A World at Breaking Point:
Managing Crises and Transformations

PUBLIC SESSIONS

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TÜRKİYE

Session 1

Türkiye's Path Forward: Fostering Dialogue and Containing Global Crises

In the complex landscape of international relations, Türkiye has become a significant diplomatic force under President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan's leadership. Leveraging its strategic position and historical relationships, Türkiye has facilitated major initiatives like the Black Sea Grain Initiative. It has also played a mediating role in various regional conflicts, including prisoner exchanges between major Western powers and Russia, peace efforts in Syria and Libya through the Astana Process and UN-led dialogues. In addition to these efforts, Türkiye has engaged in extensive diplomatic activities to resolve conflicts and tensions in various parts of the world, including a consistent diplomatic effort to stop the genocide in Gaza, as well as supporting Azerbaijan and attempting to maintain dialogue with Armenia to resolve tensions in the Caucasus. Its diplomatic endeavours are complemented by significant economic projects such as TANAP, TAP, and the Middle Corridor, enhancing its global connectivity.

This session will delve into how Türkiye's proactive diplomacy and economic initiatives have raised its international profile, examining the balance between its regional interests and global mediation ambitions, and exploring the impact on global stability. It will analyse Türkiye's strategic approach to conflict resolution and its efforts to position itself as a key mediator in various international disputes. The discussion will explore the challenges and opportunities Türkiye faces in maintaining its diplomatic momentum while navigating complex regional dynamics and evolving international power structures.

Discussion Themes

■ What challenges does Türkiye face in maintaining its role as a mediator in containing global crises while also pursuing its own strategic interests in various regions?

■ How can Türkiye leverage its experience in conflict resolution to advocate for reforms in international organisations and contribute to managing global instability?

■ What are the implications of Türkiye's membership in various international organisations for its role in addressing global crises, and how can it effectively navigate these alliances?

■ How do Türkiye's economic and infrastructure projects contribute to its regional influence and ability to respond to global challenges?

Session 2

" Transforming Tomorrow: The Power of Eco-Regeneration

Eco-Regeneration is at the forefront of combating environmental degradation and climate change by focusing on reducing carbon emissions and promoting sustainable practices. Cities worldwide are setting new standards by embracing electric vehicles, optimising home energy use to adapt to evolving climate conditions, and designating areas where only electric vehicles are permitted. These forward-thinking approaches are not just about mitigating environmental impact; they represent a broader commitment to a healthier, more resilient future. The heightened ambitions from COP29 in Baku, Azerbaijan, further underscore the importance of eco-regeneration, highlighting the need for innovative, coordinated action to achieve lasting climate stability and sustainable economic growth.

This session will explore the groundbreaking best practices that define eco-regeneration, from environmental regulations to advancements in renewable energy and smart grids. It will examine how innovations like solar and wind power are reducing carbon footprints and how smart technologies are revolutionising energy distribution for greater efficiency and resilience, underscoring their vital role in addressing climate challenges and building a sustainable, resilient future.

Discussion Themes

- What effective environmental practices are advancing Eco-Regeneration in cities?

- How have solar and wind power advancements successfully reduced carbon emissions?

- What are key examples of smart technologies improving energy efficiency?

- How can cities and businesses implement Eco-Regeneration best practices for environmental and economic benefits?

> ## Addressing Global Economic Uncertainty: Strategies for Resilience

Recent analyses highlight a new normal of heightened economic turbulence, driven by geopolitical tensions, financial stress, and environmental risks. The projections from the World Bank reports and World Uncertainty Index underscore the impact of successive shocks—from geopolitical conflicts like the Russia-Ukraine war to economic slowdowns in key regions—that have elevated uncertainty to record levels, hampering global growth prospects. Moreover, insights from global economists indicate a slowing global growth trajectory and a surge in acute global markets' panic attacks, emphasising the urgent need for robust resilience strategies for the five major risks for 2024: escalating geopolitical tensions, China's economic slowdown, surging financial stress amidst rising interest rates, trade fragmentation, and the escalating impacts of climate change on global trade routes and economic stability. Furthermore, financial stress remains a critical concern despite a recent surge in global interest rates. Developing economies, already burdened by high debt levels and weakened growth prospects, face mounting challenges in debt servicing amid tightening financial conditions.

