

GLOBAL SOLUTIONS SUMMIT 2026

JUNE
1-2

FINDING COMMON GROUND IN A FRACTURED WORLD

Program

MISSION STATEMENT

We keep the world's most urgent crises at the forefront of the international agenda at the Global Solutions Summit.

Trust in global cooperation must be earned through results. Therefore, we facilitate fact-based, solution-oriented dialogue, amplifying sidelined voices and helping to forge a new multilateralism that is fit for purpose.

As a key forum accompanying the G20 and G7 processes through their Think20 and Think7 engagement groups, we unite the Global South, Middle Powers, and leaders across sectors to stress-test bold ideas and develop solutions for:

- Climate action and Sustainability
- Digital and AI Transformation
- Global Trade, Geoeconomics and Finance
- Global Governance and Multilateralism
- Human Flourishing

In this way, we confront disagreements and forge the alliances necessary to turn global disruption into shared human progress.

Together, we bring the theme of GSS 2026 to life: **"Finding Common Ground in a Fractured World"**.

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FORUM

Opening Day 1

FORUM | June 1, 9:00 – 9:35 CEST

Welcome

Astrid Frohloff, Moderator, Frohloff & Partners

Opening Talk

- Agnes Eschment, Managing Director, Global Solutions Initiative (GSI)
- Christian Kastrop, President and CEO, Global Solutions Initiative (GSI)

Finding Common Ground Insights

- Elena Martínez Martínez, CTO, SOS Biotech
- Brett Savill, Chief Operating Officer, the Institute for Economics and Peace
- Contimi Kenfack Mouafo, Founder & Chair, 3 E's 4 Africa Initiative

G7/G20 Sherpas | The G20 2.0: What Comes After the Reset?
**(curated in partnership with the Organisation for Economic Co-
operation and Development (OECD))**

FORUM | June 1, 9:45 – 10:35 CEST

Theme: Global Governance and Multilateralism

As global dynamics shift at unprecedented speed, the G20 remains a key platform in shaping collective responses to shared challenges. This session gathers G20 Sherpas for a forward-looking discussion on how multilateral cooperation can remain effective and relevant amid profound geopolitical, economic, and technological change.

The G20 started its second cycle of Presidencies under US leadership in 2026 with a streamlined “back to basics” agenda, aimed at supporting broad-based economic growth and tackling global imbalances. This renewed focus on the G20’s core mandate contrasts with the G20’s emphasis on wider policy issues in recent years, including tourism, culture and disaster risk management. The G20’s outcomes are also evolving, with a more limited set of deliverables anticipated this year.

As geopolitical and geoeconomic pressures intensify, different international fora are playing complementary roles in responding to global challenges, including addressing recent disruptions to energy markets and supply chains. In this context, the G20 continues to offer a unique leader-driven platform, which brings together major advanced and emerging economies on an equal footing.

Against this backdrop, the panel will explore how the G20’s role is evolving within the wider multilateral architecture. The discussion will also look ahead to the G20 Miami Leaders’ Summit and consider how future Presidencies might build on the G20’s core strengths while adapting to the changing global landscape. The conversation will reflect on the lessons learned; identify areas where collective action is most urgently needed; and consider how global governance structures can adapt to sustain trust, resilience and impact.

Speakers:

- Lisa Elliston, G20 Sherpa, Australia.
- Shambhu L. Hakki, G20 Sous Sherpa, India.
- Ulrich Obendorfer, G20 Sous Sherpa, Germany.
- Federico Pinedo, G20 Sherpa, Argentina.

Moderator: Andreas Schaal, Director for Global Relations and Cooperation and Sherpa to the G7; the G20; and the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC), (OECD).

Closing the Delivery Gap: Alliances for Climate Action on the Ground

FORUM | June 1, 10:45 – 11:40 CEST

Theme: Climate Action and Sustainability

As the progress in international climate action slows, the gap between commitments and delivery widens, raising the question of how ambition can still be turned into results in practice. We are now at such a juncture where sustaining momentum will increasingly depend on how a broader set of actors engage.

In particular, much of this effort will need to happen at the local level, where implementation takes place and where climate and social challenges intersect most directly. Civil society, philanthropy, and development cooperation organizations all have a role to play in supporting and strengthening these efforts. What kinds of alliances are needed to make this possible? How can climate and social goals be balanced in the process?

This session examines what meaningful bottom-up climate action requires in practice, how decentralized initiatives can expand and connect and how these efforts can be designed to be inclusive and locally driven, ensuring that those most affected by climate change are not only beneficiaries but active participants. It also considers how governments and international organizations can enable this by supporting, connecting, and strengthening these efforts.

The session examines what it takes to activate local action and move beyond a patchwork of initiatives. It asks how alliances can mobilize resources and support locally led solutions, particularly in the Global South, while ensuring that those who are most affected have a real say. The central question is how different actors can engage more effectively to turn commitments into tangible outcomes on the ground.

Guiding questions:

- To what extent can decentralized and locally driven climate action help sustain momentum in the absence of strong international leadership?
- In what ways can national governments and international organizations still support, connect, and strengthen locally driven efforts?
- How can civil society, philanthropy, and development cooperation actors work together to translate commitments into results on the ground?
- What role can philanthropy play in strengthening local action and supporting emerging alliances?
- How can these cross-sector alliances be designed to reduce inequalities rather than reinforce them?

Speakers:

- Ingrid-Gabriela Hoven, Managing Director, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ).
- Deepali Khanna, Head of Asia, Rockefeller Foundation.
- Fati Nzi-Hassane, Africa Director, OXFAM.

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- Carsten Schneider, German Minister, Federal Ministry for the Environment, Climate Action, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMUKN)

Moderator: Tabea Lissner, Director, Climate Change, Robert Bosch Foundation

The Limits of Going Alone: Economic Security vs. Global Cooperation? (a T20-T7 Troika Dialogue)

FORUM | June 1, 12:10 – 13:10 CEST

Theme: Global Governance and Multilateralism

Global economic governance is being reshaped by a renewed focus on power, resilience and strategic autonomy. From industrial policy to supply chains and technological competition, both the G7 and G20 governments are prioritizing economic security. Yet these strategies underline a structural constraint: no major economy can secure its future in isolation.

Efforts to reduce dependence – e.g., through reshoring, diversification, or control over critical inputs – risk deepening fragmentation, widening macroeconomic imbalances, and constraining growth. At the same time, weaker growth prospects, rising debt stress and tighter development finance are limiting the capacity to fund the industrial, digital and green transitions needed for long-term stability.

This session reframes international cooperation as a functional requirement for economic security in an interdependent world, not just a normative ambition. Bringing together representatives from the Think20 and Think7 Troika, the discussion will focus on the key pressure points where tensions are most acute and where cooperation remains necessary: industrial policy coordination, critical minerals value chains, and development finance.

