

## Munich Security Conference 2023

### List of Selected Side Events

Thursday, February 16

Evening Sessions & Dinners

**Tackling Unconventional Risks**  
hosted by Atlantik-Brücke

Before the official opening of the MSC, the Atlantik-Brücke will seek to build on the unparalleled strength of the NATO Alliance and tackle issues beyond the traditional concept of security that also require cooperation and well-crafted policymaking. At our members reception we will discuss these unconventional risks and hear from leading American policymakers who will share insights on the Biden administration's approach to financial dangers and investment screening as well as legal means to protect democracy in the wake of January 6, 2021. This event is generously supported by KPMG.

**MSC Innovation Night 2023: Technology Defined Defense**  
hosted by MSC and the Bundeswehr Cyber Innovation Hub

The intersection between technology innovation and security has never been more dynamic. New challenges but also opportunities are constantly emerging on real as well as more abstract frontlines. For the sixth year in a row, "the MSC Innovation Night 2023–Technology Defined Defense", hosted by the Munich Security Conference and the Bundeswehr Cyber Innovation Hub, is bringing together high-profile political participants and cutting-edge innovative thinkers for an engaging, accessible, and unique dialogue.

**Innovation Dinner**  
hosted by Boston Consulting Group and MSC

The Munich Security Conference and Boston Consulting Group are hosting an exclusive dinner on the eve of the MSC 2023. The discussion will focus on the MSC's latest research, conducted in collaboration with Boston Consulting Group in the area of defense innovation. Building upon last year's report, this evening's event will highlight insights taken from research across nearly 60 Ministries of Defense, NATO, and the EU and feature statements from senior defense leaders including Mircea Geoană, NATO Deputy Secretary General.

**Expecting the Unexpected at the Munich Security Conference: 2023 and Beyond**  
hosted by ARTOC

M. Shafik Gabr and the Shafik Gabr Foundation have for several years held their "Expected the Unexpected" dinner where, under strict Chatham House rules, international experts in fields of politics, business, security, economy, media and the arts gather to forecast and provide their insights for the future, in a friendly, insightful and deeply thought-provoking environment. This year at the Munich Security Conference, Mr. M. Shafik Gabr cordially invites you to his opening dinner: "Expecting the Unexpected at the Munich Security Conference: 2023 and Beyond"

## Night Cap

### [Rights, Resources and Representation: A Reality Check of Feminist Foreign Policy](#)

hosted by Female Network Atlantik-Brücke

As a newly formed women's network of the Atlantik-Brücke, we will look at the state of Feminist Foreign Policy and consider what is needed to prove its relevance. Indeed, especially in light of the current protests in Iran, the credibility and genuine commitment to feminist foreign policy has been called into question. Foreign policy leaders and activists will dive into the topic with our network and guests.

## Friday, February 17

### Breakfasts

#### [Lessons of Mass Destruction](#)

hosted by The Ditchley Foundation

A by invitation breakfast discussion exploring the lessons for decision making and defense innovation from Russia's war on Ukraine. What began as a Russian attempt to decapitate the Ukrainian government and seize control of a functioning country has turned into a war of mass destruction. The war has seen rapid and decisive technological innovation: on the one hand, exploitation of civilian digital technology such as Starlink, encrypted messaging and apps as well as adapted drones; and on the other hand, advanced military equipment such as HIMARS and now Patriot. Decision making at every level, from tactical to strategic, has had to accelerate. Some decisions have gone to the wire through indecision. What are the lessons for governments, alliances, and companies in times of crisis? How do we make good decisions ever faster? What are the implications from the war we have seen unfold for innovation and hard-pressed defense budgets?

#### [Up the Ladder: How to Boost the Nuclear IQ in NATO and Beyond](#)

hosted by the MSC

We are at the cusp of a new nuclear age – with more nuclear powers, less constraints, and higher risks. Russia's war on Ukraine and its nuclear saber-rattling have raised concerns about nuclear escalation in Europe. China is investing in nuclear capabilities. In the future, the US will likely have to deal with two nuclear peers rather than one. More may join the nuclear club, adding complexity and making deterrence relationships more uncertain. The future of arms control looks bleak and new technologies raise additional questions about the stability of nuclear deterrence. While nuclear challenges have returned to the top of the agenda, we seem intellectually and organizationally unprepared for this new era. Nuclear expertise urgently needs to be rebuilt and updated. At this "nuclear breakfast," we would like to discuss ideas how to boost the nuclear IQ in NATO and beyond.

## Morning Sessions

### [Peacing it Together: Religion, Diplomacy & Conflicts](#)

hosted by the Sovereign Military Order of Malta

Religions can serve both as a source of conflict or conflict resolution. Conventional diplomacy often reaches its limits when dealing with underlying religious factors. Security therefore needs to not only be thought from a military perspective but should include religion both as part of the conflict as well as part of the solution. Religious peacebuilding actors and supporting organizations are often at the forefront of efforts to build solidarity, social cohesion and promote cross-cultural dialogue leading to social justice and reconciliation. This event aims at drafting operational conclusions on two questions: How can religion and diplomacy interact positively in a conflict situation? And what possible role can faith-based institutions play in conflict resolution and peace-making?

### Report Launch: Nexus25

hosted by Istituto Affari Internazionali and Center for American Progress

The Russian invasion of Ukraine has permanently changed Europe and the world – and it will impoverish and isolate Russia for generations to come. However, the indirect effects on food security in distant regions of the world have been widely underestimated. They are far-reaching and will last for a long time. The war triggered a global food security crisis that has resulted in considerable upheavals and has had massive regional impact. Hunger (once again) become a weapon of war and over half a billion people worldwide are starving. The political implications of these multiple crises emanating from the Ukraine war are apparent: In 2009 and 2010, high wheat prices fueled the rebellions of the Arab Spring. Based on the new report “Rethinking Food Security and Climate Migration: Nexus Issues in Today's World”, the event will feature a forward-looking strategic conversation about 21<sup>st</sup> century security priorities, new actors and mechanisms of cooperation that are needed to respond to complex crises. Focusing on the nexus between food security, climate migration and stability, the event aims to identify where policy gaps exist and how approaches for a renewed transatlantic partnership can strengthen overall multilateral governance in these areas.

## Lunches

### CSU Transatlantic Forum – How to Strengthen Transatlantic Cooperation

hosted by Christian Social Union of Bavaria

Russia's attack on the Ukraine has shattered the post-Cold War security architecture in Europe. A violation of international law and a series of international security arrangements to which Russia itself agreed, the war constitutes a turning point for the Transatlantic Alliance and will have long lasting implications that reach far beyond Europe. Against this backdrop, the CSU's traditional Transatlantic Forum will be directed at defining the parameters of the Transatlantic Alliance moving forward. It aims to deepen and consolidate a consensus on the political and military requirements of an effective alliance under changed circumstances. Furthermore, various options to help Ukraine regain its full territorial integrity and de facto sovereignty over occupied territories will be discussed. What are the implications of the Russian invasion of Ukraine for the transatlantic alliance? What options are available for helping Ukraine to recover its territorial integrity and de facto sovereignty over currently occupied territories?

### Preparing Military Forces for the Zeitenwende: Why You Don't Have the People You Need

hosted by Boston Consulting Group

As many organizations around the world are fighting for the war for talent, Defense and Security organizations are posed with a very serious and unique challenge. How does the profession attract people in an ever-geopolitical evolving environment causing major security concerns, a more than ever competitive talent landscape and, at a time when the need for cultural change is completely shifting human dynamics?

### Naive No More: Evaluating Madrid, Shaping Vilnius

hosted by the Eastern Europe Studies Centre

The belief that the 'West' overestimated Russian conventional capabilities has become prevalent among many experts. However, the war in Ukraine does not necessarily parallel a potential encounter with Russia for NATO itself as many eastern flank states lack the strategic depth to trade land for time. Russia might be down, but it is not out – experts like Michael Kofman estimate it will not take a generation for it to recover from its military losses. Despite historic NATO steps in Madrid, the alliance remains in a transition to build capabilities that could effectively 'defend every inch of NATO territory' from day one. Moreover, Europe has to take up burden sharing. As the US long-term focus shifts to China, its defense strategy clearly alludes to the need for allies to 'bolster conventional warfighting capabilities' while the US assists with key enablers. During this lunch discussion, we will aim to recalibrate perceptions and consider viable options to strengthen the NATO eastern flank.

### **Weathering the Crises: Advancing Climate Action for Peace and Resilience**

hosted by Cairo International Center for Conflict Resolution, Peacekeeping and Peacebuilding, United Nations Development Programme and MSC

Africa contributes the least to the climate crisis with merely 4 percent of global greenhouse gas emissions, yet it is among the most vulnerable to its devastating consequences. Compounding this, Africa receives the least of global climate finance, which heavily undermines the continent's ability to deal with these challenges. There is a growing recognition that the inaction to address climate threats through ambitious mitigation can undermine peacebuilding and development gains. Yet, efforts remain fragmented as significant gaps persist between the global, regional, and national endeavors to tackle the security and development implications of climate change and integrate this into development, peacebuilding and humanitarian frameworks and interventions. It is imperative to address these gaps across the climate, peacebuilding, humanitarian, and development communities to advance responses that yield benefits of climate adaptation, peacebuilding and sustainable development, and further synergies among them. This roundtable aims to advance holistic and integrated climate responses, particularly in the context of the CRSP initiative.