In response to these multifaceted challenges, the session will explore adaptive policy frameworks aimed at mitigating geopolitical risks, fostering sustainable economic growth and promoting global cooperation. It will discuss the role of technological innovation, inclusive economic policies, and international collaboration in navigating the complexities of the current global economic landscape. Additionally, the session examines how nations can balance their domestic priorities with the need for global engagement to create resilient economies capable of withstanding future shocks and uncertainties.

Discussion Themes

- How can businesses and governments effectively balance short-term economic stability with long-term sustainability goals in an era of heightened global uncertainty?

- What are the key factors influencing economic resilience across different regions and sectors in the face of geopolitical tensions, financial volatility, and trade disruptions?

- How should international collaboration and policy coordination be strengthened to support post-recession recovery, facilitate economic revival, and implement institutional measures to mitigate the adverse effects of global economic shocks?

- How can technological innovation and digital transformation enhance economic resilience and adaptability to unpredictable global economic conditions?

GEOPOLITICS, WAR & SECURITY

Session 4

> ## War and Order:
> ## Navigating Geopolitical Shifts in a Changing World

Israel's ongoing assault on Gaza is driving the international system towards greater volatility and fragmentation, exposing the limitations of current global governance frameworks. Heavily armed with advanced military technology, Israel's brinkmanship strategy escalates regional tensions and undermines peace efforts, risking broader conflict. As global powers deepen their involvement through arms supplies and military support, the "rules-based" order appears increasingly undermined, potentially signalling a shift towards a more power-driven international system and raising questions about the emergence of a non-Western paradigm. These developments highlight the critical need to reevaluate various aspects, including ending impunity, strengthening adherence to international law, revising international armament policies, enhancing arms control agreements, and developing conflict transformation mechanisms to prevent genocide, and enhance global governance coherence.

The session will explore these dynamics in detail, focusing on the limitations of current global governance structures in managing escalating arms races and regional tensions. It will examine how the West's support for Israel's actions has eroded the credibility of its "rules-based" world order and consider the implications of this shift towards a more power-driven global system. The discussion will also address the potential emergence of non-Western paradigms and emphasise the critical need for revisiting international armament policies and arms control agreements to restore stability and effectiveness in global governance..

Discussion Themes

- How have the ongoing conflicts highlighted the limitations of existing global governance structures in managing regional tensions and arms races?

- In what ways has the West's support for Israel's actions contributed to the perceived collapse of the "rules-based" world order?

- What implications does the shifting international landscape towards a more power-driven system have for the future of global governance?

- How might the emergence of non-Western paradigms influence international armament policies and arms control agreements?

INTERNATIONAL LAW

Session 5

> ## The Test of International Law:
> ## Addressing Gross Violations of Human Rights in Conflicts

The ongoing humanitarian crises in today's conflict zones underscore the profound inadequacies of the international legal system, particularly in holding perpetrators of war crimes and crimes against humanity accountable. Civilians continue to suffer widespread violence, displacement and serious human rights violations with little or no effective consequence. Despite the existence of International Human Rights Law and international norms such as the Responsibility to Protect (R2P), these mechanisms often fall short in practice, fostering a culture of impunity. In addition, the rise of far-right policies in some states has further escalated these conflicts and led to a disregard for humanitarian norms. The Israeli slaughter in Gaza is a stark example of these shortcomings, where relentless violence and targeted attacks continue despite widespread international condemnation and the UN report on Israel's war crimes and crimes against humanity. Moreover, the International Criminal Court's (ICC) decision on the invasion of Gaza has failed to stop the war, highlighting the limitations of its non-binding rulings.

This session will examine the failures of international law, focusing on the role of the ICC and the International Court of Justice (ICJ). It will also explore the difficulties international legal bodies face in enforcing decisions and holding states accountable, and will address the ICC's difficulties in prosecuting war crimes and crimes against humanity.

Discussion Themes

- What are the main shortcomings of the international legal system in addressing humanitarian crises?

- How do existing frameworks like International Human Rights Law and norms such as R2P fall short in practice?

- How does the Israeli slaughter in Gaza exemplify the shortcomings of international law?

- What challenges does the ICC face in prosecuting war crimes and crimes against humanity?

