



forum TRT WORLD

# Inspiring Change in an Age of Uncertainty

18-19 October 2017 | Istanbul



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About

**TRT**WORLD

The Turkish Radio and Television Corporation, Turkey’s national public broadcaster, first hit airwaves on May 1st, 1964. TRT’s first television transmission followed on January 31st, 1968. Since its early days in radio, it has prided itself on providing quality, balanced programming. Today, TRT has evolved into a network of 14 television channels, 16 radio stations, and a variety of web platforms transmitted in 38 languages throughout the world.

At TRT’s newest channel, TRT World, audiences can expect balanced, in depth reporting with a focus on global responsibility. Headquartered in Istanbul, with four newsrooms located around the world, we bring you news coverage 24 hours a day, seven days a week. TRT World is on your TV, bringing you live reports and documentaries. Online, you’ll find articles and vodcasts, which means you can take the news with you on the go. TRT World follows you.

Our team of journalists work tirelessly to bring you, the world citizen, heart of the story, the humanitarian perspective. Through this, audiences gain knowledge about all sides of a debate and widen their understanding of the world. TRT World is where news inspires change.

# Forum Description

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The current state of the world is one of uncertainty. Political ruptures in global politics and the economic rise of non-Western countries have shaken the foundations of the established global order. The outbreak of conflicts has pushed millions to the margins, triggering the worst humanitarian crisis in decades. Against this backdrop, the TRT World Forum 2017 seeks to dissect, analyse and understand these pressing issues to inspire changes for a brighter and better future.

The current global order that emerged at the end of World War II is being increasingly challenged by what have historically been its most ardent supporters: the US and Western Europe. US President Donald Trump has spoken out against the North American Free Trade Agreement and rejected the Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement. He supported Brexit and has criticised the European Union, the United Nations, and NATO. He has also warned against US military involvement in foreign conflicts, instead focusing on nation-building at home as part of his “America First” policy.

In Europe, the rise of populist nationalist movements and their far-right agenda are threatening to dismantle the EU. The UK’s decision to leave the bloc has raised concerns as to whether other countries will follow. Austria, the Netherlands, and France managed to ward off Euro-sceptics and far-right political parties from taking power, but the pressure of xenophobic and Islamophobic sentiments cannot be easily ignored.

In the Middle East and North Africa, the Arab Uprisings promised to usher-in an age of political democratisation and economic growth. Long plagued by authoritarian and corrupt dictatorships, the region had high hopes for a new era of peace and prosperity. But the revolutions have failed to deliver on those promises, as deep centres of entrenched power reversed many of the changes that were beginning to take hold. Outside interference and the relentlessness of some regimes to remain in control also ensured the status quo to continue.

At the same time the interests and demands of developing countries can no longer be ignored. Nations long left on the side-lines are now a significant driver of global economic growth. Having logged record rates over the past decades, their economies are expected to outpace those of developed countries. The Global Financial Crisis of 2008 challenged the credibility of the neoliberal economic policies long pushed by the West. That failure allowed space for non-Western policies to be considered as a viable path for development. Emerging economies – such as China, India, Brazil, Nigeria and Turkey – are now more vocal and influential in determining and shaping the agenda of global institutions like the World Trade Organisation, the International Monetary Fund, and the United Nations.

Finally, the world is facing a growing humanitarian crisis unseen in decades, as conflicts and the affects of climate change bring misery to millions. According to the UN Refugee Agency, there were 63.5 million displaced people at the end of 2015, with the Syrian conflict accounting for over 5 million refugees; famines in Nigeria, South Sudan, Somalia and Yemen have claimed the lives of many and a further 20 million remain at risk.

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The TRT World Forum 2017: Inspiring Change in an Age of Uncertainty aims to provide a platform for academics, journalists, politicians and members of civil society to discuss, analyse and to understand these pressing issues as a way to identify possible solutions to the challenges that some of these issues pose. It aims to shed light on the shadows of uncertainty of the current global order.