### **New Perspectives on Cross-Cultural Relations and Regional Integration in the Middle East**

hosted by Conference of European Rabbis Foundation and Institute for Freedom of Faith and Security in Europe

In the two years since the signing of the Abraham Accords, the Abraham Process has brought a considerable impetus to regional relations and exchanges between the civil societies of the signatory states. Fostering not only the basis for security cooperation in the Middle East, the Abraham Process also provides an opportunity to counter radicalization and forms of religious or political extremism. Our aim is to bring together international leaders and experts at this year's Munich Security Conference to discuss the progress achieved and the future potential of the Israeli-Arab rapprochements. New perspectives for the successful implementation of the Abraham Accords will be shown not only in the light of political and economic cooperation but also concerning the role of intercultural exchange in the process.

### **Another Kind of Epidemic - Military Coups and the Need for Democratic Renewal in Africa**

hosted by Cairo International Center for Conflict Resolution, Peacekeeping and Peacebuilding and United Nations Development Programme

Between 2021-2022, Africa experienced six military coups and two attempted coups. This is a sharp rise in the number of military coups or unconstitutional changes of government (UCG) over the previous 10-year period. The African Union (AU) denounced these developments at its January 2022 Summit and in March 2022, issued the important Accra Declaration on Unconstitutional Changes of Government in Africa, which was further reiterated in May 2022 at an Extraordinary Summit of AU Heads of State and Government on UCG held in Malabo. UN Secretary-General António Guterres has similarly urged the Security Council to act in response to an 'epidemic of coups d'état' unfolding on the world stage. UNDP will present the findings of this research project, which puts people at the center of its research, with the voices of 8,000 Africans being raised through its perception survey. The analysis combines perception surveys and open-source data with the qualitative focus group and key informant interviews. This unique data set will provide policy recommendations based on the findings of this report.

### **Report Launch: Leveraging Interconnectivity**

hosted by Bertelsmann Foundation and Vienna Institute for International Economic Studies

The liberal paradigm of "change through trade" is under intense scrutiny. The fallout from Russia's invasion of Ukraine is the latest example of how the economic interdependencies generated by the last few decades of hyper-globalization can be used as a weapon. But is it true that economic interdependence has had its day as a political tool? In this discussion, we will present the findings of a new study quantifying EU, US, Chinese and Russian interconnectivity with the EU neighborhood. We will stress that EU economic and financial influence in the region remains strong, and that economic integration remains an important policy instrument when used strategically. Moreover, we will outline how the EU should adapt its enlargement and neighborhood policies to the new reality, leveraging interconnectivity to better promote democratic and market-based development in this region and prevent autocratic systems from taking root and gaining influence.

### **Averting Bioweapons and Catastrophic Accidents: Safeguarding Bioscience and Biotech** hosted by Nuclear Threat Initiative

Bioscientific and biotechnological innovations may also increase the risks of accidents or deliberate misuse, with catastrophic global consequences. Global health and security leaders need to be aware of these risks and work collaboratively to develop a layered defense against catastrophic accidents and biological attacks that could result in a human-caused pandemic. An event dedicated to reducing emerging bio risks associated with technology advances. No other international entity dedicates its top priority to this mission. In an era of rapid technology development amid weak governance systems, guarding against human-caused pandemics is an urgent global security priority.

## **Afternoon Sessions**

### **Power Move: Accelerating the Just Energy Transition** hosted by Allianz SE and UN Convened Net Zero Asset Owner Alliance

It's time to make a power move: The year 2022 ushered in a new era for energy security politics. The invasion of Ukraine created the biggest humanitarian emergency in Europe since WWII and triggered an international energy crisis that continues to weigh on global economic growth. It's clear that all dimensions of the traditional "energy triangle" - affordability, security, and sustainability - are faltering. Our "energy trilemma" is stressing governments, households, and businesses of all sizes, fueling economic and social instability. How do we pivot and unlock the potential of collaborative public/private clean energy investment capital and address action that needs to be taken, as well as the risks of inaction?

### **Malicious Militias or Leading by Example? What Rules and Norms Apply to Actors in Today's Warfare?** hosted by Geneva Call and International Code of Conduct Association

From the war in Ukraine to Syria and the Central African Republic, one prevalent feature is the increasing number of non-state actors involved and the difficulty to effectively regulate the activities of weapons bearers: While some contexts face fragile States' institutions, which sometimes rely on private military contractors and security companies (PMSCs), others include the presence of armed groups and de facto authorities (AGDAs). These dynamics do not seem to be decreasing, and it is expected that the influence of PMSCs and AGDAs over the nature of hostilities will continue to grow. Ensuring respect for humanitarian and relevant human rights norms remains an important challenge, and novel avenues of norms-compliance need to be examined. In this event, participants will discuss practical ways to engage with a wide array of weapon bearers, including PMSCs and AGDAs, by encouraging them to adopt rules in line with international standards that regulate their own activities. Finally, participants will propose concrete policy recommendations and foresights to better cope with future warfare trends.

### **Know Thy Neighbor: Rethinking European Defense Integration** hosted by the Friedrich Naumann Foundation

Russia's war on Ukraine has urged a fundamental rethink of Europe's security architecture. Following the invasion, the development of the EU's Strategic Compass and NATO's new Strategic Concept, Western allies now share a uniquely similar threat assessment for the European continent. But with 27 armies, 23 air forces and 21 navies, there is a clear need to streamline European military capabilities and defense efforts. This was already pressing before the 24th of February 2022, but now it is imperative. What are the most effective ways to enhance the integration of Europe's armed forces? Where should Europe's leaders invest their political capital? And how can further European defense integration strengthen the transatlantic security alliance?

### **Equipping the Bundeswehr (in German)** hosted by Bundesverband der Deutschen Sicherheits- und Verteidigungsindustrie and MSC

This high-level roundtable will assemble key decision-makers from Germany's defense institutions, industry, and politics to discuss how to boost defense production, project implementation, and force readiness. Amongst the topics to be discussed is how to reach the 2% target, balance short and long-term objectives, and overcome structural deficits in the innovation and procurement processes.

### Conversation on the Next Pandemic

hosted by Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance and Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations

COVID-19 has highlighted the destabilizing and devastating potential of pandemics. With the scientific advances that were further accelerated by the COVID-19 response, we have the chance to neutralize biological threats before they can turn into pandemics. Building on these advances, leaders of the G7 and G20 have backed the 100 Days Mission to compress vaccine development to just 100 days in response to a novel pathogenic threat. To achieve this mission, we need to work together and improve collaboration within the global R&D ecosystem, including harmonization of R&D investments. A future free from biological threats with pandemic potential is possible, but it will require the kind of leadership seen after the second world war to reframe the debate and pool our ingenuity and resources. The WHO, Gavi, and CEPI are co-hosting this side-event to raise awareness of the 100 Days Mission and to explore how this mission and the broader global health and security agendas can align to strengthen global health and human security

### Report Launch: Elite Capture

hosted by the United States Institute of Peace

What is elite capture, and how does it drive violence and undermine security sector assistance in conflict-affected environments? How can policymakers adopt better strategies to navigate conflict affected environments where the security sector is captured by powerful groups? Over the past three years, the United States Institute of Peace's Working Group on Curbing Elite Manipulation of Security Sectors - a working group chaired by Ambassadors William Taylor, Karl Eikenberry, Dawn Liberi, and Anne Patterson - has delved into these questions. Through expert engagement and research, the Working Group examined how powerful groups manipulate the security sector for personal, political, or financial gains and how that contributes to violence in conflict affected settings.

### Report Launch: Atlas of Impunity

hosted by International Rescue Committee and Eurasia Group

The global launch of the Atlas of Impunity, the first-ever global index that measures levels of impunity across five dimensions – human rights, governance, conflict and violence, economic exploitation, and environmental degradation – for 197 countries and territories.

### A New Norm(al)? Evaluating China-Russia Authoritarian Norm-Setting in Asia

hosted by German Council on Foreign Relations (DGAP)

Russia's war against Ukraine is accelerating the end of the Russian empire. The geopolitical and geoeconomics consequences of this decline will reshuffle the regional orders in Central Asia, the South Caucasus and Eastern Europe with consequences for connectivity, energy security and regional stability. Central Asia is the key region of Russian-Chinese cooperation and competition. This is a key target region for the Chinese BRI and Russia's Eurasian Economic Union. In the framework of Shanghai Cooperation Organization both have set their own norms and standards in areas like regional security, separatism and terrorism. Together, they tried to use these norms in the UN Security Council to shape the global order. The panel will analyze their authoritarian norm setting and discuss a strategy for the European Union, the US and Germany to counter this norm setting. We will focus in particular on how European interests in the Central Asian region can be pursued. The EU needs to refocus on Central Asia and update its Central Asia and connectivity strategy in the light of Russia's war. This region is crucial in the geopolitical competition in Eurasia and for European energy security and connectivity to Asia.

### **Fertile Grounds for Conflict? How to Fight Climate Induced Risks, Hunger and Conflict and Sow the Seeds of Peace in the Sahel**

hosted by German Federal Foreign Office

Where are the fertile grounds for conflict in the Sahel, specifically in the Lake Chad region and Niger? What are climate-related, cascading risks in the region? How do we sow the seeds of peace? This hands-on scenario exercise on climate security risks in the Sahel is designed to engage security and foreign policy makers and other relevant stakeholders to better anticipate and integrate climate security risks into strategic planning and operations.

