

The Global Reset: From the Old Order to New Realities

**TRT
world
forum**

**TRT
world
forum**

**TRT
world
forum**

**TRT
world
forum**

PUBLIC SESSIONS

TRT
world
forum

Building Strategic Autonomy: Türkiye and the Global Defence Paradigm

The global security architecture is undergoing a profound transformation, shaped by advances in artificial intelligence, semiconductors, quantum initiatives, and space technologies. In an increasingly uncertain and fragile international environment, states are accelerating their defence investments in an effort to enhance strategic deterrence. Türkiye, in this context, has restructured its defence industry around the principle of strategic autonomy, particularly in response to cross-border threats and internal security challenges. Over the past two decades, the localisation rate has risen from approximately 20% to over 80%, supported by the development of indigenous systems such as BAYRAKTAR TB3, KIZILELMA, KAAAN, HÜRJET, ATAK, TCG Anadolu, ATMACA, and GÖKDOĞAN. These advancements not only bolster Türkiye's national defence capabilities but also expand its footprint in global defence markets. The recent acquisition of Italy-based Piaggio Aerospace by BAYKAR, alongside joint ventures with Leonardo, illustrates Türkiye's growing role in European defence integration and aligns with NATO's emphasis on qualitative innovation and strategic diversification beyond mere expenditure increases.

This session aims to examine the transformation of Türkiye's defence industry within the broader ambition of attaining strategic autonomy in a shifting security landscape. Particular attention will be given to its evolving role within NATO, engagements with the European Defence Agency, and the

implications of an expanding export network reaching over 180 countries. The discussion will further explore how Türkiye's defence systems are reshaping military paradigms, influencing geopolitical balances, and contributing to the recalibration of multilateral security structures.

Discussion Themes

- How are global and regional actors such as the United States, China, Russia, and the European Union reshaping their security strategies as part of the new defence paradigm, and how is this transformation impacting the international security architecture?
- How do Türkiye's recent policies focused on domestic and indigenous defence production create strategic opportunities and challenges within the context of the emerging defence paradigm?
- How do Türkiye's advancements in military technologies—such as unmanned aerial vehicles and electronic warfare systems—contribute to capacity building in defence diplomacy, and what implications do these developments have at the international level?
- In light of NATO membership and other multilateral security engagements, how is Türkiye's repositioning itself within the evolving defence paradigm, and what are the potential implications of this transformation for its relations with allies?

The Return of High-Stakes Diplomacy: Middle Powers and the Emerging Multipolar Order

The global order is undergoing a significant transformation as the era of unipolar dominance gives way to a more diverse and competitive geopolitical landscape. In this emerging multipolar world, high-stakes diplomacy is once again taking centre stage. While great power rivalries escalate, middle powers are assuming more prominent roles, building strategic partnerships, advancing regional priorities, and advocating for fairer international systems. Their growing influence reflects a shift in how diplomacy and leadership are exercised in today's world, where agility and cooperation are increasingly essential.

The session will explore how middle powers are responding to shifting power dynamics through strategic diplomacy and versatile leadership. It will examine their role in shaping regional alignments, mediating global conflicts, and proposing collaborative solutions to shared challenges. The discussion will also assess how middle powers might contribute to reforming global governance structures to ensure broader representation, and how their actions could help foster a more balanced and resilient international order.

Discussion Themes

- How are middle powers redefining global diplomacy in the context of emerging multipolarity and great power rivalry?
- What leadership strategies and alliances are middle powers using to enhance their influence on global and regional issues?
- Could Türkiye offer a viable model for how middle powers contribute to future conflict resolution and peacebuilding initiatives?
- What role can middle powers play in reforming global governance to reflect emerging realities and non-Western perspectives?

