

GLOBSEC 2018

BRATISLAVA FORUM SUMMARY

Adapting the Future





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INTRODUCTION

Like other parts of the world Central Europe is living through dangerous and uncertain times. Fortunately, opportunities for long-lasting and positive change are all around us. From shifts in the labour market to the development of new sectors for growth, these openings will determine whether our societies can adapt to meet the needs and challenges of the 21st century.

Unfortunately, there has also been an eroding of the moral fabric of our communities, with once controversial ideas gaining in acceptance and credibility. This trend must be reversed. Similarly, unscrupulous leaders bent on undermining independent journalism and attacking civil society are harming our modern democracies. These self-interested actors wish to slowly erode the institutions which safeguard societies. Such attacks might also reverse the progress Central Europe has made since the end of the Cold War.

However, all is not bleak. In many arenas civil society and citizens are standing up to these blatant and hidden attacks, showing that the foundations of our democracies are not as flimsy as portrayed. Thanks to advances in technology and innovation a more sustainable future – filled with local solutions and global partners – is no longer a distant hope but a very close reality.

The 13th edition of GLOBSEC 2018 Bratislava Forum once again brought together decision-makers, movers and shakers from academia, business, politics and non-governmental organisations to develop constructive solutions for some of the world's biggest challenges. For instance, guests and panellists probed for a more complete picture of the advances and difficulties presented by new technologies like artificial intelligence (AI) and blockchain. And while participants offered a wealth of practical solutions, many nevertheless conceded that there are no easy answers to today's problems.

Despite numerous causes for optimism, GLOBSEC 2018 Bratislava Forum also highlighted worrying trends that need to be tackled with sensitivity and caution. These are distributed across the five key streams of discussions at this year's event: cyber security; defence; energy and sustainability; innovation and technology; and the future of Europe. ●

CYBER SECURITY

Building on the security character in its core, GLOBSEC 2018 Bratislava Forum devoted special attention to cyberspace and cyber security. Participants concurred that this is the critical space to look out for never-before-seen threats to our societies and potential confrontations among global players. Nevertheless, the very term “cyber security” is a bit of a misnomer. “Cyber resilience” would be more appropriate term much more accurately describing what is possible in terms of shoring up our defences for cyber age.



We should care about #cyber threats coming from bad guys as well as about risks related to new technologies. But it doesn't mean we should step back. Instead, we should tackle the risks and continue our way forward, - @MarinaKaljurand at #GLOBSEC2018

In addition, this year's Forum hosted the third full meeting of the Global Commission on the Stability of Cyberspace (GCSC), a group of 30 distinguished personalities chaired by former Estonian Foreign Minister, Marina Kaljurand, committed to ensuring the general availability and integrity of the Internet.

The stream of sessions on cyber security kicked off with a discussion on the various definitions of cyberwar. It soon became clear that no consensus has been reached on whether cyberwar constitutes a new type or component of traditional warfare. Debates also focussed on whether a cyber-attack that had consequences for the 'physical world' justifies a traditional military response from a government, a dilemma which also hints at a lack of consensus on how to answer these attacks.

Fortunately, some of the above issues were quickly dispelled. It was agreed that cyber space does connect with the physical world through infrastructure, and this is necessary to understand if there is going to be any kind of meaningful international regulations. States must take responsibility for any cyber-attacks launched from their territory.

However, what form these regulations should take is still a quandary. Most of the panellists were wary of concluding treaties like those promoted by Russia and China that would extend a strict adherence of sovereignty into cyberspace. As they saw it, repressive regimes see information as a threat that must be controlled, a stance which goes against the liberal values of western democracies.

Most telling was the observation that we are essentially living in a state of permanent cyber conflict, and this is likely to continue for the foreseeable future. Yet, there are no clear escalation paths for responding to cyber conflict. States, international bodies as well as perpetrators of cyber-crimes do not know what the responses will be, and this adds to the confusion surrounding cyberwar.