The goal of this climate security tabletop scenario exercise is two-fold: first, it will help participants gain a better understanding of how climate change hazards shape cascading food security and conflict risks in the Lake Chad region; second, the exercise will identify near-term policy and intervention opportunities participants can take to prepare for and prevent these risks. Overall, it will help participants think through how to incorporate climate security risks into their planning and programming going forward and eventually lead them to better decisions.

### **Safe and not Sorry: How to Advance Economic Security, Not Global Fragmentation**

hosted by Mercator Institute for China Studies

With the fast-changing and increasingly complex geopolitical context and the prospects for a more frangible globalization, economic security is receiving more attention from policymakers in advanced economies. Challenges associated with developments in China and its growing global footprint are at the forefront of this debate. G7 governments and others are in the process of revising their "toolboxes", laws, and institutions to tackle these challenges. This includes a wide range of defensive measures to deal with export controls, economic coercion investment flows and supply-chain vulnerabilities. The use of more proactive and offensive tools to strengthen industrial ecosystems, support diversification, fund innovation and create(dis)incentives for rogue behavior of third actors also receives more attention. There is a growing recognition, however, that no country alone can deal with these challenges. This confidential roundtable will provide an opportunity to discuss the need, challenges, and opportunities for like-minded coordination on economic security.

### **Bridging Troubled Waters: Mapping Escalation Potential in the Indo-Pacific Region**

hosted by Centre of Excellence for Operations in Confined and Shallow Waters

The Indo-Pacific region is characterized by a high potential for conflict. Different national interests, territorial and resource claims and behaviors are causing global concerns about the safety of sea lines of communication, supply chains and maritime rights. This session, with participants from Asia, Europe, and the Americas, will examine which claims to territories, islands and resources have the potential for escalation to the point of armed conflict. We will ask what measures could be taken now to prevent or minimize future instability. What role can Europe play in an era of increasing US-China rivalry?

### **Securing Tomorrow Together: Evaluating the Power of the Private Sector in Addressing Key Security Challenges**

hosted by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation

From COVID to Climate to Conflict, businesses are impacted by volatility in the international system. While there is much discussion about leveraging the private sector, there is often a lack of alignment in understanding and expectation between the public and private sector. This event will draw from lessons of the pandemic to discuss the role of private sector in resolving or mitigating crises across multiple domains, including security, technology, and the economy. The event will feature roundtable discussion with Suzanne P. Clark, President and CEO of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, and leaders from government and industry. Outcomes include a greater understanding of the private sector's role in addressing key security challenges, the identification of specific areas where the private sector can make a significant contribution, and increased potential for partnerships and collaboration between the private sector and government.



#### A Conversation on Ukraine, Belarus, and European Freedom hosted by the Centre for a European Future

The repression following the 2020 elections in Belarus, and Russia's brutal invasion of Ukraine has brought into sharp focus that the fight for freedom, the defense of European values, and the recognition of democratic principles across the European continent is far from over. The Centre for a European Future will launch its opening event at MSC, bringing together senior political leaders and supporters of fundamental democratic values and principles, to discuss the future of Belarus and Ukraine; how basic freedoms and the right to self-determination can be strengthened; and what necessary steps Europe must take to defend its common values in this new landscape.

#### A Conversation on International Corruption hosted by Transparency International

Corruption is the lifeblood of kleptocrats. It hampers economic, social and political development in the countries of origin. While it may appear that the recipient countries profit from the influx of dirty money, authoritarian states use the laundered funds to conduct a range of hostile activities, such as interfering in another country's political system by co-opting its elite or funding armed operations and propaganda. Hence, corruption represents a direct threat to national security and democracy. Russia's brutal invasion of Ukraine is the latest example of that. The challenges then faced to implement sanctions against Russia's elite revealed the vulnerabilities of the global financial system against dirty money. This panel will gather stakeholders from policy, law enforcement and civil society to reflect on the current shortcomings in curbing illicit finance and define holistic and comprehensive policy measures. This discussion aims to stress the responsibility of leading democracies to step up their efforts to tackle this issue and explore implications for their national and foreign policy.

#### MSC Space Night – Star Wars meets Zeitenwende hosted by New Space Initiative of the Federation of German Industries

The Russian war of aggression against Ukraine has once again shown how essential and existential the use of satellites as well as the data and services they generate are for military reconnaissance and operations. Military operations abroad are no longer conceivable without the support of space systems. Russia's targeted shoot-down of a discarded satellite with an anti-satellite weapon (ASAT) in late 2021 and Russian cyberattacks on U.S. operator Viasat's system demonstrate the vulnerability of government and commercial infrastructures in space. This year's 3rd edition of MSC Space Night will feature debates what this means for European spaceflight, which lessons Europe can draw from the U.S., how spaceflight is contributing to international security and how we can unlock and leverage its potential even more. The key message is: The Zeitenwende in security and defense policy must also be a Zeitenwende for European spaceflight.

## Dinners

#### Feminist Foreign Policy & Networking in Solidarity hosted by Frauen100 and the Centre for Feminist Foreign Policy

As part of this year's Munich Security Conference, we are hosting an exclusive high-level women's dinner. The evening will be dedicated to networking in solidarity and feminist foreign policy: A unique dinner event for and by women. We are proud that this year's honorary guest will be Germany's foreign minister Annalena Baerbock. Her opening remarks will be followed by table speeches of other remarkable and globally renowned women leaders.



### [The Grey Zone: Mapping Russian Organized Crime and Mercenary Engagement in Africa](#)

hosted by Hanns Seidel Foundation and Global Initiative Against Transnational Organized Crime

Russian organized criminal groups have a global footprint, with implications for peace and security beyond Russia. This event will share the findings of a new study on, and promote discussion about, the role of Russian organized criminal networks in Africa and their activities in 'the grey zone': the ambiguous space spanning organized criminal activity, covert and exploitative business deals, and corrupt bargaining to activities which may present themselves as legal or legitimate. This event will promote discussion about the evolving relationship between Russian organized crime, Russia's oligarchs, and the Russian state, and how these changes have impacted on the role of Russia in global security and specifically in Africa. Respondents will deliver special insights in Africa's divided responses to the Russian war in the Ukraine and will assess Africa-Russia relations against the backdrop of these tensions.

### [Grandmas With Smartphones: Rethinking Digital Environmental Security from Ukraine to Smartwatches](#)

hosted by Trusted Future

The event will build off a series of conversations co-hosted by the Munich Security Conference and Trusted Future in Washington, DC last year. It will examine how a strong digital security environment is making possible innovative new uses of off-the-shelf technologies that are shaping everything from the war in Ukraine to consumer goods. It will focus on technologies such as secured communications that have allowed for Ukrainian citizens to report on Russian troop locations, journalists to provide on the ground information to combat Russian disinformation, and officials to secure supply lines to transport equipment. It will also highlight how some of these same technologies are the basis for much of today's modern economy from healthcare to financial services. Finally, we will focus on ways that policymakers and business leaders can foster and advance this type of innovation.

### [The Ellen O. Tauscher Memorial Dinner on Cyber Strategy](#)

hosted by the Atlantic Council, DXC Technology and the Howard Baker Forum

The IT revolution has hit a second wave of deeper computing capabilities through the cloud and software infrastructure. More than ever, the security of this infrastructure and citizens' data is a locus of national security and economic challenges. Two years of global pandemic response and the rise of work from home have only increased our reliance on the cloud and internet connectivity, forcing questions about the security and governance of data in novel ways and across markets. This conversation builds on recent transatlantic progress in aligning policies over the collection and governance of data; reflecting the urgent importance placed on the security of digital infrastructure by the ongoing war in Ukraine.

### [The West and the World: Making Sense of Peoples' Changed Perceptions on the USA, Europe, and the Global Order](#)

hosted by Open Society Foundations and European Council on Foreign Relations

Russia's illegal war against Ukraine has raised profound questions regarding the state and trajectory of the Global Order: Is the return of the West following Russia's invasion a momentary phenomenon or the start of a renewed alliance? And how are the US and Europe reinventing their strategies to engage with a more multipolar world, where the quest for control and sovereignty is stronger than the desire to align with communities of democracies? The unexpectedly lukewarm response to March's UNGA Resolution condemning Russia's war of aggression in Ukraine showed that the Global Order that had guided the Alliance's foreign policy decisions for decades can no longer be taken for granted. One year on from the outset of the war, ECFR's comprehensive polling conducted in 15 countries will explore these changes and provide a basis for an honest conversation among a small group of transatlantic leaders about the changed geopolitical reality we find ourselves in.

**No Cybergeddon: Evaluating the Lessons We Have Learned from the Russia-Ukraine Cyberwar**  
hosted by Salon Luitpold and European Leadership Network

Ukraine has long served as a test bed for Russia's cyber activities. Over the past decade, Russia has targeted Ukraine with a series of attacks, including against the Ukrainian government and private sector. Those attacks have become increasingly sophisticated. When the Russian invasion started, many experts expected cyber warfare to play a major role in the conflict. Surprisingly, large-scale Russian attacks on Ukrainian communication infrastructure have not occurred thus far. However, Russia's long-term strategy of information warfare with cyber means has played a major role, not only since the invasion of Ukraine but also beyond. This event will discuss the role of Ukrainian counterstrategies to develop resilience against Russian cyberattacks and the role played by foreign assistance. Finally, it raises the question of what lessons can be learned about how cyberwar will or will not play out in future conflicts.

