Munich Security Conference 2024

List of Selected Side Events

Thursday, February 15

International Biosecurity & Biosafety Initiative for Science (IBBIS)

Introducing IBBIS: Safeguarding Bioscience and Biotechnology
Saal & Foyer, Literaturhaus
15.30 - 17.00

The Nuclear Threat Initiative (NTI) is launching the International Biosecurity and Biosafety Initiative for Science (IBBIS). IBBIS is a new, independent organization based in Geneva that will work with global partners to strengthen biosecurity norms and develop innovative tools to uphold them. IBBIS will help reduce the risk of catastrophic events that could result from deliberate abuse or accidental misuse of bioscience and biotechnology so they can flourish, safely and responsibly.

Special Competitive Studies Project

Gathering Geopolitical Storms: Can Technology Help Save the World Order?
Gelber Salon, Hotel Bayerischer Hof
15.30 - 17.00

Russia’s war against Ukraine has challenged Allied interests and capacities. Hamas’ horrific attacks against Israel have further compounded these challenges. Meanwhile, the People’s Republic of China is stepping up military pressure on the Philippines in the South China Sea and against Taiwan, particularly as the island approaches its presidential transition. The Special Competitive Studies Project, with support from the RAND Corporation, will hold a tabletop exercise that will examine the challenges to Allied interests and response capacities from these simultaneous crises. A critical focus of these deliberations will be how Allies can mount a whole-of-society response.

Atlantik-Brücke

Atlantik-Brücke@MSC: Annual Reception
Dachgarten Lounge, Hotel Bayerischer Hof
17.30 - 19.00

The German-American partnership has been strong for over 70 years and remains the most crucial relationship to tackle today’s manifold threats and crises. During our traditional reception on the eve of the Munich Security Conference, we will convene members of our network and guest speakers from the U.S. delegation to discuss the most pressing issues challenging the partnership.

MSC & Reporters Sans Frontières (RSF)

Information Warfare: How Can Democracies Better Protect Their Information Environment From Authoritarian States’ Propaganda?
Watteau-Salon, Hotel Bayerischer Hof
17.30 - 19.00

Over the last two decades, the globalization of news and information has led to an imbalance in which authoritarian regimes strictly control their information environment at home whereas democratic countries let information freely flow. This asymmetric situation has allowed authoritarian regimes to wage global information warfare by exporting their propaganda and disinformation into democratic information environments. To discuss possible ways forward and concrete solutions, RSF will gather a roundtable of high-level experts. Amongst other things, the speakers will discuss what measures the EU could take to better protect itself from foreign informational interferences ahead of a big election year. They will also explore ways to
support reliable journalism in Europe and in third countries, which will be an opportunity for RSF to inform the audience about the launch of an independent Russian-speaking media satellite package (the ‘Svoboda satellite’ project) on February 14, 2024.

Bloomberg

The Economic Consequences of War: How Conflict Affects Investing in 2024
Charles Hotel
18.00 - 20.00

Geostrategic rivalries and full-blown conflicts increasingly affect the way corporations can do business and in turn impact investors. Globalization has been superseded by friend-shoring as companies try to hedge their risk. Businesses need to navigate geopolitical tension and conflict and plan ahead. This side event will bring investors and business together with security professionals for an off-the-record discussion. Moderated by Bloomberg’s Editorial Lead for EMEA Jacqueline Simmons, the event will look at how conflicts and security concerns will affect the investment climate in 2024.

Bavarian State Chancellery & Deutsche Atlantische Gesellschaft (DAG)

NATO at 75 - Are We Ready to Defend?
Prinz Carl Palais
18.30 - 21.00

Almost two years after Putin started his brutal war against Ukraine, there is not much hope that Russian aggression will end anytime soon. The Kremlin seems willing to waste evermore lives, destroying the livelihoods of civilians and ruining any prospects of a mutually respected border of peace and stability in Europe. NATO, having maintained peace and security for its members for 75 years, is challenged in ways that contain elements of the cold war past as well as elements of the unknown, driven by a strategic landscape that is far more complex and disrupted by technological innovation. At its landmark 2023 summit in Vilnius, NATO’s leaders have adopted a far-reaching consensus to step up joint effort to strengthen defensive capabilities of the alliance and its members. So where are we, with NATO at 75 and after the Vilnius summit? What do the Vilnius agreements mean for the deterrence of Russia? How the experts assess the protection of NATO’s most vulnerable members along the eastern flank. What is the impact of the northern enlargement of NATO? How do tactical and technical innovations change the requirements for our armed forces? How are societies in large coping with the “new normal” and are they supportive of what needs to be invested to deter even more aggressions? In short: Are we, is NATO ready to defend?

Ditchley Foundation

From Stalemate to Renewed Deterrence: Delivering a Free, Viable Democratic Ukraine and Reasserting Global Democratic Resolve
Watteau-Salon, Hotel Bayerischer Hof
20.00 - 21.30

The war in Ukraine seems to have reached stalemate. Without significant changes in the balance and mass of forces on either side, the war is now one of attrition: of arms, of personnel, and of will. American political will to fund and arm Ukraine indefinitely is fading and could be undermined further by a victory for Donald Trump in November’s election. How we can go from here to assure a free, sovereign, and democratic Ukraine, with reconstruction and European integration under way? One of the factors in the Russian invasion was a sense that the democratic world’s appetite for intervention was exhausted after Iraq, Libya, and Afghanistan. What do we risk if Ukraine becomes seen by adversaries as another example of ambition exceeding political will and capability? What are the implications for the handling of Iran in the Middle East and China’s ambitions in the Indo-Pacific? How can we assure that the Western response to the Ukraine conflict sends a message, as it did at the outset, of renewed democratic resolve, strength, and deterrence? How can we mitigate the damage if it doesn’t? This event will explore potential avenues forward from the stalemate in Ukraine and its global repercussions for democracy and international stability.
MSC & Boston Consulting Group & Bundeswehr Cyber Innovation Hub

MSC Innovation Dinner
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20.00 - 22.00

The Munich Security Conference, the Boston Consulting Group, and the Bundeswehr Cyber Innovation Hub are hosting this dinner to provide a space for high-ranking participants to engage with each other on the results of the third edition of the MSC’s defense innovation study. Building upon the reports published in 2022 and 2023, this year’s survey will focus on the partnerships needed to enable, spread, and adopt innovative approaches to define challenges.

Special Competitive Studies Project and Aspen Institute
Harmonizing AI Approaches Among Allies
Garden Salon, Hotel Bayerischer Hof
20.00 - 21.30

Nation states and international cooperation structures alike have been scrambling to adopt AI strategies and governance frameworks that best reflect their values. But as these initiatives flourish, it is vital to ensure they do not hinder, but promote technology cooperation among like-minded partners. This dinner, hosted by the Special Competitive Studies Project and the Aspen Institute, will discuss how allied democracies need to harmonize and deconflict AI governance approaches, to ensure they remain at the forefront of responsible technology innovation.

Atlantik-Brücke
Atlantik-Brücke Female Network Initiative: AI and Cybersecurity
Dachgarten Lounge, Hotel Bayerischer Hof
22.00 - 23.30

The German-American partnership has been strong for over 70 years and remains the most crucial relationship to tackle today’s manifold threats and crises. During our traditional reception on the eve of the Munich Security Conference, we will convene members of our network and guest speakers from the U.S. delegation to discuss the most pressing issues challenging the partnership.
Friday, February 16

Boston Consulting Group
View from the Vices: A Discussion of Significant Opportunities to Improve Defense Outcomes in Today’s Dynamic Security Landscape
Atelier Restaurant, Hotel Bayerischer Hof
7.30 - 9.00

Boston Consulting Group is delighted to invite you to join an exclusive breakfast with Admiral William Lescher (41st Vice Chief of Naval Operations, U.S. Navy) and General Stephen Wilson (39th Vice Chief of Staff, U.S. Air Force). Join other MoDs, top military brass, and industry leaders, and hear directly from the Vices on what allies are (and are not) doing to address pressing threats and opportunities in the global security environment. Where should leaders invest their time? Where shouldn’t they?

Centre for International Security at the Hertie School and Henry A. Kissinger Center for Global Affairs at Johns Hopkins SAIS
War Under the Nuclear Shadow: Evaluating Russia’s War on Ukraine and its Lessons for Our Nuclear Future
Refektorium, Hotel Bayerischer Hof
7.30 - 9.00

For two years, Ukraine has successfully resisted Russia’s invasion—a war marked by Russia’s repeated nuclear threats both against the West, in retaliation for their military support, and directly against Ukraine. This invasion has also underscored that conventional wars can unfold in the shadow of nuclear capabilities. How will this conflict influence global perceptions on the role, efficacy, and potential of nuclear weapons in future confrontations? What insights does it provide for the next nuclear age? This event will address these pressing questions. Additionally, we will examine the evolving strategies of nuclear-armed states and their allies in this dynamic landscape, with a focus on maintaining stability and preventing inadvertent escalation.

Goethe Institut and British Council
A War on Identity: How to Build Post-War Society in Ukraine
Watteau-Salon, Hotel Bayerischer Hof
7.30 - 9.00

Culture is at the center of Russia’s war against Ukraine. As the First Lady of Ukraine, Olena Zelenska, said when launching the UK-Ukraine Season of Culture in 2022, “every sound of music, every frame of film, is the cultural front that fights chaos”. In a war that is about identity as much as territory, culture and education have been key targets for aggression. Their survival now, and the role that they can play in recovery and reconstruction, will be crucial to the kind of Ukrainian society and democracy that emerges from the war and thrives in the future. In a panel discussion drawing on the experiences of prominent politicians from Ukraine, the Goethe-Institut and British Council, we want to discuss Ukraine’s vision for its post-war reconstruction and the partnerships and resources it needs to enable it. The role of culture is essential in rebuilding Ukraine’s identity and economy, while education and language are critical for the next generation of Ukraine’s already skilled leaders. Through our countries’ collective soft power strengths, we can tackle these key challenges.

ifo Institute and EconPol Europe
Geo-Economics: Rethinking Dependencies and Partnerships
Salon II, Rosewood Hotel
7.30 - 9.00

Geopolitics in Europe has long neglected economic affairs. Now, the recent shocks of the Covid-19 pandemic and of Russia’s war against Ukraine, in addition to the looming climate crisis and sustainability concerns, have added a massive economic component. Critical dependencies for Europe’s energy security, for its digital and health infrastructure, and other key inputs for its economic competitiveness and the rapid deployment of new technologies have forced Europe out of its cocooned naïveté and into a rethink of its assumptions about the role of economic policy for security issues. At the same time, many countries have underinvested in their own defense capabilities, while budget burdens have narrowed the scope for addressing security threats. Security policy and economics have become intertwined challenges. What happens above and below ground, as well
as across borders far and wide, will have a major impact on European economies and will be a challenge for security policy for decades to come. This event will discuss dangerous dependencies in supply chains, the domestic infrastructure, and defense capability. Should democracies act more strategically and integrate economic and security policy, and if so, how?

MSC
MSC Security Innovation Board Meeting
Blue Spa, Hotel Bayerischer Hof
7.30 - 8.45

The MSC Security Innovation Board is hosting a board meeting on the first day of this year’s Munich Security Conference. The Munich Security Innovation Board regularly addresses complex topics and challenges facing defense and security policy makers around the world. The aim is to identify fundamental policy issues standing in the way of advancements within the security sector and develop practical solutions for these roadblocks.

Uniper
Powering Ahead: Navigating Decarbonization Amidst an Energy Crisis
Bibliothek, Hotel Bayerischer Hof
7.30 - 9.00

2023 saw the highest ever greenhouse gas emission levels recorded. It was also the warmest ever recorded calendar year. In spite of this, there are promising signals emerging, especially from the energy sector which allow for hope: Amidst several geopolitical crises, notably the Russian invasion of Ukraine, Europe, the US and their allies continue to weather the storm. Faced with increasing challenges to supply chains, efforts are nevertheless underway to further diversify and decarbonize energy supply. Indeed, 2023 saw the highest ever levels of investment recorded in clean energy. Investments in clean energy exceeded investments in fossil fuels by 65% - the largest ever recorded gap. This breakfast offers an opportunity to discuss how to make best use of today’s crises and advance the climate agenda and the green transformation.

European Parliament Office in Munich, Hanns Seidel Foundation and the Free Ukrainian University Munich
Europe as a Global Actor and the Shared Interest in a Free Ukraine
European Union Liaison Office, Bob-van-Benthem-Platz 1
8.30 - 10.00

Times are turbulent, in Europe, in the Middle East, in the Indo-Pacific. War rages in Europe, Ukraine fights for its survival against imperialist Putin-Russia. Israel must defend itself against terrorist groups, and China’s pressure on Taiwan is increasing. Europe’s security depends on America. Should Donald Trump win in November, the EU and NATO must brace themselves for strong opposition from Washington. Even under Joe Biden, the long-term trend is clear: America’s influence in the world is diminishing, and the world is becoming multipolar. The confrontation between democratic and autocratic societal models is intensifying.

Europe must face the new geopolitical situation. With the decision to initiate accession talks with Ukraine, the EU has drawn the consequences of its confrontational relationship with Russia and expressed Ukraine’s membership in the free Euro-Atlantic community. This event discusses Europe’s role in the world with members of parliament and experts in international politics from home and abroad.