The best course of action, it was decided, would be to have a proactive stance that shores up the defences of a country, especially any vulnerable infrastructure. In any case, cyber war will probably always be, in some way, a reactionary game. Additionally, there is the dearth of knowledgeable decision-makers who are familiar enough with the realm of cyber security. This hinders the communication between leaders, no matter if they are allies, and impedes the decision-making when devising quick responses to online attacks.

Apart from the military sector, the debates tapped into largely defining role that private sector plays in present and future of cyber security. In a very frank debate, the participants pointed out repeatedly that they find the amount of sensitive personal data collected by big private companies disturbing. The aforementioned was further discussed in two additional panels focused on the sheer amount of data gathered by governments and private companies.

Most people surveyed in session's poll expressed a growing distrust towards social media and online platforms. The effects of disinformation and

microtargeting on society are now well known, thanks to notable examples like the tampering in the last US presidential elections. Such new phenomenon and scale of threat requires global community to create a policy framework aimed at protecting democratic institutions and processes from cyberattacks.



Great panel on #cyber threats to democracy at #GLOBSEC2018: disinformation can't be addressed only through technology. Most of the times it builds on existing distrust & a grain of legitimate criticism.

In this regard, the meeting of GCSC on the sidelines of the GLOBSEC 2018 Bratislava Forum has produced a practical outcome towards protecting election infrastructure of states against cyber attacks. The proposed norm to be advocated for reads as follows: “*State and non-state actors should not pursue, support or allow cyber operations intended to disrupt the technical infrastructure essential to elections, referenda or plebiscites.*”

Apart from that, the Commission made progress on several additional norms in Bratislava. In particular, on barring the insertion of vulnerabilities into essential cyberspace products and services, advocating for governments to consider disclosing software and hardware vulnerabilities to vendors and further definition of the elements of the public core of the Internet.

At the same time, further sessions raised a point that democracies overlook the exterritoriality of internet rules that do not always cohere with their national laws. This unsteadies our moral compass and allows for a negative backlash against an otherwise fantastic advances in technology.

Finally, GLOBSEC community brainstormed about the type of online security required for the cyber space of the coming decades. Refreshingly, the session Facing Cyber Futures noted that while technologically advanced states have made huge progress in this area, around 140 countries are not present at any table discussing cyber security. With large portions of their populations already online, they are not equipped to properly protect

their citizens. Consequently, digitally advanced states need to stop looking at each other and start having discussions with countries which have little to no cyber security awareness.

“Cybersecurity is being recognized now as part of national security.”

Hon. Marina Kaljurand, former Minister of Foreign Affairs of Estonia; Chair, GCSC

Besides, each country needs to assess its digital risks based on what goals it has for the next five years. This is essential because if you don't know what your goals are, you run blind risks. China was noted as an example of a state with clearly stated goals which allows the Chinese to better prepare for the associated risks. Unfortunately, democracies have the most difficulty with assessing digital risk because of the debates and related bureaucratic procedures which slow down key processes. Still, all governments need to act quickly and efficiently.

“We have to fundamentally change the way we teach computer science. We should teach how to code responsibly,”

Melissa Hathaway, Senior Adviser, Cybersecurity Initiatives, Harvard Kennedy School



From left to right ▶ Melissa Hathaway, Hon. Marina Kaljurand, Isaac Ben-Israel

One quickly growing but also the most vulnerable feature of cyber future is the Internet of Things. Ideas like resilient programming are starting to enter the discussion however the truth is with 1 billion lines of code there will always be errors that could be exploited opening up our societies to in-built vulnerabilities.

Inevitably, the dawn of cyber future already has and will continue to have major impact on variety of private sectors. Case in point mentioned at the session were the insurance companies which will be required to adopt policies for digital behaviour of their customers. Although their costs might currently be too prohibitive for the market, they will likely soon become integral part of the insurance portfolios. Moreover, AI-driven products unpredictably changing their functioning once the developer sells them to the consumer, will force us to agree on the appropriate assignment of responsibility for such product. Should it be the developer of consumer whose use modified the product? Practical questions like these, however, remain open for the time being. ●

DEFENCE & SECURITY

GLOBSEC 2018 Bratislava Forum once again reflected on the most pressing global challenges facing the world today. High on the agenda within Defence & Security stream were topics such as future of multilateralism, adaptation of NATO in the run-up to the summit in Brussels, developments in the Middle East especially after President Trump's decision to pull out of Iran nuclear deal, situation on Korean peninsula, navigating relations with Russia and viability of transatlantic bond under Trump's administration and beyond.