**The Battle for the Black Sea: Mapping the Center of Gravity for the Eastern Flank of NATO**  
hosted by New Strategy Center and Center for European Policy Analysis

The 2008 war on Georgia, the 2014 illegal annexation of Crimea, were the signs that for Russia, the Black Sea is a vital space for its interests. From the aggression in Ukraine to disinformation campaigns, from the use of energy as leverage, to political pressure, Russia is using an array of tools to exert influence and potentially destabilize the entire region. A coherent and comprehensive NATO & EU approach on defending the Black Sea region is long overdue. In the context of a profound 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. Furthermore, the discussion could touch upon the legislation on Black Sea security in the US Congress and how such an initiative might contribute to a predictable US policy in the region. This discussion will gather high-ranking stakeholders from policy, military, academia and will build upon the discussion held during the Munich Leaders Meeting held on the margins of the NATO Ministerial Meeting in November 2022, in Bucharest.

**A New Club Méditerranée? The Eastern Mediterranean from Rivalry to Rapprochement**  
hosted by the Konrad Adenauer Foundation

The East Med witnesses a geopolitical shift from conflict towards coexistence, if not cooperation. From 2019-21, the region saw continued crises over competing drilling, exploration, maritime claims, and naval military operations from the Libyan up to the Lebanese coast. In sharp contrast, over the past year regional dynamics have changed considerably, facilitating rapprochement between regional rivals. The historic agreement between Lebanon and Israel to resolve a long-running maritime border dispute creates a momentum for easing tensions between other countries – such as Turkey and Greece – and for an inclusive regional order in the East Med. In light of the regional natural gas reserves, the reward for successful cooperation may be substantial. As Europe tries to escape Russian gas hegemony by pushing forward the energy transition process, gas is likely to remain a relevant resource for the near future. East Med countries could thereby carve out a significant role for themselves. However, their success depends on Europe's ability to find solutions to the complex geopolitical problems.

**Cleaner and Meaner: The Military Energy Security Transition by Design**  
hosted by International Military Council on Climate and Security and North Atlantic Treaty Organization

The Russian invasion of Ukraine and subsequent global energy crisis, coupled with the unprecedented extreme heat and drought of last summer, have revealed a new, more complex security reality for NATO countries. Navigating this reality requires a systemic, strategic approach by militaries to the clean energy transition, that recognizes opportunities, challenges, and tradeoffs. As NATO countries increase investments in military equipment, there are opportunities to ensure such investments support the green energy transition and individual countries' Paris commitments. However, it is also important to avoid switching from one strategic dependency to another (e.g., from Russian oil to critical minerals from China), and to think holistically about inter-operability and other cross-alliance factors.

### [Bridging the Gap: An Update on Transatlantic China Policy](#)

hosted by Mercator Institute for China Studies, Aspen Strategy Group and MSC

In July 2021, the Aspen Strategy Group, the Mercator Institute for China Studies (MERICS), and the Munich Security Conference produced a report called “Mind the Gap: Priorities for Transatlantic China Policy.” 18 months later, following the 20th Party Congress and the US midterms, we will discuss what progress has been made in aligning North American and European policies, and what is still missing. To this end, the three organizations have produced an update of the 2021 report including an agenda for the way ahead. This dinner brings together a mix of policymakers, analysts, and representatives of the business community for an exclusive preview of the paper which will be presented and debated on Sunday, 19 February as part of a Public Square event.

### [The Russian Bear Doesn't Hibernate: Are the Balkans the Next Conflict Zone?](#)

hosted by Belgrade Centre for Security Policy and the European Council on Foreign Relations

During one of the most tragic episodes in European post-WWII history, the Western Balkans today has a specific geopolitical position. The region is a mix of autocratic and democratic regimes, countries in overt and covert conflicts. Such a constellation makes this area vulnerable to Russian influence, trying to destabilize Europe by creating instability and conflict in the Balkans and preventing its democratic, social, and economic development. In the situation of Russian aggression against Ukraine and during severe challenges for European unity, it is rational to assume that the Kremlin will try to destabilize Western allies by supporting authoritarian tendencies, weaponizing energy policy and conducting disinformation campaigns in the Balkans. This will make the Western response to the Russian challenge more difficult. Our roundtable outlines potential destabilization scenarios and appropriate responses to them.

## Nightcap Session

### [Honoring Ukrainian Arts and Culture](#)

hosted by Google and MSC

Google and the MSC look forward to co-hosting you at this exclusive networking event, to put into practice the Conference's objective of “building peace through dialogue”. At the nightcap, you will be able to experience “Ukraine is here”, a Google Arts & Culture project preserving and showcasing Ukraine's rich cultural heritage and enjoy a nightcap drink and some late-night snacks.

## Saturday, February 18

### Breakfasts

### [One Year after Putin's War of Aggression: Consequences for European and German Security Policy \(in German\)](#)

hosted by MBDA

Nearly one year ago, Russia launched “the special military operation” on Ukraine and thereby fundamentally changed the European and especially German security awareness. Major General Wolfgang Wien is Vice President and Senior Officer of the German Federal Intelligence Service. In his keynote speech, he will analyze the war in Ukraine and discuss potential consequences for the German and European security architecture. Together with our keynote speaker, we would like to discuss questions like: What has been observed in Ukraine over the last year? How is the Russian potential to be assessed at the moment and what strategic goals are they pursuing? Is Russian President Vladimir Putin preparing to launch a fresh offensive in Ukraine in spring and what is to be expected? After General Wien's speech, all participants are invited to a joint analysis of the situation and perspectives.

### **A Rocky Road Ahead?: German- American Friendshoring in an Era of Systemic Rivalry**

hosted by American Council on Germany and American Institute for Contemporary German Studies

Against the backdrop of Putin's war in Ukraine and rising tensions with China, a new Congress has taken up its work following a hotly contested midterm election, which exposed deep divisions in the United States. This traditional breakfast session will explore how Germany and the U.S. can work together in a new Congressional term to address common challenges, especially the systemic competition they face from China and Russia? Where should the leading transatlantic forces place their strategic priorities in the technology and security spheres to shape a world increasingly characterized by rivalry?

### **11<sup>th</sup> Women's Breakfast**

hosted by the Bavarian State Chancellery, the Hanns Seidel Foundation, Women in International Security and the Georgetown Institute for Women, Peace and Security

The Bavarian State Chancellery is serving as the executive office of the Bavarian Minister-President as head of the Bavarian government. Women In International Security (WIIS) is the premier organization in the world dedicated to advancing the leadership and professional development of women in the field of international peace and security. Georgetown University's Institute for Women, Peace and Security seeks to promote a more stable, peaceful, and just world by focusing on the important role women play in preventing conflict and building peace, growing economies, and addressing global threats like climate change and violent extremism. 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 11th anniversary of this traditional event.

### **Policy Planners' Breakfast**

hosted by German Federal Foreign Office

Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine has not only triggered Germany's Zeitenwende, but also led to manifold and forceful reactions by NATO, EU and G7 member states. The blatant breach of international law by a permanent member of the Security Council and the end of Europe's post-cold war order will almost inevitably have mid- and even long-term ramifications for the global order, too. This breakfast discussion for policy planners, -makers and -thinkers will discuss the effects the European turmoil might have on collectively solving global challenges.

### **All Hands on Deck: Rethinking Cooperation Between Government and Business to Address Global Challenges**

hosted by APCO Worldwide

While recent years were shaped by several crises, the future holds even more challenges in store for the international community: The transition towards renewable energy will put even the strongest economies to the test. The effects of climate change are expected to lead to conflict and mass migration. Increasingly, governments have accepted that they cannot address such complex issues on their own, and that concerted efforts by diverse coalitions of stakeholders are required. Given the scale of the issues facing humanity and our planet, this roundtable will examine how businesses and governments can step up to face the tasks ahead, especially when there is shared understanding of challenges or opportunities. In this context, we will explore how lessons from the COVID era could be applied to meet the range of existential challenges at hand – greening and digitalizing the economy, ensuring sustainable energy generation, and addressing global food insecurity. We will ask what role business leaders will be expected to play in tackling future global issues and how incentives for innovation can be created.

### **The Forgotten Sea? How Geostrategy and Security Meets History in the Baltic** hosted by Körber-Stiftung and Centre for Geopolitics at Cambridge University

The Baltic Sea area is on the frontline against Russia's revanchism. Long-standing calls from former Eastern Bloc countries to strengthen Baltic security and collaboration in the face of Russian aggression, have grown ever more urgent. But who will take the leadership role in the Baltic Sea? When thinking about strategy and security in the region, what are the historical pretexts that need to be taken into account? Why is historical sensibility important to develop a responsible policy fit for the new geopolitical situation? Throughout history, the Baltic Sea area has been a region of intense economic, political, and strategic interaction and confrontation. With the end of the Cold War and the so-called "end of history" on the horizon, security and geopolitics took a back seat. The Russian annexation of Crimea in 2014, the recent Russian invasion of Ukraine, as well as the re-shaping of global politics have brought strategic and geopolitical issues of the Baltic Sea back on the radar.