Institute of Global Politics at Columbia University’s School of International and Public Affairs
The Role of Universities in Navigating the Geopolitics of the Global Election Year
Public Square, Hotel Bayerischer Hof
9:30 - 10:15

In 2024, a record 64 nations representing half the global population will weigh in on how their respective governments tackle myriad challenges, from threats to democratic institutions to rising protectionism and industrial policies. Generative AI and mis/disinformation pose a significant risk to this election cycle already dominated by polarization, mistrust, and rising levels of autocracy. Meanwhile, Russia’s invasion of Ukraine and the Israel-Hamas war persist, and worsening impacts of climate change continue to feed conflict around the globe and to complicate the clean energy transition. These global security challenges,
given their interconnectedness and complexity, will require a new playbook, fresh thinking, and greater cooperation between practitioners and scholars, as well as between the public and private sector.

**Bavarian Industry Association (vbw) and Federation of German Industries (BDI)**

*Recalibrating Germany: How to Forge a Secure and Innovative Future*

Europasaal, Haus der Bayerischen Wirtschaft

9.30 - 11.00

While regional tensions are multiplying and global order falters, Germany is not adapting fast enough to new security realities. Instead, it is still stuck in its peace logic, more a spectator than a creator of change. To move forward in a more insecure world, cooperation between the state and industry must be strengthened. By harnessing the know-how, innovation, and skills of the private sector, the government can more effectively drive policy forward. A key to greater resilience and robust defense is technology. In Ukraine, new technologies such as StarLink and AI-based systems have proven to be game changers. Simultaneously, trench warfare in Ukraine is more reminiscent of World War I than of the 21st century, while the Hamas attack on Israel has shown that too much faith in technology can lead to disaster. So, what is the right balance between high-tech and low-tech? How do we upgrade the level of cooperation between the public and private sectors? This event will gather representatives from business and politics to discuss these challenges and how Germany can recalibrate for a more secure, innovative future.

**The Sovereign Military Order of Malta**

*Protecting the Protectors: Upholding the Safety of Humanitarian Workers in Conflict Zones*

Königssaal, Hotel Bayerischer Hof

9.30 - 11.00

The year 2023 recorded the highest number of humanitarian emergencies in a decade, elevating the urgency of an unfortunately timely dialogue on the protection of humanitarian workers in conflict zones. Amid ongoing conflicts and new crises, aid workers continue to be exposed to life-threatening risks in the regions that they serve. South Sudan remains amongst the most hazardous areas of operation for humanitarian workers, while the DRC, Haiti, Ukraine, and most recently the Gaza Strip joined the list of regions with the most reported incidents. The level of violence against aid workers mirrors broader conflict dynamics and societal attitudes towards civilians and key infrastructure. Despite limited data, available reports underscore that national humanitarian and medical workers face the highest risk of intimidation, harassment, and assault. Addressing this alarming trend demands collaborative efforts from state actors, military forces, UN entities, and NGOs to safeguard the well-being of those delivering aid to the most vulnerable and ensure effective relief efforts. As conflicts develop, we must learn to adapt our strategies to navigate the evolving threats faced by humanitarian personnel, ensuring an unwavering commitment to international humanitarian law in times of crisis. This event hosted by the Sovereign Military Order of Malta and supported by a number of organizations such as Centre for Civilians in Conflict (CIVIC), aims to share best practices and discuss the policies and measures available to governments and non-state actors to enhance the safety of humanitarian workers and civilians in conflict zones.

This event is open to all MSC participants and observers. Prior registration is encouraged.

**Federal Ministry of Education and Research and Volkswagen Foundation**

*Conversation on Research Security – Knowledge First, Security Second? International Research Collaboration in a Multipolar World*

Public Square, Hotel Bayerischer Hof

10:30 - 11:15

Science and research offer options to understand and address global challenges like climate change and its consequences. At a time, however, in which new geopolitical tensions occur and global challenges become ever more prevalent, science-based deep-tech innovations have become the focus of security threats, economic competition and scientific divides. The world of international collaboration in science and research has changed dramatically: For decades science diplomacy followed the guideline of soft power politics. Today, scientific knowledge is central to the execution of hard power. Disruptions of this kind
bear the potential of conflict and unrest. Mature liberal democracies need to find ways to manage uncertainty. They need to define new modes of knowledge creation, distribution, and usage, while protecting fundamental democratic values such as academic freedom.

What strategies and which policies are in place in different countries to adequately address the new political realities which challenge the traditional modes of open science and multilateral research collaboration? Should we choose the defensive or the offensive path? At a time when fundamental democratic values such as academic freedom are increasingly under pressure, how can like-minded partners promote these values internationally? Or is it time to change our basic concepts?

This event is open to all MSC participants and observers. Prior registration is encouraged.

BMW Foundation Herbert Quandt
The Path to Industrial Net Zero: Navigating Supply Chains Shifts and Trade Shocks Through Tech Innovation
Bar Montez, Rosewood Hotel
11.30 - 13.00

For the first time in the history of international climate negotiations, COP28 dedicated an entire day to trade, thereby highlighting the crucial role of trade and supply chains in climate action and the net-zero transition. Yet, the fragmentation of the global trade system currently underway and the increasing fragility of supply chains - pandemic, great powers rivalry, race to critical materials... - make the industrial net-zero transformation more challenging than it has ever been. How can technology and innovation help countries and businesses alike better prepare for supply chain disruptions and strengthen their resilience in the face of upcoming trade shocks? And what kind of policy framework, at global and regional level, is needed to support technological innovation necessary to enable a sustainable net-zero transformation of the industry across sectors? This lunch will provide crucial recommendations on utilizing technology, innovation and impactful policy frameworks to enhance industrial resilience amid the challenges posed by the current global trade system fragmentation and supply chain fragility.

Bundeswehr Cyber Innovation Hub
Software-Defined Defense Meets Heavy Metal: An Update on the Future of National and Collective Defense
Salon II, Rosewood Hotel
11.30 - 13.00

The escalation in the Middle East and Russia’s ongoing war of aggression against Ukraine show Germany and its allies that operational and defensive capability is no longer just a question of troop size or military equipment. Rather, it is a matter of dealing with hybrid warfare, speed of innovation and the use of digital solutions. The innovation culture of the Ukrainian or Israeli armed forces should serve as a benchmark for the Bundeswehr and further NATO allies. At this high-level roundtable, decision-makers from politics, business and the armed forces will discuss the current and future challenges facing national and collective defense in view of the geopolitical situation. The aim of the event is to identify the capabilities and framework conditions that must now be created for the modernization of the armed forces.

Christian Social Union (CSU)
CSU Transatlantic Forum - How to Defend a Free World Order Against Extremism and Authoritarianism
Saal, Literaturhaus
11.30 - 13.00

The international order we have grown accustomed to has been in ruins since February 24, 2022 and reached an inhumane low with the terrorist attack on Israel on October 7, 2023. More than ever, we are forced to question our previously held certainties in foreign and security policy. Against this backdrop, the CSU’s traditional Transatlantic Forum aims to deepen and consolidate mutual political and military understanding among the partners of the transatlantic alliance.
Three years ago, the Abraham Accords were signed to open a new chapter of peaceful relations between Israel and the Arabic world. Now, there is a war in Israel, which has not only a huge impact on the Middle East but also on Europe’s security and stability. Meanwhile, the Middle East conflict has shifted to the streets of Western countries and is targeting Jewish communities, dividing our societies, and is undermining the security of European states. This not only leads to security implications in Western states and their societies, it also strengthens the politically extreme fringes, favours religious extremism and even a new threat of terrorism, and weakens the integrity of Western states and their social systems based on democracy and freedom.

Against this background, the model of the Abraham Accords can provide new impetus to improve the security situation in Europe, protect Jewish communities and engage leaders and experts from diverse fields to promote peace and security, religious tolerance, and protect the vibrant Jewish life in Europe towards a more harmonious and tolerant society that includes and engages all religious and cultural communities. The traditional event aims to address security challenges for the Jewish communities and Western societies in the light of new tensions in the Middle East which also have a security impact particularly on Europe and to initiate a new multi-stakeholder process that is connecting religious and security policy to better include religious and cultural minorities in order to build a more harmonious and tolerant society.

Ahead of the international Ukraine Recovery Conference in June 2024 in Berlin, the politics of recovery aid are getting more challenging. In several key countries, proponents of aid to Ukraine are faced with increasing domestic opposition and a public whose support for further aid is slowly declining. The prospect of a long war of attrition that would require sustained support for the years to come reinforces these developments. At the same time, multiple global crises are competing for attention in Western capitals, further straining both political capital and material resources among Ukraine’s supporters. As the war in Ukraine is close to its 2-year mark, Ukraine needs the support of its allies more than ever. Domestic opposition to aid for Ukraine is increasing in many countries across the Atlantic. The purpose of this event is to further the discussion on the importance of continued financial support for Ukraine and to answer the questions of how to maintain attention and support for Ukraine’s reconstruction, how to divide transatlantic roles in the future, and what support countries should be prepared to commit to at URC2024.

February 2024 marks the third anniversary of the coup d’état in Myanmar. The coup has driven the country’s political and economic situation into a catastrophic downturn and caused a desolate human rights situation. Many parts of the country are in a civil war. The current situation is often seen as a stalemate between the State Administration Council (SAC) and the pro-democracy actors. The conflict brought about security concerns in all dimensions: mass displacements, migration, and considerable food security issues to name a few. The governance of the country is largely disabled, while the people show great resilience. The endeavors to broker a dialogue on Myanmar by the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) has not yielded any result, and the stagnation of the disunited ASEAN is conspicuous. Despite several rounds of sanctions imposed by both the U.S. and the European Union, crimes against humanity continued. The United Nations (UN) Security Council, while condemning violence and grave human rights violations, has not decided to invoke Chapter VII of the UN Charter and intervene.
This conversation will bring together security experts and top decision-makers to reimagine an approach for a dialogue process for Myanmar.

**Meta and Aspen Institute Germany**

**AI and Geopolitical Competition: Are we Missing a Golden Opportunity?**  
Atelier Restaurant, Hotel Bayerischer Hof  
11.30 - 13.00

New and ongoing crises in Europe, the Middle East, and beyond are shining a spotlight on geopolitical competition, spurring debate about how best to manage them. Meanwhile, rapidly evolving technologies, including artificial intelligence (AI), are also sparking conversations about how society should harness their potential and manage their risks. Can we keep up in the race to innovate as more countries — particularly ones with very different ideas about the state’s relationship with technology — enter the fray? Will transatlantic partners and their allies find common ground on this new horizon of geopolitical competition? Join our lunch discussion on these questions with Sir Nick Clegg, President, Global Affairs at Meta, a leading voice in the global debate about the relationship between society and technology.

**Nexus25 and United Nations World Food Programme (WFP)**

**Sustainable Security in a Hot and Hungry World: Rethinking Diplomacy, Development and Resilient Food Systems**  
Refektorium, Hotel Bayerischer Hof  
11.30 - 13.00

The global hunger crisis has reached unprecedented levels: WFP estimates 783 million people go to bed hungry each night. Acute hunger affects 345 million people — an increase of almost 200 million people compared to early 2020. The pandemic, Russia’s war against Ukraine, and escalating violence and governance breakdowns in Africa and the Middle East, amidst a worsening climate crisis, have combined to exacerbate global food insecurity. At the same time, hunger can lead to instability and conflict, with food shortages deepening existing fault lines and fueling grievances. With hunger being both a symptom and a cause of these intertwined crises, addressing the hunger-climate-conflict nexus is key to bolstering sustainable security. Fighting hunger and creating resilient food systems can provide integrated solutions that also tackle climate change and foster peace. The event will gather members of governments, international organizations, academia, the private sector, and civil society to discuss integrated solutions and policy options that ensure multilateral governance is fit-for-purpose in a world of compound risks.

**SAP**

**Globalization De-Risked: Future-Proofing Supply Chains in the Age of Geopolitics**  
Blue Spa, Hotel Bayerischer Hof  
11.30 - 13.00

The polycrisis era highlighted the extent to which critical supply chains are vulnerable in a highly interconnected global economy, as global supply chains were generally designed around the principles of affordability and cost competitiveness. Companies leveraged the advantages of globalization by taking procurement, manufacturing, and distribution decisions to minimize the cost of goods sold. There have been few industries that truly embraced supply chains as strategic differentiators, such as the automotive industry embracing “just-in-time” manufacturing or e-commerce with next-day deliveries. Additionally, Russia’s war of aggression against Ukraine once again brought the realities of high-intensity conflict into focus and made it evident that such a supply chain model is not optimal in this new security context. Finally, the private sector, a key stakeholder and partner in ensuring the resilience of national supply chains, needs to adapt to this changing environment and be supported in its efforts to do so. This discussion will aim to reach a common understanding of the risks undermining critical supply chains and the ways in which to optimize the efforts of the key stakeholders in securing them.
United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF)

**Upending what Hard-to-Reach Means: Delivering Services with and for Girls in Afghanistan**

Watteau-Salon, Hotel Bayerischer Hof

11.30 - 13.00

Since August 2021, Afghanistan’s humanitarian and development situation has continued to deteriorate, with more than two-thirds of the country expected to need humanitarian assistance in 2024 and 97% of the population living in poverty. Critically undermining a pathway to development, women and girls are officially excluded from public life by the De Facto Authority (DFA), with severe restrictions to education and work. This by-invitation event will upend the concept of hard-to-reach, which typically focuses on the ability of humanitarian assistance providers to reach populations in need when challenged by security, geography, or bureaucracy. Instead, the discussion will focus on girls’ access to services, with an emphasis on protection services for gender-based violence and child marriage. The group will discuss political and policy approaches to this, focusing on preserving child rights while serving girls where they are. UNICEF will chair the session, sharing the achievements and challenges in navigating this space to date and leading the group to a set of options.