One of the most descriptive session titles, *Multilateralism in the "Me-First" World with No Rules*, looked at how 20th century designs for multilateral processes and institutions have been challenged by a new wave of inward looking state and non-state actors where "no rules" is the new norm.

Current President of the UN General Assembly **Miroslav Lajčák** called for 'multilateral renaissance' to overcome the current downturn in security and global coexistence. We have the tools at our disposal, we just need to start using them properly. Dialogue remains crucial and should aim at balancing conflicting narratives. This should come with a rethinking of not what is being said but how it is being said.

 At #GLOBSEC2018 incoming #OSCE Chairperon-in-office @MiroslavLajcak calls for a "multilateral renaissance". "All tools are there, in our multilateral toolbox. We just need to use them."

Proponents of anti-multilateralism have no constructive counterproposal to offer as an alternative. This is also why the current United Nations (UN) design is the best working and universally acceptable format, including the veto mechanism in the Security Council. In fact, the existence of the UN helps other formats like the G8 or the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) to develop and adapt.



► H. E. Miroslav Lajčák

“Me only” or “me at your expense” will not get you very far. States have self-interest to work together. Not altruism for sake of world peace, but effective multilateralism for sake of realpolitik.”

Hon. Thomas Greminger, Secretary-General, OSCE

Political stability is being challenged simultaneously in different places all over the world and manifesting for example in the ongoing rise of populism across Europe and beyond or the use of chemical weapons by state actors. We are also witnessing the militarisation of the South China Sea and the rollback of democratic processes in states like Egypt and Indonesia. And while these developments place additional strains on the UN, it nevertheless remains the world's leading multilateral platform, and one that engages with states who at first sight do not seem to align with its universal principles.

“UN is advantageous for China. China speaks differently that the rest of the world, but when it speaks so, it also does so.”

H. E. Vassily Nebenzia, Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the UN

Surviving the “post-rule world” led into a chat about an old familiar expression in the theory of international relations. “Soft power” is a buzzword that has been used over the past few decades in security circles to explain the growing influence of world powers beyond their traditional reach.



From left to right ► Ali Aslan, Joseph Nye

Today, the liberal international order is changing in order to accommodate other “newer” players such as China. In his fireside chat at the GLOBSEC 2018 Bratislava Forum, Joseph Nye said that we need to learn that real power is not a power over others, but a power with others. Therefore, he maintained that unless we work with China, we will not be able to influence other countries. Although professor Nye regrets that President Trump went back to the policy of telling others what to do - often via his twitter account - he assured the audience that soft power remains a relevant and influential policy method. It can be scalable, as even small countries can use it for their foreign policy goals, albeit with a more limited range of options.

New Days, New Threats: Adapting NATO’s Strategy

Since the Warsaw Summit, NATO members have committed more funds to developing their military and security framework. However, it is time to adapt NATO’s overall strategy to meet the new threats facing the Alliance today.

Based on audience poll to kick off the session on NATO, 67% of GLOBSEC community still considers NATO very relevant in meeting the 21st century threats. On the other hand, NATO’s current

capabilities fall short of its need to protect all states of the Alliance, which means we need to coordinate efforts to maximise their effect.



From left to right ► Tom Clark, Gen. (Ret.) John Allen, Amb. Tacan Ildem, H. E. Jüri Luik, Gen. Philip Breedlove

[@PMBreedlove](#) invites nations to start their homework on military mobility now by testing physical infrastructures. Are bridges etc still capable of supporting heavy military equipment? To do that, no new political decisions are needed. #GLOBSEC2018

NATO must also adapt to the new threats that materialised in recent years, in particular the threat of terrorism, cyber and hybrid warfare. The upcoming NATO summit will deliver new reform of the command structure to make it fit-for-purpose for the years ahead. Furthermore, NATO must work closer with the EU to deter against the threat of economic energy-related pressure from Russia on Baltic States and other states in the Eastern flank. Commitment to defending the Baltic states against potential Russian aggression remains among most pressing issues for the Alliance. At GLOBSEC 2018 Bratislava Forum, It was reaffirmed, emphatically, that any aggression towards the three small but important states would be met with full support.

