TRT world forum

Mapping the Future: Uncertainties, Realities and Opportunities

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Session 1

A World in Disarray: The Return of Geopolitics?

The end of the Cold War led to the popular belief that the most pressing question in geopolitics had been settled with the apparent victory of liberalism. What followed was a process of order building by the West, pioneered by the US and grounded in principles of economic interdependence, liberal democracy, and multilateralism. The emerging order came to be known as the 'Liberal World Order.' This was characterised by complex interdependence, globalisation, and shared values, while hard power, geopolitical competition and the use of force were deemed old-fashioned. Non-western states - most notably Russia and China - were expected to join Western-led institutions and play by the rules set largely by the US. Since then, issues such as trade liberalisation, nuclear non-proliferation, human rights, democracy, and climate change have become the major concerns of the West in the consolidation of this liberal order.

Yet, the post-Cold War settlement was never completely accepted by certain actors in the non-Western world, although they were cautious not to challenge the US head-on to avoid being alienated. With the decline of US influence, increasing division in the EU, and the weakening of liberal values and international institutions, it appears that the post-Cold War settlement is being challenged more directly and overtly, heralding an era marked by further conflict. Competition between global powers is intensifying in different regions across the globe from the Asia-Pacific to the Arctic, the latter of which is fast transforming into a 'pole of instability' as geopolitics return to the High North.

Discussion Themes

- What can be done to promote the credibility of international institutions in today's world?
- What does the future of multilateral institutions look like in an age of geopolitical crises?
- What have we learned from the Ukraine war regarding the role of diplomacy and crisis resolution?
- How will multilateralism evolve in a multipolar world where geopolitics becomes the main driver of foreign policy?
- What might Türkiye's contribution be to protecting international peace and security?
- How will the arctic race shape tomorrow's geopolitics?
- What is the significance of the arctic in the future of international cooperation and conflicts?

Session 2

Feeding the World: Ensuring Global Food Security in Times of Crisis

According to the United Nations, food security is achieved when "all people, at all times, have physical social, and economic access to sufficient, safe, and nutritious food that meets their food preferences and dietary needs for an active and healthy life."

Global food security concerns continue to grow as countries around the world face increasing scarcity of resources along with challenges such as population growth, climate change, rising food prices, and geopolitical conflict. The disruptive combination of these factors is threatening the lives of millions triggering mass migration as people seek safety and security. These migration flows, which cannot be managed without cooperation and dialogue, have led to further political, economic, and social conflicts The recent deal to facilitate the shipment of Ukrainian grain, mediating through Türkiye's proactive diplomatic efforts, has highlighted the urgent need for a coordinated global response to food crises and the importance of collective action.

This session will address the current challenges facing global food security and their implications for future crises.

Discussion Themes

- What are the main challenges in combatting food insecurity?
- How can we ensure food security for the most vulnerable regions struggling with economic crises and geopolitical conflicts?
- What are the negative effects of the Ukraine war on food security and the global response towards it?
- What is the role of diplomacy in dealing with threats against global food security?
- What can be done by the global community to create a more resilient and sustainable food system? What role can and do multilateral organisations play in this regard?
- With the prolongation of the Ukraine crisis, concerns over energy security have been incorporated into food security issues due to associated shortages in agriculture and production, highlighting the global implications of compound crises. What lessons should the global community take from the recent war in Ukraine in terms of crisis management?
- How are national agricultural policies impacting the current food crisis, both positively and negatively?
- What is the role of advanced technology in terms of developing more robust food security-related policies?

Session **3**

Conflict Resolution and Peace Building: Shaping the Future of Global Leadership

The world today is more interdependent than at any other point in history. The core issues facing nations and people, although they present with local particularities, are ultimately global. These include geopolitical conflicts, climate change, food and health crises, mass migration and refugee flows, as well as issues revolving around digital governance, such as cyber security and disinformation. As in the immediate aftermath of WWII, the world again faces a significant gap between the overlapping social, economic, and political challenges we face as a planet and the individualised style of governance favoured by political leaders. The decisions taken by many of today's leaders will have global impacts far beyond their particular nations, both negatively and positively. A recent example of the latter is President Erdogan's proactive diplomatic efforts in the conflict between Russia and Ukraine.

