



6th International Workshop For Leadership & Stability

Post Workshop Report

9-13 February 2026



WORKSHOP SPONSOR

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Director, Keystone Capstone and Pinnacle Programmes Branch

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6th International Workshop for Leadership & Stability (IWLS)

The 6th International Workshop for Leadership and Stability (IWLS) was organized by ISSRA, NDU from 9 February - 13 February 2026. This workshop provided a credible platform where open, candid and informed discussions took place for mutual sharing of ideas and perspectives on subjects related to global, regional and national security. The participants of the workshop comprised individuals from all walks of life including Business Executives, Diplomats, Government Officials, Academia, representatives from international community, media etc. This year workshop involved 52 international participants who flew in especially to attend this workshop. Moreover, 16 international participants joined us from various Embassies and the High Commissions located in Islamabad. In addition, 32 local participants from across Pakistan. A total of 100 participants representing 48 friendly countries attended the workshop.

The workshop covered a wide range of subjects under the overall theme of "Pakistan Dialogues with the World". Effort was made to bring together the best possible subject matter experts from Pakistan and abroad to discuss subjects ranging from evolving global geo-strategic environment to the contemporary trends and their impact on global, regional and national security. ISSRA, NDU conducts this workshop on annual basis and next workshop will be organized in February / March 2027 (tentatively).







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Interaction with
President NDU &
Welcome Remarks
by DG ISSRA





DAY 1

9 February, 2026
Session I

Understanding the Transforming Global Order and Regional Dynamics



SPEAKERS



Distinguished Visiting Fellow
Mushahid Hussain Syed



Ms Laurie Anne Watkins



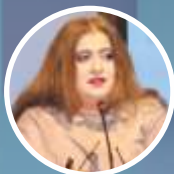
Dr Huang Yunsong



Mr Iftikhar Firdous



Amb Abdul Basit



Dr Maria Sultan



MODERATOR
Ms Aiza Azam

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- The U.S. foreign policy shift towards “America first” has destabilized alliances, creating unpredictability and weakening global trust. This has led to a more transactional approach to diplomacy, where commitments are questioned, and adversaries test boundaries.
- The U.S - Pakistan relationship has moved into a pragmatic phase, where shared interests, like counterterrorism and regional stability, are prioritized over differences, signaling a shift from the past cycles of intense engagement and recalibration.
- The Middle East, where U.S. engagement has often been inconsistent, has seen regional powers increasingly pursue their own security interests, with smaller states seeking alternative patrons. This has resulted in a shift towards more assertive foreign policies and reduced faith in U.S.-led conflict resolution.
- China's challenge to the Western-dominated global order emphasizes a shift towards mutual respect, fairness, and strategic partnerships. The Belt and Road Initiative and other global development projects aim to create a more inclusive global order, focusing on cooperation rather than dominance.
- China's perspective on governance prioritizes development-based universalism over traditional Western value-based systems, with an emphasis on sovereignty and mutual respect, challenging the ideological dominance of the West.
- The future of global governance will be more decentralized, with middle powers playing a significant role in shaping the new order through strategic autonomy and flexible alliances, especially in regions like South Asia.
- The Kashmir issue remains one of the biggest obstacles to peace between India and Pakistan. India's unilateral revocation of Article 370 in 2019 exacerbated tensions, making it even more difficult to engage in meaningful dialogue or resolve the dispute.
- The marine security landscape is changing, with global trade routes becoming more contested. The competition between the U.S. and China, coupled with regional power shifts, has made Pakistan's role in maintaining secure maritime pathways even more critical.
- Pakistan's strategic location in the Indian Ocean places it at the crossroads of global trade routes. With 90% of global sea lines of communication passing through this region, Pakistan's role in ensuring the security and stability of these routes is crucial for global economic stability.
- The global economic order is transitioning, with protectionism rising and global inequality deepening, posing challenges to developing countries that can no longer rely on export-led growth due to new barriers in trade and protectionism.
- The collapse of the post-World War II rules-based order is evident in institutions like the UN Security Council, where consensus is difficult to achieve particularly among its permanent members underlines the need for reform but any reform must preserve strong enforcement mechanisms.
- The inability of the international community to act decisively on global crises like Ukraine and Gaza highlights the limitations of the existing system, with major powers unwilling to make concessions for peace.