“It is peaceful in the Baltics because we were successful in the Baltics. The same should be the case of Southern flank.”

H. E. Jüri Luik, Minister of Defence of Estonia

Russia

Navigating current tensions between Russia and the West merited its own session which concluded that numerous volatile situations around the world require Moscow and its Western counterparts to work together despite their differences in order to find peaceful solutions. In places like Ukraine, Syria and the wider Middle East, the tensions are running high and diverse ideologies could lead to further regional and global conflict. Still, the discussion was not optimistic about finding a compromise between both sides any time soon.



#Globsec2018 on Russia West relations chairman #Nikonov constantly mocking professionalism of Trump administration during panel discussion, calling John Bolton the biggest hope of Russia because he at least remember something on international relations.



From left to right ► Amb. Wolfgang Ischinger, Ian Brzezinski, Vyacheslav Nikonov, Amb. Tomáš Valášek

Russia seems convinced that its willingness to compromise in the past has been abused by the West. That’s why the West should not expect Moscow to buckle under the pressure of sanctions; if anything, it will witness Russia’s resolve getting stronger. The West is eager to open discussions that could lead to a sustainable solution for Donbas and other areas of major disagreements. Russia wants to open channels of communication with the West as well but without compromising on issues such as Ukraine or Georgia, which the West considers of major importance.

“It is meaningless to try to achieve some consensus with Russia, unless the situation is the same on Donbas.”

*Amb. Wolfgang Ischinger, Chairman,
Munich Security Conference*



The Middle East

Numerous civil wars are threatening the status quo of the Middle East but achieving a more balanced power-sharing system seems far from reach. Additionally, there are competing interests from all over the world at work in the region while the inter- and intra-country tensions are flaring up constantly, thus increasing the possibility for localised and regionalised conflict.

“United Arab Emirates contributed crucially to preventing Daesh from getting into Bagdad as well as to fighting terrorism and delivering counter messages.”

*Gen. (Ret.) John Allen, President,
The Brookings Institution*

This year’s GLOBSEC 2018 Bratislava Forum provided a rare occasion in Central Europe to listen to the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and his solutions for peace in the Middle East. H. E. Anwar Mohammed Gargash underlined what regional stability means for his country and also why it is so difficult to

achieve. As he sees it, the Middle East's long-term peace and stability rests, among others, on the following factors: true alliances and coalitions of like-minded Arab states; no interference by hostile powers such as Turkey and Iran; regional military coalitions; cooperation with NATO and other stabilisation missions; and not sweeping extremist issues under carpet.



► H. E. Anwar Mohammed Gargash

The Korean Peninsula

The past several months have seen a dramatic turnaround in tensions between the two Koreas and their allies. Expectations for the intended summit with the US were high also at the Forum, however it remained uncertain it would deliver a real and verifiable denuclearisation.

Indeed, the hype surrounding the possible summit may have inflated expectations beyond a reasonable level. The US stresses the goal of the full denuclearisation of the Korean peninsula but both Russia and China do not expect North Korea to give up its core nuclear capabilities in the near future. Pyongyang has drawn lessons from the case of Libya and considers its nuclear capability to be the only guarantee of the country's survival. In case the summit is successful and delivers an agreement, then the next item on the list would be the unification of Koreas.

The US and Europe

The transatlantic relationship has fallen into a state of crisis under the Trump administration. The incumbent US president has not given

any indication of a desire to maintain a strong relationship with Europe. Indeed, his recent decision to pull out of the Iran deal are harming European interests.

“US will need to have an answer for countries who question why it's worth working with the US on time-consuming deals when it could quickly withdraw despite compliance.”