The emphasis is on implementation: how the priorities advanced through Global-South-led G20 processes can be sustained and adapted under new geopolitical and economic constraints and how policy and civil society communities can move from analysis to action by aligning frameworks and developing practical tools that carry across the US G20, the French G7 and the incoming UK G20.

Guiding questions:

- With the US G20 prioritizing economic security and the French G7 focusing on macroeconomic imbalances and investment constraints, where is meaningful alignment still possible? What is likely to carry over into the UK G20 under tighter geopolitical conditions?
- How can major economies coordinate industrial policies and supply chain strategies to avoid destabilizing spillovers, particularly in critical minerals and emerging technologies?
- What reforms to development finance across multilateral development banks (MDBs), public development banks, and private capital mobilization are most feasible in the current high-debt, low-investment environment?
- How can the priorities advanced through recent Global-South-led G20 processes on development, climate, and implementation be preserved in practice, rather than diluted as agendas shift?

Speakers:

- Laura Chappel, Associate Director, Center for Geopolitics and International Policy Institute for Public Policy Research.
- Céline Kauffmann, Chief Programs Officer, IDDRI, T7 France 2026.
- Philani Mthembu, Executive Director at the Institute for Global Dialogue, T20 South Africa 2025.
- Sarang Shidore, Director of the Global South Program, Quincy Institute
- Dennis Snower, Founding President, Global Solutions Initiative

Moderator: Richard Ponzio, Senior Fellow and Director, Reimagine Global and Regional Governance Program, Stimson Center.

Identifying Pathways for Lasting Peace and Stability

FORUM | June 1, 14:00 – 14:50 CEST

Theme: Global Governance and Multilateralism

At a time marked by geopolitical fragmentation, rising military expenditure and increasingly securitized political discourse, questions of peace and stability are frequently reduced to matters of deterrence and military strength. For many policymakers, strengthening defense capabilities is seen as essential to protecting sovereignty and ensuring strategic autonomy. At the same time, it has long been understood that long-term stability also rests on arms control; risk reduction; demilitarization efforts; and sustained investment in the political, economic and social foundations that address the root causes of conflict and prevent it from re-emerging.

This session will create space for a constructive debate between these perspectives. It will examine how different approaches to security interact in practice and what trade-offs they create. Ultimately, the session aims to identify areas of convergence and explore how policy choices today can shape both security and societal wellbeing in the years ahead.

Guiding questions:

- We are seeing record defense budgets across Europe and beyond. How do these increases compare to investments in prevention, development cooperation and social resilience? What does this shift imply for long-term stability?
- Where do deterrence and diplomacy reinforce each other? Where does the logic of security through military strength actively undermine the political and social foundations on which lasting peace depends?
- The Berghof Foundation and the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) work in some of the world's most fragile and conflict-affected environments. What do we see happening on the ground when military approaches dominate the policy agenda? What gets lost?
- Which concrete policy choices made today on arms control, conflict prevention, post-conflict reconstruction, and civil society engagement have the greatest potential to reduce the risk of escalation and build durable peace?

Speakers:

- Chris Coulter, Executive Director, the Berghof Foundation.
 - Sanam Naraghi-Anderlini, Founder and CEO, International Civil Society Action Network.
 - Brett Savill, Chief Operation Officer, Institute for Economics & Peace.

Moderator: Minh-Thu Pham, Co-founder and CEO, Starling Institute.

Building the AI Stack: Middle Power Governments Strategies and Approaches
(curated in partnership with the Project Liberty Institute)

FORUM | June 1, 15:00 – 15:50 CEST

Theme: Digital and Artificial intelligence Transformation

This session marks the official launch of the report, “Building Digital Infrastructure Ready for the AI Era: Insights from 13 Middle Power Governments”. This research is a central pillar of the joint digital infrastructure initiative, by GSI and the Project Liberty Institute (PLI). It is aimed at redefining how countries navigate the technological shifts over the next decades.

Moving beyond high-level theory, we present a synthesis of perspectives from governments across four continents that are currently on the front lines of the AI transition. The discussion focuses on a critical paradigm shift: treating digital systems not just as technical utilities, but as a fundamental act of governance and national resilience.

We will explore how coordinated action among like-minded partners can move the needle from fragmented national efforts toward shared frameworks and collective leverage in the AI era. By aligning modular building blocks and interoperable standards, this session aims to catalyze a community of practice dedicated to securing citizens’ agency and sovereignty before the architecture of the AI era is permanently set by other players. The window to shape that architecture in ways that reflect democratic values and shared sovereignty is narrowing. This session asks what coordinated action among the middle powers can still achieve before it closes.

Guiding questions:

- What do the experiences of 13 governments on the front lines of the AI transition reveal about the gap between digital infrastructure ambition and the implementation reality? Which obstacles are structural rather than technical?
- How can middle powers move from parallel national efforts toward genuinely shared frameworks and interoperable standards without sacrificing the sovereignty those frameworks are designed to protect?
- If the architecture of the AI era is being set now, largely by a handful of private platforms and major powers, what leverage do like-minded governments still have? What forms of collective action are most likely to make a difference?

Speakers:

- Asuka Ishii, Digital Policy Researcher, Japan Digital Agency.
- Johann Krige, Special Advisor to the Minister, South African Department of Communications and Digital Technologies.
- Isabelle Lois, Senior Policy Advisor, Swiss Federal Office of Communications.

Moderator: Sarah Nicole, Policy and Research Manager, Project Liberty Institute (PLI).

Safeguarding the Sovereignty of the Mind in the Artificial Intelligence Age

FORUM | June 1, 15:50 – 16:10 CEST

Theme: Digital and Artificial intelligence Transformation

As generative artificial intelligence (AI) becomes the primary interface for knowledge and civic life, protecting cognitive autonomy has emerged as a critical democratic priority. This “fireside chat” explores the sovereignty of the mind – the fundamental right to remain free from industrial-scale manipulation and systems that commodify human cognition to engineer beliefs and behaviors. The discussion addresses the evolution of AI from a productivity aid to a technology of hyper-persuasion, designed to bypass human reflection and exploit emotional vulnerabilities.

To counter these risks, the session investigates how open knowledge and public-interest infrastructure – such as open-source foundational models – can dismantle data asymmetries and provide transparent alternatives to opaque gated systems. Participants will examine the role of technology diplomacy in establishing international red lines, which align innovation with democratic values. By integrating strategic governance with open-data principles, this session defines a future where cognitive liberty and human agency serve as the foundational design constraints of digital progress.

Speakers:

- Franziska Heine, Executive Director, Wikimedia Deutschland.
- Stefano Quintarelli, Senior Advisor, Center for European Policy Studies.