Amazon Web Services

**Digital Trust and Government Continuity: Cloud Computing in the Era of Shifting Geopolitics**

Blue Spa, Hotel Bayerischer Hof

15.30 - 17.00

The war in Europe has reminded us how conflict extends across conventional and digital domains. It requires unprecedented speed of assessment, agility and decisive action that is altering the character of how governments and security organizations work. In this context, new partnerships and ways of working with tech companies must be advanced if allies are to achieve digital transformation and interoperability at pace. Cloud computing offers the scalability and elasticity needed to handle the growing volumes of data that need to be handled by defense and security organizations. In this event, we will discuss how AWS Continuity of Government IT (CGIT) helps governments at all levels counter multiple challenges, both physical and cyber, and protect their digital assets and services during disruptions of any kind. This event aims to explore strategies for enhancing digital resilience and fostering effective collaboration between governments and tech companies. We’ll also dive deep on how the Government of Armenia is using Continuity of Government IT (CGIT) on AWS to counter both physical and cyber challenges and improve citizen support.

Fedesarrollo

**Latin America in the Zeitenwende: Rethinking Multilateralism for Security, Democracy, and Development**

Bibliothek, Hotel Bayerischer Hof

15.30 - 17.00

The democratic world is changing with an evolving geopolitical context. While the latter has boosted unity among western developed countries, vulnerabilities of developing democratic nations are more evident. This can be harnessed as an opportunity to rethink and strengthen multilateralism, so that countries converge on solid foundations for a rules-based global order. This event promotes dialogue with and within Latin American countries. We aim to have a Latin American perspective on pressing security issues, and how multilateralism could be enhanced to counter them. Multilateralism needs to anticipate the pace of global geopolitics and recognize the interdependence of security threats across world regions. Cyber security weakness, environmental security, criminal activities along borders, and the threat of criminal actors trying to subvert or capture national politics will be part of this dialogue. Fundamental factors behind security issues and country-specific problems will round off this “Latin American coffee round table”.

10
Better Safe Than Sorry: Securing NATO’s Eastern Flank Readiness
Refektorium, Hotel Bayerischer Hof
15.30 - 17.00

There are no signs that Russia has abandoned its ultimate intent to reoccupy what it believes to be its historical sphere of influence. While Russia’s assault against Ukraine remains bogged down, it persists in exerting pressure on NATO members, ranging from Finland and Baltic states to countries in the Black Sea basin. Following the decisions taken at the summits in Madrid and Vilnius, NATO is ramping up its presence on the Eastern flank and has prepared war-time contingency plans. Yet, with the U.S. heading towards presidential elections, concerns are growing both about the U.S. commitments and Europe’s ability to fulfil its own pledges to boost its industrial base and guarantee long term defense spending. As the Alliance prepares for the 2024 Washington Summit, it is time to take stock of what still needs to be done to make the defense plans fully operational. This discussion aims to explore the necessary steps to strengthen deterrence in Central and Eastern Europe while also outlining how to improve the development and acquisition processes. The session will draw upon the “Will Eastern Flank be Battle Ready by 2030?” report by GLOBSEC Future Security and Defense Council.

Data-Harvest: Artificial Intelligence in Geopolitical Food Security Dynamics
Salon II, Rosewood Hotel
15.30 - 17.00

Centered on the Role of Artificial Intelligence in Influencing Global Food Resilience, the roundtable endeavors to strengthen transformative dialogues among policymakers, international leaders, and AI innovators. Its primary objective is to advocate for the efficient deployment of technology in mapping, predicting, and addressing challenges related to food security, arising from geopolitical tensions, economic considerations, and climate change. The roundtable operates on the premise that encouraging new public-private partnership initiatives would serve as an effective strategy for implementing and expanding reliable AI models dedicated to food security. The discussion aims to establish a shared understanding of the risks and opportunities associated with the scalability of Artificial Intelligence in Geopolitical Food Security Dynamics, ultimately paving the way for new initiatives with concrete outcomes by the time of the Hamburg Sustainability Conference on October 7-8, 2024.

Hostage Taking as a Tool of Terror: Testimonies and Firsthand Accounts
Saal, Literaturhaus
15.30 - 17.00

On October 7, 2023, 257 hostages, including Israelis and others, were kidnapped by Hamas. 136 of them are still being held in Gaza, among whom are children, men, women, and individuals of all ages. Some are ill and badly injured. Brigadier-General Gal Hirsch, Israel’s Coordinator for Hostages and Missing, will host this event, which will feature leading national coordinators and special envoys for hostages and missing. Hostage families, officials, and experts will share firsthand stories and important information. The event will be honored by the attendance of the President of Israel, Yitzhak Herzog, and Foreign Minister Yisrael Katz. For many years, we have known that terrorists inspire each other. The horrors of October 7 were witnessed by all. Now, kidnapping attacks on peaceful communities can occur at any time and anywhere. After 9/11, US President Bush declared a Global War on Terror. In light of the events on 7/10, it is time for a Global War on Kidnapping.

This event is open to all MSC participants and observers. Prior registration is encouraged.
The Energy Resilience Leadership Group is a multi-stakeholder initiative led by Breakthrough Energy and Siemens Energy that brings together corporate CEOs, political leaders, financial institutions, and startups at the technology frontier. The Group was launched at the 2023 Munich Security Conference with the goal to enhance Europe’s energy resilience by rapidly bringing emerging climate technologies to scale. ERLG forges partnerships between startups and corporates to work towards deploying commercially viable projects that replace the use of natural gas in industry, heating, and the power sector or enhance Europe’s industrial competitiveness and technology sovereignty.

Rapid scientific and technological advances are fueling a 21st-century biotechnology revolution. Accelerating developments in the life sciences and associated technologies, including AI, are enhancing capabilities to engineer living systems. These groundbreaking advances are critical to building a more productive and healthy future for humans, animals, and the environment. However, AI-bio capabilities, AI tools and technologies that enable the engineering of living systems also could be accidentally or deliberately misused to cause significant harm, with the potential to cause a global biological catastrophe. Leaders across sectors must work quickly to anticipate emerging risks on the horizon and proactively address them. NTI | bio invites you to an expert roundtable discussion about the status of AI-bio capabilities, the implications for biosecurity and international security, and options for governance to safeguard these rapidly emerging technologies.

The United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) Innovation Accelerator leverages the skills and talent of innovators globally by sourcing, piloting and scaling novel solutions to address global hunger, which affects up to 828 million people worldwide. The WFP Innovation Accelerator sources, supports and scales high-potential solutions to end hunger worldwide. The WFP Innovation Accelerator Pitch is the culmination of the preceding Innovation Bootcamp - a high-intensity workshop, which helps innovation teams dive deep into challenges, ideate solutions, and refine project plans. The Pitch will showcase cutting-edge start-ups and social entrepreneurs from our latest Innovation Challenge focused on groundbreaking humanitarian innovations in the areas of preparedness and prevention, effective relief assistance, and supply chain resilience. Attendees of this side event will have the opportunity to engage with these teams and advise them on their road ahead as well as attend a thought-provoking fireside chat.

Munich Mayor Dieter Reiter will moderate this conversation between U.S. Special Representative for City and State Diplomacy Ambassador Nina Hachigian and Mayor of Kyiv, Ukraine Vitali Klitschko will dive into the role of subnational diplomacy in Ukraine and answer why it is critical for international security. The conversation will examine the work done by the new U.S.
Subnational Diplomacy Unit at the U.S. State Department and the impacts of city diplomacy in Ukraine during the invasion, as well as the role of subnational diplomacy during reconstruction.

Asienbrücke

Between the Tiger’s Roar and the Fire of the Dragon: The Power Balance in Asia
Sois Blessed
17.30 - 18.30

This conversation between experts from the region will focus on the intricate geopolitical dynamics in Southeast Asia, focusing on the balance of power between the region’s most influential nations. It will place particular emphasis on alliance dynamics and economic growth patterns to determine the outlook for peace and security in this vital part of the world. The event will be moderated by Andreas Scheuer, Member of the German Parliament and President of the Asienbrücke.

Allianz SE

Cause & Effect: A Two Front Battle Against Climate Change
Fürstensalon, Hotel Bayerischer Hof
17.30 - 19.00

Extreme weather events are happening with greater frequency and intensity around the globe. Fighting climate change is a two-front war of cause and effect, and winning this war requires an offense and defense strategy: offense to reduce the carbon emissions that are causing global warming, and defense to protect homes, businesses, and communities from the impacts of catastrophic weather. It is now time for smarter collaboration on living and adapting to our climate change risk reality, from floods to droughts, heatwaves, and wildfires. We cannot prevent extreme weather events, but we can reduce their impact significantly through preparation and adaptation. At this event, Allianz will host a panel of experts on building climate resilience. Panelists will discuss proven strategies and policies to avoid repeating the same climate mistakes and enable communities to build back better. The discussion will map out the next steps needed and concrete action points that can help vulnerable communities around the world to build preparedness and resilience against the (climate) crisis.

Atlantic Council

The Three Seas Partnership on Ukraine’s Reconstruction: Mapping the Transatlantic Community’s Response
Blue Spa, Hotel Bayerischer Hof
17.30 - 19.00

Approaching two years into Russia’s war against Ukraine, experts suggest the cost of rebuilding Ukraine could range from $400 billion to $1 trillion, emphasizing the importance of international support. While economic leaders such as the U.S. will play a significant role in financially supporting reconstruction, the countries of Central and Eastern Europe can play a critical part by leveraging their shared experiences and regional efforts, such as the Three Seas Initiative, to drive greater commitment to Ukraine’s European future. This event will consider how the transatlantic community can drive Ukraine’s reconstruction, and what opportunities exist for the U.S. and the Three Seas Initiative to lead the way.

German Aerospace Industry Association (BDLI)

Engaging Beyond Visual Range: Rethinking German Military Aerospace Industry and National Strategy
Watteau-Salon, Hotel Bayerischer Hof
17.30 - 19.00

Although initiated before Russia’s full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, Germany’s first ever “National Security Strategy” reflects its government’s ambition to think, plan, and act on national security within a larger, strategic framework. While Chancellor Scholz’s Administration has set up a large rearmament effort for the German Armed Forces and is openly advocating for a strong and competitive national and European defense industry to supply the Bundeswehr, it has not yet elaborated on how to align its armament and industrial policy. This applies especially to the aerospace domain, where the public security climate has hampered any larger European effort to invest in future generation platforms for peer-to-peer scenarios, and the German government has hence been forced to look abroad. This event wants to initiate a debate between
industry and policymakers on Germany’s strategic goals for its aerospace industry, its role within the broader strategic framework, and ways to constructively operationalize the findings.

Centre of Excellence for Operations in Confined and Shallow Waters (COE CSW)
Bridging Troubled Waters - Why it Matters: China’s Newly Published National Map as a Potential Source of Conflict
Palaisstube, Hotel Bayerischer Hof
17.30 - 19.00

China’s publication of a new map of its territory in August 2023 renewed concerns about security in the South China Sea, particularly since it came amid more confrontations between China and Southeast Asian countries, and further challenges over freedom of navigation and overflight. During 2024, the potential for conflict in the Indo-Pacific region will remain high. Rival national interests, territorial claims and assertive behaviors are having negative impacts on the free use of the sea and national security. This event will look at ways to defuse tensions and avoid escalation.

Global Public Policy Institute (GPPi)
From Sliding Scale to Leaping Ahead: How to Advance the New Strategic Approach to Critical and Emerging Technologies
Salon II, Rosewood Hotel
17.30 - 19.00

In 2021, U.S. National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan declared that the U.S. government will “have to revisit the longstanding premise of maintaining ‘relative’ advantages over competitors in certain key technologies. We previously maintained a “sliding scale” approach that said we need to stay only a couple of generations ahead. Given the foundational nature of certain technologies, such as advanced logic and memory chips, we must maintain as large of a lead as possible.” In a subsequent speech, he highlighted three families of technologies that will be of particular importance over the coming decade: (1) computing-related technologies, including microelectronics, quantum information systems, and artificial intelligence; (2) biotechnologies and biomanufacturing; and (3) clean energy technologies. This raises important questions: for example, how will the U.S. engage with its allies and partners to implement this strategy? What are the lessons learned from the focus on semiconductors for the other families of technologies? What should be the priority moving forward? This event will explore these and related questions and offer insights into the strategic considerations shaping the future of U.S. technology leadership and its impact on the transatlantic relations.