DAY 2

10 February, 2026
Session I

Pakistan's Economic Frontier: Opportunities in Trade, Investment & Entrepreneurship



SPEAKERS



Distinguished Visiting Fellow
Mr Arif Habib



Mr Adnan Pasha



Dr Zeelaf Munir



Mr Saquib H Shirazi



Mr Haroon Sharif



MODERATOR
Ms Sumaira Khan

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Global stabilization is taking shape in a fragmented world. While the global economy shows resilience with projected growth around 3.3%, yet protectionism and technology-led investment flows are redefining competitiveness. The weakening of multilateral, rules-based systems has increased uncertainty in global economic governance.
- The global outlook is marked by uneven momentum. Advanced economies face modest expansion, while emerging markets, especially in Asia and parts of Sub-Saharan Africa, show stronger prospects. This divergence reflects a gradual shift in economic weight toward developing economies.
- Pakistan's recovery is constrained by both structural weaknesses and geopolitical pressures. Regional instability intersects with low productivity, governance deficits, demographic strain, climate vulnerability, and a persistent trust gap in economic management.
- Structural imbalances continue beneath short-term stabilization. Recurrent stress on the current account, fiscal deficit, exchange rate, and growth rate sustains a boom-bust cycle that undermines long-term planning.
- Fiscal discipline and state reform are foundational to sustainability. Rationalizing the role and size of the state, digitizing public systems, and investing in human capital are critical for durable economic strength.
- Macroeconomic stabilization has evolved into restored credibility. Lower inflation, improved reserves, a stronger current account position, reduced interest rates, exchange rate stability, and better debt management reflect renewed market confidence.
- Trade and investment institutions are being repositioned as active enablers. The EXIM Bank and Joint Investment Companies are moving toward facilitating export diversification, project financing, and strategic bilateral investment corridors.
- Deep structural fault lines continue to suppress productivity and industrial scaling. Without reform in governance, regulatory systems, and factor markets, growth will remain fragile and unsustainable.
- The emerging economic agenda includes digital transformation and crypto infrastructure. Initiatives such as the Pakistan Crypto Council, blockchain regulation, tokenization of sovereign assets, and energy allocation for data centers signal an attempt to integrate into the digital economy.
- Targeted sectors offer realistic recovery pathways. Climate-smart agriculture, value-added textiles, renewable energy transition, trade logistics, and emerging technologies including IT can align domestic revival with global sustainability and digital trends.
- Connectivity alone cannot drive prosperity. Pakistan must move beyond serving as a transit corridor and instead create value through domestic production, innovation, and high-margin exports.
- Pakistan's revival is closely tied to geopolitical realignments. Sustainable growth depends on institutional strength, competitiveness, and effective integration into a rapidly changing global economic order.

DAY 3

11 February, 2026
Session I

Manufacturing Reality: Perception Building in the Post Truth Era



SPEAKERS



Distinguished Visiting Fellow
Mr Mosharraf Zaidi



Ms Tanya Goudsouzian



Mr Habib Ullah Khan



Ms Xue Ying



Barrister Mahreen Aziz Khan



MODERATOR
Mr Rehman Azhar

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- The information environment is undergoing a structural shift from truth-centered discourse to perception-driven realities. Artificial intelligence is no longer only shaping information but increasingly shaping how reality itself is constructed and interpreted.
- The so-called post-truth era reflects a condition where narratives are deliberately manufactured rather than organically formed. Media ecosystems, particularly in the West, have evolved into fragmented echo chambers that amplify selective perspectives instead of facilitating balanced public discourse.
- Media has always held the power to shape perception and define legitimacy. The argument that we are in a uniquely “post-truth” era overlooks the long history of propaganda, bias, and selective framing within traditional media systems.
- Global power increasingly depends on control over information environments. Hegemonic influence is sustained not only through economic or military dominance but through shaping narratives and controlling the flow of information.
- “Mind colonization” represents a subtle form of power, where dominant states export values, norms, and perceptions that reshape societies in ways that reinforce structural inequality.
- In an environment where facts alone are insufficient, countering manufactured narratives requires strategic, proactive communication. Effective pushback must combine credibility, evidence, and long-term narrative framing rather than reactive fact-checking alone.
- Modern conflict increasingly targets social cohesion rather than territorial control. The objective is to destabilize societies internally by manipulating perceptions, eroding trust, and polarizing communities.
- The transition from centralized media to social media has transformed information consumption. Unlike traditional journalism, algorithm-driven platforms prioritize engagement over accuracy, accelerating the spread of emotionally charged or misleading content.
- Social and digital media should not be viewed solely as threats. They represent a democratization of voice, enabling marginalized communities and younger generations to challenge established narratives previously dominated by concentrated Western media ownership.
- Artificial intelligence amplifies this dynamic by accelerating the production and distribution of polarizing or sensational narratives. The evolution from isolated misinformation to systemic distortion of truth has made it harder for the public to distinguish fact from fabrication.
- The geopolitical competition over AI leadership, particularly between the United States and other major powers, is not only about technological superiority but about narrative influence. AI's scale and reach make it a transformative force capable of reshaping cognitive and political landscapes globally.