Moderator: Ronald Ivey, Founder and CEO, Noësis Collaborative.

A New Approach to Achieving the Global Sustainable Development Goals: From Aid to a Development Approach?

FORUM | June 1, 16:30 – 17:30 CEST

Theme: Global Trade, Geoeconomics and Finance

The world is off track in achieving the sustainable development goals (SDGs) and is already backsliding on several of the goals. As the 2030 deadline approaches, the focus shifts from acceleration within the current model to a more realistic assessment of what comes next.

The baseline agreements behind the 2030 agenda – stable growth, predictable capital flows, and a rights-focused cooperative global order – have fundamentally shifted. Governments now face tighter fiscal constraints, rising debt and growing geopolitical fragmentation, while the financing model underpinning the SDGs is weakening. Traditional donors are scaling back official development assistance (ODA), and private capital is not flowing at the scale or to the geographies where it is most needed.

This session looks ahead to what a credible post-2030 approach could require in practice. It focuses on what a shift from aid to development means on the ground: moving from externally driven projects to nationally anchored strategies, from fragmented financing to investment-led growth, and from dependency to local capacity and value creation.

The discussion will focus on concrete entry points for cooperation, including providing development finance through public development banks, resilience and insurance mechanisms, and investment frameworks that support sustainable growth. The emphasis is on implementation, thinking about how to translate these areas into coordinated action and about how multilateral platforms such as the G7, G20 and BRICS can still play a role where alignment is possible.

Guiding questions:

- Does achieving the SDGs require a fundamental reset? Is a “development, not aid” paradigm the appropriate approach, and what would it entail in practice for private and public stakeholders at both domestic and international levels?
- How can sustainable growth objectives be effectively integrated into national development strategies?
- How can credible economic strategies and demonstrated policy reforms improve the investment climate?
- What challenges do countries face in reducing the cost of capital?

Speakers:

- Amar Bhattacharya, Senior Fellow, Center for Sustainable Development, the Brookings Institution.
- Julia von Döbeneck, Senior Expert, Robert Bosch Stiftung.
- Izabella Teixeira, Member of the International Advisory Board at the Brazilian Center of International Relations (CEBRI).
- Sebastien Treyer, Executive Director, IDDRI, T7 France.
- Xiuli Xu, Dean of College of International Development and Global Agriculture, China Agricultural University.

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Moderator: Anna-Katharina Hornidge, Director, German Institute of Development and Sustainability (IDOS).

Closing Day 1

FORUM | June 1, 17:30 – 18:00 CEST

Closing Remarks

Vidisha Mishra, Director of Global Outreach and Policy, Global Solutions Initiative (GSI)

Ole Spies, Co-Director Programs, Global Solutions Initiative (GSI)

Opening Day 2

FORUM | June 2, 9.10 – 9.20 CEST

Welcome Remarks

Vidisha Mishra, Director of Global Outreach and Policy, Global Solutions Initiative (GSI)

Ole Spies, Co-Director Programs, Global Solutions Initiative (GSI)

Deepak Nayar, Indian Economist and Chair of the Board of Trustees, Institute for Development Studies, Sussex, United Kingdom.

Development Cooperation in Times of Geopolitical Rivalry: What Works and Why?

FORUM | June 2, 9:20 – 9:40 CEST

Theme: Climate Action and Sustainability

In a world increasingly shaped by geopolitical tensions and competing interests, international cooperation is under pressure. How can development policy still deliver impact amid rivalry and fragmentation? In this twenty-minute onstage interview, State Secretary Niels Annen reflects on the changing landscape of development cooperation, exploring what approaches remain effective, where new partnerships are emerging, and how common ground can still be found in a fractured world.

Guiding questions:

- In a context of increasing geopolitical rivalry, how can German and European development cooperation maintain its core values while also responding to strategic interests?
- Which approaches or partnerships in development cooperation are proving most resilient and effective today? What lessons can be scaled up?
- What are the consequences of the large-scale pullback of the US Agency for International Development (USAID) (and others) for global development cooperation? What concrete effects are you already seeing on the ground and how should Germany and Europe respond?
- Where are still opportunities for cooperation across political divides? How can development policy help rebuild trust in a more fragmented global landscape?

Speaker:

- Niels Annen, State Secretary, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development.

Moderator: Anja Wehler-Schöck, Member of the Editorial Board, Tagesspiegel

Middle Power Collaboration Toward a Digital Third Way (curated in partnership with the RadicalxChange Foundation)

FORUM | June 2, 9:55 – 10:45 CEST

Theme: Digital and Artificial Intelligence Transformation

As digital markets become increasingly concentrated and extractive, many middle powers are charting a strategic “Digital Third Way”, which moves beyond the binary of today’s dominant centralized models. This session examines how to shift from closed proprietary platforms toward a sovereign and resilient digital ecosystem, built on new business models that reward competition, shared innovation and equitable growth. Rather than continuing to encourage individual “national champions”, the conversation will explore the power of shared open-source protocols as a common digital foundation for like-minded partners. By embedding principles such as data agency and democratic accountability directly into the technical architecture, countries can embed values into the tech stack itself.

The session will unpack the strategic case for open protocols and decentralized technologies as core infrastructure for long-term autonomy and economic security. The session asks a question that is not only technical and profoundly political: Can middle powers build the shared digital infrastructure they need to remain sovereign, competitive and democratic, without reproducing the dependencies they are trying to escape?

Guiding questions:

- What distinguishes a genuine Digital Third Way from digital protectionism in disguise? How can middle powers design sovereign open ecosystems that remain interoperable with the broader global digital economy?
- Where does the strategic case for shared open-source protocols align with national interests? Where do competing priorities, industrial policy ambitions and security concerns pull middle powers back toward unilateral solutions?
- How can democratic values, such as data agency, transparency and accountability, be embedded directly into digital infrastructure rather than added as regulatory afterthoughts? What does successful implementation look like in practice?

Speakers:

- Adriana Groh, CEO, Sovereign Tech Agency.
- Paul Samson, President, Center for International Governance Innovation.
- Matthias Spielkamp, Executive Director, AlgorithmWatch.
- Isabella Wilkinson, Research Fellow, Digital Society Program, Chatham House.

Moderator: Vidisha Mishra, Director, Global Outreach and Policy, Global Solutions Initiative (GSI).

Geoeconomic Fragmentation and the International Financial Architecture: Moving Beyond Bretton Woods?

FORUM | June 2, 11:10 – 12:05 CEST

Theme: Global Trade, Geoeconomics and Finance

Geopolitical shifts and the securitization of economic issues through instruments such as tariffs, export restrictions, and investment screenings are fundamentally reshaping economic and trade relationships. As the WTO-led multilateral trade system comes under growing strain, both governments and businesses are placing greater emphasis on securing reliable access to markets, supply chains, and critical raw materials.