### **Hitting the Bull's Eye: Rethinking the Aims of International Tech Cooperation in the Face of Great Power Conflict** hosted by the European Parliament

The war in Ukraine and an increasingly hostile China have dispelled any misconceptions that we can work towards a broad international agreement on tech standards and regulation. Now, more than ever, transatlantic cooperation is needed across all fields. The key areas are highlighted in MSC's "Transatlantic To-Do List", including the digital domain. To build on that, we seek to examine: What is the ultimate aim of this transatlantic tech cooperation? Is it to strengthen the international rules-based order or to fight against authoritarianism? To be more autonomous, to strengthen democracy, to help our companies? These aims are not mutually exclusive, but they can clash sometimes.

### **Lessons Learned from the Pandemic: Rethinking Security in the Era of Genomics** hosted by Illumina and Eurasia Group

The Covid-19 pandemic highlighted numerous gaps within the international healthcare system as well as the wide range of individual countries' disaster preparedness. Yet it also showcased how governments and independent organizations can work together at unprecedented speed to leverage biotechnology and restore public health and health security. Since the initial outbreak of Covid-19, biotech companies have been critical in sequencing the virus and aiding the development of mRNA vaccines. Through their work and the efforts of their partners, the world is gaining a better understanding of biotechnology's potential to minimize global risk and the importance of multilateral cooperation in establishing long-lasting benefits. During this breakfast discussion, biotech executives, public health practitioners, policymakers, and other stakeholders are invited to join a guided discussion on genomics and the implications for public health. The 90-minute session will explore lessons learned from the past three years of Covid-19, the tools and mechanisms needed to prevent accidents and guard against man-made pathogens, better understand the role of governments and organizations within a multilateral partnership, and the potential need for, and relevance of, new approaches to monitoring and prevention. Through these conversations, Illumina hopes to develop a broad awareness among stakeholders about the role of genomics in enhancing public health.

### **Africa's Place in a Multipolar World: Moving from Strategy to Action** hosted by the Federation of German Industries and the Tana Forum

Global competition for spheres of influence, technological supremacy and raw materials is heating up. States are increasingly using their economic power to shape the global order according to their national interests without due diligence to how these actions impact on others. Increasing tensions between USA and China, the Russian war in Ukraine and regional instability in the Sahel are but a few examples. With their abundant natural resources and markets, emerging space for innovation and creativity, African countries are thereby rapidly gaining strategic importance. Due to their limited hard-power profiles, they so far could hardly challenge ambitions of global powers. Simultaneously, institutions and norms of the liberal world order continue to reflect the views of those who wield most power. The renewed global competition offers a unique opportunity to redefine African states global partnerships. It evokes and reinforces the need to seek avenues that engender democratic norms and value even in a context of diverse interest.

### German-Ukrainian Business Breakfast

hosted by the German Eastern Business Association and PwC

To assess the scale of Ukraine's reconstruction task, this event will focus on the important framework conditions of the private sector. On the one hand, we would like to respond to the ideas and goals of the Ukrainian government on the topic of "Rebuild Ukraine" presented in Lugano in July 2022. On the other hand, the event is intended to serve as a basis for concrete project ideas that are relevant for jointly achieving progress in Ukraine's reconstruction process. With our discussion, we want to contribute as an organization of the German private sector to the debate, make proposals and identify important issues.

### Turning the Tide: How to Build on the Momentum of Ukraine's Defense Transformation

hosted by Palantir Technologies and McCain Institute

Nearly one year since Russia's invasion of Ukraine, the security landscape of Europe has changed dramatically. Through a combination of strategic skill, bravery, and technological mastery, the defenders of Ukraine along with their steadfast allies have shown the world a new model for 21st-century defense and security. Importantly, the conflict has revealed critical insights into the promise of new military technologies, the importance of a robust defense industrial base, and the need for resilient transnational supply chains. In this closed-door session, we will examine the hard lessons learned from the war in Ukraine, identify key areas where Kyiv's momentum can be built, and begin thinking deeper about the contours of a future, stronger transatlantic defense.

## Morning Sessions

### 9th Strategic Dialogue Security Policy meets Business: Let's Talk STRAI(GH)T: The Consequences of the China-Taiwan Stand-Off

hosted by the Federation of German Industries

The world is in geopolitical turmoil. The Russian war of aggression against Ukraine and the political and economic expansion course of the Chinese government place politics, societies, and the economy in Europe under mounting pressure: Increasing resilience and autonomy while maintaining global interdependence is like squaring the circle. How do we manage to effectively implement the credo "partner, competitor and systemic rival" without fooling ourselves? How far does our power to influence and shape bilateral or multilateral relations with China really stretch? Are we up to our own expectations and are we prepared to jointly bear the costs of the options for action that unfold? This side event will dive deep into an open-hearted discussion of how to actively pursue both national security and economic interests while also managing expectations about ensuing costs, risks, and potential.

### A Conversation on Nostalgia

hosted by Bertelsmann Foundation

Nostalgia is a powerful political tool. It enables populist political entrepreneurs to cull support for regaining what was perceived to have been lost, and to reaffirm values and identities that are being challenged by the rapid pace of societal change. Their rhetoric bemoans "the decline of a golden age" and proposes divisive solutions, mostly based on in-group favoritism and ethnocentrism to promise a future mirrored in a revisionist past. Russian President Vladimir Putin has brought toxic nostalgic rhetoric (back) to the international stage, further escalated by his invasion of sovereign Ukraine in February 2022. His ongoing territorial war has sent shock waves across the European continent evoking past trauma of war, displacement and destruction, which in turn hampers the type of decision-making and leadership needed at this critical intersection. Today, Europeans are simultaneously exposed to the siren of the "good old times" and the horrors of the "good old times." How does it shape their views, attitudes and decisions as national and European politicians? How does it affect the way in which they pledge solidarity and send support to Ukraine? This conversation explores the power of the past over the political present by delving into empirical research, historical facts and political realities.

## Lunches

### Shifting (B)orders? The Geopolitics of Climate-Related Migration

hosted by Robert Bosch Stiftung

Migration will be a result of and a solution to the impacts of climate change. This event will focus on the potentially significant implications – direct and indirect – for international security and geopolitics. It will provide a picture of what we (do not) know so far and what are promising strategies and approaches, including for global governance, cutting across security, migration, and climate debates. The spotlight will be on Africa which is projected to be the continent most impacted by climate change. Climate-related migration is expected to mostly happen within countries and regions that are often already fragile and conflict-prone. If policies and political leadership fail, it may induce conflict and political instability, and vice versa. Those unable to move, who are projected to be many, risk their lives and livelihoods. Climate-related migration may also have implications for geopolitics. For example, resources may become exploitable and land available, including for military use. At the same time, increased mobility will also come with opportunities, such as for addressing shortages in skills and labor.

### Fail Safe: Sitting on the Brink of Eternity

hosted by Nuclear Threat Initiative

Since 1945, a combination of prudent leadership, military professionalism, good luck and divine providence has enabled humanity to avoid the use of nuclear weapons. Today, the danger that a terrible decision may be taken to use nuclear weapons in a moment of crisis – based on faulty judgment, false warnings of attack or other miscalculation – is growing. There is also the potential for adversaries, including nonstate actors, to resort to cyberattacks, including on nuclear systems. The Euro-Atlantic Security Leadership Group (EASLG) has consistently supported practical steps to reduce nuclear risks as a common interest for all nations and an enduring responsibility of the nuclear armed states. In June 2021, the EASLG called on all nuclear weapon states to commit to conduct internal reviews of their nuclear command and control systems, including “fail-safe” steps to strengthen safeguards against cyber threats and unauthorized, inadvertent, or accidental use of a nuclear weapon. The United States recently has committed to undertake such a review; other nuclear weapon states should lead with their own internal fail-safe reviews, to prevent a blunder leading to catastrophe.

### Centering the South: Thinking Globally about the War in Ukraine

hosted by International Peace Institute

This past year has been an inflection point for the multilateral system, particularly in the area of peace and security. In addition to the gross violations that have been committed against the state of Ukraine and its people, the spillover effects of the war threaten to destabilize other regions. At the same time, ongoing security crises in Afghanistan, Yemen, Ethiopia, and elsewhere, require attention and resources that have in some cases been diverted because of the crisis in Europe. Such conditions necessitate a strong coming-together among member states and a strengthening of cross-regional ties. Yet, the sustained attention on Ukraine has given pause to some who perceive a double standard within the UN system and the broader international community. The purpose of this event is to examine how to protect bedrock principles of international law, while also pursuing positive change in a shifting international order that must be more responsive to member states whose needs and interests have historically been sidelined. Specific emphasis will be placed on including the views of members of the Global South and strengthening cross-regional ties among member states. This high-level roundtable discussion will be moderated by IPI President Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein. This event is kindly supported by the New York office of the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung.



### **Tricky Trade-off: The [Human] Security Dimension of Critical Resources in Africa** hosted by Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH

The current geopolitical challenges have increased the significance of global supply of natural resources, also for the international security architecture. Therefore, Africa, with its vast deposits and untapped potential, is yet again at the center of attention. But how to deal with trade-offs associated with an ever-increasing demand and resource exploitation? Future partnership models must strike a balance between the demand for secure resource supply chains and the need for sustainable development from the resource sector and hence, improving human security, good governance, and peace. Transparent, participatory, and conflict-sensitive resource governance can make an important contribution to regional stabilization and crises prevention. This is demonstrated by the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR) in Africa. Effective (new) resource partnerships must build on established regional security dialogues and include integrated approaches to exhaust potentials for all stakeholders and reduce negative effects leading to conflict and instability.