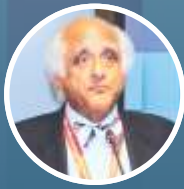
DAY 3

11 February, 2026
Session II

Art, Culture & Heritage of Pakistan



SPEAKERS



Distinguished Visiting Fellow
Mr Salman Rashid



Ms Fizza Ali



Dr Najeeba Arif



Mr Shuja Haider



Mr Kamran Lashari



MODERATOR
Ms Saadia Afzaal

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Music in Pakistan has evolved from a stigmatized profession to a respected cultural force. Despite societal resistance in earlier decades, growing institutional support, media platforms, and public appreciation have gradually legitimized the arts.
- Pakistani music reflects remarkable diversity, spanning ghazal, Sufi traditions, pop-rock, rap, film soundtracks, and emerging Gen-Z expressions. Platforms such as Coke Studio and Pakistan Idol have amplified this diversity globally, showcasing creative excellence despite limited technological resources.
- Sufi poetry and music remain powerful vehicles of peace, introspection, and social harmony. They anchor Pakistan's artistic identity in spiritual depth and cultural continuity.
- Sustaining this momentum requires expanded institutional backing, more creative platforms, and systematic talent development to unlock Pakistan's vast untapped musical potential.
- Literature shapes Pakistan's global image more deeply than headline-driven media. While news cycles focus on crises, literature presents reflective, human-centered narratives that humanize the nation.
- Pakistani writers and poets explore universal themes such as justice, love, memory, migration, exile, and belonging, allowing international audiences to connect with lived experiences rather than political stereotypes.
- The country's linguistic plurality, including Urdu, Punjabi, Sindhi, Pashto, Balochi, Saraiki, and English, strengthens its cultural depth and intellectual richness.
- Poetry, particularly modern Urdu poetry, and the contributions of diaspora writers serve as strong vehicles of soft power. Translation remains essential to expanding global engagement and positioning literature as Pakistan's most authentic ambassador.
- Soft power rooted in art, culture, music, and heritage has the capacity to unite societies beyond political divisions. Cultural exchange remains essential for peaceful coexistence and civilizational dialogue.
- Pakistan's identity is deeply shaped by ancient civilizations such as the Indus and Gandhara traditions, which continue to influence urban culture, aesthetics, and historical consciousness.
- Film and media play a decisive role in shaping a country's soft image. Pakistan's cinema experienced historical decline, particularly in the 1980s, due to weak infrastructure, limited technique, and insufficient marketing.
- The digital filmmaking wave since 2011–2012 has revived creative potential, yet structural challenges remain, including a drastic reduction in cinemas and high multiplex costs that limit public access.
- The absence of formal industry recognition constrains exports, financing, and global partnerships, while negative portrayals in international media continue to influence external perceptions.
- Film and media must be treated as strategic instruments of soft power, capable of projecting an authentic, confident, and competitive national image in global cultural markets.