For decades, the US served as the central pillar of the international financial system, providing a governance framework widely viewed as rules-based, stable and predictable. Two main trends have led observers to question its viability. The US share of the global economy has declined significantly as former developing countries have experienced rapid growth. At the same time, the robustness of the US economic and political governance system has increasingly been questioned. The substantial rise in US public debt, along with projections of further increases, have added to these concerns. This raises the question of whether (and for how long) they can continue to maintain this role as the primary provider of global safe assets.

This session aims to discuss the next phase of (de)globalization and the potential shift towards a multi-currency world, where the traditional dominance of the US dollar is complemented or challenged by new financial alliances.

Guiding questions:

- How can we ensure a stable and fair global financial system, which moves beyond traditional US dollar dominance without compromising global stability through competing new alliances?
- What is the current situation regarding emerging alternatives to the US dollar as the anchor of the global financial system?
- What conditions are necessary for viable alternatives to the US-based financial system to emerge? In particular, what role do strong investor protections, frickecurrency convertibility, and credible institutions play?

Speakers:

- Richard Samans, Senior Fellow, the Brookings Institution.
- Antonio Villafranca, Director of Research, the Italian Institute for International Political Studies (ISPI).
- Kathrin Berensmann, Senior Researcher, German Institute of Development and Sustainability (IDOS).

Finance Ministers for Climate Action: Fiscal Power for Climate Impact?

FORUM | June 2, 12:50 – 13:00 CEST

Theme: Global Trade, Geoeconomics and Finance

Finance Ministers know most clearly the economic consequences of climate change: both the risks posed by its mounting impacts on their economies and, increasingly, the opportunities of climate action for investment and job creation. In 2019, governments from 26 countries joined forces to launch the Coalition of Finance Ministers for Climate Action, recognizing the challenges posed by climate change, the unique capacity of the world's finance ministers to address them, and ways to strengthen these efforts through collective engagement.

This session will sketch the current work and contributions of the Coalition, which now spans over 100 countries worldwide, and outline its contribution to global cooperation and climate action.

Speaker:

- Sam Koojo Mugume, Co-chair, Coalition of Finance Ministers for Climate Action (CFMCA).

Moderator: Pekka Moren, Global Advisor, Coalition of Ministries of Finance Ministers for Climate Action (CFMCA).

Why Carbon Pricing Alone is Not Enough: Rethinking Climate Policy Design

FORUM | June 2, 13:00 – 13:50 CEST

Theme: Global Trade, Geoeconomics and Finance

For decades, climate policies have been driven by the idea of pricing carbon emissions to change behavior. Despite this large spread orthodoxy, raising prices for fossil fuel or heating as a main tool has increasingly proven to be highly ineffective and hard to implement against massive social resistance, culminating in a crisis for Europe's "lighthouse" emissions trading system (ETS). Do climate policies need a new approach?

A conventional answer to this dilemma has been to design schemes that compensate people for rising costs. However, newer approaches propose a more fundamental rethinking of climate policies, with carbon pricing as only one instrument, which is implemented at a more advanced stage of the transition. According to this modern approach, it is crucial to first heavily invest in low-carbon alternatives and their infrastructure (such as charging for e-vehicles) and to set strong positive incentives (such as subsidies for renewables) so that households and businesses get real choices before facing higher carbon prices.

This session will discuss whether this fundamentally new approach is key to safeguarding the principle of carbon pricing, by creating affordable renewables and making climate action much more attractive. We will discuss how sequencing strong positive incentives before carbon pricing is also central to resolving the current crisis in Europe's former ETS. We will also discuss how this can be put into practice, including by allowing EU Member States to frontload future emissions trading revenues so they can implement positive incentives for low-carbon alternatives and invest in green infrastructure and markets first.

Guiding questions:

- How can a climate policy sequence be tailored to key sectors (for instance, transport and buildings) that are targeted by ETS-2?
- What are the criteria for guiding policymakers when deciding whether markets, industries and consumers are ready for carbon pricing?
- What can be learned from concrete examples in selected EU member states? What policies have been rolled out and in what order to achieve their climate goals and popular acceptance of the policies?
- How can citizens be incentivized towards more climate-friendly choices and behaviors without costing the taxpayer, or even bringing in benefits?

Speakers:

- Franziska Brantner, Leader of Alliance 90/The Greens.
- Patrick Lenain, Senior Associate, Council on Economic Policies (CEP).
- Jean Pisani-Ferry, Professor of Economics and Public Policy, Hertie School of Governance and Sciences-Po; Senior fellow, Bruegel and Peterson Institute for International Economics.
- Isabella Wedl, Senior Advisor on Climate Policy, Institute for European Environmental Policy (IEEP)

Moderator: Thomas Fricke, Economist and Author

Critical Minerals and African Agency: from Extraction to Shared Value

FORUM | June 2, 14:00 – 14:50 CEST

Theme: Global Trade, Geoeconomics and Finance

The race for critical minerals is reshaping global geopolitics. Cobalt, coltan, lithium and copper –concentrated across sub-Saharan Africa – are essential to the green and digital transitions. As demand accelerates, so does competition among major powers seeking access. The central questions remain: Who captures the value? Under what conditions can the benefits be broadly shared while costs are fairly managed?

For African countries, this is a strategic inflection point, not just another commodity cycle. Governments are increasingly examining how others have approached critical minerals policy to strengthen their own negotiating positions. At the same time, growing scrutiny from researchers, civil society, and affected communities highlight the risks of repeating extractive

models that marginalize local populations and externalize environmental costs, regardless of the partner involved.

Historically, infrastructure and financing have prioritized extraction and export over domestic value creation. Today, a range of external partners, including the EU, US, China, the Gulf states, Japan and South Korea, are advancing competing as well as complementary investment frameworks. These create new opportunities, but also bring the risk of fragmentation and renewed dependency if not strategically managed.

This session moves beyond supply chains to focus on African agency, industrial strategy and value capture. How can African countries move beyond raw material exports to shape the terms of extraction, processing, refining, manufacturing and partnerships, while ensuring benefits are broadly shared and sustainable? This also raises a broader question about development pathways: Will this moment reinforce existing extractive patterns or support more diversified and sustainable growth? How will these outcomes be distributed in practice?

Guiding Questions

- How can resource-rich African countries translate critical mineral wealth into lasting economic sovereignty and industrial development?
- What would genuinely distinguish emerging critical minerals partnerships from earlier extractive models, particularly in terms of local value creation, environmental standards, and shared governance?
- How can African governments engage external partners, including the EU, the US, China, the Gulf states, Japan and South Korea, from a position of strength while avoiding renewed forms of dependency?
- How can initiatives such as the Minerals Security Partnership and the Global Gateway align with African-led strategies to move from competition toward co-investment and local value creation?
- Does intensifying global competition over critical minerals create genuine opportunities for diversification and industrialization, or risk reinforcing extractive dependencies under new alignments?