IE University - Center for the Governance of Change
Governing Mind Games: How to Mitigate the Risks & Harness the Opportunities of AI in Cognitive Warfare
Bibliothek, Hotel Bayerischer Hof
17.30 - 19.00

In a context of technological disruption and intense geopolitical competition, the mind is now, more than ever, a strategic battleground for major powers seeking to shape narratives about the future global order. The datafication of our societies, combined with improved algorithmic and generative artificial intelligence (AI) capabilities, is enabling the emergence of cognitive warfare: a new dimension of information warfare where adversaries seek to influence people’s behavior by directly targeting individual perceptions, beliefs, and emotions for strategic purposes. This can increase the efficiency, scale, and depth of foreign interference by revisionist actors, seeking to destabilize liberal democracies from within. Yet, if we govern and harness the power of AI effectively, we can not only protect our democratic systems and societies from cognitive attacks but also strengthen them. This event aims to explore effective governance strategies and propose measures to leverage AI for the fortification of democratic principles in the face of cognitive threats.
MSC, Bavarian State Chancellery, Bundeswehr, and US Army Europe
Military Reception
Prinz Carl Palais
17.30 - 19.00

The Bavarian State Chancellery, the Bundeswehr, the US Armed Forces, and the MSC cordially invite attending general officers as well as select senior officials to a special military reception at Prinz-Carl-Palais on the occasion of the 60th Munich Security Conference.

Silverado Policy Accelerator
Third Annual Silverado Policy Accelerator U.S. Delegation Reception
Bar Montez, Rosewood Hotel
17.30 - 20.00

The Silverado Policy Accelerator, a geopolitical think tank based in Washington, DC, hosts its third annual bipartisan reception recognizing the senior members of the U.S. Delegation from the Biden Administration and the United States Congress, their international government counterparts and other invited guests.

The Cairo International Center for Conflict Resolution, Peacekeeping and Peacebuilding
Refektorium, Hotel Bayerischer Hof
17.30 - 19.00

The current global landscape, marked by heightened geopolitical tensions and multiple crises with far-reaching effects, lays bare the limitations of existing governance frameworks and their ability to deliver on the promise of sustainable peace and development. Concurrently, the centrality of Africa as a critical player on the world stage is increasingly being recognized. This has been reflected in growing consensus on the imperative to strengthen African representation in key forums, including G20 and UN Security Council. At the same time, Africa is increasingly taking charge of its peace and security, scaling up African led peace support operations and advancing African owned peacebuilding efforts. Yet, the scale and magnitude of the peace and security challenges on the African continent, from large scale terrorist insurgencies in the Sahel to protracted conflict and crises, require revisiting how global and African efforts can advance more effective responses to address these challenges. Therefore, the event will zoom in on the reset of the African Peace and Security Architecture within a changing global security landscape.

Centre for Feminist Foreign Policy and Frauen100
Confronting Escalating Antifeminism and Authoritarianism: Safeguarding Women’s Rights in an Urgent Global Context - A Feminist Women’s-Only Dinner
Charles Hotel
19.00 - 22.00

Since 2022, the Berlin-based Centre for Feminist Foreign Policy (CFFP), in collaboration with the influential feminist women’s rights network FRAUEN100, has been organizing one of the most distinguished events at the annual Munich Security Conference: the CFFPxFRAUEN100 Feminist Women’s Dinner. These dinners serve as dedicated platforms for networking in solidarity, emphasizing the principles of feminist foreign policy. They represent a unique event created both for and by women. This year’s dinner discussion delves into the challenges posed by increasing antifeminist sentiments and authoritarian tendencies, emphasizing the crucial need to safeguard women’s rights globally. As societal dynamics shift, women’s rights encounter growing threats. The dinner’s exploration will navigate the intricate relationship between antifeminism and authoritarianism, examining their impact on the achievements of the feminist movement.
MSC and Siemens Energy
John McCain Dissertation Award Ceremony
Dachgarten Lounge, Hotel Bayerischer Hof
19.30 - 20.00

In memory of our close friend, partner and long-time companion, the Munich Security Conference has decided to award an annual prize in John McCain’s name. Senator McCain was an integral part of the MSC for more than four decades. As such he played a key role in establishing the conference as an important forum for the transatlantic community. The prize giving ceremony will take place in the presence of members of the U.S. Congressional Delegation and selected high-ranking MSC participants. It will be followed by the John Dinner in the adjacent Dachgarten Lounge. Please remember to RSVP separately to the dinner.

NewSpace Initiative of the Federation of German Industries (BDI) and Bavarian Industry Association (vbw)
MSC Space Night - The 21st Century Space Race: Why Western Sovereignty in Space Matters
Europasaal, Haus der Bayerischen Wirtschaft
19.30 - 21.30

The race for industrial competitiveness on earth will also be decided in space. In almost every industry, space is instrumental in building the infrastructure for data, artificial intelligence and connectivity. Equally important, military operations abroad are no longer conceivable without the support of space systems. The West’s economic success and security depend on its sovereignty in space, access to space and responsive space capabilities. It is therefore essential that leaders focus even more on maintaining the West’s technological edge in space to compete against autocratic regimes. This year’s 4th edition of MSC Space Night will discuss the role of space for industrial competitiveness, the measures needed to secure Western sovereignty in space and how to protect critical space systems in a multi-polar world.

Atlantic Council
All Falls Apart: Global Implications of a Breakdown in Internet Trust
Gelber Salon, Hotel Bayerischer Hof
20.00 - 21.30

Prior to the global pandemic, the information technology revolution hit a second wave of deeper computing capabilities through the cloud and wider connectivity through the Internet of Things. The pathway for exchange between these markets is the internet, and its trust is a core, and critical, enabler of practical dialogue and commerce. Yet, the internet’s trust infrastructure is under significant threat and may be deteriorating at a critical moment as artificial intelligence (AI) and related emerging technologies place new demands on the internet. Between the U.S., the European Union, China, and India there is substantial divergence on how to manage the governance and security of the internet, especially with respect to AI and cloud computing. This growing chasm threatens to cement divisions with deeply harmful economic, political, and social implications. The internet may deteriorate into a fragmented mix of regional sub-networks and local technical fiefdoms – crippling the fourth industrial revolution before it effectively gets off the ground. This event will convene a senior level group of stakeholders representing the highest levels of industry, government, and civil society to address the impact of diminishing internet security on the adoption and destabilizing effects of emerging technologies especially the cloud and AI.
For more than 70 years, the Transatlantic Alliance deterred totalitarian expansion from the East. Russia’s war against Ukraine gave an additional impetus to the Alliance. Yet, from Obama’s “Pacific Pivot”, through Trump, to Biden, U.S. foreign policy has been steadily looking for a way out of Europe. Should President Biden prove to be, as some predicted, the “last Transatlantic U.S. president”, and should U.S. support to Ukraine after the 2024 presidential elections dwindle, Europe will need to adapt to the new situation and accelerate efforts to become an autonomous security provider. With its still unresolved security infrastructure (Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo and Serbia remaining outside of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), the region of the Western Balkans needs to find its place in the overall reconstruction of the Transatlantic and European security umbrella. This roundtable will look into possible future scenarios when it comes to Western Balkans’ security and evaluate the benefits and disadvantages of each of them.

The perils of energy dependency on third countries have become more visible, and more policy relevant. The energy crisis has sparked a rethink as to how Europe defines and prioritizes its energy security and energy relations with fossil producing countries. At the same time, new opportunities in the field of renewables and critical raw materials are gaining ground. In addition to supply insecurity and price volatility, there is a realization of the risks associated with EU’s fossil fuel dependency on undemocratic and unstable countries. Many petrostates are overly dependent on fossil revenues with price fluctuations leading to instability with possible repercussions for the security of Europe. While this argument is key to promote green energy partnerships with third countries by the EU and Germany, it is also used to justify domestic exploration of oil and gas, for instance in the UK. At the same time, the US has become a more important fossil exporter to the EU while the debate on climate clubs is still ongoing.

The West faces major geopolitical tests in 2024, but can the transatlantic relationship weather the potentially politically disruptive European Parliamentary and U.S. presidential elections? How will the political landscape change, and what will the consequences for EU and US foreign and security policy be, both close to home (Ukraine, the Balkans, Middle East and North Africa) and on China and the Indo-pacific? Bringing expertise from these regions, the discussion aims to shed light on the dynamics in the super year of elections via European public opinion polling that the European Council on Foreign Relations will commission ahead of the European Parliamentary elections.

The recent growth of geopolitical tensions and outbreak of new conflicts around the world have served to underscore the strength of the nexus between sustainable development and security. With the delivery of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals at risk, the global community must acknowledge how these two crucial dimensions of world affairs are mutually reinforcing – we cannot make progress against one without making progress against the other. In the context of the declining ODA spending, we need to further understand how to reconcile “global development” with “foreign policy on a budget”.

Featuring remarks from Axel van Trotsenburg, World Bank, Lord Mark Malloch Brown, Open Society Foundations, and Dr Alaa Murabit, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation this small dinner, moderated by Ravi Agrawal, Editor in Chief of Foreign Policy, will bring guests together to discuss creative and collaborative solutions for balancing developmental and security considerations on the global stage and how global financing can support this.

**MSC and Siemens Energy**
**John McCain Dinner**
Dachgarten, Hotel Bayerischer Hof
20.00 - 21.30

Following the John McCain Dissertation Award Ceremony, an exclusive dinner will be held in the adjacent Dachgarten of the Hotel Bayerischer Hof. In the company of members from the U.S. Congressional Delegation and distinguished MSC participants, this intimate gathering offers a unique opportunity for continued conversation and networking. Please remember to RSVP separately for this exclusive dinner, as we come together to celebrate Senator McCain's enduring legacy.

**New Strategy Center and Center for European Policy Analysis**
Refektorium, Hotel Bayerischer Hof
20.00 - 21.30

The 2008 war in Georgia and the 2014 illegal annexation of Crimea were signs that, for Russia, the Black Sea is a vital space for its interests. From the aggression in Ukraine to disinformation campaigns, weaponizing energy and food supplies, and political pressure, Russia is using an array of tools to destabilize the region. As Russia's war against Ukraine continues, consistent work to have a coherent and comprehensive North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), European Union (EU), and regional approach to defending the Black Sea region keeps on proving that this is a vulnerable space. In the context of an economic and energy crisis in Europe, the West should continue to support Ukraine from an economic, political, and military point of view, while starting the post-war reconstruction process. The discussion could touch upon the legislation on Black Sea security in the U.S. Congress, the U.S. Black Sea Strategy, and how such an initiative might contribute to a predictable and long-term U.S. policy in the region. This discussion will gather high-ranking stakeholders from policy, military, and academia and will build upon the discussion held during the MSC 2024.

**SAFE and European Initiative for Energy Security (EIES)**
**Hidden Gems and Discarded Riches: The National Security Imperative of Full-Value Mining**
Atelier, Hotel Bayerischer Hof
20.00 - 21.30

Many critical raw materials are used in small quantities, have a small market cap, and are not economical to mine on their own. In the face of concentrated global mineral supply chains, this event will explore the imperative for Europe, North America, and their global allies to diversify access to not only mainstream but also rarer critical minerals that are usually extracted as co- or by-products (e.g. germanium and gallium). This dinner discussion will focus on the national and economic security benefits of developing full-value mining to secure the strategic minerals required for defense, energy, and other applications.

**Tana High-Level Forum on Security in Africa and International Crisis Group**
**The Horn of Africa at a Crossroads: Mapping Conflict, Competition and Opportunities for Cooperation**
Bibliothek, Hotel Bayerischer Hof
20.00 - 21.30

The Horn of Africa is in crisis. Internal political contestations have plunged Sudan into a brutal civil war. The Somali government’s fight against Al-Shabaab has stalled, while Ethiopia is facing unrest in its most populous regions following the end of the Tigray conflict. Additionally, tensions between Addis and Mogadishu over access to the sea could lead to further confrontation. Millions in the region have been displaced and need food and other assistance not just as a result of these wars.
but also due to ingrained inequality, repression, and the effects of climate change. External interference and geo-political rivalries - not least between Gulf powers jockeying for political and economic advantage - further compound these crises. At the strategic crossroads linking Africa, Europe, and the Middle East, the Horn has the potential for economic growth it is failing to fulfill. This roundtable will explore how conflict in the region can be resolved, regional rivalries reduced, the humanitarian situation eased, economic prosperity kindled, and external interference minimized.

Charter of Trust

Processing Power: The Impact of Cyber and Cutting-Edge Technology on International Security
Pageou
20.00 - 21.30

Rarely before has the ability to innovate determined a country’s position in geopolitical power play as today. The next decade holds a critical juncture, in which quantum computing and AI are emerging as disruptive forces that have the potential to create spheres of technological influence. Simultaneously, hybrid threats have risen to an integral part of modern warfare. Businesses hold a frontline role in safeguarding critical infrastructure and ensuring uninterrupted operations against cyber-attacks. However, the potential damage is severe, underscoring the need for robust cybersecurity at both the societal and national levels as a pillar of national defense. This requires a collective and coordinated effort involving governments, businesses, and technology leaders. This dinner aims at identifying the most pressing and upcoming cross-sector cyber and technology challenges. Considering geopolitical fault lines, it will explore common grounds for collaboration for resilient cybersecurity, addressing reactive and pre-emptive strategies against evolving threats.

Institute for State Effectiveness

Upgrading the Operating System: Mapping How International Actors Make a “Better Offer” for Development and Supply Chains in Africa and Beyond
Promenade-Salon, Hotel Bayerischer Hof
20.00 - 21.30

The international development cooperation toolbox has been superseded by a new era of geopolitical competition, supply chain reconfiguration, and technological configuration. As the world shifts, there is an urgent need to upgrade the operating system for how the West – the U.S., Europe, international organizations – show up in partner countries. Upgrading the operating system and the toolkit is imperative. This dinner will lay out the landscape of international partnerships with African countries and other regions and propose a set of ideas for discussion on how the West can show up more strategically to partner with allied countries and fence-sitters.