Catherine Ashton, former High Representative of the EU for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy

At the same time, there is a growing frustration in the US concerning Europe's insufficient investment in defence. There have been many disagreements between Europe and the US in the past, such as the war in Iraq, yet the relationship has so far prevailed. In terms of concrete decisions, however, the US is continuing and even strengthening its commitment to the defence of Europe.

“We can't understand in the US why we care more about the European defence and energy security than the EU itself.”

Damon Wilson, Vice President, Atlantic Council

Nevertheless, the communication coming out of the White House is clearly antagonising to many Europeans. There is a danger of the relationship entering a negative and antagonistic circle.



From left to right ► Gen. (Ret.) John Allen, Hon. Carl Bildt, Baroness Catherine Ashton



"@realDonaldTrump denies Europe's sovereign right to its own foreign policy. He is using Europe as a doormat." @carlbildt brings the candor to #GLOBSEC2018 session on transatlantic bond. @StateDept should clearly be here for exchange.



"#Intel services do use #private #providers, esp. with regards to #social_media: you put things on #socialnetwork, you must understand it can be analyzed." #panel "Too much intel, too little action" #GLOBSEC2018 #cybersecurity ●

Future of Intelligence Services

Essentially, our skills to comprehend and understand the vast swathes of information obtained by intel sources are outdated and render the information useless. Therefore, turning to big data analysis has become of utmost importance to fill the gaps left by conventional methods.

“The biggest fault we have is that we still cannot clearly distinguish which information is relevant.”

Hon. Michael Chertoff, former U.S. Homeland Secretary

Panellists from the Too Much Intel, Too Little Action session pointed to the lessons learned from 9/11 where the significance of key information was not correctly assessed and failed to be appropriately operationalised. Baroness Neville-Jones likened it to the case of Iraq where data was badly evaluated and inaccurate conclusions were reached from flimsy intel in addition to the enormous amount of political pressure placed on the intelligence agencies.

“You cannot expect closer cooperation of intelligence services if at the top level it lacks consistence. At the operational level I think the cooperation is in a good condition.”

Baroness Neville-Jones, Member of the House of Lords of the UK

The panel identified nuclear powers and misuse of nuclear weapons as the most urgent security threat of today. Michael Chertoff further added that global security is also destabilised by unpredictability and lack of clear strategy of current US administration apparent in confusing tweets.

ENERGY & SUSTAINABILITY

The Energy and Sustainability stream of sessions looked at changes shaping the energy sector. They also shone a spotlight on how best to achieve sustainability through various modalities from implementing AI to understanding a transforming labour market.

First, it is important to appreciate how the energy sector is developing. In a session focused on how the oil market and OPEC are dealing with new challenges facing the industry, it was revealed that the UAE is investing heavily in clean energy, mainly solar energy. A city is being built that is completely based on renewable energy, including the transportation system.

“We tried different energy models. But our best option was 50:50 – 50% fossils and 50% renewables.”

*H. E. Suhail Mohamed Faraj Al Mazrouei,
Minister of Energy and Industry of the UAE*



From left to right ▶ Alan Riley and H. E. Suhail Mohamed Faraj Al Mazrouei

This all comes from the fact that the oil market is stressed due to geopolitical tensions. The panellists claimed that, technically, oil prices should not be as high as they are now, and OPEC will act to stabilise the market soon. However, there are concerns

whether supply will be able to meet growing demand. Some countries – including the UAE, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Russia – have some spare capacity but this might not be enough. Shale oil production should help to alleviate the problem.

From there, we looked to the future with a session devoted to AI, machine learning and data analytics. These are major trends that will both disrupt and reshape how the energy sector works today and in the coming years. Energy companies are becoming more diversified and are not relying on any single energy source. Rather they are trying to expand into adjacent business models: nonconventional distribution, renewables etc.

 **“#Tech #companies are #disrupting also parts of our #industry, they have not only #consumer #data.”** Anosh Thakkar, #senior #vice-president 4 #digitalisation@Shell #panel: “Keeping Pace with #Digital #Energy #Revolution.” #Globsec2018

Advances in AI and machine learning are helping to reshape the way we consume and produce energy. Shell is using AI to predict wind for optimisation and the pricing of electricity from its turbines. It is also collecting data about consumer energy usage by providing an application for managing utility bills. These strategies will greatly increase the competency in these companies, but this does mean that traditional engineers are being replaced by IT specialists and statisticians.