Speakers:

- Axel Berger, Deputy Director (interim), German Institute of Development and Sustainability (IDOS).
- Deprose Muchena, Director, Resources Futures in Africa, Open Society Foundations.
- Fati N'zi Hassane, Africa Director, Oxfam

Moderator: Maria Kottari, Policy Advisor, Energy Transition, IIED-Europe

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Closing Day 2

FORUM | June 2, 14:50 – 15:00 CEST

Closing Reflections & What's Next

Christian Kastrop, President and CEO, Global Solutions Initiative (GSI)

DIALOGUES

Reordering Ties: Navigating the Emerging International Trade Landscape

DIALOGUES | June 1, 9:45 – 10:30 CEST

Theme: Global Trade, Geoeconomics and Finance

The multilateral trading system is under pressure from several directions at once. The return of broad-based protectionism and the weaponization of trade policy as a geopolitical instrument are accelerating fragmentation in ways that disproportionately affect smaller economies and countries from the Global South. The World Trade Organization's (WTO's) dispute settlement system remains paralyzed, and its authority to set binding rules is increasingly contested. At the same time, regional and bilateral agreements are expanding. They now cover not only tariffs and market access, but also industrial policy, climate standards, and supply chain governance. Yet instead of creating a coherent new architecture, they risk producing overlapping and sometimes contradictory frameworks.

This session takes a wide-angle view. Rather than examining any single agreement in depth, it asks what the cumulative effect of these shifts means for the rules-based trading order and where entry points still exist for rebuilding common ground in a system that is fracturing faster than it is being reformed.

Guiding questions:

- What lessons can be drawn from recent bilateral agreements, such as the EU-India partnership? To what extent can they strengthen global trade frameworks rather than contributing to further fragmentation, particularly at the expense of vulnerable third countries not party to the agreement?
- In an era of multiplying bilateral and regional agreements, what strategies can align these partnerships to reinforce the multilateral trade system? How can we design a cohesive global trade architecture, which actively protects and empowers smaller, more vulnerable economies?
- Where, despite rising protectionism, do shared interests between major trading powers still create the conditions for meaningful cooperation? How can those windows of opportunity be identified and used in a timely manner?

Speakers:

- Anastasia Nesvetailova, Head, Macroeconomic and Development Policies branch, UN Trade and Development (UNCTAD).
- Maria João Rodrigues, Chair, Reimagine Europa.
- Huiyao Wang, Founder and President, Centre for China and Globalization (CCG).

Moderator: Dharmendra Kanani, Chief Operating Officer and Chief Spokesperson, Friends of Europe.

Redirecting Business Performance: Incentives, Metrics and Long-term Value

(curated in partnership with the Oxford Rethinking Performance Initiative (ORP))

DIALOGUES | June 1, 10:45 – 11:45 CEST

Theme: Human Flourishing

Many global challenges – including climate change, biodiversity loss and inequality – cannot be effectively addressed without meaningful engagement from the private sector. However, prevailing economic incentives and competitive pressures can lead businesses to prioritize profits over social and environmental considerations. This session will explore the challenges companies face in aligning sustainability with business strategy and discuss how governance frameworks and policy instruments can support businesses in contributing to societal wellbeing and environmental sustainability while remaining profitable.

The gap between sustainability commitments and corporate practice is not simply a failure of corporate will, it is a design problem. Performance metrics, accounting standards, fiduciary duties, and investor expectations remain overwhelmingly calibrated to short-term financial returns, making it structurally difficult for even committed businesses to prioritize long-term value creation for society and the planet. Closing that gap requires more than voluntary initiatives, it demands a fundamental rethink of how business performance is defined, measured and governed. The Oxford Initiative on Rethinking Performance brings to this session both the diagnostic rigor and the imaginative governance to move the conversation from aspiration to architecture.

Guiding questions:

- What changes to accounting standards, fiduciary frameworks and investor expectations are necessary to make long-term social and environmental value creation structurally rewarding, rather than merely reputationally attractive for businesses?
- Where have governance frameworks and policy instruments successfully shifted corporate behavior on a scale? What conditions made that possible?
- How should measurement, reporting and accounting evolve so that companies provide a true and fair account of their costs and profits?
- What role should international standard setters play in aligning profit with problem solving?

Speakers:

- Gary Gillespie, Chief Economic Adviser, Scottish Government.
- Jeremy Nicholls, Founder, Social Value International.
- Veronika Pountcheva, Member, International Sustainability Standards Board (ISSB).
- Natasha Santos, Head of Sustainability and Strategic Engagement, Bayer AG.

Moderator: Colin Mayer, Emeritus Professor of Management Studies, Oxford University.

Middle Powers and the Future of Global Cooperation (curated in partnership with the Asian Development Bank Institute)

DIALOGUES | June 1, 12:10 – 13:10 CEST

Theme: Global Governance and Multilateralism

As economic fragmentation deepens and major power coordination weakens, middle powers are playing a more visible role in shaping the global system. By engaging multiple partners across regions and political blocs, these countries are pursuing their own strategic and economic interests while taking on a more prominent role in global economic and development debates.

Many middle-income countries are facing a common barrier to sustained growth: the middle-income trap. After outgrowing low-cost, labor-driven development models, these economies now face the risk of prolonged stagnation as traditional growth engines have lost momentum.

At the same time, a growing number of these countries across Asia, Eastern Europe, and Latin America are expanding regional integration, forming new coalitions, and positioning themselves as bridges between the Global North and the Global South.

The question now is whether this surge in activity will translate into a real global influence. Middle powers are becoming more prominent in diplomacy, development finance, trade, and regional cooperation, yet it remains uncertain whether their initiatives are coordinated enough to shape outcomes in an evolving global order.

Guiding questions:

- Can middle powers fill the leadership vacuum left by retreating major powers and effectively sustain and revitalize multilateral cooperation? Are their efforts too fragmented to shape global outcomes?
- How do domestic growth constraints, including the risk of the middle-income trap, interact with the foreign policy ambitions of these countries? Does structural vulnerability strengthen or weaken their multilateral agency?
- What forms of cooperation, including plurilateral coalitions, regional frameworks, and sectoral alliances, offer middle powers the greatest leverage to forge common ground in a fracturing world order?