### **German-U.S. Congressional-Business Roundtable** hosted by the Transatlantic Business Initiative, U.S. Embassy Berlin and American Chamber of Commerce in Germany

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, government representatives and Germany-based business leaders on issues that are central to the transatlantic partnership. In particular, we will discuss German and U.S. approaches to simultaneously achieving economic stability, energy security and the energy transition. We will also debate views on how transatlantic cooperation can contribute to global standard-setting and to building resilient supply chains.

### **Transformational Innovation: Working Together to Secure Our Digital Future** hosted by Google

Join Google's senior leads, including Kent Walker, President of Google and Alphabet; Annette Kroeber-Riel, Vice-President of Europe for Government Affairs and Public Policy; Laurie Richardson, Vice-President for Trust and Safety; and Leslie Miller, YouTube Vice-President of Government Affairs and Public Policy, for a frank and provocative discussion about the future of technology and how we can harness its potential to promote shared security.

Recent advances in AI, quantum, nuclear power, and more have incredible promise. But Russia's war of aggression and cascading economic, geopolitical, and environmental challenges are testing foundational assumptions about progress and partnership. Together we'll explore how governments, companies, and civil society can promote sustainable innovation: technology that is safe and responsible but also transformational. How can AI, quantum, and other innovations help bring about lasting change, address today's challenges, and secure our digital future?

### **Securing the Peace: How to Rebuild Ukraine After the War** hosted by the German Marshall Fund of the United States

When Russia's war of aggression ends, Ukraine deserves a recovery process that other nations assist in the spirit of the Marshall Plan: with ambition, generosity, and steadfastness. In July 2022, at the Lugano conference dedicated to Ukraine's reconstruction and modernization, the Ukrainian government presented its National Recovery Plan. While its Western partners have committed to helping Ukraine after the war, they haven't agreed on a joint political framework how they can support Ukraine's recovery.

The German Marshall Fund of the United States has developed recommendations for donor countries and financial institutions that outline a path for Western coordination for the recovery of Ukraine. The recommendations build on existing institutions and a strong cooperation between G7 countries and Ukraine. This event seeks to present GMF's research and discuss the most pressing questions on Ukrainian recovery: When to start? Who should lead? How to burden share? What is the connection between recovery and security? How to prevent corruption?

### **The Future of Space Security: Analyzing the Military's Current and Future Role in Space** hosted by Boston Consulting Group

General Saltzman will discuss his perspective on the space domain, how the complexity and risk has evolved, and the need to build strong alliances and partnerships in response. A coalition approach in space will be crucial as nations seek to define necessary international norms and policies, as well as future roles of military forces in space.

### **From Diplomacy to Deep Tech: Lessons Learned in Ukraine** hosted by Helsing and the International Institute for Strategic Studies

The rapid experimental incorporation of deep tech on the battlefields of Ukraine is showcasing the central role of technology in shaping warfare. This event will draw together select thinkers, military leaders, and policy makers from across Europe and the U.S. for a discussion about the lessons to be learned from Ukraine. Chatham House rules apply.

### **Future-Proofing the European “Zeitenwende”: How Can Europe and the U.S. Make Defense Commitments Stick?** hosted by McKinsey and Aspen Institute

After two decades of NATO Europe spending less than NATO's 2% target on defense, the past year brought a renewed commitment – a European “Zeitenwende”. This fundamental shift requires European NATO countries to find ways to make the proclamations of change ‘stick’, providing visibility for EU and U.S. industry stakeholders. Likewise, factors such as inflation or the global economy may increase pressure on available funding. Countries will therefore need to balance three competing objectives in allocating defense funding: Restocking inventories, investing in availability, and developing new, advanced capabilities. Where should priorities be set? Which mechanisms could support greater predictability of defense budgets for strategic partners and industry? Which structures could enable long-term action, faster innovation, and the development of superior defense capabilities for the Alliance? Please join us for an intimate, high-level, off-the-record discussion over lunch in a transatlantic setting; moderated Aspen-style where everyone around the table will participate.

### **Security Radar 2023: A European Reading of the “Zeitenwende”** hosted by the Friedrich-Ebert-Foundation Regional Office for International Cooperation and Peace

The Russian war against Ukraine has been termed a ‘Zeitenwende’ in Germany. But the consequences of this war in uniting the European Union and triggering a heavier and more decisive footprint of the EU in security policy are yet unclear. Trust is lacking between key member states, and the traditional European engine is not capable of getting things in motion. We will exclusively present findings of a poll conducted in France, Germany, Poland, and Latvia before and after the Russian war that sheds light onto the potential of the EU to rise out of this crisis and draws attention to the pitfalls on the way. The roundtable debate will focus on the implications of the “Zeitenwende” in uniting or dividing the European Union and its consequences for the standing of the EU in security policy. There is a common basis for moving forward – threat perceptions are converging, but who can lead the EU, when trust is a scarce resource?

### **One Year Later: Ukraine's Fight for Freedom and What's Next** hosted by Victor Pinchuk Foundation and Yalta European Strategy

A year has passed since the beginning of the Russian assault on Ukraine. The last conversation at the Ukrainian lunch on the MSC took place just days before the illegal invasion. Since then, Ukraine has shown great resilience and fighting strength, and allies from Europe, the U.S., Canada, and other countries have continuously stood by Ukraine. How has this support manifested itself and how is the war progressing on the military, economic, political, and information fronts? What are the ambitions of Ukrainian and Western leaders as they assess the current state of the war, and what can be done? This lunch will discuss these questions and assess ways to end the war, focusing on key aspects of President Zelenskyy's peace formula and its implementation.

### **Nuclear Talks with Moscow: Now, Never, or Something In Between**

hosted by Global Zero and Center for New American Security

NATO remains the most successful military alliance in history. It has been successful because in times of crisis and instability, alliance members found ways to bridge national and regional differences and find common security perspectives. Throughout the Cold War, this included sustained engagement and coordination on nuclear arms control with Russia. The prospects for negotiating new nuclear agreements with Moscow are dim, but views within NATO are broad and the need to manage nuclear risks apparent. The New START agreement will expire in 2026, and no one knows how NATO will manage nuclear risks in this new post-invasion environment. This event is the first in a series of track 1.5 discussions among NATO members and experts to help allies develop a common understanding and possible path ahead for addressing nuclear dangers from Moscow. Coordination and communication will be essential tools in any successful alliance effort on nuclear issues.

### **Food, Fuel, and Fertilizer: Evaluating the Impact of the War in Ukraine on Conflict Risk**

hosted by International Crisis Group and Stockholm International Peace Research Institute

In addition to the devastation experienced by millions of Ukrainians, the Russian invasion has also impacted hundreds of millions of people who are experiencing the resulting price shocks at the frontlines of poverty and insecurity. While food prices have begun to decline after record highs in 2022, the cost of fertilizer remains high as does energy, particularly in Europe. This has implications for food prices through 2023 and beyond. The cascading effects have not only detrimentally impacted food and nutrition security across the world but have also fueled instability in already insecure regions. This luncheon will explore how the economic repercussions of the war in Ukraine can exacerbate conflict risks across the world and the steps we must take to avoid a worsening global security outlook.

## **Afternoon Sessions**

### **A conversation on 100 Years of INTERPOL**

hosted by INTERPOL

Unprecedented simultaneous and intertwined challenges are resulting in grave implications for peace and security, as well as nations' prospects for sustainable development. The persistent socio-economic effects of the COVID19 pandemic, combined with high-intensity armed conflicts are rapidly shifting geopolitical dynamics and testing the effectiveness of multilateralism. This high-level event will focus on the interface between individual and collective security. It will look at the impact of transnational crime on 'human security', and how INTERPOL can be an effective multilateral cooperation mechanism.

### **Battling Biothreats: An FP Simulation Focused on Strengthening Crisis Preparedness to Safeguard Biosecurity**

hosted by the Foreign Policy Magazine and Emergent BioSolutions

The COVID-19 pandemic revealed the world's vulnerability to biological challenges and has underscored the urgency of strengthening global health systems. But how equipped is the international community for a catastrophic bioterrorism attack? This immersive crisis simulation produced by FP and sponsored by Emergent BioSolutions will convene leaders across the public and private sectors to role-play how to effectively coordinate international preparedness and response to bioterrorist threats. The 3-hour simulation will start with a scene-setter in the form of a major bioterrorist attack, followed by three escalatory moves that threaten international, human, security, and global prosperity. Participants will be assigned to teams representing key stakeholders. Participants will have to grapple with key governance questions relating to supply chains, information sharing, threat assessments, multilateral cooperation, and transatlantic coordination, with the aim of analyzing the current state of bioterrorism preparedness and identifying pathways to increased resilience.

### Democratic Resilience in the Age of Hybrid Warfare

hosted by Microsoft

This event will bring together senior leaders from government, industry, and academia, for a closed-door discussion on building democratic resilience in the face of digital threats. Democracies are uniquely vulnerable to the weaponization of the digital information space, due to widely connected societies and commitments to free expression. While authoritarian states work to strengthen control over their information environments, democracies need comprehensive alternatives that support resiliency while promoting access and democratic values online. The war in Ukraine has demonstrated just how pernicious and dynamic these threats can be. Destructive cyberattacks jeopardize civilian critical infrastructure while well-coordinated foreign influence operations online can manipulate public opinion and undermine trust in democratic institutions. Meanwhile, malicious software sold by mercenary companies put political dissidents and journalists at risk of targeting by regimes seeking to silence opposition. The event will emphasize the need for cooperative solutions across sectors to advance national security while protecting rights.