This session will discuss the opportunities and challenges faced by political leaders in our interdependent world while exploring the effectiveness of different leadership styles in the twenty-first century.

Discussion Themes

- What is the role of political leadership in the 21st century?
- Which leadership traits are becoming more relevant in today's multipolar and conflict-ridden world?
- What will the political leaders of the future be like? In a multipolar world, in which a balance of power logic drives international affairs, what shifts will we witness with regards to political leadership?
- What are the main challenges to becoming an effective leader in the digital age? How does leadership evolve through technological advancement?

Session 4

Disarming Disinformation: Defending Truth in the Digital Age

As the Russia-Ukraine war has demonstrated, media spaces have become targets of hybrid warfare. In this configuration, lethal and soft power mechanisms operate hand in hand, combining information warfare, cyberattacks and kinetic warfare. The information war is waged even before violent hostilities begin, as info-warriors seek to dominate and shape the information space and impose certain interpretations of reality that are far from the truth.

Information manipulation is also on the rise, with political actors seeking to influence public views and behaviour, particularly as it relates to elections. Election periods are also a time when disinformation and fake news proliferate. Partisans take to social media to spread fake news and disinformation in an effort to win adherents to their cause, aiming to mislead the public and often to incite fear and anger.

News organisations face challenges in distilling disinformation and fake news while preserving the fundamental tenets of good journalism. This session will discuss tangible approaches that help preserve media integrity and accuracy, share insights and know-how, and explore ways to alleviate the harm caused by disinformation.

Discussion Themes

- How can effective policies that promote an open digital environment while protecting against the challenges and threats of fake news and misinformation be developed?

- How can effective policies be designed and implemented that combat information manipulation?

- How can resilience be strengthened against hostile interference in elections?

- How are governments learning to deal with fake news and disinformation campaigns?

- What are potential solutions to election security in the digital age?

- How can we effectively facilitate AI-generated disinformation prevention mechanisms?

Session 5

The Energy Crisis and Climate Change:
Time to Turn Crisis into Opportunity?

Following the 2016 Paris Agreement, climate change has become a top agenda item around the globe. At last year's COP26 in Glasgow, participants once again highlighted that effective climate action requires an entirely new level of global cooperation and a renewed commitment to net-zero emissions. However, since the Russian invasion of Ukraine, energy security concerns appear to be overshadowing decarbonisation efforts.

As a new scramble for fossil fuel begins, polarisation appears to be deepening. In this context, any truly effective global decarbonisation efforts will be more dependent on international cooperation than ever. This session will discuss the importance of climate mitigation commitments and the challenges of coordinated action to achieve net-zero emissions targets.

Discussion Themes

- **How will the global action against climate change evolve in the future?**
- **How can global climate policies be made more effective?**
- **What does the green energy transition look like in an age of geopolitical crises, particularly as it relates to the renewed emphasis on energy security?**
- **What are the key factors underpinning the energy crisis in Europe? How can it be sustainably addressed?**
- **What are the opportunities and challenges for building a net-zero world in the face of the geopolitically-driven energy crisis we are witnessing today?**

Day 2

Session 1

The Global Race for Technological Superiority: Shifting Paradigms in the Age of AI and Cybersecurity

We are living in a world continually being transformed by digital connectivity with revolutionary advances in technology set to change the way we live and work in ways that we perhaps currently cannot foresee. Advances in quantum engineering and engineered biology stand to change the nature of entire industries. Massive volumes of data combined with ever-increasing computer power and advances in data science will entail the integration of artificial intelligence into almost every aspect of our daily lives. Yet, technological advancements also spark debates around their impacts on the individual and society, underscoring the complexities of techno-governance. Rather than referring to regulation only, techno-governance entails the consideration of a wider range of issues, including the execution of political, economic, and administrative authority in the development, diffusion, and operation of technology in societies. Pertaining to multi-actor collaboration among public, private, and civil society agents, techno-governance appears as a key issue in the digital age to manage the opportunities and risks inherent in technological development.

Discussion Themes

- What are the key challenges associated with the use of new technologies in governance?

- How can we achieve transparent and free techno-governance? How can the negative societal effects of new technologies be mitigated? What should be the extent of regulations in techno-governance?

- What are the biggest cyber security threats in today's world? What impact do they have on the international order and national security? What are the challenges they pose to democratic governance?