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## Our AIM

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TRT WORLD aims to create an international platform in which global issues are discussed and thoroughly analysed at our annual forum.

TRT WORLD Forum aims to host a diverse array of speakers who specialise in different fields in order to explore and propose solutions to existing global and local problems.

Our aim is to inspire a perspective that places humans at the centre of the story, to bring unspoken issues to the forefront of the international agenda, and to focus on the responsibility of the media in a fast-changing world.

## Who will join?

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TRT WORLD FORUM 2017 will host 500 international guests, which include scholars, politicians, journalists, NGO representatives, and other members of civil society.

# Agenda

## Day 1

	Opening Ceremony Keynote Speech by President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan
<b>Session 1</b>	<b>Redefining the Global Agenda:</b> Old Guard vs New Players
	Lunch
<b>Session 2</b>	<b>Emerging Trends and New Threats in MENA Region</b>
<b>Session 3</b>	<b>Re-thinking Media:</b> Responsible Reporting on War Crimes

## Day 2

	Keynote Speech TBA
<b>Session 1</b>	<b>Transforming Humanitarian Aid:</b> A Refined Approach
	Lunch
<b>Session 2</b>	<b>Big Business, Big Solutions:</b> Encouraging Corporate Social Responsibility
<b>Session 3</b>	<b>Capitalising on Fear:</b> The Politicisation of Xenophobia and Islamophobia
<b>Session 4</b>	<b>Digital Influencers and Their Role in Shaping Public Discourse</b>

# Day 1

## Session 1

# Redefining the Global Agenda Old Guard vs New Players

The rest of the world can no longer ignore the interests and demands of emerging powers like China, India, Brazil and Turkey. With economic growth that is expected to exceed their developed peers, these new players are shaking the very foundation of the established economic order, hence political consensus. Emerging powers are being more vocal about shaping the world and its institutions like the World Trade Organisation, the International Monetary Fund, and the United Nations. This necessitates that the old guards and the new players to come together to lay the foundation for a new socio-political & socio-economic contract for a new global order that is more inclusive in its nature and more reflective of today's world in its structure.

- How are emerging powers influencing and reshaping the established global order?
- What are the most-glaring faults of the established global order? And how to rectify them?
- Are emerging powers a “threat” to the status quo of established powers?
- What opportunities will new global institutions, like the BRICS and China’s “One Belt, One Road” initiative, provide? What challenges lie ahead?
- What impact will proposals of solidarity between developing nations have on sustainable development?
- Will emerging powers remain in their ‘emergence’ state?



# Day 1

## Session 2

# Emerging Trends and New Threats in MENA Region

The Arab Uprisings promised a new era of change and political stability, where the rule of law, democratic politics, and economic welfare would be the guiding principles. But the revolutions failed to deliver on those promises, as previous authoritarian structures and deep police states of the region resisted the changes that were envisioned to take place. This session will explore the power structures at play, the obstacles and barriers to change, and future prospects of political and social change in the region.

- What are the structural factors that drive and sustain instability in the MENA region?
- What are the prospects of building democratic institutions? Can decentralisation help solve problems in the region?
- What platforms could be provided for countries to rebuild their economies and social institutions after years of war?
- How can regional institutions -- such as the Arab League, the GCC, and the OIC -- help remedy existing crises and pave the way for a more stable MENA region?

# Day 1

## Session 3

# Re-thinking Media Responsible Reporting on War Crimes

Media depicts day-to-day events but also produces narratives of global events. The media's coverage of the Arab Uprisings, Turkey's failed coup, and elections in the West show how the media increasingly transmutes itself from a conveyor to a policy-influencer. Understanding the liminal position of media and its future in an era dominated by uncertainty requires continuous scrutinisation of its very conceptual and institutional foundations.