Speakers:

- Anastasia Nesvetailova, Head, Macroeconomic and Development Policies Branch, United Nations Trade and Development (UNCTAD).
- Andreas Schaal, Director, Global Relations and Cooperation and G20 Sherpa, the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).
- Joanna Tyrowicz, Professor of Economics, University of Warsaw; Member, Monetary Policy Council.
- Marc Uzan, Founder and Executive Director, the Reinventing Bretton Woods Committee (RBWC).

Moderator: Bambang Brodjonegoro, Dean, Asian Development Bank Institute (ADBI).

The Slow Pandemic: Antimicrobial Resistance and the Future of Global Health Security

DIALOGUES | June 1, 14:00 – 14:50 CEST

Theme: Human Flourishing

The multilateral system that underpins global health security is facing significant strain. The World Health Organization (WHO) is dealing with one of its most serious funding shortfalls in recent years. The Pandemic Agreement adopted at the World Health Assembly in May 2025 is still incomplete, as negotiations on pathogen access and benefit sharing continue and ratification is pending. At the same time, traditional donors are scaling back their commitments, which is already reshaping how health programs operate in high-burden countries across Africa and Asia.

Within this already fragile system, antimicrobial resistance (AMR) continues to grow largely unchecked. It is responsible for more than 1.3 million deaths each year and could reach ten million annually by the middle of the century if current trends continue. Unlike sudden outbreaks, this is a slow-moving pandemic. It is predictable, measurable and, in principle, preventable. The UN high-level meeting on AMR in September 2024 set a goal of reducing AMR-related deaths by 10% by 2030. The scientific knowledge to support this goal is available, but implementation remains weak. Financing is still cautious, procurement systems are not aligned with public health needs, regulatory processes differ across regions, and the communities most affected by AMR are often not represented where the decisions are made.

AMR is, in many ways, a test of whether global health governance can deliver on its core promises. It requires moving innovation from research into real world use; ensuring fair access; and coordinating action across governments, institutions and the private sector without the urgency of an acute crisis. If the system cannot meet this challenge, it raises serious doubts about its ability to respond effectively to the next pandemic.

This session starts from these pressures on global health security and explores where common ground still exists and how it can be strengthened.

Guiding questions:

- What unites our health systems in responding to AMR? Can a shared recognition of a slow-moving cross-border threat provide a basis for renewed cooperation, even as political consensus weakens?
- What do experiences on the front lines – such as surgical wards, conflict settings or under-resourced hospitals in Africa – tell us about the real scale of AMR mortality? Which shared standards and values should guide an effective response?
- Which financing approaches – including pull incentives, blended finance, G20 health taxonomy frameworks and South-South cooperation – offer a realistic path from market failure and aid dependence toward sustainable and equitable access to AMR solutions?
- How can this common ground be used to design institutions and governance structures that can address AMR today, while also strengthening preparedness for future pandemics?

Speakers:

- Hatice Beton, Executive Director, G20 and G7 Health and Development Partnership.
- Carl-Heinrich Bruhn, CEO, CHB Group; Co-founder, Delta G Avaris.
- Maria Guevara, International Medical Secretary, Médecins Sans Frontières.
- Thomas Harbaum, Commander and Medical Director, Bundeswehrkrankenhaus Hamburg.

Moderator:

Ruth Ciesinger, Editor-in-Chief, Tagesspiegel

The Green Skills Gap: Building the Workforce for Climate Transition (curated in partnership with Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ))

DIALOGUES | June 1, 15:00 – 16:10 CEST

Theme: Climate Action and Sustainability

Experiences from the Just Energy Transition Partnerships have shown how important it is to create good jobs, including for workers who will lose employment prospects due to the phasing out of fossil fuel extraction. The overarching question is, how can we achieve climate-related goals (mitigation and adaptation) and turn them into an opportunity rather than a cost factor for society?

A key answer lies in promoting the development of green skills and qualifications for green jobs. Currently, not even half of all the nationally determined contributions (NDCs) include training strategies that prepare people for the green economy of the future. It is, therefore, essential to develop education and vocational training programs and to discuss policy reforms that facilitate investment in green jobs and skills development.

Without trained professionals, the world could face a shortage of six million skilled workers in the renewable energy sector alone by 2030, including engineers, skilled tradespeople and teachers. This would put the 1.5°C climate target at risk of slipping out of reach.

This is where the Global Initiative on Jobs & Skills for the New Economy – launched by GIZ and initiated during COP30 in Belém – comes in. The initiative focuses on the skills transformation required due to technological and demographic change, geopolitics and climate change.

The session will highlight key challenges and discuss approaches that can deliver a triple dividend: more resilient economies, stronger social cohesion, and faster progress toward climate goals.

Guiding questions:

- With fewer than half of all NDCs currently including green skills strategies, what policy frameworks and international cooperation mechanisms can close the gap between climate ambition and workforce readiness at the pace the 1.5°C target demands?
- How can Just Energy Transition Partnerships and comparable instruments be designed to ensure that workers displaced by the phasing out of fossil fuels are not left behind and that the green economy creates jobs of genuine quality rather than merely jobs?
- Which education and vocational training models have demonstrated the greatest scalability across different income levels and regional contexts? What would it take to bring them from promising pilots to systemic transformation?

Speakers:

- Navid Hanif, Assistant Secretary-General for Economic Development, United Nations (UN), Department of Economic and Social Affairs, (DESA).
- Ingrid Hoven, Managing Director, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ).

- Shuva Raha, Fellow and Lead on International Cooperation, the Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW).
- Frauke Röser, Co-founder, the NewClimate Institute.
- Julie Rozenberg, Chief Economist, World Resources Institute.

Moderator: Nicolas J.A. Buchoud, Fellow, Global Solutions Initiative (GSI)

The Hidden Workforce of AI: Power, Labor and the Global Value Chain (curated in partnership with Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ))

DIALOGUES | June 1, 16:30 – 17:25 CEST

Theme: Digital and Artificial intelligence Transformation

While the Global North debates the future of white-collar work, the "Artificial" in AI is already being powered by a massive, often invisible human workforce. Behind every safe, helpful chatbot there are hundreds of human beings — almost exclusively in the Global South — performing the essential, high-stakes work of data labeling and content moderation critical for creating safe AI tools.

This session examines the AI value chain as a form of global infrastructure: who builds it, under what conditions, and with what stake in its governance. As AI moves from experimental to essential, how do we ensure the people building its foundations are not left in the shadows? The architecture of AI governance is being written now; the question is whether the workers powering it will benefit from it.

The session will analyze the current situation and what we can expect in the future, both at the grassroots and international level, bringing together the voices of workers organizing for dignity, the AI labs building the frontier, and the policymakers setting the rules. Furthermore, the session moves from diagnosis to architecture, mapping concrete pathways from local worker empowerment to global safety standards and asking what it would take to make the human foundations of the AI economy visible, valued and protected.