- As technology continues to advance, what does the future of cybersecurity hold?

- How did techno-governance evolve through the Covid-19 pandemic?

- What are the promising and challenging aspects of AI technologies on the future of techno-governance?

Session 2

Digitalisation: A Rewarding Challenge for Public Broadcasting?

Public service broadcasters face many challenges, including technological shifts, funding issues, changing consumption habits, and growth in competition from powerful global conglomerates. In order to survive in the new, and constantly transforming media ecosystem, public service broadcasters have sought to maintain their core values whilst also adapting to new operating models in a global media environment that increasingly prioritises networked communications.

Since the 2000s, a paradigm shift has been underway in the media industry, driven by advancing digitalisation, the rise of 'Big Tech', namely the 'GAFAs' (Google, Apple, Facebook, Amazon), the fragmenta¬tion of audiences, and the growing focus on commercial gains. Subsequently, this shift has led to a transition from public service broadcasting (PSB) to public service media (PSM), a transformational project because it has not simply been a change in services, but in strategy and identity.

Embarking on a journey of digitalisation has, more often than not, proven to be a rewarding challenge for public service media. While the latter continue to pursue their mandates to inform, educate, and entertain the public, thanks to digitalisation, they have also managed to provide high-quality, cost-effective content and embody the highest professional standards. Public broadcasters have also morphed into "social infrastructures of information" that deliver necessary information and content to audiences anytime, anywhere.

This session will focus on the role of digitalisation as it continues to revolutionise the production and consumption patterns within the media ecosystem.

Discussion Themes

- **What kind of future awaits public broadcasters in the digital age?**
- **How can public broadcasters keep up with digitalisation trends?**
- **What are the key challenges facing public broadcasters in the digital age?**
- **How are public broadcasters responding to the current challenges they face?**
- **How can public broadcasters' strategies adapt to future challenges?**
- **Is the metaverse an opportunity or a threat to the future of public broadcasting?**

Session 3

Between Recession and Stagflation: The World Economy at the Crossroads

In a world still emerging from the Covid-19 pandemic, the war in Ukraine has upended the fragile recovery of the global economy, which is now grappling with a sharp deceleration in growth. This sharp slowdown in growth, coupled with rising inflation, is reminiscent of the 'stagflation' witnessed in the 1970s. While both rich and poor countries are being hit by the growth slowdown, developing and emerging economies are more vulnerable.

Rising inequality within and among countries and security challenges exacerbate the risks of divisions and restrain economic and social development. Finding viable solutions to reduce the gap between rich and poor has become a strategic imperative for governments, regional bodies, and international organisations. Soaring prices driven by rises in energy bills, transport costs and food prices are affecting households and central banks alike, multiplying the challenges facing lawmakers. Many countries are experiencing multi-decade highs in their inflation rates as pandemic-related supply chain disruptions push up prices, exacerbated by geopolitical tensions. Russia's invasion of Ukraine has also set off an energy crisis, particularly in Europe.

How can we ensure that financial systems move from commitment to action? To reduce the risks of history repeating itself, what can we learn from comparable situations in the past? This session will address the headwinds and tailwinds facing the global economy and explore a broader set of foundations for growth to ensure long-term economic prosperity.

Discussion Themes

- What are the headwinds and tailwinds facing the global economy post-covid?

- How can we develop effective policies to help boost the global economy?

- How can governments, regional bodies, and international organisations mitigate the challenges the global economy is facing in the post-pandemic period?

- How can the economic outcomes of the global energy crisis be handled effectively?

- What are the new challenges and dynamics of post-pandemic supply-chains?

- What methods can national economies apply to protect themselves from global inflation?

Session 4

Beyond Humanitarianism: Addressing the Global Migration Crisis

Ongoing violent conflicts, increasing persecution, lack of economic opportunity, the climate crisis, and the war in Ukraine have led to a rise in refugee flows around the world. By May 2022, a staggering 100 million people have been forcibly displaced globally. According to the UNHCR, most of the world's refugees are hosted by developing countries, which bear a disproportionate burden when it comes to housing, feeding, and protecting these vulnerable populations. With almost 4 million forcibly displaced Syrians currently residing in Türkiye, as well as hundreds of thousands of refugees and asylum seekers of other nationalities, Türkiye hosts the largest number of refugees in the world. The Global Compact on Refugees (GCR), endorsed by the UN General Assembly in 2018, was designed to promote responsibility-sharing among host countries and communities to better support refugees. However, there has been a lack of binding commitments. The session will address the present trend of migration and the challenges faced by both host and source communities.