DAY 4

12 February, 2026
Session I

Looking into the Future: Emerging Global Trends



SPEAKERS



Ms Kanwal Cheema



Dr Arben Ramkaj



Ms Kashmala Kakakhel



Mr Ahmer Bilal Soofi



MODERATOR
Ms Sidra Jalil

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- International law operates across two domains: established norms such as sovereignty, non-intervention, treaty sanctity, and limits on the use of force; and evolving domains including artificial intelligence, climate governance, and interfaith coexistence where regulatory clarity is still developing.
- Foundational legal principles remain intact, but enforcement capacity and institutional effectiveness have weakened, increasing uncertainty and shifting greater reliance toward political commitment and normative consensus.
- The durability of future global order will depend on integrating civilizational values with modern legal frameworks to preserve credibility, predictability, and stability in international relations.
- Climate geopolitics has shifted from debates over emissions responsibility to competition over control of critical raw materials required for clean energy technologies.
- The climate discourse has evolved in three phases: an era of blame centered on responsibility and compensation; an era of economics focused on cost competitiveness and innovation; and a current era of control defined by supply chain dominance and mineral security.
- Strategic focus has shifted from emissions diplomacy to supply chain security, reflected in initiatives such as China's Green Silk Road and U.S.-led mineral partnerships.
- Developing countries risk remaining trapped in extractive dependency by exporting raw minerals while importing high-value finished green technologies. This imbalance could produce a form of green colonialism, where advanced economies control high-value segments of the clean energy value chain.
- Emerging and disruptive technologies, particularly artificial intelligence, are transforming geopolitics at a structural level. AI moves competition beyond military or economic metrics into deeper questions of truth, trust, identity, and societal stability, reshaping how power is exercised and perceived.
- The rapid evolution of AI means current systems represent only early stages of capability. Its integration with robotics, infrastructure, and biological systems is producing autonomous agentic systems that can independently execute complex physical and operational tasks.
- Rising xenophobia, including Islamophobia, has emerged as a serious internal security challenge in Europe. Data from the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights highlights widespread discrimination against Muslim communities, while increasing hate crimes and anti-migrant rhetoric reflect structural inequalities and growing societal tension that can erode democratic resilience.
- Marginalization weakens institutional legitimacy and reduces cooperation between communities and state authorities. While violent extremism persists across ideological spectrums, collective blame against entire groups deepens polarization and increases long-term instability.
- Historical conflicts in the Western Balkans demonstrate how the politicization of identity and religion can escalate into broader regional crises. In this context, European integration of fragile regions is not only a political project but a strategic security investment aimed at preventing renewed conflict.

DAY 6

14 February, 2026
Session I

Talk by Dr Moeed W. Yusuf



SPEAKER



Dr Moeed W. Yusuf

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- The war in Ukraine did not just change geopolitics, it exposed a mental divide. Europe saw it as the return of history, while much of the Global South saw it as continuity, because conflict had never really disappeared for them.
- The liberal international order was built on rules, but those rules did not produce equal outcomes. Many countries complied with the system yet remained economically marginal, which created quiet resentment beneath surface stability.
- The United States is not withdrawing out of weakness, but out of calculation. It is signaling that the costs of sustaining the old order no longer match its domestic priorities.
- This shift in American posture is structural. Even if personalities change in Washington, the demand for burden-sharing and economic nationalism is unlikely to reverse fully.
- The emerging world is not neatly multipolar. It is more fragmented, competitive, and transactional, shaped by strategic rivalry rather than shared norms.
- China has the scale to influence the system, but leadership requires more than size. It demands market openness, global trust, and cultural projection, areas where China still faces limits.
- Europe now confronts a reality it postponed for decades. Security dependency created comfort, but rebuilding strategic autonomy requires political will and social consensus that are not easily mobilized.
- Middle powers are becoming pivotal actors. They are no longer passive followers but flexible players forming issue-based coalitions depending on interests rather than ideology.
- The danger lies in these middle powers turning inward and behaving as regional dominators. If they prioritize control over cooperation, regional instability will multiply.
- Economic interdependence remains the strongest stabilizing force available. When economies are deeply connected, the cost of conflict rises, making disruption strategically irrational.
- Foreign policy is shifting from preserving stability to navigating uncertainty. Agility, speed, and strategic flexibility now matter more than rigid alliances or long-term predictability.
- Weak governance inside states magnifies external risks. Countries unable to deliver economic fairness or manage social expectations become vulnerable to fragmentation and interference.
- The global debate today centers on power redistribution, not justice. Without addressing inequality and dignity, any new order, whether multipolar or bipolar, will remain unstable at its core.
- Global institutions, such as the United Nations, are showing signs of decline. The lack of a unified global response to crises and the growing distrust in multilateralism signals that these bodies are struggling to maintain their relevance.
- The role of technology and digital diplomacy is increasing. As traditional power structures evolve, countries are leveraging cyber capabilities and digital tools to gain influence, shifting the balance of global power towards those who can adapt to the new technological landscape.

VISIT - FAISAL MOSQUE



VISIT - MOFA



VISIT - LOK VIRSA



VISIT - PAKISTAN MONUMENT



VISIT - ISLAMABAD MUSEUM



VISIT - NASTP



VISIT - PNCA



VISIT - PARLIAMENT



VISIT - PRESIDENT SECRETARIAT



Breakout Sessions

PANEL - 1

Is the Global Order Fragmenting into Rival Blocs or Rebalancing into Multipolarity?