### Balloons, quantum & co... what else do we NOT know about Chinese technology? Launch of the JEDI China Tech Radar

hosted by the Joint European Disruptive Initiative

Technology has become a central component of the global race between countries, and of the national political system, societies and economies. Since technology is becoming more and more important for national security, it is critical to rigorously and accurately understand China's progress (or lack thereof) in technology and science. This session will bring together policymakers and leading thinkers to present the results of JEDI's China Quarterly — an assessment of China's latest breakthroughs in tech & science. It will also be based on insights provided by JEDI's work on launching its Technological Radar, an unprecedented tool on foresight, fueled by technological insights and clear policy recommendations.

### Hotspot Baltic Sea: On the Strategic Dimension of the Maritime Eastern Flank of NATO

hosted by the Reservist Association of the German Armed Forces

The Baltic Sea is part of the northern and eastern flank of the transatlantic alliance and forms a strategic unit with the North Sea. However, the Baltic Sea is not an inland sea for NATO – with the Kaliningrad oblast and the St. Petersburg region, Russia belongs to the Baltic rim and can take almost unrestricted action against military and civilian traffic and infrastructure. The attacks on North Stream I and II have made it abundantly clear to Western states both how important and vulnerable such critical infrastructure can be. With this panel discussion, the existing military-strategic challenges of the Baltic Sea region will be measured against the decisions reached at the Madrid NATO Summit of 2022 and the EU Strategic Compass.

### The Call Is Coming from Inside the House: Accountability Begins at Home

hosted by International Rescue Committee (IRC) and Center for Civilians in Conflict

Attacks on civilians in Ukraine are yet another signal for the Age of Impunity. International law could not be more explicit on the duties of parties to conflict to protect civilians. Yet, instead of accountability, we see impunity when civilians experience devastating harm. Ending impunity requires strengthening accountability for states' own activities in the first place if they are to have any legitimacy in pushing accountability globally. The US Civilian Harm Action Plan is a step forward in establishing accountable policies to prevent and respond to civilian harm - the first of many to ensure that armed actors are accountable to those they harm. Building on IRC and CIVIC expertise in responding to humanitarian crises and advocating for better civilian protection, this event will lay out lessons learned for transatlantic partners from the US plan to ensure full accountability for their security policies. The event will identify concrete commitments to ensure better accountability and adherence to international law within their own activities, as well as steps to promote accountability among partners.

#### **Dire Strait: Wargaming Western Response(s) to an Attack on Taiwan** hosted by Silverado Policy Accelerator

At the 20th Communist Party Congress, President Xi has declared that "complete reunification of our country must be realized, and it can, without doubt, be realized," in a direct threat to Taiwan's de-facto independence. As China is ramping up its military and economic pressure on Taiwan, Silverado Policy Accelerator will gather a group of defense policy experts, business leaders and journalists to participate in a wargame simulation of a developing confrontation over the Taiwan Strait and explore the critical decision points and their security and economic ramifications as world leaders attempt to defuse and deter conflict.

#### **Scary Scarcity: Mapping Pressure Points in Global Agricultural Markets** hosted by EY

War, climate change and supply chain disruptions are causing food shortages around the world. Fear of soaring food prices and hunger threaten political stability, drive poverty as well as social inequality, and strain local economies. The changing structure of global food production will also create new global dependencies that have the potential to threaten supply security for many years to come. The session will seek answers to the question on how Western countries can build cooperation with geopolitically important emerging and developing countries (e.g., BRIC and countries in sub-Saharan Africa), identify the political pressure points agricultural powerhouses can exert on global markets and discuss how companies and governments can navigate a regulatory environment that is increasingly affected by protectionist measures (e.g., export freezes and price caps).

#### **Negotiating the Non-Negotiable? Mapping Preconditions for a Ceasefire Agreement in Ukraine** hosted by Negotiation Task Force of the Davis Center for Russian and Eurasian Studies at Harvard University and Geneva Centre for Security Policy and PfP Consortium of Defense Academies and Security Studies Institutes

The Western debate about the possibility of a negotiated solution to the Ukraine war is equally stalemated as the war itself. Some argue that war criminals should not be negotiated with in the first place. Others claim that Ukraine must first build its battlefield strength before talks can be considered. Others counter that negotiations do not signal support for illegal Russian land grabs but merely start a bargaining process. Moving past this, this session asks: How can the incentives of the parties shift so they become more likely to consider good faith negotiation as an interest-maximizing tool? Instead of collecting arguments in favor or against a ceasefire, this event explores each conflict party's underlying decision-making calculus. Participants engage in an interactive scenario exercise to analyze which variables must change before the parties would engage in serious ceasefire negotiations. It considers related conflict dynamics, such as the risk of vertical and horizontal escalation due to an ongoing war, and the risk to enable future aggression through unilateral concessions.

#### **Completing Europe in a Time of Conflict: The Three Seas Initiative and Europe's Infrastructure Integration** hosted by Atlantic Council

The Atlantic Council will host a roundtable discussion with the leaders of the Three Seas Initiative member countries, business leaders, and experts. The Three Seas Initiative – a Central European effort to accelerate cross-border energy, transport, and digital infrastructure links between the Baltic, Black and Adriatic Seas – has grown in significance and urgency as Russia's illegal war against Ukraine persists. Cross-border infrastructure is critical to regional economic growth and resilience, security, and the completion of the vision of a Europe that is undivided, prosperous, secure, and free. That includes the reconstruction of Ukraine's war-torn economy and democratic Ukraine's integration to the European market, the European Union, and the transatlantic community. Ahead of the Three Seas Initiative Summit and Business Forum in Bucharest in 2023, this moderated discussion will highlight the role of the Three Seas in bolstering Europe's security, unpack the progress of the Initiative, explore the Initiative's potential to assist in the reconstruction of Ukraine, and encourage greater support for the Initiative from the transatlantic community.

### A Conversation on the Geopolitics of Hydrogen

hosted by Deloitte and MSC

The transformation towards a post-carbon economy and society will turn out to be an industrial and geo-economic revolution. Green hydrogen will be the linchpin of change. Its production based on huge quantities of electricity from renewable sources, its transportation and storage will be of strategic significance, possibly more so than the geo-economics of oil has been in the past. We will discuss conditions, potentials and scenarios of the future hydrogen economy, its spatial dimension and specific needs and will focus on the security implications, risks and probabilities, and look at strategic options to protect productions and flows. This high-level conversation will use a new report on the geostrategic and geopolitical economic consequences of the global hydrogen market. Its findings are meant to inspire and drive the debate about the geopolitics of green energy and new types of energy partnerships. Panelists will discuss key trends and transformations that will challenge our security architecture and ways to deal with them.

## Dinners

### Tackling Terrorist Tech: How to Collaborate with Tech Companies to Prevent Surrogate Warfare

hosted by the Geneva Centre for Security Policy, the Institute for Peace & Diplomacy, and the Global Internet Forum to Counter Terrorism

Today we are witnessing a “democratization” of new and emerging technologies. New technologies have expanded terrorist groups’ global reach and technological prowess. We are witnessing an open revolution where emerging technologies, including intelligence and military grade equipment, are accessible to the public. This change can be observed in unmanned aerial systems, sophisticated information, and communication technologies and has led to dual-use technologies being leveraged by extremists to transform and conduct surrogate warfare. It is thus paramount that governments and NGOs focus on building greater public-private partnerships to deal with the rise of autonomy in emerging technology. Cooperation will help private industry actors to build tools to identify and predict future attacks as well as block cyber-attacks and disinformation campaigns to limit their ability to abuse private sector platforms. Finally, governments can support the ‘soft power’ of tech companies with the authority to influence billions to promote democracy and further human rights.

### Breaking the Vicious Circle: Mapping Exit Strategies for a Post-Putin Russia

hosted by the Warsaw Security Forum and the International Centre for Ukrainian Victory

The aim of the dinner is to discuss the potential of Russia as a reliable and non-aggressive partner towards its neighbors, with the prerequisites based on democratic change, regional post-war reconciliation based on justice, and the reduction of Russia's military potential after the Ukrainian victory. The participants will engage in picturing future Russia and the post-war shape of the whole region while being exposed to the ideas and views coming directly from CEE's senior level policy-makers, including Ukrainian officials. The session will be introduced by Prime Minister of Estonia Kaja Kallas and former Director of CIA Gen. David Petraeus. The discussion will feature interventions from Members of the Bundestag, the US Congress, the UK Parliament, as well as Russian opposition representatives.

### Tech-tonic Shifts: Evaluating Strategic Competition and Global Partnerships in Emerging Technologies

hosted by Special Competitive Studies Project

SCSP CEO Ylli Bajraktari and MEP Eva Maydell will lead a discussion on the global, strategic environment in an era of emerging technologies, the implications emerging technologies have on the prosperity and security of nations, and how global democracies can collaborate to harness innovation and adopt emerging technologies in a manner consistent with democratic values. They will specifically address the need to increase Transatlantic coordination and alignment, and European engagement in the Indo-Pacific; align technology export controls; strengthen government-industry and multilateral coordination on semiconductor policy; and develop a new public-private model of cooperation to harness innovation.