Goals House and POLITICO

Glass Half Full: Securing SDG5 Nightcap
Bar Montez, Rosewood Hotel
22.00 - 2.00

Goals House are delighted to invite you to our drinks reception on Friday 16th February, at the Rosewood Hotel. Doors will open at 21:30. Equal rights of women are essential in order to foster peace, democracy, sustainable and economic development. Hosted by strong female leaders, Goals House and POLITICO invite you to this late-night drinks reception to ensure that SDG5, gender equality, remains top of agendas and women play an equal part in the advancement of both global security and global development.

Featuring remarks from Suzanne Lynch, Executive Director & Global Playbook Author, POLITICO, Sawsan Chebli, Author, Former Politician, Europe Board Global Citizen, Julie Teigland, EMEIA Managing Partner & Global Leader, Women. Fast forward, EY and Dr. Alaa Murabit, Director of Health Advocacy & Communications, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

This event is open to all MSC participants and observers. Prior registration is encouraged.
Google and MSC

Google Nightcap

Blue Spa (Pool), Hotel Bayerischer Hof
22.00 - 0.30

Google and the MSC look forward to co-hosting you at this exclusive networking event, celebrating the anniversary of Munich Security Conference. This nightcap will honor MSC’s 60 years of debate and discussion on the world’s most pressing security challenges, while also offering an opportunity to meet in an informal setting and to explore how AI magic may promote cybersecurity. Join Google President of Global Affairs Kent Walker, MSC CEO Dr. Benedikt Franke, and other Google leaders, for a nightcap toast to MSC (and some late-night snacks!).

This event is open to all MSC participants and observers. Prior registration is encouraged.
Saturday, February 17

MSC and Bavarian State Chancellery
Women’s Breakfast
Max-Joseph-Saal
7.00 - 8.15

The Women’s Breakfast is an integral part of the Munich Security Conference. The purpose of this breakfast is to provide women engaged in foreign and security policy with a unique networking opportunity. This year sees the 12th anniversary of this traditional event.

American-German Institute and American Council on Germany
Shattered Illusions: How to Preserve and Update Transatlantic Resolve
Königssaal, Hotel Bayerischer Hof
7.30 - 9.30

The Transatlantic community faces a world increasingly bristling with systemic conflict: Russia's attempt to remake the European security order, the efforts by Hamas and other terrorist groups to roll back Israel's growing relationships in the Middle East, and China's pursuit of regional hegemony and global influence. The looming election cycle in the U.S. will put Washington's foreign policy approaches to the political test with the American public. How can the transatlantic partners adapt to the growing challenges and threats and prepare for the presidential and congressional elections? How do American leaders view the United States’ alliances and partnerships, and how will they develop and strengthen them? This high-level discussion will address German and American views of the key issues that both countries must navigate.

APCO
Recalibrating the Compass: Evaluating Geo-Economic Paradigm Shifts in Collaborations with Africa
Atelier Restaurant, Hotel Bayerischer Hof
7.30 - 9.00

Emerging African markets are increasingly being perceived and are showing up as strategic partners to Western countries. With the fragmentation and realignment of global trade, Africa has more leverage than ever to choose its partners for economic and security cooperation and Europe faces a pressing need to reset its relationship with its African neighbors. Against this backdrop, the African continent’s geopolitical relevance, economic success, and implications for global security make forward-looking strategies indispensable for global business leaders. APCO’s breakfast discussion at the MSC 2024 provides a platform for exchanging experiences from different sectors on international cooperation with African states. Touching on interlinked issues from security to prosperity, social cohesion and the green economy, participants will discuss the road ahead for cooperations and investments as a basis for a strong, vibrant future relationship with Africa.

Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs at Harvard Kennedy School
How to Integrate Ukraine into the European Security Order
Watteau-Salon, Hotel Bayerischer Hof
7.30 - 9.00

No one knows when or how Russia’s war against Ukraine will end. When it does, the key will be to ensure Russia does not invade Ukraine again. That means Ukraine must have the ability to defend itself and deter Russian aggression. It also means that Ukraine needs to be integrated into the existing European security order. Critical to long-term stability on the European continent is defining a political strategy to achieve these goals. This event will discuss what such a political strategy should entail and how it should be advanced at the NATO Summit in Washington this July. The suggested strategy consists of three key elements: enhancing NATO’s direct support of Ukraine, finalizing long-term security support commitments, and offering Ukraine bilateral security guarantees.
In the next 18 months, democracies will face the perfect storm: Multiple elections, multiple theaters of war, disinformation, and a struggling economy. Now is the moment to ensure that our alliance of democracies continues to lead on the tech agenda and that democracy remains a beacon of hope and ambition for citizens around the world. In order to achieve this, we need to strengthen the transatlantic relationship and establish long-term mechanisms for cooperation that can be efficient and active beyond 2024. This event seeks to brainstorm and chart a path forward for exactly what type of mechanisms need to be put in place in the time until then. More than that, the discussion will focus on the need to no longer perpetuate a "West and the rest" mentality. Engaging with the Global South and global swing states will be pivotal in ensuring that authoritarian leaders do not feel emboldened. It is time for democracies around the world to commit to meaningful collaboration to ensure that the development, application, and governance of leading-edge technology does not fall into the hands of autocrats. This event will strategize mechanisms for 2024, emphasizing global collaboration and engagement with the Global South to safeguard technology from falling into autocratic hands.

The global impact of conflicts like Russia's ongoing war of aggression against Ukraine, the terrorist attacks on Israel and its responses, elections and new leaderships in many countries, climate change, the ramifications of new technologies and long-lasting trends of a more global distribution of power and wealth are altering the international system and transform societies. This closed-door event for policy planners, -makers and -thinkers will provide perspectives from around the globe in order to compare perceptions of the world we are living in, but also the strategies for change and collaboration. The discussion will be kicked off by introductory remarks from the Heads of Policy Planning from Brazil and India.

NATO needs a war-fighting transformation. As a result of Russia's war against Ukraine and the dynamic global development of the security environment, NATO is challenged as a defense alliance. The urgency of adapting to a rapidly changing security landscape, emphasizing innovation, collaboration, adaptability and interoperability is key for the alliance. Together with General Chris Badia, Deputy Supreme Allied Commander Transformation, the breakfast discussion will focus on the question of how
NATO is preparing itself for these kinds of challenges. What is the impact of the full-scale invasion of Ukraine on the transformation on NATO and the future of deterrence and warfighting? How can we sustainably strengthen NATO’s overall deterrence and address vulnerabilities in military and civilian layers? To what extent is NATO able to adapt quickly and undergo a massive transformation of the military power structure towards a multi-domain operations enabled alliance? After the keynote speech by General Badia, all participants are invited to a joint analysis and discussion on the challenges NATO is facing.

Gelber Salon, Hotel Bayerischer Hof
7.30 - 9.00

As scientific and technological advances promise to redefine the geopolitical landscape of the 21st century, we face a national security inflection point. Disruptive technologies like artificial intelligence, semiconductors, and advances in quantum computing have profound implications for military advantage and the potential to alter the balance of power between democracies and authoritarian regimes. Free nations must work together to prevent sensitive technologies from being used by malicious actors to undermine global security and imperil individual freedoms. This roundtable will be led by Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Export Enforcement Matthew Axelrod and Assistant Attorney General for National Security Matthew Olsen, who co-lead the Disruptive Technology Strike Force, together with Assistant Secretary of the Treasury for Investment Security Paul Rosen. The panel will share the U.S. government perspective and solicit participant insights on the future of export enforcement and investment security. The discussion will cover the recent rise of export controls and investment screening as key national security priorities, as well as ways the United States can assist foreign partners through increased collaboration, information sharing, and enforcement partnerships.

Federation of German Industries (BDI)
Joining Transatlantic Forces: How to Secure Critical Supply Chains for a Low Carbon Future
Blue Spa, Hotel Bayerischer Hof
11.30 - 13.00

Europe’s position in the lead markets of the future, for instance e-mobility and green energy, depends on having secure access to critical raw materials, which are deemed “strategic” for the green and digital transformation as well as for defense and space applications. Yet, the gap between global supply in highly concentrated markets and increasing demand of these materials is widening rapidly. The strong dependence on raw material imports from countries defined as geopolitical competitors (e.g. China) makes Germany and the European Union vulnerable. As increasing export restrictions related to critical minerals show, and if recent geo-economic trends continue, it is likely that one-sided dependencies will be used as a weapon against Europe. How can the strategic challenges of asymmetric dependencies, supply bottlenecks or supply chain disruptions be overcome? While critical raw materials markets fragment along competing geopolitical blocs, what offers can Western countries make to the Global South to forge closer commodity relationships? This event aims to delve into these pressing issues and propose potential solutions for a resilient and sustainable future.

Boston Consulting Group (BCG)
In it Together? A Conversation with General Chance Saltzman on Commercial Space, National Security, and Integrated Deterrence
Atelier Restaurant, Hotel Bayerischer Hof
13:30 - 15:00

The Boston Consulting Group is delighted to invite you to join an exclusive lunch with General B. Chance Saltzman, the Chief of Space Operations, U.S. Space Force. Space underpins the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) joint operations, and requirements for collaboration between space defense agencies will continue to grow. As NATO faces evolving challenges, how can alliance space operations contribute more effectively to overall deterrence and alliance readiness?
Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)

Riparian Ripples: Navigating the Waters of Climate Induced Conflicts and Multilateral Stagnation
Dachgarten II, Hotel Bayerischer Hof
13.30 - 15.00

Water scarcity is increasing most rapidly in fragile and conflict-affected regions. If nothing substantially changes in how transboundary waters are managed, and with climate change worsening, 920 million people will live in very high to high conflict-risk basins by 2050. Already we see a significant increase in conflicts centered around shared water resources. Notably, these conflicts have also exposed a stagnation in multilateral approaches such as water-sharing agreements or river basin organizations. This is underscored by the impact of climate change, which serves as both a catalyst for conflicts and an amplifier of risks, by intensifying resource scarcity and environmental degradation in riparian states. The consequences of this complex situation are vividly illustrated in regions with growing water scarcity. Addressing this challenge necessitates the reinvigoration of multilateral strategies for regional integration and the fortification of institutional frameworks, to not only ensure the sustainable management of shared water resources, but also to foster greater regional security and peace. This event aims to illuminate the complex interplay between climate change and water insecurity, the growing incidence of water-related disputes and the urgent need for enhanced multilateral cooperation. By delving into various regional experiences, the session will draw valuable lessons, and provide insights that can guide the development of effective approaches to enhance regional security and mitigate water-related conflicts.

Fincantieri

Navigating Security Horizons: Shipbuilding’s Crucial Role in Global Maritime Defense
Salon II, Rosewood Hotel
13.30 - 15.00

In a world marked by rising geopolitical tensions, maritime security has become indispensable. The shipbuilding sector takes center stage as a pivotal player in global maritime defense. This event delves into the critical role of shipbuilding in contributing to safeguard the seas, emphasizing its ability to integrate cutting-edge technologies to provide Naval Forces with a superior capacitive advantage. The focus will include insights into how Fincantieri, as global industry leader, contributes to advancing marine defense engineering and ensuring the readiness of Naval Forces in an ever-evolving security landscape.

GLOBSEC

Safeguarding Democracy: How to Confront Information Manipulation?
Brasserie Cuvillies, Rosewood Hotel
13.30 - 15.00

In the fast-evolving landscape of the digital age, disinformation and other forms of malign content have increasingly threatened the integrity of democratic institutions across Europe. This phenomenon, where digital platforms inadvertently encourage and amplify the spread of harmful content, poses significant challenges to governments, media, and the broader civil society. Such challenges are not merely theoretical; they have had tangible, distressing consequences, including the terrorist attacks in Slovakia and Czechia. This side event seeks to foster a comprehensive dialogue to explore and formulate effective strategies to mitigate the detrimental impact of information distortion on democratic processes, particularly in the context of elections. How can we collectively defend and reinforce the core values of democracy amidst the rising tide of malign content in the online sphere? What does it take to remain the leader of hope, respect, and decency in the face of current trends? And what roles should the public, civic, and private sectors with a particular focus on social media play to help reverse it?

Google

The Age of AI: An Asset for Security
Fürstensalon, Hotel Bayerischer Hof
13.30 - 15.00

Generative AI has unlocked a world of possibilities and transformation. But it has also given rise to new fears and uncertainties, including questions about how it may be used by bad actors to cause harm and instability. Join Kent Walker, President of
Google and Alphabet, and other Google leaders, for a candid, off-record discussion about how AI may actually be the key to countering emerging cybersecurity threats and disinformation, making our online world more safe and secure. Together, we’ll explore how governments, industry, and civil society are taking steps that will shape the role of AI in the digital security ecosystem for years to come, and ask how we can work together to make AI a transformative force for good?

**Helsing**

*Are We Ready to Defend the Eastern Flank? Lessons from the Ukrainian Battlefield*

Promenade-Salon, Hotel Bayerischer Hof

13.30 - 15.00

The Russian war on Ukraine and the Hamas attack on Israel show that liberal democracies must be ready to defend themselves. In parallel, the battlefield is changing radically. Defense and deterrence are now dictated as much by software and deep tech as hardware and close combat. Russia and its allies have learned this lesson and are building up new technological capabilities at speed. Neither NATO, European armies nor the US are ready for this change. This session will present the latest lessons from the use of technologies - such as AI - on Ukraine's battlefield; consider our existing approaches to deep-tech; and highlight the perils of us falling behind in this new, crucial arena of contemporary conflict.