Coordinator



Dr Seongjong Song
(South Korea)

Co-Coordinator



Ms Marina Ika Sari
(Indonesia)

MEMBERS

 Maj Gen Abdulelah Mohammed Abdullah Hamdan (KSA)	 Dr Elizabeth Anne Golden Coffey (UK)	 Mr Ahmed Chinoy, HI, SI	 Lt Col Sayyed Navvab Mousavi, (Iran)	 Dr Mohamed Mohsen Kenawy Mohamed Abo El-Nour (Egypt)
 Mr Caba Maria Flavius Ieronim, (Romania)	 Mr Dzenan Redzo (Bosnia)	 Mr Muhammad Raza Khan	 Ms Amina Ahmed	 Dr Sahar Khan (USA)
	 Snr Col Xu Zhen (China)	 Dr Abdul Hayee	 Mr Muhammad Hamza Bin Khalid Chishti	



SPEAKERS



Dr Seongjong Song



Ms Marina Ika Sari

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- The US-China rivalry has moved beyond trade disputes and tariff wars into full-spectrum systemic competition. It now spans technology leadership, financial architecture, military modernization, supply chain control, and global norm-setting, making it the structural axis of contemporary geopolitics.
- Strategic decoupling in semiconductors, rare earths, and advanced technologies reflects selective fragmentation. High-security sectors are increasingly insulated from interdependence, even as broader trade relations continue, creating a dual-track global economy.
- The credibility of extended deterrence, particularly US security guarantees, is quietly being reassessed by allies and middle powers. This uncertainty is encouraging greater defense self-reliance and diversified partnerships, subtly reshaping alliance structures.
- The expansion of BRICS and the growing assertiveness of the Global South signal not a collapse of the system, but dissatisfaction with Western-dominated governance institutions. Emerging powers are seeking voice, reform, and alternative platforms rather than complete systemic rupture.
- Middle powers are increasingly adopting hedging strategies, engaging simultaneously with competing great powers to maximize economic and security benefits. This flexible multi-alignment reflects pragmatism rather than ideological bloc loyalty.
- The emerging order appears layered rather than binary. At the core, US-China rivalry drives polarization in high-security and high-technology domains; at the periphery, economic interdependence and issue-based cooperation persist.
- For middle and regional powers, strategic autonomy is no longer aspirational but necessary. Survival in a competitive system depends on balancing deterrence, economic integration, and diplomatic flexibility without triggering alignment traps.
- Fragmentation and multipolarity are not mutually exclusive outcomes. The system is simultaneously fragmenting in strategic domains while rebalancing economically and demographically toward multiple centers of influence.
- The decisive question is not whether the order is collapsing, but whether competitive multipolarity can be managed without escalating into rigid bloc confrontation or systemic instability.

PANEL - 2

Are global trends (climate change, terrorism, refugee flows, xenophobia, etc.) manufactured agendas or organic developments shaping the future world order?

Coordinator

















Ms Nargiz Ismayilova (Azerbaijan)

Co-Coordinator



Mr Bryan Jose Mayer (Argentina)

MEMBERS

 Dr Irina N. Serenko (Russia)	 Prof Dr Huang Yunsong (China)	 Dr Iffat Zafar Aga	 Air Cdre Mohamed Aziz Mohamed Al Siyabi (Oman)	 Mr Muhammad Munib
 Dr Khin Maung Lwin (Myanmar)	 Dr Ibrahim Saad M Almarie (KSA)	 Ms Rida Ali	 Ms Laurie A. Watkins (USA)	 Mr Aurangzeb Abdul Karim
 Ms Rose FitzGerald (UK)	 Ms Bandana Karki Thapa (Nepal)	 Mr Sohail Shahzad Shahid	 Col Francis Ngabo Sebicundanyi (Rwanda)	 Mr Muhammad Rafiq Khan