Discussion Themes

- What are the present trends with regard to migration? What challenges face both host and migrant communities today?

- What are the challenges and opportunities of global migration?

- What can be done to stop humanitarian issues such as human smuggling and trafficking, which inevitably emerge as part of migration flows?

- What are the key challenges facing multiculturalism?

- How can the disruptive effects of geopolitical crises be mitigated to deal with uncontrolled migration?

- What kind of actions can be taken to fight food & health security issues emerging along with migration flows?

Session 5

The Russia-Ukraine War: Lessons Learned

Recent military gains by Ukraine represent a significant setback for Russia and could mark an important turning point in the ongoing war with yet-to-be-determined consequences. Beyond the events taking place on the battlefield, the Russia-Ukraine war has had significant global reverberations. The economic impact continues to be felt, particularly due to rising food and energy prices, around the world with countries in the Middle East and Africa bearing the brunt of the resulting food insecurity and Europe facing a winter with no clear prospects for replacing Russian energy. The geopolitical and diplomatic impact has been no less significant.

While the conflict continues to test existing international alliances, the importance of diplomatic engagement has once again risen to the forefront, particularly with regards to Türkiye's proactive engagement with the conflict's protagonists in search of a negotiated end to hostilities. This session will address the current state of affairs in Ukraine, focusing on the lessons learned thus far with a view to developing viable and sustainable solutions to bring about an end to the conflict.

Discussion Themes

- How is the war in Ukraine reverberating across the world?

- How has the war in Ukraine changed the humanitarian, military, and geopolitical calculus of regional and international actors?

- The sanctions imposed on Russia have shown themselves to be a double-edged sword. What are the lessons learned in this new age of economic conflict?

- What implications can be drawn from the Russia-Ukraine war in terms of global migration?

- How has the war affected the prospects of international cooperation? What lessons can be drawn from the war regarding challenges facing NATO, in particular, and transatlantic cooperation in general?

- Considering the negative effects of the war in several areas, from energy to migration, and food security to commodity prices, what lessons have been learned with regards to dealing with compounded crises?

- What are possible post-war scenarios, and what do they look like for Ukraine and the wider region?

Session 6

Reporting from the Front Lines: Journalism in the Shadow of War

During the newsgathering process, newsrooms are often confronted with difficult questions about what to report and how to report it. Choices are often made hastily, especially when covering conflicts and disasters, which has always been a precarious endeavour. Nevertheless, journalists work tirelessly to discover the facts and define fast-moving events faithfully for their audiences.

News crews are rarely afforded the opportunity to reflect on questions of social responsibility amidst an increasingly demanding and hectic news environment. In this context, some media scholars and practitioners have prospected alternative approaches to news production. A body of literature known as 'peace journalism' is reflective of these discussions, highlighting the need for societies to consider non-violent responses to conflict and make choices that improve the prospects for peace. Peace journalism advocates recommend framing stories in such a way as to create an atmosphere conducive to peace and make non-violent solutions more visible and viable. They are also critical of the mainstream media's tendency to provide violence-orientated coverage that, in their view, serves to escalate conflicts.

However, this approach has yet to gain traction in a news industry that is shaped by certain organisational and structural constraints. News organisations must consider numerous factors before determining which stories are considered urgent and sift through a multitude of sources. Another source of reluctance stems from the fact that the basic function of journalists is to cover news with fairness and accuracy, not to engage in media activism.

This session will discuss the news media's impact, both constructive and potentially malign, on peace and conflict dynamics and what journalistic best practices could be shared in this domain.

Discussion Themes

- **How can a balance be struck between the need for prompt reporting and thorough source verification?**

- **How can independent journalism survive war and conflict? What are the perils of independent war journalism?**

- **How can objectivity be maintained in war zones? What liabilities do war journalists hold when it comes to reporting from conflict zones where the line between truth and disinformation is often blurry?**

- **What is the relationship between war journalism and peace journalism? What are the main differences between the two?**

- **How has the emergence of social media changed the landscape for crisis reporting? What are the pros and cons of social media as a source for news?**

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