**HENSOLDT AG**

*(No More) Hiding in Plain Sight: Reconnaissance, AI, and the New Battlefield*

Refektorium, Hotel Bayerischer Hof

13.30 - 15.00

The role of data and information has become critical in defense. The combination of collecting, analyzing, and using data in real time is at the forefront of operations of armies around the world. The military killchain from sensor to shooter centers around data and information. Recent wars and conflicts around the globe underline the significance of reconnaissance as the starting point in this process. Modern technologies offer a wide spectrum of sensors across all domains for military leaders and decision makers. Sensors in the whole spectrum often come at lower costs but with high capabilities. Making best use of all available sensor capabilities is one prerequisite for success on the battlefield.

As a pitfall, the increased potential of sensors creates an ever growing plethora of data, making it undeniably difficult for humans to track or understand situational pictures and draw the right conclusions. Software and AI can step in and fill this gap; making the flood of data comprehensible. The modern battlegrounds in the Cyber- and Information Space face similar challenges as the conventional ones. Situational awareness concerning cyber threats, malware, disinformation campaigns and bot networks is the equivalent to the situational picture in conventional operations.

It is paramount to discuss the state of implementation of data-driven approaches in the armed forces and how to combine reconnaissance and effect across all domains of operations. While AI and cyber capabilities are widely discussed, the underlying foundation of reconnaissance is often underrepresented in analysis.

**McKinsey & Company**


Gelber Salon, Hotel Bayerischer Hof

13.30 - 15.00

The stability of the global economy is closely tied to the security of the ocean. With over 80% of worldwide trade occurring through maritime routes, nearly 99% of global data flows relying on undersea cable transmission, and approximately two-thirds of the world's oil and gas being either extracted from the sea or transported across it, the relevance of a secure maritime environment cannot be overstated. As the significance of the maritime domain has risen, underwater and offshore infrastructure has increasingly come under threat from hybrid attacks. Safeguarding essential maritime infrastructures has therefore emerged as a paramount political concern. Securing maritime environments poses significant challenges that require protective mechanisms to be adapted to the unique characteristics of seabed spaces. To address these challenges, this session
brings together a diverse group of decision-makers to drive an interactive and action-oriented discourse on how we can best increase resilience to threats against maritime security.

MSC, International Peace Institute, and The Elders
Global Order on the Line: International Law and the Wars of Longitude 35 East
Watteau-Salon, Hotel Bayerischer Hof
13.30 - 15.00

It is all on the line in 2024: international law, global order, and the maintenance of international peace and security. Geopolitical tensions are at their highest levels since the Cold War. The Russian war of aggression against Ukraine is entering its third year, while the war in Gaza has shaken the foundations of international order. Yet, it is not only these two major conflicts that are cause for concern. By a coincidence of geography, Ukraine and Israel sit on the same meridian: Longitude 35 East. Following that line south from Ukraine and Israel-Palestine, it runs through Sudan, Ethiopia, South Sudan, and Mozambique—each are menacing sites of conflict that are challenging the international rule of law. This one conflict-ridden meridian is representative of the broad challenges facing the world today from North to South. As we reflect on this challenging context, the International Peace Institute (IPI) and The Elders are organizing this event to take stock of the current state of international peace and security and consider strategies for a more inclusive, multilateral, and constructive path forward.

Observer Research Foundation, ORF America, Ministry of External Affairs of India, and Embassy of India in Germany
Vishwa Mitra: Bridging Divides
Bar Montez, Rosewood Hotel
13.30 - 15.00

The rise of the countries of the so-called Global South has had a profound impact on the political arrangements of the past. Strategic approaches are being rewritten as countries large and small take into account a world in which new centers of power are a reality. The Great Game is no longer the preserve of the few. This panel will discuss the alignments, realignments, and misalignments that define global cooperation and national security in this new multipolar age.

Robert Bosch Stiftung
For the People? With the People! Rethinking Security Paradigms and Partnerships in the Sahel
Dachgarten I, Hotel Bayerischer Hof
13.30 - 15.00

Since 2020, the Sahel has undergone a seismic shift marked by six military coups in Mali, Niger, Burkina Faso, and Chad, which have reshaped its political landscape. Following MINUSMA’s exit, the conclusion of French and EU military involvement, faltering European strategies, and wavering legitimacy for ECOWAS, the region is once again at crossroads. Amid popular uprisings against Western influence, further fueled by the ruling military juntas, new regional security alliances such as Alliance des États du Sahel aim to replace the recently dissolved G5 Sahel. Emerging players like Russia are gaining prominence by establishing new defense contracts while China, Turkey and India also expand collaboration with the Sahel countries. Despite substantial financial and political investment into various initiatives and programs, the promise of lasting peace, security and stability by “traditional” stakeholders have not produced the expected outcomes. Simultaneously, international engagement in the Sahel has only sporadically complemented traditional conflict resolution mechanisms. These mechanisms, aside from their proven effectiveness, are also recognized processes developed of, by and for the affected populations. This underscores the importance of understanding and empowering the expertise and capacities of local actors to reshape the overall approach to supporting enduring peace in the region.
Part of today’s darkening security horizon is the increasing difficulty in preventing, managing, and resolving armed conflict. In a changing world order, and as geopolitics grow increasingly toxic, diplomacy faces unprecedented challenges with political leaders around the world seeming more willing to use violence to meet their goals. Wars are increasingly prevalent, protracted, and perilous. Multiple external players get involved, their enmities layering atop local struggles, blocking or at least complicating efforts to end the violence. Consequently, peacemaking itself is also in crisis; the past decade has seen few wars end primarily through negotiations. Where bloodshed has declined – in Afghanistan, Ethiopia, Libya, Nagorno-Karabakh, Syria, and Yemen, for example – the lull owes more to battlefield dynamics than diplomacy. This event aims to shed light on the changing landscape of international conflict resolution, the crisis of diplomacy, and the obstacles to achieving sustainable peace.

The Nuclear Threat Initiative (NTI)
**Shrinking the Zone of Confrontation and Competition: Rethinking Principles for Euro-Atlantic Security and the Global Nuclear Order**
**Pageou**
13.30 - 15.00

The vision of mutual security in the Euro-Atlantic Region appears more distant today than at any time in the past three decades. This event will explore fundamental principles that if agreed by leaders could provide a foundation for officials and experts to re-engage and eventually make progress on security and a more stable nuclear order.

**Transatlantic Business Initiative (TBI), American Chamber of Commerce in Germany and U.S. Embassy Berlin**
**German-U.S. Congressional-Business Roundtable**
**Blue Spa, Hotel Bayerischer Hof**
13.30 - 15.00

A strong transatlantic partnership based on common values and trust is essential to addressing today’s global challenges, including multiple crises. The goal of this roundtable is to facilitate an open and informal dialogue between members of the U.S. congress and Germany-based business leaders on issues that are central to the transatlantic partnership. In particular, we seek to discuss how the transatlantic partners can work together to contribute to economic stability and facilitate the green transition, both in the transatlantic market and globally. As both countries seek to make their supply chains more resilient, we would also like to discuss how Germany and the United States can promote the de-risking of their economic relations with countries of concern without de-coupling.

**Yalta European Strategy and Victor Pinchuk Foundation**
**Ukrainian Lunch: 2024 - It’s In Our Hands**
**Saal, Literaturhaus**
13.30 - 15.00

How the war in Ukraine ends will not only impact European security. It will determine the global position of Europe, the West, and countries worldwide opting for freedom and democracy. The war’s outcome hinges on decisions Ukraine’s allies take now, in the coming months. Will they decide to give enough support quickly enough? The Ukrainian Lunch will focus on what is needed now. How can the necessary support be provided in a volatile global environment, with many of Ukraine’s supporters engulfed in internal political challenges?
MSC, Amerikahaus, and Atlantik-Brücke

Understanding and Combating the Surge in Global Antisemitism: A Conversation with Secretary Hillary Clinton and Special Envoy Deborah Lipstadt
Theatersaal, Amerikahaus
15.30 - 16.30

In recent months, we have witnessed an alarming increase in antisemitic incidents and rhetoric, arguably the worst such spike since the Second World War. In this conversation moderated by Atlantik-Brücke CEO Julia Friedlander, former U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and U.S. Special Envoy to Monitor & Combat Antisemitism Ambassador Deborah Lipstadt will discuss the sources of contemporary antisemitism, how antisemitism is all too often a bellwether of the fragility of a democracy, and the national security and societal imperatives of combating the “oldest hatred.”

This event is open to all MSC participants and observers. Prior registration is encouraged.

Center for China and Globalization
China, Europe, and the United States: Climate Cooperation in an Era of Great Power Politics
Refektorium, Hotel Bayerischer Hof
15.30 - 17.00

Of the major global problems confronting all of humanity today, climate change is certainly one of the most pressing. China, the European Union, and the United States are the world’s three largest economies and geopolitical players; together, they account for around 40 percent of global greenhouse gas emissions and consume nearly half the world’s energy. Beijing, Brussels, and Washington are locked in a dynamic and complicated triangular relationship, while competition will undoubtedly remain an enduring characteristic. But of one thing they can be certain: no climate governance will materialize if the three can’t figure out some form of trilateral cooperation, however difficult. In the current tense geopolitical environment, how China, EU, and US as a Climate G3 is possible to strengthen global leadership on climate? This event seeks to promote constructive dialogue for rules-based behavior and cooperation.

Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI) and Foreign Policy
Fighting ‘Smart’ Pandemics: Mitigating Risks and Harnessing the Potential of AI for Biosecurity
Hartmanns
15.30 - 18.30

Against the backdrop of a fragile global recovery from the worst pandemic in at least a century, a raging conflict between Israel and Hamas, and a nearly two-year war waged by Russia against Ukraine, increasingly ubiquitous biotechnologies and powerful artificial intelligence (AI) technologies are converging to create the potential for development and deployment of new powerful biological weapons. Now more than ever, nations recognize the need for national capabilities to handle and study dangerous pathogens, to protect health, and to advance broader economic and security interests. This simulation will explore the critical intersections of technology, biosecurity, and international relations, seeking to identify appropriate policy and regulatory mechanisms to maximize the benefits of AI and biotechnologies while minimizing risks. A priority focus will be including diverse perspectives from the Global South in the event. The discussion aims to provide strategic insights and policy solutions within the context of evolving global security challenges, ensuring the responsible use of AI and biotechnology.

Eastern Europe Studies Centre (EESC) and International Centre for Defence and Security (ICDS)
Flank-tastic? Mapping NATO’s Eastern Deterrence and Defense
Bibliothek, Hotel Bayerischer Hof
15.30 - 17.00

The NATO Summit in Vilnius was pivotal, igniting a series of transformative developments by embracing Nordic allies and spearheading new regional defense plans. Nevertheless, in the face of Russia’s ongoing aggression against Ukraine, the Alliance must maintain its momentum in reinforcing deterrence and defense and play a vital role in shaping the future security architecture in Europe. Guiding Questions for the session are: How has the implementation of NATO’s deterrence and defense
decisions made in Vilnius last year progressed, and what are the priorities for the 2024 NATO Summit in Washington, D.C.? How can we ensure continued Western support for Ukraine and its progress toward eventual NATO membership? What should be the foundational principles of Europe’s future security architecture?

International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS)
Spending Wisely: How to Increase European Defense Industrial Capacity in Times of War and Beyond
Watteau-Salon, Hotel Bayerischer Hof
15.30 - 17.00

Russia’s war of aggression against Ukraine has revealed significant shortcomings in the capacity of European North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) governments to supply and arm a neighboring partner, much less fight a major war themselves. The war in Israel has added to the pressure on several Western governments. The armed forces in European NATO and European Union (EU) member states are hollowed out, plagued by unserviceable equipment and severely depleted ammunition stocks. Policymakers in many nations have responded by announcing significant increases in defense spending. The new money is intended to address long-standing capability shortfalls, support the modernization of armed forces and, in some cases, their growth, replenish stocks, and fill gaps created by the transfer of equipment and munitions to Ukraine. Yet it has very quickly become apparent that Europe's defense-industrial base will struggle to meet this increased demand in the short term. This raises urgent questions about European industry's ability to continue supporting Ukraine militarily at scale and at speed and its ability to recapitalize forces in NATO and the EU.

The Bavarian State Chancellery
War in Europe and the Future of Land Forces
Prinz Carl Palais
15.30 - 18.00

Europe is not at peace! In February 2022, war returned to Europe. The Russian attack on Ukraine is a challenge for Foreign- and Security-policy makers all over the world. The war in Ukraine, the conflict in Israel and the ever-latent tensions in the South-China Sea emphasize a new era of foreign and security policy, that is not likely to end soon. NATO nations increasingly perceive their territorial integrity threatened. The “Zeitenwende” with its 100 Billion Euro Special Funding and the call for fully equipped forces constitute a new trial for the Bundeswehr as a whole and the German Army in particular. Under the framework of this year’s Munich Security Conference, we have the opportunity to discuss following questions with leading experts and decision-makers and to compare multiple perspectives on these matters: What are the consequences of the current political environment for NATO’s land forces in (Eastern) Europe? How can the support to Ukraine be maintained? What are the key challenges for the German Army and its industrial partners regarding fully equipped land forces? How can NATO assure a credible and therefore effective deterrence against Russia facing the upcoming US election? What are the consequences of “Zeitenwende”, not only for the Bundeswehr, but for Western societies as a whole?