SPEAKERS



Ms Nargiz Ismayilova



Mr Bryan Jose Mayer

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Major global trends such as climate change, terrorism, migration, xenophobia, and technological transformation are neither purely manufactured nor purely organic. They are structurally rooted phenomena that acquire political meaning through interpretation, framing, and strategic use.
- Each trend originates in material drivers, ecological degradation, state fragility, inequality, demographic shifts, technological innovation, yet the way societies perceive and respond to them depends heavily on media narratives, elite discourse, and political agendas.
- Climate change represents a scientific and ecological reality, but it has evolved into a geopolitical arena. Through climate diplomacy, carbon standards, and green protectionism, environmental policy increasingly intersects with trade competition and strategic leverage.
- Terrorism emerges from structural instability, weak governance, regional conflict, and political exclusion. However, once framed as a permanent existential threat, it legitimizes expanded surveillance, emergency legislation, and long-term security regimes that reshape domestic governance.
- Refugee flows and migration are driven by war, climate stress, and economic inequality. Yet political actors often recast them as crisis narratives, amplifying insecurity and justifying border militarization or restrictive migration regimes.
- Xenophobia reflects genuine social anxiety linked to identity, economic insecurity, and rapid demographic change. At the same time, it is frequently instrumentalised for electoral mobilization, cultural polarization, and the consolidation of nationalist political platforms.
- Technological transformation, particularly AI, cyber systems, and digital infrastructure, is propelled by innovation and market forces. Yet it is increasingly securitized through digital sovereignty claims, export controls, sanctions, and strategic competition among major powers.
- The cumulative effect of these trends suggests that the international system may be undergoing a broader systemic transition. Rather than facing isolated crises, the world appears to be navigating overlapping structural transformations that are redefining power, security, and governance.
- The central question is therefore not whether these trends are “real” or “constructed,” but how political framing shapes their trajectory, toward collective problem-solving or toward fragmentation and prolonged instability.

PANEL - 3

Why is the global economy being weaponized through supply-chain disruptions and tariff wars?

Coordinator



Ms Dana Priscilla
Rojas Chacón (Costa Rica)

Co-Coordinator



Dr Nicola Pedde
(Italy)

MEMBERS

 Prof Dr Mahfuz Parvez (Bangladesh)	 Brig Chelimo Peter Shikukuu (Kenya)	 Mr Mohammad Shoab	 Mr Jama Hassan Salad (Somalia)	 Dr Inna Koblianska (Ukraine)
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 Ms Zeina Mousa Ahmad Sadieh (Jordan)	 Lt Col Mohamed Hussain Najem Abdulla Isa Alnajem (Bahrain)	 Dr Ali Khan	 Dr Arif Mustafa Jatoi	 Ms Valerie Ouellette (Canada)



SPEAKERS



Ms Zeina Mousa Ahmad Sadieh



Dr Inna Koblianska



Ms Dana Priscilla
Rojas Chacón

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Economic interdependence, once distinguished as a stabilizing force that reduced incentives for conflict, is increasingly perceived as a strategic vulnerability. States now recognize that dependence on critical suppliers can be exploited in times of crisis or rivalry.
- The logic of globalization has shifted from cost efficiency to security efficiency. Governments are prioritizing resilience, strategic autonomy, and supply-chain redundancy over pure market optimization and lowest-cost production.
- The pandemic, the war in Ukraine, and intensifying technological competition exposed structural fragilities in global supply chains. Food systems, energy markets, medical equipment, semiconductors, and rare earths revealed how quickly economic networks can become geopolitical pressure points.
- Export controls, financial sanctions, tariffs, and investment screening mechanisms have become instruments of strategic leverage. Economic tools are no longer neutral market devices; they are increasingly integrated into national security strategies.
- Technological bifurcation is emerging most visibly in AI, advanced semiconductors, 5G infrastructure, and rare earth supply chains. Competing ecosystems are forming, reducing interoperability and deepening systemic rivalry between major powers.
- The erosion of trust represents the most profound structural transformation in the global economy. Once states doubt the reliability of partners, they redesign trade and investment flows around political alignment rather than pure comparative advantage.
- Globalization is not collapsing outright but reorganizing into selective interdependence. States are decoupling in high-security sectors while maintaining engagement in lower-risk economic areas, creating a layered global economic order.
- The weaponization of the economy reflects the securitization of economic policy. National security considerations now routinely shape trade rules, industrial policy, and technology regulation.
- The defining challenge ahead is whether states can enhance economic security and resilience without triggering rigid bloc formation or accelerating systemic fragmentation that undermines global growth and stability.

PANEL - 4

How are Emerging Disruptive Technologies (EDTs) transforming human society, and what governance responses are required?