Economic Frontlines: Trade Conflicts and the New Global Rivalries

As geopolitical rivalries deepen, global trade is undergoing a profound transformation. What once served as a bridge for mutual growth and cooperation has become a strategic tool in great power competition. Tariffs, export controls, and investment restrictions are now wielded as instruments of economic statecraft, signaling a shift away from liberal economic norms toward a landscape where national security concerns dominate trade policy. This shift is driving efforts to decouple major economies, especially between the US and China, leading to the reconfiguration of global value chains, relocation of manufacturing hubs, and intensified competition over critical technologies and rare earth materials.

The session examines how these shifts in supply chains are producing varied impacts across regions, affecting economic stability and development in Asia, Europe, Africa, and Latin America. It explores state responses to rising tensions and the risks of global trade fragmentation. The session also considers the resurgence of protectionism, its effects on economic resilience and innovation, and analyses the growing influence of middle and emerging powers in shaping trade governance within an era of strategic interdependence.

Discussion Themes

- How are decoupling efforts, particularly between the US and China, reshaping global value chains and driving the relocation of manufacturing hubs worldwide?
- In what ways are tariffs, export controls, and investment restrictions being used as instruments of economic statecraft, and how is this shift affecting traditional norms of global trade cooperation?
- How are different regions—such as Asia, Europe, Africa, and Latin America—being uniquely impacted by supply chain disruptions and tariff conflicts amid escalating geopolitical tensions?
- What roles can middle and emerging powers play in responding to the resurgence of protectionism and in shaping a more resilient and equitable global trade governance system amid growing strategic competition?

International Law in Retreat in Palestine?: Turning Crisis into Reform

The optimism surrounding the universalisation of international legal norms in the post-Cold War era has gradually eroded amid the resurgence of geopolitical rivalries and dominant powers exploiting law for their own gain. Key institutions, particularly the UN Security Council, have struggled to respond effectively to ongoing conflicts such as the war in Ukraine and the genocide in Gaza. This highlights the increasing gap between legal principles and political realities. However, rather than signalling the end of international law, these crises have also drawn attention to the potential of legal institutions such as the International Court of Justice (ICJ) and the International Criminal Court (ICC) to assert their authority. This has been demonstrated in recent proceedings concerning genocide and war crimes. Against this backdrop, calls for structural reform and a more equitable international order — as reflected in Türkiye's advocacy for global justice and its critique of institutional asymmetries — have gained new relevance.

This session will explore whether the current crises could signal a turning point in the revitalisation of international legal frameworks. It will explore the evolving role of international courts, the implications of ongoing legal proceedings, and the normative ambitions of states advocating reform. Ultimately, the discussion will assess whether today's legal and political transformations can generate momentum for a more resilient and inclusive rules-based order.

Discussion Themes

- To what extent have recent geopolitical crises exposed the limitations of existing international legal mechanisms?
- Can ongoing proceedings at the ICJ and ICC restore the credibility and authority of international law?
- How do calls for institutional reform—such as Türkiye's advocacy for global justice—reshape debates on the future of multilateralism?
- What role can middle powers play in advancing a more inclusive and resilient international legal order?

Beyond Techno-Feudalism: Democratising AI Innovation, Governance, and Access

From innovation to governance and access, artificial intelligence is increasingly dominated by a few powerful corporations, restricting others' ability to utilise proprietary infrastructure and data resources. This threatens AI inclusiveness, as control over not only the means of production but also platforms, data, algorithms, and regulatory frameworks is concentrated in the hands of a few, leaving the rest dependent on the gatekeeping of dominant corporations. Such centralised control over AI—from the design of models to their final deployment—limits individual and collective freedoms, exacerbates existing inequalities, and undermines democratic principles, creating conditions that risk enabling forms of techno-fascism and ultimately harming collective welfare.

This session will examine the growing dominance of powerful corporations over AI innovation, governance, and access, alongside the consequent conditions leading to emerging techno-feudalism. The session will analyse growing techno-feudalism's profound impacts on individuals and corporations, including the erosion of freedoms, deepening inequalities, and the normalisation of techno-fascist tendencies. The discussion will also focus on strategies and solutions to overcome existing dominance dynamics, highlighting the need for open access, transparency, and inclusive governance models that democratise AI development and deployment, empower diverse communities, and protect collective welfare.