“Shell believes in having engineers with a lots of information and skills using artificial intelligence. Then we can start using technology better.”

*Anosh Thakkar,
Senior Vice President for Digitalisation, Shell*

Even with the above-mentioned emphasis on new skills, R&D in Europe is sorely lacking, and

some vital technologies are almost absent, such as battery production. This specific technology is crucial as the European car industry must move towards electromobility or risk becoming obsolete. This danger is especially pronounced in Slovakia, which may soon be the Detroit of Europe.

 **@VazilHudak, #Vice-#President of @EIB speaks on digitalization of #energy: “As #European #bank,we traditionally #invest in #energy,but we also see that #innovations can bring valuable progress to #energy #sector.” #Globsec2018**

This idea of adaptability was addressed when a group of distinguished guests spoke about the transformations required in the labour market. The truth is, through automation as well as increased efficiencies, large segments of the working populace may find themselves unemployed in the future.

This falls in line with a discussion about the politically unsustainable concentration of wealth. The fact needs to be faced that one of the causes of the rise of inequality is free trade, a point often mentioned by populists who promise a return to the past through isolationism and “me first” policies. However, this is by no means a viable option, with the poorest populations harmed by the adoption of such policies. The solution to these problems might just be greater redistribution.

It wasn't all doom and gloom, with most of the panellists convinced that the solution to many of these problems will probably come from collaboration between government and the private sector. For instance, government and career-based incentives could be used to harness the potential of yet-to-be-reskilled workforce. Obviously, IT is a growing sector, but there are issues that will affect a smooth transformation in the labour market in this area. These include the gender imbalance (according to recent figures this disparity is getting worse), ageism and the false sense of “elitism” that is prevalent in this industry.

Some thought the reasons why more women don't go into IT are based on societal trends, which means that we need to take a longer perspective

(from childhood through to higher education) in order to address this issue. As for ageism, this is simply a (false) stereotype. There is no correlation between age and the willingness to learn a new skill. Contrary to what many think, those with a less advanced education may stand to benefit the most through the creation of new sectors. The availability of cheap (often free) micro-degrees will help individuals to fill niche roles.

One point that was stressed was that whatever form these new technologies take, they should be for the benefit of the whole society and not just certain subgroups of the population.

Across many platforms there seemed to be a consensus that for countries to reach sustainability goals there needed to be more government cooperation with the private sector. The problem, however, is that governments think they are smarter than businesses, while businesses worry that if they get too close to the government they will be over-regulated.

“The environment between companies and governments has to become collaborative.”

Gregori Lebedev, Chairman, CIPE

 **At #GLOBSEC2018 in #Bratislava: Discussing how companies can best contribute to #Agenda2030, with a focus on ODA, private-public partnerships and ensuring responsible business conduct is at the core of business decision-making**



From left to right ▶ Kathleen Koch, Frederic de Wilde, Mari Kiviniemi, Hon. Jan Krzysztof Bielecki

This might be true for both smaller business as well as the so-called 'supercompanies' such as Google or Facebook, the latter often having more power and influence than many medium-sized nations. Yet, all governments need the data, knowledge and expertise of these supercompanies to make informed decisions that will have profound impact on citizens.

 "Our business (@Jigsaw) exists because we have these micro-relationships with our customers, they trust us with their data, [...] I completely understand their frustration when we're working very close with the government," says @JSCarpenter11 at #GLOBSEC2018



From left to right ▶ Scott Carpenter, Gregori Lebedev, Katarína Kakaliková

Corporations and governments around the world need to find a solid foundation on which to build long-term relationships. There was a considerable amount of damage done by the Snowden revelations, and this is going to take time to repair. If governments and supercompanies can find ground to build common trust, then many of the problems which seem insurmountable today could be solved in the future. ●

INNOVATION & TECHNOLOGY

This stream of sessions moved through military adoption of AI and the impact of remote-controlled terrorism, to the robotisation of the truth and the transformation of education systems, before homing in on the new age of corporate cooperation and revolutionary uses of blockchain.