Coordinator



Lt Col Steen
Kjaergaard (Denmark)

Co-Coordinator



Dr Mariia
Khorolskaia (Russia)

MEMBERS

 Mr Inamullah Miakhil (Afghanistan)	 Ms Maryz Youness (Lebanon)	 Dr Fakhara Rizwan	 Ms Nimra Zaheer (UK)	 Dr Veron Emmanuel (France)
 Maj Gen Abdul Karim Bin Ahmad (Malaysia)	 Ms Xue Ying (China)	 Mr Aun Ali Syed	 Mr Ashruff Hasan Rana	 Col Jibril Bala Sabo (Nigeria)
 Wing Commander Shadi Ahmed A Kadi (KSA)	 Lt Col Taha Dheyaa Abdulmohsin (Iraq)	 Mr Saqib Majeed Sheikh	 Mr Ali Akmal Khan	



SPEAKERS



Lt Col Steen Kjaergaard



Dr Mariia Khorolskaia

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- The international system is entering a disordered phase of technological acceleration where innovation is outpacing institutions. This creates governance gaps, uneven rules, and high uncertainty, making adaptive and iterative regulation more realistic than slow, rigid policy cycles.
- Human-centric governance must preserve meaningful human control, especially where technology affects life-and-death outcomes. The “human in the loop” principle becomes essential in AI-supported military targeting, autonomous systems, and high-stakes decision-making to prevent catastrophic error and accountability collapse.
- AI is likely to deepen global inequality by creating a three-tier world: those who own models and compute, those who can use them, and those excluded from access and capacity. Without targeted inclusion, AI becomes an inequality multiplier rather than a development equalizer.
- Space is a global commons with growing civilian and military dependence, yet access remains concentrated among a small number of states and powerful private actors. This raises risks of geopolitical monopolization, strategic coercion, and unilateral disruption of critical services.
- Renewable energy transformation is necessary but not automatically secure. Grid stability, storage, backup capacity, and investment scale determine whether transition produces resilience or creates new vulnerabilities through intermittency and infrastructure gaps.
- Cyber and crypto domains challenge state sovereignty and blur war-peace boundaries. Attribution is difficult, non-state actors gain asymmetric power, and hybrid warfare becomes easier, which complicates deterrence, accountability, and legal frameworks.
- Given current geopolitical polarization, universal treaties are hard to achieve and enforce. A more feasible route is agreeing on baseline global principles and norms first (human control, transparency, accountability, inclusiveness), then translating them into regional or sector-specific regulations.
- The core regulatory dilemma is managing the innovation-security trade-off. States want rapid technological gains for competitiveness, but unchecked acceleration increases systemic risks such as misinformation at scale, critical infrastructure disruption, and destabilizing military escalation.
- Governance must also confront private-sector power. EDT ecosystems are often controlled by corporations or individuals with infrastructure-level influence, so regulation must address not only states but also private actors who can shape global outcomes.
- The most effective governance response will likely be layered: global principles, regional rules, national enforcement, and industry standards working together, rather than a single universal treaty model.

PANEL - 5

Who controls truth in the post-truth era, and can disinformation be effectively countered?

Coordinator



Ms Sena Alkan Akturk (Turkiye)

Co-Coordinator



Dr Geoffrey Charles Miller (New Zealand)

MEMBERS

 <p>Prof Dr Dordevic Branislav (Serbia)</p>	 <p>Dr Ivona Ladevac (Serbia)</p>	 <p>Mr Mustafa Ahmad Khan</p>	 <p>Mr Ihab Abdulrazig Abdallah Mohamed, (Sudan)</p>	 <p>Dr Olena Bordilovska (Ukraine)</p>
 <p>Lt Col Ahmed Hamood Hamed Al Harrasi (Oman)</p>	 <p>Col Alshathri Bandar Saleh (KSA)</p>	 <p>Mr Simon Azariah</p>	 <p>Lt Col Joshua Shehadeh Khoury, (USA)</p>	 <p>Ms Tanya Goudsouzian (Canada)</p>
 <p>Mr Mohammad Zakaria Tarek Lababidi, (Syria)</p>	 <p>Col Staff Salem Ali Mohamed Alshehkim, (UAE)</p>	 <p>Ch Nadeem A Rauf</p>	 <p>Mr Saqib Rafiq Chaudhry</p>	 <p>Ms Sahibzadi Mahin Khan</p>



