, signaled a pressing need for robust reforms in international cooperation. This shift was characterized by the increasing prioritization of national interests and bilateral agreements over multilateral commitments, reshaping the foundational principles of the existing international frameworks. As a response, countries, especially in Europe, were urged to assume greater responsibilities



INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Strictly Confidential – Only to be disclosed with IFED Members

in security and geopolitical stability, minimizing dependence on U.S. leadership while bolstering domestic defense capacities. An interconnected thread was the emphasis on collective defense mechanisms, exemplified by Europe's strategic initiatives for military advancements and the reinforcement of NATO alliances. These collaborative endeavors were crucial in responding to aggressive postures from authoritarian states like Russia and China, positioning collective security as a non-negotiable priority for sustainable global peace.

Simultaneously, an emergent theme was the critical role of youth engagement and education in fortifying democratic processes and addressing systemic economic inequalities. This included substantial investments in education as a strategic imperative for stability, amplifying young voices to drive policy-making, and ensuring that future generations are equipped for leadership. This emphasis has been grounded in the consensus that nurturing human capital through education forms the backbone of societal resilience and economic sustainability.

Several talks focussed on integrating climate change responses into national security agendas, highlighting this intersection as a profound security threat necessitating strategic investments in agricultural resilience and resource management. The cross-cutting recognition of climate change's multifaceted impact on security, from food weaponization in conflict zones to economic vulnerabilities stemming from climatic disruptions, underscored the necessity of crafting comprehensive climate-centric security policies.

Human rights challenges, particularly regarding gender and minority rights, have resurged as pivotal areas demanding concerted international initiatives to prevent backsliding on democratic gains. The observed authoritarian tilt in various regions has activated discussions on maintaining solidarity and collective interventions to preserve fundamental rights, addressing the socio-political dimensions of ongoing security threats.

The confluence of economic pressures such as the debt crisis with security considerations reinforced the need for innovative financial architectures that prioritize social commitments alongside economic growth. This theme was reflective of a broader understanding that economic stability is a precursor for peace, necessitating reforms that enable equitable resource distribution and sustainable development practices.



INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Strictly Confidential – Only to be disclosed with IFED Members

These themes collectively depict a globally interconnected tapestry where the blending of defense strategies, economic policies, climate responses, and human rights advocacy are seen as integral to shaping a resilient world order capable of overcoming contemporary challenges. While reforming traditional alliances, embracing technological advancements, and securing youth participation were positioned as strategic imperatives, the talks advocated for a renewed focus on multilateral engagements and inclusive dialogues to craft a stable and secure global environment.

Key Economic Data Points:

The synthesis of economic data from across the panels reflects significant trends and critical insights into global economic undercurrents intertwined with security imperatives:

- ◆ The Munich Security Conference highlighted a 3.4 billion individual population in nations prioritizing debt servicing over essential services, underlining the economic strain compromising health and education sectors.
- ◆ Bulgaria marks a notable decline in GDP coinciding with substantial military expenditures, with indications of a recession by 2026 impacting the broader regional economic stability.
- ◆ Defense spending, projected to increase to 5% of GDP in some European nations, underscores a recalibration of economic priorities towards enhancing military readiness.
- ◆ Germany's defense investments reveal a commitment to shifting expenditure from 2% to 5% of GDP, facilitating a robust military-industrial complex within the EU framework.
- ◆ Agricultural resilience emerges as a focal economic opportunity, with strategic investments in local systems projected to foster food security and job creation.
- ◆ Technological advancements in AI and defense, including €800 billion allocated for innovations, positions Europe as a competitive leader in global technology markets.
- ◆ Increased pressure on natural resources is reflected in energy dependencies, with over 60% of European LNG imports reliant on the U.S., prompting diversification strategies for economic security.
- ◆ The Trans-Caspian transport corridor is projected to witness a 30% tripling in cargo traffic by 2030, stimulating economic growth through enhanced Eurasian connectivity.



INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Strictly Confidential – Only to be disclosed with IFED Members

◆ European Investment Bank's achievement of a €100 billion financing milestone in 2025 underscores support for infrastructural and societal resilience investments across energy, education, and healthcare sectors.

Emerging Risks Identified

Several documents identify a spectrum of emerging risks that necessitate strategic foresight and preemptive policy measures to mitigate potential security and global stability threats:

◆ **Geopolitical Realignments:** The fragmentation of international alliances, notably within NATO and other transatlantic partnerships, increases the risk of unpredictability and reduced collective security coordination, potentiating unauthorized regional escalations.

◆ **Economic Instabilities:** The enduring global debt crisis, magnified by geopolitical disruptions, presents a high risk of sovereign economic crises, undermining social contracts and increasing vulnerability to internal instability and conflicts.

◆ **Resource Security:** Food weaponization and global dependencies on critical minerals underscore vulnerabilities in geopolitical tensions, with the potential exploitation by adversarial states transforming resource control into strategic leverage.