Discussion Themes

- How can we break down the concentration of power in AI without simply replacing one dominant player with another?
- Is corporate-led AI on a dangerous path towards techno-fascism, and if so, what concrete actions can we take to divert its course?
- In what ways could AI genuinely become the great equaliser, creating a more level playing field for everyone?
- What would it genuinely take to democratise AI development—not just in name, but in who owns, controls, and benefits from AI?

Syria's New Dawn: Charting a Course for Reconstruction and Stability

The new government in Syria faces the challenge of rebuilding after over five decades of authoritarian rule and nearly fourteen years of armed conflict. As the country transitions away from Ba'athist control, Syria's new leadership seeks to create an inclusive framework that reflects the diverse aspirations of all citizens, bridging ethnic, sectarian, and political divides. The involvement of key nations, including Türkiye, is vital for the success of this transition. Ankara actively provides diplomatic, military, and economic support while helping reintegrate Damascus into the international community.

This session will explore Syria's road to recovery, with a focus on stabilisation, economic revitalisation, institution-building, and governance. Speakers will discuss challenges, strategies and solutions that would help Syria emerge as a stable, prosperous state that contributes to regional security and cooperation.

Discussion Themes

- How can regional and international partners effectively contribute to Syria's reconstruction, recovery, and reconciliation?
- How can Syria's new leadership rebuild the economy in a way that addresses the economic disparities exacerbated by years of conflict and authoritarian rule?
- What strategies can international actors implement to ensure that Syria's recovery process promotes resilience and self-sufficiency, reducing long-term dependency on external aid?
- What are the foundational priorities for building an inclusive and functional governance framework in post-Assad Syria, and how can transitional justice mechanisms contribute to national reconciliation?

Journalism on the Frontlines: From Battlefield Risks to Algorithmic Suppression

In volatile conflict zones such as Gaza, Ukraine, Kashmir and India-Pakistan, journalism today faces a relentless twofold assault that endangers the safety of reporters and threatens the stories they seek to share. On the one hand, journalists endure direct physical violence and repression at the hands of occupying or warring powers, such as Israel's bombings, arrests and communication blackouts, which aim to silence first-hand eyewitness reporting from Gaza. On the other hand, digital platforms impose a more subtle but equally insidious form of suppression. Across regions like Gaza, Ukraine, and Kashmir, journalists face a twofold threat: physical violence from conflict actors and digital silencing via opaque algorithmic systems. This dual-layered erasure — both physical and digital — systematically obstructs global audiences from accessing comprehensive, truthful accounts of ongoing wars and occupations.

This session will explore how journalists, independent media networks and civil society organisations are resisting the combined pressures of wartime censorship and algorithmic suppression. The discussions will focus on exposing wartime digital censorship, amplifying marginalised voices from conflict zones and establishing resilient storytelling infrastructures that can withstand these challenges. The session will highlight how war reporting from Gaza, Ukraine, Kashmir and the India-Pakistan region is

filtered, manipulated or erased by global digital platforms. Participants will also explore collaborative efforts to protect press freedom, promote ethical journalism and challenge dominant narratives that distort complex realities. The session will emphasise fostering cross-border solidarity and safeguarding journalism in both the physical and digital realms.

Discussion Themes

- How can journalists in conflict zones like Gaza, Ukraine, and Kashmir protect the integrity and visibility of their stories amid battlefield risks and algorithmic suppression?
- How do social media algorithms prioritise certain war narratives—such as those from Gaza, Ukraine, and India-Pakistan—while marginalising others? How does this shape global perceptions, and what strategies can challenge this dynamic?
- What strategies and forms of international support can protect journalists who are deliberately targeted by war criminals for exposing human rights abuses?
- How can media ecosystems build resilience against digital censorship and algorithmic manipulation during wartime?



@trtworldforum



trtworldforum.com