SPEAKERS



Ms Sena Alkan Akturk



Dr Geoffrey Charles Miller

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- The pretended post-truth condition is not historically unprecedented. Contested narratives, propaganda, and strategic misinformation have accompanied wars and political crises for decades; what has changed is speed, scale, and technological amplification.
- Conflict environments generate structural conditions for misinformation. Fog of war, restricted access, reliance on limited sources, and political urgency make verification difficult, allowing premature or manipulated claims to circulate widely before correction is possible.
- Truth in complex political conflicts is rarely binary. While factual events exist, interpretation is shaped by framing, institutional biases, ideological positioning, and selective emphasis, producing competing narratives built on overlapping but differently prioritized facts.
- Powerful actors retain disproportionate influence over dominant narratives. States, intelligence agencies, political elites, major media institutions, and digital platforms have the capacity to set agendas, amplify particular frames, and marginalize alternative perspectives.
- Social media algorithms intensify polarization by privileging emotionally charged, outrage-driven content. Engagement-based business models reward visibility and virality rather than accuracy, structurally incentivizing sensational or divisive information.
- Fact-checking initiatives represent an institutional response to misinformation, yet they face limits. In highly politicized domains, many claims involve interpretation rather than clear factual falsehood, making definitive correction difficult and sometimes politically contested.
- Artificial intelligence dramatically accelerates disinformation production. Generative models enable deepfakes, synthetic text, and mass content generation at scale, lowering the cost of narrative manipulation and complicating authentication efforts.
- Declining trust in media institutions has become a structural vulnerability. As audiences fragment into ideological information ecosystems, shared epistemic foundations weaken, making consensus on basic facts harder to sustain.
- Disinformation cannot be fully eliminated, but it can be mitigated through multi-layered strategies: media literacy, platform accountability, algorithm transparency, cross-border regulatory coordination, and resilient journalistic standards.
- Ultimately, control over truth is inseparable from power structures. The struggle over narratives is part of broader geopolitical and domestic political competition, meaning that safeguarding truth requires strengthening institutional credibility as much as combating falsehood.

PANEL - 6

To what extent does the Asia-Pacific represent the decisive theatre in shaping the future global order?

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KEY TAKEAWAYS

- The emerging global order is increasingly centered in the Asia-Pacific, not the Atlantic. Strategic gravity is shifting eastward due to economic scale, demographic weight, and manufacturing dominance.
- Maritime power remains decisive in global order formation. Control over sea lanes still determines trade flows, wealth accumulation, and geopolitical leverage, validating classical geopolitical thinking even in a digital age.
- The South China Sea represents both economic artery and strategic flashpoint. Its militarization risks destabilizing a zone through which a significant share of global trade and energy transit passes.
- The Malacca Strait remains a strategic chokepoint. Any disruption would expose structural vulnerabilities in global supply chains, particularly China's energy imports and regional trade flows.
- Asia now accounts for approximately half of the global population and a majority of global GDP growth, reinforcing its centrality in economic and political power redistribution.
- Manufacturing concentration in Asia, especially Taiwan's dominance in semiconductor production and China's control of rare earth processing, creates structural interdependence combined with strategic vulnerability.
- China's economic-technological model integrates both hardware and software production, while India's comparative strength remains concentrated in software and services, reflecting asymmetric industrial capacities.
- The India-Pakistan nuclear balance reflects deterrence stability but also highlights the region as one of the most nuclear-dense theatres in the world, adding volatility to broader Asian competition.
- The Asia-Pacific region contains overlapping rivalries: US-China, China-India, India-Pakistan, and North-South Korea. These layered tensions amplify systemic instability risks.
- Demographic transitions in South Asia (India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, and Nepal) will shape future economic and security dynamics differently from East Asia, where population growth is slowing or declining.
- Regional institutions are emerging as partial stabilizers in a fragmented system. ASEAN, QUAD, and other groupings reflect attempts to manage competition through flexible multilateralism.
- The Asia-Pacific is no longer peripheral to global politics. It is becoming the central theatre of 21st century geopolitics, where economic, technological, maritime, and nuclear dynamics intersect.
- The key policy challenge is managing competition without escalation. Maritime chokepoints, supply chain dependence, and technological rivalry must be balanced against the need for economic continuity.
- Fragmentation and multipolarity are not mutually exclusive. The system shows fragmentation in high-security domains but multipolar redistribution in economic and regional governance spheres.
- The strategic question is not whether power is shifting eastward, but how stable that transition will be and whether regional mechanisms can absorb competitive pressures without systemic rupture.

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