MEDIA & BROADCASTING

Session 6

> ## Media Distortion Exposed:
> ## Uncovering the Forces Behind Polarisation

In an era of rapid technological progress and increasing digitalisation, the spread of distorted facts poses a major challenge to public discourse and social cohesion. Misinformation spread through traditional media, social media and other digital platforms has the power to create distorted perceptions of reality, influence public opinion and deepen ideological divides. Such distortions can seriously undermine democratic processes and erode trust in reliable sources of information, with negative consequences for public policy and societal stability. Social media platforms, through their algorithms, often amplify these distortions by prioritising sensational and divisive content that can spread misinformation rapidly. Traditional media can also exacerbate the problem through biased reporting that reinforces existing prejudices and conflicts. In addition, the financial interests behind media organisations can exacerbate polarisation, creating a complex web of influences that distort reality and mislead the public. This complicates efforts to combat misinformation and maintain a well-informed society.

This session will explore the impact of distorted facts on social polarisation and trust. It will examine how misinformation contributes to the fragmentation of public opinion and the erosion of trust in media and institutions. The discussion will also focus on strategies to address these challenges, including improving media literacy and promoting accountability.

Discussion Themes

- How does the spread of distorted facts contribute to increasing polarisation?

- What strategies can be used to combat the spread of misinformation and maintain a well-informed society?

- How does misinformation affect public opinion and trust in media and institutions?

- Why is improving media literacy crucial to addressing the challenges posed by misinformation?

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Elections 2024 in US and EU Members: What Lies Ahead for Global Democracy?

As we look ahead, the 2024 elections have underscored a dramatic shift in the global political landscape, raising urgent questions about the future of democracy. The elections in the United States and several European Union member states mark a historic moment and a critical juncture for global democracy. The unexpected outcomes in several key nations have sent shockwaves through world politics, profoundly impacting the global order. One of the most significant and concerning developments has been the rise of the far-right across Europe, signaling a troubling shift in the political landscape. This rise reflects a broader trend of increased influence for marginalized and extremist elements, posing serious threats to democracy, including the rise of antisemitism, Islamophobia, the marginalization of vulnerable groups, and the spread of authoritarianism. In the United States, the elections are seen as a crucial moment for the future of democracy. The choices made by voters could either reinforce democratic institutions or contribute to their erosion.

The session will explore the implications of the 2024 election year on world politics, discussing the rise of the far-right and the growing influence of extremist elements. It will raise deep concerns about the future of democracy, delving into how this shift threatens democratic values and what these developments mean for the future of global politics.

Discussion Themes

- How have the 2024 elections highlighted a shift in the global political landscape, and what does this mean for the future of democracy?

- What are the implications of the rise of the far-right in Europe for global democracy and political stability?

- In what ways could the unexpected outcomes of the 2024 elections in the U.S. and EU member states impact the future of democratic institutions?

- How does the increase in influence of extremist elements pose a threat to democratic values, and what might this mean for world politics going forward?

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Smart Tech, Big Issues: Navigating AI's Impact on Politics and Society

Artificial intelligence (AI) has become intricately integrated into modern life, with its presence evident in technologies such as automatic installations on smartphones. This widespread adoption of AI offers significant advantages, including enabling scientists to predict environmental changes with greater accuracy, treatments tailored to individual genetic profiles, optimizing traffic flow, reducing energy consumption. Nevertheless, the potential for AI to displace jobs through automation poses a significant risk to the workforce, leading to economic disparities and social unrest. Additionally, the rapid expansion of AI systems necessitates a critical examination of their implications for privacy, accountability, and fairness. It also creates considerable challenges, particularly in the absence of effective regulatory measures and comprehensive ethical guidelines.

The session will discuss the extensive use of AI and its ramifications for global security and governance. It will provide a thorough analysis of how the lack of policies and ethical oversight affects both individuals and societies, as well as the need for developing robust regulatory frameworks to manage AI's influence and ensure its responsible and transparent use.

Discussion Themes

■ What are the primary advantages of integrating AI into everyday technology?

■ What challenges arise from the lack of regulatory measures and ethical guidelines in AI development?

■ How does the rapid expansion of AI systems impact privacy and accountability?

■ What steps should be taken to develop effective regulatory frameworks for AI?

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