◆ **Technological Dependencies:** The expanding reliance on AI and external technology for military and security infrastructures increases the risk of adversarial attacks and complicates sovereign defense autonomy.

◆ **Human Rights Regression:** The documented resurgence of authoritarian movements threatens advancements made in human rights protections, necessitating vigilance and international support to curb potential repression and backsliding on democratic values.

◆ **Climate Change Impacts:** The rising climate-induced migration and associated socio-economic disruptions pose a security risk, particularly in resource-constrained regions, where environmental degradation could facilitate conflicts over diminishing resources.

◆ **Populist Politics:** The spread of populist sentiments could exacerbate divisions within and between nations, shifting attention from collaborative global engagements to insular policies, complicating multilateral discussions on security responses.

Opportunities Highlighted

The corpus outlines several opportunities that present potential advancements across security, economic, and societal dimensions:



INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Strictly Confidential – Only to be disclosed with IFED Members

- ◆ **Regional Connectivity Enhancements:** The development of infrastructures such as the Trans-Caspian Corridor provides significant opportunities for geopolitical stabilization and economic growth through sustained Eurasian connectivity.
- ◆ **Defense Cooperation Growth:** Expanded collaborative defense efforts, including subnational engagements and NATO realignments, present significant scope for enhanced security outcomes, fostering technological innovations in defense industries.
- ◆ **Youth Empowerment:** Engaging young populations in governance processes and policy-making can drive democratic resilience and innovation, instilling accountability and future-oriented leadership for sustainable development.
- ◆ **Sustainable Resource Management:** Investments in agricultural and energy sectors emphasize renewable innovations, generating jobs, and aiding economic sustainability while enhancing local resilience against global supply chain perturbations.
- ◆ **Human Rights Advocacy:** The synchronization of international efforts in upholding human rights and gender equality presents an opportunity to reinforce socio-political stability amidst compliance with global norms.
- ◆ **Digital Transformation:** Leveraging evolving AI technologies and data to improve decision-making processes within geopolitical contexts empowers nations to enhance strategic capabilities and tactical responses in emergent threat environments.
- ◆ **Educational Investment:** Scaling educational frameworks resourced in transformative policies emphasizes economic equity and intellectual development, uniquely positioning regions for advancing human capital towards comprehensive societal contributions.

Recommended Actions:

Drawing from the documents' insights, the following recommended actions provide a framework for addressing the emergent security, economic, and societal challenges faced globally:

- ◆ **Strengthen International Collaborations:** Reinvigorate and reform transnational and multilateral alliances to better adapt to the shifting geopolitical landscape, ensuring comprehensive defense and security cooperation.



INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Strictly Confidential – Only to be disclosed with IFED Members

- ◆ Invest in Technological Innovations: Prioritize funding for defense technologies, including AI and cybersecurity, to maintain a competitive edge while fostering innovation through public-private partnerships.
- ◆ Promote Youth Engagement: Implement policies fostering youth inclusion in governance and policy-making, alongside bolstered educational investments to develop well-equipped future leadership.
- ◆ Integrate Climate Strategies: Formulate strategies that integrate resilient climate action within national security frameworks to address environmental instability's breadth of impacts.
- ◆ Support Human Rights Initiatives: Reinforce international commitments to uphold human rights, ensuring solidarity against emerging authoritarian tendencies and projecting global democratic values.
- ◆ Facilitate Economic Diversification: Encourage economic policies reducing dependencies and stimulating growth through strategic investments in sustainable resources, infrastructure, and technological sectors.
- ◆ Secure Supply Chains and Resources: Bolster energy resilience and food security policies, emphasizing diversification and local production capacities to mitigate external dependencies and vulnerabilities.

Memorable Quotes:

- ◆ Trust is earned one teaspoon at a time and lost by the buckets.
- ◆ Rights are not just given. They are always fought for, and this is the moment we are being called on to fight for them.
- ◆ The opposite of democracy is apathy.

Final Conclusion:

The synthesis of this variety of panels encapsulates a world increasingly characterized by profound transitions and complex interdependencies within geopolitical, economic, security, and social arenas. The challenges outlined reflect a reality in which longstanding international structures require substantial reform and renewed commitment to collaborative security mechanisms to navigate contemporary threats effectively. This realignment must drive tangible reforms in global governance, emphasizing inclusivity and cooperation as fundamental principles for sustained peace and stability.



INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Strictly Confidential – Only to be disclosed with IFED Members

Empowering younger generations, investing heavily in education and technological innovation, and integrating climate change considerations into security frameworks emerge as pivotal strategies for future resilience. A strong commitment to human rights amidst rising authoritarian expressions remains essential to preserving democratic principles and societal integrity.

Simultaneously, there is an unprecedented opportunity to harness collective energies and resources towards constructing a more robust global framework, grounded in shared values and equitable resource distribution. As nations look forward, reformative actions centered on pragmatic solutions, emergent technologies, and proactive partnerships hold promise for fortifying a resilient, inclusive, and prosperous global order.