### **Oasis or Mirage? Analyzing China-US Relations on Climate Cooperation** hosted by the Center for China and Globalization

The US and China, the world's two largest emitters, have resumed talks on climate at COP27 following the Biden-Xi meeting in Bali. Albeit locked in strategic competition, the two foes' joint efforts are crucial to addressing climate change. John Kerry, then former secretary of state and now US climate envoy, recounted his climate engagement with Beijing at a CCG-MSC side-event in 2020. Proved pivotal to striking the 2015 Paris agreement, will renewed talks in 2023 fill the tall order of saving the planet from global warming and systemic instability? China's foreign minister Wang Yi said that climate cooperation is like an 'oasis' of China-US relations. Vis-à-vis 'desert', or the metaphorical hostility, can climate negotiations be divorced from mounting challenges in the relationship? As Q1 2023 will see the inauguration of new congress for both, a ray of hope may be spurred by continued climate consultation and for high-level contacts on other matters critical to global stability. This event seeks to explore possibilities for conflict-preventing behavior and cooperation.

### **Shaken or Stirred: What Are We Missing About Germany's Economic Model and Geopolitical Risks** hosted by Baden-Badener Unternehmergegespräche and Democracy Reporting International

Germany stands accused of a naïve foreign policy, which prioritized trade above everything while ignoring emerging security threats. In the case of the Russian war this turned out to be a losing proposition: There is neither security nor trade. Our economic model, our prosperity depends on overall security. Security is not only defined in military terms, but also relates to energy, environment and climate, critical infrastructure, and human rights/social cohesion. Authoritarian states do not have an inherent incentive to contribute to our security. They may actively work against it. How can Germany leverage economic strength for better security? Do we need to reduce our dependence on states that are not democratic? How do we cooperate responsibly with authoritarian states with different political and economic systems? What geopolitical and political risks need to be addressed more seriously by German and European businesses? How can they do so?

### **Brave New World: How to Foster Transatlantic Sovereignty after the "Zeitenwende"** hosted by American Chamber of Commerce in Germany

The transatlantic business community is facing massive challenges posed by the Russian war against Ukraine and the consequences of the pandemic: Supply chains are disrupted, energy prices and inflation are skyrocketing, and concerns about a global recession are high. Across Europe and the US, politicians and businesses encounter enormous obstacles to secure jobs, while at the same time continuing to drive transformation ecologically and technologically. For the transatlantic economy to remain competitive and resilient, AmCham Germany believes that it is essential to strengthen "transatlantic sovereignty" by jointly expanding open, value-based transatlantic economic and trade relations, defining global standards for future technologies, and creating growth. AmCham Germany will bring together key stakeholders to discuss necessary priorities to strengthen transatlantic sovereignty on issues such as energy security and climate protection; a digital transatlantic economic zone; and a business framework, that fosters innovation in the aerospace and defense, as well as healthcare and life sciences industries.

Sunday, February 19

Breakfasts

### **Re-shaping the European Formation: An Update on the State of the Union** hosted by the International Charlemagne Prize of Aachen

In 2023, the International Charlemagne Prize of Aachen clearly positions itself in support of upholding common European values, freedoms, and peace on the European continent by honoring the People of Ukraine and their President Volodymyr Zelenskyy. While the prize has accompanied the European integration process for over 70 years, today's EU - together with its neighbors and partners - faces hitherto unimaginable hardships in maintaining Europe's security structure and strengthening internal unity. Along with these new security challenges just beyond the EU's external borders arises the pressing question of the Union's appropriate response. It will therefore be inevitable to call into question the European community's current composition and to use this momentum to draw attention to possible structural transformations and further enlargements.



### **Nuclear Dominoes? Evaluating the Impact of the Russian Invasion of Ukraine on the Global Non-Proliferation Regime** hosted by Hertie Centre for International Security and Harvard Belfer Centre for Science and International Affairs

Could Russia's invasion of Ukraine lead some states to consider developing their own nuclear arsenal to guarantee their security? This event takes a closer look at the invasion's impact on the global nuclear non-proliferation regime, a sometimes-overlooked consequence of the war. Could there be further nuclear proliferation or will the current nuclear order hold? What can the United States and Europe do to shore up the global non-proliferation regime?

### **Europe's New Mission(s): An Update on EU Crisis Management** hosted by Center for International Peace Operations (ZiF) and Stockholm International Peace Research Institute

The EU needs to be able to deploy and sustain crisis management missions—both military and civilian—if it wants to be a credible security provider. Exactly 20 years ago, the EU deployed such missions for the first time to the Western Balkans and Sub-Saharan Africa. This was followed by ambitious engagements with a variety of mandates. Since the Treaty of Lisbon, however, these missions have become smaller and mostly focus on training and capacity-building. Russia's war against Ukraine has underlined the need to rethink and maybe refocus the EU's ability to act, as it was also emphasized in the Strategic Compass. The EU Advisory Mission to Ukraine (EUAM)—which was strengthened and adapted after the invasion of February 2022—as well as the new civilian EU Mission to Armenia (EUMA) should guide such rethinking as they show that there could be a stronger political role for CSDP even in post-Soviet space. This roundtable will explore existing opportunities, and much needed reforms. It also aims to inform the current negotiations of the New Compact for Civilian CSDP under the Swedish EU Presidency.

### **War, Oppression, and Strong Men: Rethinking the Role of Anti-Feminism in Autocratic Regimes** hosted by Centre for Feminist Foreign Policy and the International Civil Society Action Network

The marginalization of women and LGBTQI+ communities is a hallmark of authoritarian regimes not only in Russia, but also in countries such as Belarus, Iran, and Afghanistan. Even in semi-consolidated democracies like Hungary and Poland, the attack on women's and LGBTQI+ rights is a disturbing trend in the wake of the decline of democracy. According to scholarly research, the greater the gender inequalities within a state, the greater the likelihood that such a state will experience internal and interstate conflict, fragility, or terrorism. This event will discuss ways to support feminist movements and engage with anti-feminist autocratic regimes. This conversation is now more crucial than ever for governments committed to a Feminist Foreign Policy and the Women, Peace, and Security Agenda, given the recent elections in Sweden and Italy.

### **Geostrategic Competition in Africa: Mapping its Implications for Continental and Global Peace and Security** hosted by the German Institute for International and Security Affairs (SWP), the Institute for Security Studies Megatrends Africa

Why does Africa matter amid the current international turmoil? The combined effects of the Covid-19 pandemic and the Russian attack on Ukraine's territorial integrity have seriously shaken up the fundamentals of the existing multilateral system. The return of war as a means to project power and influence is taking place against the backdrop of a geostrategic competition that affects traditional alliances. Far from being objects of this multilateral renewal the Global South use their growing agency to push their interests and values in an attempt to effectively contribute to shaping a new international order. As Western countries face unprecedented competition in Africa, it becomes important to provide a basis for understanding the possible determinants of new interdependences.

**Feeding Climate Resilience: Mapping the Security Benefits of Agriculture and Climate Adaptation**  
hosted by the Center for Climate and Security

Climate change, in both scale and potential impact, is a strategically significant security risk that will affect our most basic resources from food to water to energy. National and international security communities, including militaries and intelligence agencies, understand these risks, and have already taken meaningful actions to address them. However, progress in comprehensively preventing, preparing for, and adapting to, and mitigating these risks will require that policymakers, thought leaders, and publics take them seriously and act accordingly. This breakfast discussion, hosted by the Center for Climate and Security with support from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, will explore preliminary findings from a landscape assessment of the nexus of food and climate security. The event will feature a high-level discussion among the climate change, food security, and national security communities aimed at identifying further areas of cooperation among expertise areas, developing a common framework for addressing these issues, and exploring possible areas for policy development and cooperation.

**Global Warning: Building a Coalition against Putin's Violation of International Law and Civilian Protection Norms**  
hosted by Crisis Action, International Crisis Group, Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International

Countries of the Global South, particularly in Africa, have faced pressure from Western countries to more forthrightly oppose the Russian war in Ukraine. The result has been an increase in geopolitical tensions. Many governments, even those clearly opposed to Putin's actions, share the view of South Africa's Cyril Ramaphosa, who said, 'We should not be told by anyone who we can associate with.' What can the West learn from the experience of these past months about building a truly international coalition that defends international law and civilian protection norms? What lessons can be drawn from the ambivalence, or outright opposition, of countries in the Global South, whose positions are informed by decades, even centuries, of history? An all-woman expert panel with representatives from both the Global North and the Global South will reflect on challenges the West needs to overcome to avoid deepening a global divide that threatens the collaborative effort to defend human security.

**Conversation on AI & Ukraine**  
hosted by Palantir and MSC

A conversation between Alex Karp, Co-Founder and Chief Executive Officer of Palantir Technologies and Ambassador and President of the Munich Security Conference Foundation Council, Wolfgang Ischinger on Artificial Intelligence and the war in Ukraine.

Lunch

**Closing Time: Evaluating the Key Takeaways from the 2023 Munich Security Conference**  
hosted by the Atlantic Council and Airbus

For the eleventh time, the Atlantic Council will host this closing luncheon at the Munich Security Conference, bringing together Heads of State and Government, top Ministers of Defense and Foreign Affairs, Senior Military Officials, leading Policy Experts, and Business Executives for a rich, off-the-record discussion building on the key themes of the conference. At a turbulent time for the transatlantic community, this year's conversation will again summarize the key outcomes from the MSC and cover how the transatlantic community can sustain its support for Ukraine, rebuild its defense capacity to deter Russia, and cohere a transatlantic approach to competition with China.