Association of Reservists of the German Armed Forces (VdRBw)
China as an Epoch-Defining Challenge: About the Importance of National Reserve Forces for the Perseverance
Bibliothek, Literaturhaus
17.30 - 21.00

Tensions in the South China Sea, threats to trade routes and the Taiwan crisis: China is presenting the West with ever greater challenges. This has not only been recognized by the USA – keyword “Pivot to Asia” – but also by Europe. In view of China’s growing influence worldwide, further tensions seem inevitable. Greater Western engagement is needed to secure freedom of trade routes and reduce dependence on China. NATO must provide a sustained, credible deterrent and signal defense capabilities, including to prevent an ever-closer war between China and Taiwan. However, the renewed focus on national and alliance defense must not be accompanied at the same time by a loss of competence to be present in joint international missions as well. Here, too, reservists will again be called upon in all functions – in operations, in filling vacancies and in protecting their own country from threats that may arise from their involvement in a mission.
Commerzbank
Malign State Actors: A Hybrid Challenge to Financial Stability?
Bibliothek, Hotel Bayerischer Hof
17.30 - 19.00

The international financial system may become the next frontier of hybrid warfare. Disinformation campaigns by malign actors may target vulnerabilities in the financial system and spark another financial crisis. The market turmoil of March 2023 should serve as a wake-up call. Back then, the financial community observed a new version of a bank run: The collapse of Silicon Valley Bank (SVB), the second-biggest bank collapse in U.S. history, took place in less than 48 hours. Enabled by digital technology, customers withdrew $42 billion within a single day. Tweets exacerbated and accelerated the run. Social media-fueled digital bank runs have thus emerged as a new risk to the global financial system. Shortly after the SVB incident, shares in a major European bank tumbled after the cost of insuring the bank’s debt shot to more than four-year highs. Later, it was reported that regulators were singling out a specific trade in the bank’s credit default swaps (CDS), which they suspect fueled a global selloff. State actors with malign intent may use these tactics as part of hybrid warfare in a political crisis. The event aims to raise awareness in both the public and the private sector and to develop a better understanding about potential attack vectors. Further, we want to discuss potential remedies. What kind of circuit breakers could be used in a crisis? And how can the financial community and the security agencies join forces to counteract?

European Leadership Network and The Elders
Risky Propositions: Why it Matters to Have Leaders Who Champion Nuclear Arms Control
Cafe Luitpold
17.30 - 19.00

In an era of geopolitical tension, uncertainty, and technological innovation, the need for political leadership that prioritizes existential risk has never been more critical. In the darkest hours of the Cold War, the Soviet Union and the United States were able and willing to discuss and agree on measures to reduce the risk of nuclear war – Today, we must return to this diplomacy and the compartmentalization of nuclear arms control as a global imperative. Join The European Leadership Network (ELN) and The Elders at the Munich Security Conference as we debate and discuss the need to separate existential risks, with a primary focus on nuclear arms control, from great power and geopolitical competition. Leading experts, policymakers, and those in leadership positions, including US Undersecretary of State for Arms Control and International Security, Ambassador Bonnie Jenkins and former British Defence Secretary and Labour Peer, Lord (Des) Browne, will discuss how to navigate this terrain and why today’s world leaders must be willing to put their heads above the parapet to secure a safer world.

EY
Unlocking Ukraine: Good-Governance Measures for Foreign Aid and Investments
Blue Spa Wintergarten, Hotel Bayerischer Hof
17.30 - 19.00

Throughout history, nations worldwide have demonstrated their commitment to global solidarity by providing reconstruction aid and investments to countries devastated by natural disasters, political unrest, or war. This multilateral support plays a vital role in restoring countries’ economies and helping them regain their strength and stability. In the case of the ongoing war in Ukraine, the reconstruction of essential infrastructure is critical to increase Ukraine’s economic sustainability. The success of this endeavor is strongly hinged upon the active collaboration and unwavering support of international partners and institutions. Supporting Ukraine’s economic recovery benefits the globe due to its key role in various sectors. As a major food supplier, source of critical earth minerals, and site of Europe’s largest gas storage facilities, Ukraine has significant worldwide economic impact. Furthermore, its abundance of IT talent contributes widely to global innovation. Effective reconstruction initiatives can usher in a period of economic stability and progress for affected populations. This positive outcome hinges on three key elements: (1) the active involvement of committed donors, (2) the strategic and impactful use of the funds they provide, (3) and the transparency of fund flows that assures every stakeholder of the effectiveness of the reconstruction efforts. For effective reconstruction efforts, timely and reliable data on the fund locations, the utilization stages, and the tangible improvements are necessary. Regardless of source or form — be it private or public sector loans, grants, or investments — all parties share a vested interest in maximizing fund efficiency and outcomes for those in need, while minimizing potential losses.
Hence, this roundtable aims to facilitate an engaging discussion on the varied perspectives concerning the implementation of effective and transparent strategies for Ukraine’s comprehensive reconstruction.

German Federal Foreign Office
Choppy Waters in the Black Sea: How to Navigate the Political, Military and Economic Currents and Find Safe Passage in One of the World’s Most Strategic Environments. A Diplomatic Scenario Exercise
Neuhaus-Preysing, Rosewood Hotel
17.30 - 19.00

February 24, 2022, was the final wake-up call: the Black Sea region is vital for freedom and prosperity in Europe and beyond. Russia is waging its war of aggression against Ukraine both on land and at sea - with serious global repercussions. Let’s face it: the waters of the Black Sea might remain turbulent and murky for the foreseeable future. Further escalation of the war is possible. In this scenario planning exercise, the participants will deal with it proactively, in an interactive and immersive way. They slip into different roles and work step-by-step through plausible sudden disruptive events. They will deliberate in small teams on implications, objectives and policy recommendations. Tailor-made visualizations help dive into the scenario and get the clearest possible picture of the blurry situation on the ground.

Sahel and West Africa Club at the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)
Friend or Foe? Understanding Conflict Networks in North and West Africa
Watteau-Salon, Hotel Bayerischer Hof
17.30 - 19.00

Violence in North and West Africa has been on the rise since the early 2010s. In the last decade, more than 100,000 people have been killed, mainly in West Africa. Many actors are involved in conflict, including state forces, rebel groups, and extremist organizations. Their relationships are volatile and complex. Organizations that are allies one day can fight each other the next and cooperate later. We will provide a better understanding of the changing conflict environment using an approach called Dynamic Social Network Analysis. After a review of the situation in the region, we look at the global political balances at play in the Sahel. Building on a dataset of 60,000 events collected by the Armed Conflict Location & Event Data (ACLED) project, we map networks of rivalries and co-operation connecting over 3,800 actors since 1997. Conflicts are increasingly polarized around a few powerful organizations and are dominated by rivalries, making peacekeeping efforts more difficult than ever. This event will bring together experts from the region for a discussion on what sustainable peace in the region can look like.

Silverado Policy Accelerator
Battling for Peace: Gaming out Scenarios for Ending Russia’s War on Ukraine
Salon II, Rosewood Hotel
17.30 - 19.00

Renowned international wargame and tabletop exercise expert and MSC innovation board member Dmitri Alperovitch hosts a roundtable discussion of international military, policy and political experts in a scenario-based session that explores potential outcomes for ending Russia’s War on Ukraine based on existing facts and trending geopolitical assumptions.

The Swedish Institute of International Affairs (UI)
Battle of Narratives: Challenging “Alternative” Worldviews
Promenade-Salon, Hotel Bayerischer Hof
17.30 - 19.00

Today’s sharpened global geopolitical confrontation is increasingly played out in the realm of narratives about how the world order is and should be constituted. The outcome of this battle will shape the understanding of the future world order and is being fought with ever more aggressive means. The previously largely uncontested understanding of the rules-based world order and its institutions is now actively opposed by China and Russia. How are Russia’s war against Ukraine and the Israel-Hamas conflict described and instrumentalized? What role do the BRICS play? With independent UI research as a backdrop, this session will cover questions like: why, where, and in which ways do the Russian and Chinese campaigns operate? How
could the West address the alternative narratives, by pointing out consequences and opportunity costs and by means of strategic investments, trade, development aid, etc.? What could be done to neutralize the assets instrumentalized by China and Russia to promote their worldview, such as exports of fossil fuel, food, fertilizers, infrastructure projects, arms trade, etc.?

National Endowment for Democracy (NED)
Autocracy, Inc. vs. Democrats United: How to Outsmart the Bad Guys
Königssaal, Hotel Bayerischer Hof
18.30 - 19.15

In this era of fierce competition, Beijing and Moscow offer corrupt autocrats an attractive and lucrative alternative to the hard work of building democratic rule of law for societies that empower their own people. Autocracies are waging a sophisticated, coordinated global campaign that increasingly combines new technology, complex financial networks, and manipulated media environments—not only to better control their own people, but also to bolster each other, capture elites, and undermine democracies. Now more than ever, we need democracies to unite, mobilize, and work in common cause to support basic liberties, especially on the frontlines of freedom, such as Ukraine and Taiwan. This Town Hall discussion brings together Nobel Laureate Maria Ressa and Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Anne Applebaum, with leading political actors, to discuss how authoritarian leaders are working together like never before, using technology to defeat democracy movements and hold on to power at any cost.

This event is open to all MSC participants and observers. Prior registration is encouraged.

Accenture
Generative AI and National Security: Navigating Adoption, Adaptation and Risk
Salon II, Rosewood Hotel
20.00 - 21.30

The dinner will bring together senior government and private sector leaders to discuss the risks, rewards and responsibilities of adopting Generative AI for national security. Under strict Chatham House rules, the intimate gathering will allow the sharing of diverse perspectives on the real applications of this technology, the geopolitical urgency of coordinated action, and the risks of non or slow adoption.

Security Repressed? How to Respond to the Authoritarian Challenge?
Bibliothek, Hotel Bayerischer Hof
20.00 - 21.30

Russia’s war against Ukraine, the Azeri action in Nagorno-Karabakh resulting in a mass exodus of the population, Myanmar’s war against its own population— they highlight once more that authoritarian rule makes the world less safe. As the Soviet dissident Andrei Sacharov noted: “A state that does not respect the rights of its citizens, will not respect the rights of its neighbors.” The link between internal governance and foreign policy becomes clearer, but the debate focuses solely on the foreign policy implications of autocracy. The flip side garners less attention: How can foreign policies support democracies or aid the democratization of autocratic states? This session delves into the pivotal questions: How can foreign policies actively bolster democracies and democratization efforts in autocratic states? How can we transform democracy support from a mere value-based endeavor (expressed in statements of projects) into a fundamental aspect of hard foreign policy, shaping military cooperation, economic, diplomatic, and legal strategies through rigorous data and facts-based pro-democracy policies?
The Covid-19 pandemic, Russia’s war against Ukraine, and China’s growing assertiveness in the world – have dramatically shifted European views of the preeminence of economic over security affairs. The European Union has now followed, and in some cases led, the United States in developing new tools of economic statecraft, including an investment screening mechanism, tightened export controls, and an anti-coercion instrument. Yet, both Americans and Europeans are grappling with the trade-offs between maintaining economic openness and integration on one hand and enhancing security and resilience on the other. The high-level panel convened at this event will explore how the two sides are seeking to strike the right balance between these objectives.

MSC and MERICS
Calibrating (Re)Engagement with China
Gelber Salon, Hotel Bayerischer Hof
20.00 - 21.30

2024 will be a year of uncertainties for Europe and the world. The war is back in the old continent with questions regarding European security and prosperity. The Middle East is at risk of being sucked into the Israel-Hamas conflict. US-China competition has become the new normal and the elections looming may trigger more instability in the relationship. EU elections in June may see the advance of populism. Pressure may also be mounting in the Taiwan Straits following the elections. Against this background. China is mired in an economic slowdown and societal tensions. But on the world stage, China’s footprint is growing. Its ambitions are clear: From being recognized as a responsible player in the global crisis to being praised for its series of global initiatives as an offer to the Global South, China’s toolbox matches its objective of becoming a global superpower. In that sense, Beijing has become a key factor in all global conflicts and a driver in our foreign and security policy. This event, hosted by the MSC and MERICS, will bring together experts to discuss reengaging China on the global stage to ensure stability and managing difficult relationships, while de-risking at home is becoming a priority and a real balancing act. Partnering is the cornerstone of the European approach. At the same time, global fragmentation, geopolitical tensions and increasing pressure over the transatlantic partnership question the capacity of Europe and its partners to actually work together in dealing with China.