- How do media shape public opinion and government policies?
- How are emerging media sources in the developing world influencing current discourse?
- How are the social foundations of media changing, and will that affect responsible journalism?
- What role does the media play in empowering the voiceless and helping build peace in troubled regions?
- What are the factors that impact media transformations? How likely will these transformations impact media coverage?
- How can traditional and new media platforms bridge the gap between the people and state?
- Can social media play a complementary role with the conventional media in information production? Can both harmonise?
- How is media adapting with increasing cyber threats?



# Day 2

## Session 1

# Transforming Humanitarian Aid A Refined Approach

Humanitarian aid is an important tool to stabilise and rehabilitate the conflict-ridden societies. However, aid remains limited and unsustainable in the long-term without innovatively maximising its usage. This session aims to explore new methods through which resources could be efficiently used to reduce the dependency of aid recipients and transform them into self-sufficient social actors. Recipients may become part of the global community of donors in the future. In this respect, finding long-term solutions for humanitarian challenges will be examined and debated in this session, with a particular focus on the Syrian crisis.

- What strategies and policies can break the cycle of dependency that humanitarian aid creates?
- What roles will global institutions, such as the UN Sustainable Development Goals framework, play in promoting sustainable development?
- How have former aid recipient countries gone on to change international aid models?
- How can technological innovation contribute to the creation of low-cost and efficient solutions to empower recipient societies?
- What long-term social and economic approaches would be best suited to help rebuild Syria and assist the return of refugees?



# Day 2

## Session 2

# Big Business, Big Solutions Encouraging Corporate Social Responsibility

Greater corporate involvement in the relief sector can provide long-term economic gains and deliver much-needed expertise, hence solutions. Technological innovation is driven by the corporate sector's relentless efforts to increase efficiency and maximise resources. Technological innovation, not just financial contribution, can also be used to create sustainable solutions that can be used by the relief sector to assist marginalised and impoverished societies.

- Why should corporations get involved in humanitarian crises and how can they make their role more effective?
- Why have some corporations provided humanitarian aid while others prefer not to get involved?
- How can the role of the private sector and multinational corporations be improved to help solve humanitarian disasters?
- What dangers exist by involving business or corporations in humanitarian crisis?

## ”” Day 2

## Session 3

# Capitalising on Fear

## The Politicisation of Xenophobia and Islamophobia

The refugee influx in Europe has boosted xenophobia and fed the rise of extremist right-wing nationalist parties. While xenophobia and racism have been more visible in the European context, these social phenomena also exist in other geographic areas, but they are underemphasised. Drawing on previous historical experiences, this session will look into the conditions under which xenophobia grows and the strategies that can be developed to minimise the phenomenon.

- Has multiculturalism failed to fully address xenophobia?
- How do stereotypes of minorities feed mistrust?
- How can the balance between press freedom and religious sensitivities be achieved?
- How do legal changes that negatively affect minority groups fuel xenophobia?
- What are the proper social channels to address xenophobia?
- How can policy-makers and media groups help develop platforms to counter xenophobia and cultivate tolerance?



## Day 2

### Session 4

# Digital Influencers and Their Role in Shaping Public Discourse

As digital media on mobile devices is the primary platform of communication with the outside world, the rise of digital influencers continues to grow. Community leaders and celebrities have been replaced by individuals who gain popularity on social media. The popularity of influencers on YouTube highlights how young people who create content on digital platforms have the ability to garner international attention. Digital influencers have become the role models of millennials.

With their massive fan base, what responsibility do they have in shaping public discourse? Many influencers can use their popularity to promote social good. This session looks at the role of digital influencers in shaping public discourse. We look at the responsibilities of influencers toward their audiences and the ways they can inspire change.



## Venue and Date

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### **Conrad Hotels & Resorts** **October 18-19**

Our guests will stay at the Conrad Istanbul Bosphorus Hotel, which is located in Besiktas, one of Istanbul's oldest and well-known neighbourhoods. We will be hosting our guests in the residential and commercial centre of the European side of the city. The Conrad Istanbul Bosphorus Hotel boasts fantastic transportation links to Istanbul's amazing landmarks.



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