The adoption of AI by the military has many facets, with autonomous systems that could make the decision to kill a major cause for concern. It seems, however, that AI will initially be used in non-combat tasks such as training, logistics, monitoring and analytics. There is also hope that AI will improve the compatibility and interoperability of NATO defence systems. It is anticipated that such approaches will build public trust in AI before moving to more controversial areas like offensive actions.

“The use of AI outside military context is far more important than in the military context.”

*Gen. (Ret.) John Allen, President,
The Brookings Institution*



From left to right ▶ Gen. (Ret.) John Allen, Gen. Denis Mercier, Lt. Gen. (Ret.) Howard Bromberg

The US currently leads the development of AI and will continue to do so for the foreseeable

future. Panellists warned, however, that preserving its dominance requires a unified strategy and investment. Without these inputs the US will be surpassed by China, which is heavily investing in the area.

 @NATO #General Denis Mercier: "#China is better than us in utilizing already existing #technology in #defense." #panel on #AI in #conflict: #Hyper #war no longer #scifi #GLOBSEC2018

AI may provide substantial benefits on battlefield by providing quick intelligence and highlighting the anomalous behaviour of adversaries. That said, increasing use of AI in conflict may upset the balance of nuclear deterrence, an important provider of peace and stability for decades.

“We are long ways from removing humans out of warfare because war by nature is a human endeavour and it is going to be for quite a while.”

*Lt. Gen. (Ret.) Howard Bromberg, Vice President,
Lockheed Martin*

In line with offensive and preventative measures was a session on remote-controlled terrorists. The communication structure between a terrorist and their 'coach' is multifaceted. While both sides tend to communicate via the Internet, the reality is that dialogue and information sharing occurs on many different platforms (and perhaps even in person on occasion).

Recruiters offer "would-be" terrorists a level of support akin to a close-knit friendship group or family. This often involves communicating several times a day over a series of months and even giving step-by-step instructions on how to deal

with disruptions to the original plot. In most cases, coaches give terrorists a sense of belonging and group identity which is often missing from their lives.

Social media platforms are working to delete terrorist messaging and propaganda, but the difficulty surrounding this is immense. First, the language used is highly localised, meaning that a comment directed towards someone in London might be harmless, but when the same expression is used elsewhere it could lead to someone being targeted. Also, AI is less helpful here as machines have difficulty distinguishing between journalism and terrorist propaganda.

Bots shaping minds of citizens

It was once thought that the internet would produce better informed citizens and voters. However, we are currently witnessing a wide range of abuse on these platforms, many of which rally against freedoms and undermine our democratic values and processes.

“Unless we have the same type of tech that would enable us to spread messages, we run into risk of being outgunned by automated systems.”

Daniel Milo, Head of Strategic Communication Programme, GLOBSEC Policy Institute

In the first half of the panel, the guest speakers tried to define what exactly constitutes (ro)bot activity. They agreed that bots were just one piece of the information ecosystem created to promote certain topics and manipulate users. However, not all bots were necessarily bad. From the use of amber alerts for missing children to page indexing, there are many bots doing useful jobs or performing internet maintenance functions.

“More than 30 countries are using political bots, which are getting ever more sophisticated. It’s an arms race between platforms and devopers.” - Robotisation of #Truth panel at #Globsec2018. @JSCarpenter11 of @Jigsaw, @janis_sarts of @NATO, @rosenbergerlm & @DanielMiloSK

When referring to harmful bots, the panel was less unified. As for what one might do against this wave, two points were shared. On the one hand, it is necessary to push for more transparency and support online platforms to flag bot-created content. On the other, while fact checking has gathered momentum, the fundamental question is whether individual users are even curious about the facts. If not, then this is not an online problem but a much deeper question of social organisation and responsibility.