Open Society Foundations and Chatham House
Ordering Elections? Can Multilateralism Survive a Year of Elections?
Garden Restaurant, Hotel Bayerischer Hof
20.00 - 21.30

The contemporary global order has been built on a foundation of multilateralism that is fraying at the edges as geopolitical competition threatens to unsettle any remaining prospect for cooperation on matters of peace and security. In one scenario, the global order could fracture or descend into a set of institutional orders, one for the West, and one for the East. But multilateralism is also fraying from within as democracies confront the challenge of polarisation and a far right that rejects the premise of liberal internationalism. 2024 brings a year of elections across multiple democracies, most especially the US, but also the UK, the European Parliament, India and Indonesia. At a time of domestic as well as international contestation over the values that underpin the multilateral order, elections introduce an additional layer of uncertainty, one that could be game-changing for the West, and for Western values, on key questions of peace and security. Does the existing multilateral order depend on democratic stability in the West?
Silverado Policy Accelerator  
Beyond Lithium: Rethinking Our Strategic Approach to Critical Minerals Resiliency and Security  
Neuhaus-Preysing, Rosewood Hotel  
20.00 - 21.30

Critical minerals are essential inputs to defense, aerospace, medical, and consumer applications. Much ado has been made over the supply/demand mismatch for lithium used in electric vehicle batteries, but less attention has been paid to how other critical minerals that support numerous other applications are also vying for the same finite pot of critical minerals. China’s dominant position in the critical minerals supply and processing illustrates the exposure global companies have to this chokepoint. An outsized portion of the global processing and refining of various critical minerals is located in China, including cobalt (75%), spherical graphite (100%), and rare earths (85%). In the past six months alone, China has used its position in the global supply chain to place export restrictions on certain minerals, such as germanium and gallium. The aim of this session is to convene private sector representatives, government officials, and think tank stakeholders to help catalyze cross-sectoral awareness to create more resiliency and security for critical mineral supply chains.

Special Competitive Studies Project and Joint European Disruptive Initiative  
Tech-tonic Shifts: Priorities for Technology and Strategic Competition in 2024 and Beyond  
Blue Spa, Hotel Bayerischer Hof  
20.00 - 21.30

As MSC 2024 comes to a close, the Special Competitive Studies Project (SCSP) and the Joint European Disruptive Initiative (JEDI) will host a dinner focusing on the strategic technology priorities that democratic nations need to address to advance our shared interests around the world. This conversation, moderated by SCSP CEO Ylli Bajraktari and JEDI Executive Chairman André Loesekrug-Pietri, will review with MSC participants the technology opportunities and challenges identified throughout the MSC 2024 agenda and consider the priorities the United States, Europe, and our allies and partners will face in the global technology competition in 2024 and beyond. AI, election deepfakes, autonomy and the future of warfare, biotech, and other emerging technology issues are rapidly changing the global order - global democracies must organize to ensure that the technologies that will shape the future reflect our values and interests.

American Chamber of Commerce in Germany  
Navigating Uncharted Waters - Mapping Transatlantic Pathways for Securing Economic Growth, Innovation and Resilience  
Pageou  
20.00 - 21.30

In light of both the European elections and the U.S. presidential elections coming up in 2024, as well as global turmoil rising due to the wars in Ukraine and the Middle East, a decisive year awaits for the transatlantic partnership. In times of continuously fragile global business and investment conditions, further coordination and cooperation among the transatlantic partners will be crucial to strengthening security as well as the competitiveness and resilience of our economies. Our MSC side event will offer high-level perspectives on how to further deepen transatlantic security, business, and trade relations by fostering open trade and the elimination of trade barriers, advocating for more transatlantic sovereignty in focal areas such as international supply chains, critical technologies, and artificial intelligence (AI) regulation, as well as international standards and norms. At this event, AmCham Germany will bring together a diverse set of key stakeholders from Germany and the U.S. to discuss necessary priorities to strengthen transatlantic security and economic relations in 2024 and beyond.

The Ax:son Johnson Institute for Statecraft and Diplomacy  
The End of the End of History: Rethinking Western Policy Towards Russia  
Dachgarten II, Hotel Bayerischer Hof  
20.00 - 21.30

The invasions of Poland and Finland (1939), the invasion of Afghanistan (1979), Chechnya (1994 & 1999), Georgia (2008), and Ukraine (2014 & 2022). These are just a few examples of Russian or Soviet attempts at territorial expansion through aggressive wars. How likely was this predisposition to be altered through, for example, close trading relationships? In this event, we will
show how the West’s strategy could have been better formulated if policymakers had applied historical lessons in their decision-making. In 2022, the Western world has witnessed a tectonic shift in its relationship with Russia. The transatlantic community showed remarkable unity in its response to the Russian invasion of Ukraine and now recognizes the fallacy of its previous policies. This event serves as a platform to explore how applying historical insights can enrich the process of strategy-making, enhance efficacy in addressing ever-evolving geopolitical challenges, safeguard Western interests, and promote global stability.

The Warsaw Security Forum and International Centre for Ukrainian Victory
Different Shades of Victory: Rethinking the End of the War in Ukraine. Scenarios & Their Impact on Transatlantic Security
Fürstensalon, Hotel Bayerischer Hof
20.00 - 21.30

The aim of the roundtable is to explore tangible scenarios of political actions in support of Ukrainian success in the war against Russia. That would mean confronting military scenarios and chances with the current state of political debate in an honest discussion voicing all concerns, and that includes expertise from different continents. Speakers include the guests of honor, Jens Stoltenberg, Secretary General and NATO, and Boris Pistorius, Minister of Defense of Germany.

The organizer - the Warsaw Security Forum - brings an extensive Eastern European perspective to the table with the high-level policy makers of the region present. It offers a refreshed and evidence-based perspective on the end goal of the war in Ukraine, that involves also the openness to the debate that voices all the political and military views related to the status quo of the war. The WSF is one of Europe’s biggest platforms for policymakers and influencers on issues related to Central & Eastern Europe and post-Soviet sphere policies.

Trusted Future
New Tools, Old Problems: Evaluating the impact of emerging technologies on a rapidly changing security environment
Atelier Restaurant, Hotel Bayerischer Hof
20.00 - 21.30

Today’s global security environment is rapidly changing. There are ongoing wars in both Ukraine and the Middle East. The world is woefully unprepared for another pandemic, as it has barely emerged from Covid-19. Cyberattacks happen on a near-daily basis. The year 2023 set heat records around the world, contributing to dangerous temperatures and wildfires endangering the health, security, and livelihood of billions of people. Food shortages, exacerbated by both the wars and climate change, threaten vulnerable populations and unstable governments. Today’s security is infinitely more complex than in the past, presenting policymakers with incredible challenges. Developments in technology and innovation could help solve or mitigate many of these challenges, from food insecurity over climate change to issues of war and peace. But these technologies and the broader ecosystem in which they are developed must be kept secure if we want to take advantage of all the benefits they have to offer.

Bavarian State Chancellery and MSC
Ewald von Kleist Award Ceremony and State Dinner
Kaisersaal Munich Residence
20.00 - 22.00

The state dinner is traditionally held in the magnificent Kaisersaal of Munich Residence. It marks the end of the formal proceedings of the conference’s second day and offers the perfect setting for the presentation of the annual Ewald von Kleist Award.
EY
EY Executive MSC Nightcap
Bar Montez, Rosewood Hotel
22.00 - 23.30

EY is delighted to invite you to the exclusive MSC Nightcap, 2024, where EY gathers senior executives and other high-ranking participants of the MSC 2024.

This event is open to all MSC participants and observers. Prior registration is encouraged.
Multilateral peace operations in Africa are at a critical juncture. The 2010s saw investments in multidimensional United Nations (UN) peacekeeping operations, a proliferation of regional and ad hoc initiatives, and an increase of European Union (EU) capacity building and counter-terrorism efforts. All these trends reversed in the 2020s, in the wake of Russia’s full-scale invasion of Ukraine and a series of military coups in Africa, including in countries hosting peace operations. Further drawdowns could leave dangerous vacuums in which vulnerabilities caused by unaddressed grievances and governance deficits can be further exploited. All this is happening in the context of intensifying geopolitical competition, an increasingly dysfunctional UN Security Council, European attention diverted to Russia’s war against Ukraine, and the absence of predictable financing of African Union (AU) and African-led peace operations. Against this background, the aim of this event is to rethink multilateral peace operations in Africa and what is needed to build an effective and equitable trilateral AU-EU-UN partnership in this regard.

Geopolitics is rapidly changing international cooperation. Global member-state based organizations, including the United Nations (UN), repeatedly experience gridlock and contestation. No new UN peace operations have been deployed since 2014, and major UN operations are being withdrawn from Mali and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). Meanwhile, ad hoc coalitions have been fielded at a steady pace. The Multinational Joint Task Force fighting Boko Haram in the Lake Chad region, the recently mandated Multinational Force in Haiti, and the East African Community Joint Force deployed to eastern DRC are only some examples. These changes represent a paradigm shift away from formal, long-lasting global public solutions to flexible, time- and task-specific cooperation in the form of ad hoc coalitions. This breakfast discussion gathers stakeholders from policy and academia to discuss the implications of this paradigm shift and how states, international organizations, and private actors can adapt to a changing international cooperation environment.

In light of the heightened tensions in the Middle East, Europe finds itself at a crucial juncture. As internal threats such as antisemitism and polarized discourse loom, the European Union has yet to find its role in actively fostering peace in the conflict-ridden region. This prompts the question of how the European community can redefine its responsibility and assume a distinct
task in future stabilization efforts. Which strategy should Europe adopt to effectively address and shape this complex situation and uphold its values, both internally and beyond its own borders?

Universität der Bundeswehr München
Zeitenwende: Where Do We Stand?
Bibliothek, Literaturhaus
9.30 - 11:00

Russia’s war of aggression against Ukraine has also changed many things in Germany. This also includes a greater understanding and increased acceptance of an operational Bundeswehr. Terms such as defense and resilience have taken on a new meaning. An operational Bundeswehr costs a lot of money and requires a great deal of financial effort. Society is becoming increasingly aware of this. The special fund of EUR 100 billion is the first major step in the right direction. But is this enough to equip and maintain the Bundeswehr in the long term? How does Germany deal with the 2% target to which it has committed itself? These are questions that concern and interest society and security policy players. This event offers an exciting discussion of the tipping point of the Bundeswehr from a variety of perspectives.

The German Marshall Fund of the United States (GMF)
Taking Stock: How to Make Transatlantic Security Count
Gelber Salon, Hotel Bayerischer Hof
11.30 - 13.00

In the last two years, new geopolitical realities have reshaped the defense partnership between the United States and Germany. The war on Ukraine, the rising tensions in the Indo-Pacific region and more recently, the looming threat of wider escalation in the Middle East are the most urgent issues on the Transatlantic security agenda. At the same time, both the Bundestag and the U.S. Congress find themselves at the intersections of democracy and international security policy, balancing geopolitical needs with the economic and domestic demands of their constituencies. As the United States are heading into presidential elections in 2024, taking stock on these challenges, and enabling a close dialogue between partners remains vital, especially in times of interplaying issues of defense, energy, economic and democratic policies. This lunch discussion will gather Members of Congress and Members of the Bundestag to discuss current challenges for bilateral defense ties. This event is taking place in the realms of GMFs Congress-Bundestag exchange program.

Atlantic Council
Closing Time: Charting a Path for the Transatlantic Community after Munich
Königssaal, Hotel Bayerischer Hof
13.30 - 15.00

For the twelfth year in a row, the Atlantic Council’s Transatlantic Security Initiative will host a closing luncheon at the Munich Security Conference. The luncheon will bring heads of state and government, top ministers of defense and foreign affairs, senior military officials, leading policy experts, and business executives together for a rich off-the-record discussion that builds on the key themes of the Conference and charts a path forward for transatlantic allies and partners. At a turbulent time for the transatlantic community, this year’s conversation will again summarize key outcomes from the MSC and examine how the transatlantic community can sustain its support for Ukraine, rebuild its defense capacity to deter Russia, and cohere a transatlantic approach to the challenges emanating from the People’s Republic of China.
MSC and the German Institute for International and Security Affairs (SWP)

Directors’ Cut@MSC – Think Tank Leaders Lunch
Fürstensalon, Hotel Bayerischer Hof
13.30 - 15.00

The Munich Security Conference is an indispensable element in the annual conference calendar of the international think tank community. At the beginning of the year, it plays a decisive role in framing the debates on international relations, conflicts and crises, foreign and security policy. The MSC brings together more than 70 think tank representatives from around the world. Their contributions in plenary sessions, side events and informal meetings are crucial to the success of the conference. However, the conference has not yet provided an opportunity for a comprehensive exchange among think tankers. The 60th MSC provides an excellent opportunity to change this. The MSC and the Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik (SWP), German Institute for International and Security Affairs, would therefore like to invite you to a lunch on the last day of the MSC where we can discuss the main results of the conference, the messages and signals sent, the surprises and the omissions noticed.

U.S. Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe (Helsinki Commission)
Promenade-Salon, Hotel Bayerischer Hof
13.30 - 15.00

With Ukraine in the largest European land war since World War II, and the war in Gaza, security institutions created over half a century ago in WWII’s wake face serious questions in confronting 21st century challenges. Simultaneously, voters and democratic movements now question large financial and military commitments beyond their borders. In few places are such questions more vital than in the U.S., which played a central role in crafting institutions in the last century and funding them since. This event brings together three critical groups to address these security issues that will shape the 2024 U.S. and international elections: top U.S. officials (coordinated by U.S. OSCE Ambassador Michael Carpenter) discussing Administration policies; senior CSCE officials with rare will insights on Congress’ and voters’ dynamics, and finally senior international officials attending the Munich Security Conference who can respond with their perspectives. Together they will seek strategies to forge both stronger security and deeper domestic and international support.