Guiding Questions:

- Who is building the AI value chain? Under what conditions? With what interest in controlling it?
- Given that AI is evolving from experimental to indispensable, how do we ensure that the people who create its foundations will benefit?
- What responsibilities do AI companies, governments and international institutions have to ensure good working conditions, rights protection and meaningful participation for workers in the Global South?

Confirmed Speakers:

- Ana Dujić, Director-General, Federal Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs, Germany.
- Prof. Mark Graham, Director, Fairwork.
- Julia Kloiber, Founder and CEO, Superrr Lab.
- Milagros Miceli, Research Group Lead, Weizenbaum Institute.

Moderator: Nicole Manger, Policy and Strategy Fellow, Global Solutions Initiative (GSI).

DEEP DIVES I

Between Summits: Aligning Priorities and Shaping Outcomes. G20 Sherpas and Global Leaders Exchange – “Invite-only”

DEEP DIVES I | June 1, 10:45 – 11:45 CEST

BY INVITATION ONLY

The US G20 presidency is underway against a volatile geopolitical backdrop, with priorities and deliverables still being negotiated through to the end of the year. France’s G7 Summit follows shortly after the GSS, with a focus on engaging emerging economies and positioning the G7 as a bridge across divides. The UK will assume the G20 next, and is expected to carry forward elements of both processes while navigating a more fragmented landscape.

These processes are not sequential. They overlap, operate under political constraints, and remain only loosely connected. Continuity and impact will depend less on formal handovers and more on whether alignment is built early, while agendas are still fluid.

This is not a moment for further diagnosis – the constraints are clear. The question is, where is there still leverage? Which elements of the US G20 agenda still offer entry points for global cooperation? Where can France extend rather than reset? How can the next G20 cycles carry these forward.

GSI convenes this by invitation exchange to bring together those shaping these agendas before positions harden. Leading think tanks, civil society and philanthropies help define the space for action, but often too late in the cycle. This session creates an off-the-record setting to coordinate earlier, with a clearer view of where joint action can still have impact.

Guiding Questions:

- Which elements of the current US G20 agenda still offer genuine entry points for multilateral cooperation? Where have positions already hardened beyond the reach of outside influence?
- How can France’s G7 presidency extend rather than reset the momentum built under the US G20? What would effective coordination between the two processes look like in practice?
- Where can think tanks, civil society and philanthropies intervene most effectively in the current cycle to shape outcomes and at what point in the agenda-setting process does that influence become marginal?

Moderators: Vidisha Mishra, Director, Global Outreach and Policy, Global Solutions Initiative (GSI).

Towards an Open and Common Artificial Intelligence Stack:
Government Dialogue Coordinated on Aligning Policy and
Infrastructure (curated in partnership with the Project Liberty
Institute (PLI)) - “Invite-only”

DEEP DIVES I | June 1, 12:10 – 13:25 CEST

BY INVITATION ONLY

Over the past two years, PLI and GSI have jointly led a dedicated initiative on government engagement with digital infrastructure strategy, culminating in the publication of a practical toolkit for policymakers, designed to support the design and governance of open human-centered digital systems. This work represents a uniquely strong foundation to convene senior government representatives to forge a shared vision for an open interoperable AI stack, with privacy and safety at its core.

This vision must be anchored in forward-looking policy that aligns legal frameworks with technical architecture and reflects growing public demand for accountability. It must, equally, be supported by the capital necessary to ensure that pro-human AI solutions achieve the scale required for meaningful impact.

The imperative for alignment is clear. PLI and GSI’s research findings consistently demonstrate that governments across the board are committed to deeper collaboration and interoperable infrastructure, yet few have identified concrete pathways to translate this intent into coordinated action. This session is designed to serve as a first deliberate building block toward closing that gap.

Moderator: Sarah Nicole, Policy and Research Manager, Project Liberty Institute (PLI).

Unbundling Artificial Intelligence Memory: Architectural Design as a Response to Platform Governance Failures (curated in partnership with the Global Initiative for Digital Empowerment (GIDE)) - “Invite-only”

DEEP DIVES I | June 2, 9:15 – 10:25 CEST

BY INVITATION ONLY

Who controls the memory of your AI system? Why does that question matter for democracy, sovereignty, and the future of digital governance?

Most modern AI systems collocate computational power with long-term user data inside centralized cloud infrastructure. Such a design choice has made the centralization of user memory one of today's most pressing AI governance challenges. This session proposes an alternative: AI systems can operate as stateless reasoning engines, while user memory is governed through distributed user-controlled architectures.

We examine the regulatory implications of this unbundling under existing regulatory frameworks (including the EU Digital Markets Act) and explore the geopolitical difficulties facing middle powers seeking to coordinate standards and protect digital sovereignty.

The window to shape these architectural choices is narrowing. As AI systems become embedded in public services, financial systems and everyday life, the governance frameworks that determine who owns, accesses and controls user memory will have consequences that extend far beyond technology policy. These consequences will extend into questions of power, accountability, and the capacity of middle powers to protect their citizens' digital sovereignty on their own terms.

Guiding Questions:

- If AI systems were redesigned to operate as stateless reasoning engines with user memory governed through distributed user-controlled architectures, what would that mean for the business models of dominant platforms? Is regulation sufficient to bring about such a shift?
- What do existing frameworks, such as the EU Digital Markets Act, actually require with respect to AI memory governance? Where are the gaps that middle powers need to address through coordinated standard setting?
 - How can like-minded governments build the shared technical and regulatory frameworks needed to protect digital sovereignty in the AI era, before the centralized architecture of today becomes the irreversible default of tomorrow?

Moderator:

Council of Global Problem Solving (CGP) Annual Meeting 2026 - “Invite-only”

DEEP DIVES I | June 2, 11:00 – 12:40 CEST

BY INVITATION ONLY

The annual gathering of the Council for Global Problem Solving (CGP) and the Think Tank Cooperation Network (TTCN) – a network of leading think tanks and research institutions providing evidence-backed policy advice across the G20, G7, BRICS, COP and related multilateral fora.

The 2026 Annual Meeting convenes at an inflection point, with the US holding the G20 presidency and France leading the G7. Both processes are grappling with a set of deeply interconnected challenges, yet neither forum can address these pressures in isolation and continuity across presidencies is increasingly at risk.

The meeting, held under Chatham House rules, is anchored in the premise that effective governance now requires a shift from universal rules-based multilateralism toward more adaptive coalition-based coordination. Within this architecture, the G7 and G20 can play complimentary roles, with the G20 providing scale, legitimacy and inclusion.

The CGP sits across both, helping to align analysis, sustain continuity, and translate ideas into actionable pathways. Given the 2026–27 presidential cycle, the meeting focuses on where the CGP’s collective influence can be most effective and on what concrete commitments member institutions take forward.

Moderators:

- Christian Kastrop, CEO and President, Global Solutions Initiative (GSI);
- Vidisha Mishra, Director of Global Outreach and Policy Engagement, Global Solutions Initiative (GSI),
- Dennis Snower, Founding President, Global Solutions Initiative (GSI)

Truth, Trust and the Democratic Mind - “Invite-only”

DEEP DIVES I | June 2, 14:00 – 15:00 CEST

BY INVITATION ONLY

Democracy rests on a shared relationship with truth. Citizens need to know that what they read is verifiable, that what persuades them is honest, and that the institutions adjudicating fact and fiction can be trusted. Generative AI now sits between billions of people and the world they are trying to understand. It is, increasingly, the place where knowledge is discovered, beliefs are formed, and political choices are shaped.

Several distinct forces are converging at once. Open knowledge ecosystems – including educational institutions, public-service media, and scientific publishing – are being quietly disintermediated as AI returns answers without showing their sources. Simultaneously, citizens, particularly children and youth during crucial windows of cognitive and relational development, are exposed to a new generation of conversational systems designed to simulate intimacy, build dependency, and potentially displace real-world human interactions. At the same time, the infrastructure on which a healthy public sphere depends is increasingly concentrated in a small number of opaque, commercial hands, raising profound concerns regarding trust, democracy, and systemic inequality.

This roundtable convenes a focused group to think clearly about what is at stake and what we can do about it inside a 12-month horizon. As a signatory to the Cannes Declaration on the Sovereignty of the Mind, GSI recognizes the vital importance of safeguarding human reflection and cognitive autonomy against covert behavioral influence. This conversation builds on those high-level principles, expanding the lens to bring together a small group of leaders to explore the broader implications of AI on cognition – with a particular focus on children and youth – and the cascading impacts across trust, democracy, and inequality.

Speakers:

- Khule Duma, Portfolio Lead: Programmes and Partnerships, Presidency of the Republic of South Africa.
- Franziska Heine, Executive Director, Wikimedia Deutschland.
- Stefano Quintarelli, Senior Advisor, Center for European Policy Studies.

Moderator: Ronald Ivey, Founder and CEO, Noësis Collaborative.

DEEP DIVES II

Global Sustainability Agendas – Sounding Board Consultation - “Invite-only”

DEEP DIVES II | June 2, 9:45 – 10:50 CEST

BY INVITATION ONLY

The UN 2030 Agenda and the broader landscape of global sustainability commitments are at a critical midpoint, far from completed and increasingly under pressure from geopolitical disruption, shrinking fiscal space, and a retreat from multilateral climate ambition in key donor countries. GSI’s ongoing project on Global Sustainability Agendas has been tracking these shifts, identifying where progress is still achievable and where the assumptions underpinning current frameworks need to be fundamentally revised. Sustainable agendas, first and foremost the UN 2030 Agenda, are far from being completed, and recent international developments have added further obstacles. Financing the green transition adequately and fairly, especially climate mitigation and adaptation measures, remains a major and problematic issue. In this context, what concrete approaches and steps are best suited to reduce the financing gaps and address the identified obstacles?

At half time of GSI’s project on Global Sustainability Agendas, this session will take stock of intermediate results and emerging recommendations and gather feedback from seasoned practitioners and policymakers.

Speakers:

- Niels Annen, State Secretary (Vice Minister), German Ministry for Development Cooperation.
- Amar Bhattacharya, Senior Fellow, Center for Sustainable Development, the Brookings Institution.
- Navid Hanif, Assistant Secretary-General for Economic Development, United Nations (UN), Department of Economic and Social Affairs, (DESA).
- Céline Kauffmann, Chief Programs Officer, IDDRI, T7 France 2026.
- Xiuli Xu, Dean of College of International Development and Global Agriculture, China Agricultural University.

Moderators: Ole Spies, Director of Programs, Global Solutions Initiative (GSI); Rémy A. Weber, Senior Program Manager, Global Solutions Initiative (GSI)

The China-EU Economic Relations: Ensuring Continuity in a Challenging Landscape (curated in partnership with the Centre for China and Globalization (CCG)) - “Invite-only”

DEEP DIVES II | June 2, 11:00 – 12:05 CEST

BY INVITATION ONLY

Europe and China's economic relationship remains crucial for both sides, which has been especially strained by recent geoeconomic developments. US trade policy and the cascading retaliatory dynamics it has triggered have created disruptions that pose serious challenges for both sides. Yet, the diplomatic channels through which trust might be rebuilt are themselves under pressure.

This roundtable brings together business representatives, thought leaders and officials in a setting designed for open exchanges rather than positioning. It explores how relations between European and Chinese actors can be stabilized and fostered, what is needed for this to happen, and whether progressive actors on both sides still share enough common ground to act upon it.

Speakers:

- Sebastian Schwark, CEO, SEC Newgate Germany; Senior Advisor, Global Solutions Initiative (GSI).
- Gerhard Stahl, Former Secretary General of EU Committee of the Regions; Visiting Professor, Peking University HSBC Business School.
- Huiyao Wang, Founder and President, Centre for China and Globalization (CCG).

Moderator: Dharmendra Kanani, Director of Policy and Programs and Chief Spokesperson, Friends of Europe

Mobilizing Private Investment for Sustainable Development
(curated in partnership with the Coalition of Finance Ministers for
Climate Action (CFMCA)) - “Invite-only”

DEEP DIVES II | June 2, 14:00 – 15:00 CEST

BY INVITATION ONLY

High-level reports on climate finance clarify that the bulk of investments to support wider SDG goals will have to come from private investments. The key obstacle is a business climate that is perceived as being unfavorable, as reflected in credit ratings and other indicators of investment risks. By contrast, for many Enterprise Data Management Council (EDMC) countries, for the bulk of the energy investments required for near-term mitigation strategies, green is less expensive than fossil-based energy due to favorable climate conditions, which make sun and wind power very attractive.

The session will discuss recent progress with respect to how three key instruments to derisk investment have contributed to and can contribute further to reducing the cost of capital. The session will aim to provide concrete examples of how this can work in practice by looking at investments in distributed energy that are likely to provide substantial energy resources in EDMC countries, with a strong positive impact on economic and social objectives, as well as greening the energy systems.

Speakers:

- Mads Dalum Libergren, Senior Advisor, Danish Ministry of Finance.
- Pekka Moren, [Global](#) Advisor, Coalition of Ministries of Finance Ministers for Climate Action (CFMCA).
- Sam Koojo Mugume, Co-chair, Coalition of Finance Ministers for Climate Action (CFMCA).

Moderator: Helge Sigurd Naess-Schmidt, Fellow, GSI; Independent Consultant, Denmark.