Echo chambers have always been out there, we all live in some information silos and we must keep challenging our thinking. Quality journalism is crucial, that’s why we support fact checkers and publishers. @JSCarpenter11 from @Jigsaw at #GLOBSEC2018



From left to right ► Daniel Milo, Scott Carpenter, Jānis Sārts, Laura Rosenberger

Education disrupted

The idea of learning and education being a process we go through when we are young is outdated and wholly unrealistic. Even for those with advanced degrees, it is necessary to continue to learn throughout one’s career or they will be replaced by more capable (and most likely younger) colleagues.

Many lessons can be learned from comparisons between the Finnish and US education systems. While, the US has many wonderful schools the quality of any given school district is largely determined by the general income level. Of course, there are other factors, such as family, neighbourhood and

the environment. However, this isn’t necessarily the case in Finland where the best school is always the closest, regardless of the demographic.

“You can’t learn if you hate it. In Finland we don’t worry about finding the best school. It’s the nearest one.” - a simple advice on how to improve education in the age of #AI by the founder of @AngryBirds, Peter Vesterbacka. #Globsec2018

To prepare the next generation, we need systematic changes to the way we view and understand education. As an example, some newly-arrived parents might be upset if their child is in a Finnish kindergarten where they perceivably only play all day long. This overlooks that children learn through play, and exemplary teachers know this.

“The job of the teachers is also changing but if you can replace a teacher with technology, you probably do not have a good teacher.”

Peter Vesterbacka, Founder of Slush, former Mighty Eagle, Angry Birds

Avoiding AI Race

This diverse panel agreed that while the world has traditionally looked to the US to push advances of technology and science, with AI this has changed. China wasn’t part of the discussion on how the internet developed, it was only able to implement the technology (which it has, admittedly, done quite well). With AI Beijing wants to be one of the players that decides how the technology progresses. That said, this competition could be healthy as it could force the US and other countries to step up their efforts in this field. Conversely there is a worry that this could lead to an AI race with unintended consequences.

A key difference between China and the US is collaboration between the government and private sector. China’s much-maligned security law effectively means that Beijing has access to all the data in the country. On the positive side,

the Chinese government can share this information with start-ups or universities to encourage collaboration. But let’s not forget that Beijing also controls the direction of research and innovation, a consequence of their strategic plan, which means it is stifling alternative development.

“We gave AI a lot of skills that we have but AI still does not have all of our skills and is still not doing better than us.”

Danit Gal, Project Assistant Professor, Global Research Institute, Keio University

One crucial issue is the problem of trust. It was mentioned that trust should be developed through the distrust of the machines and understanding that AI is still in its infancy and will make mistakes. We need to help the machines learn from these errors, and, in the process, a relationship of trust can be developed.



From left to right ► Tze Yun Leong, Danit Gal

20 years from now, advances in #AI will make the world more secure. So far 68% participants in the room disagree. Seems like that there are several options humanity could opt for #Globsec2018

Blockchain

Blockchain is set to have a similarly profound impact on society as the invention of the internet. However, in the world based on blockchain

technology, it will not be governments, institutions or companies who will assign value to data or a file and validate it as real. With blockchain it will be a set of algorithms which are (supposedly) unbiased and unable to make a mistake. Expectation is that blockchain will bring about a fully transparent world without possibility to commit any fraud while keeping the processes out of reach and control of centralised institutions.

“Blockchain is decentralising all centralised hierarchies.”

Julio Alejandro, Global Ambassador, aeternity

How will blockchain change the world? The talk by Julio Alejandro began answering this question by suggesting that restrictive regimes will lose control over populations. Another positive development is that blockchain could be the basis for solving almost any issue through the computation of big data and the creation of “digital cities”. The latter are disparate communities that focus on developing blockchain technology and can be categorised into five groups: developers, miners, wallets, exchangers, and merchants. The trust which is built in this system is based on the validation of smart transactions.



► Julio Alejandro



"The most #disruptive technology is #blockchain [...], it cannot be anticipated, pre-cooked or planned." @julioalexo at #GLOBSEC2018

A question from the audience prompted a response that highlighted two problems with blockchain. First, blockchain has an issue with scalability as the technology does not have enough people working on the platform. Second, government regulation is slowing down a process which should be moving and developing much faster.



@julioalexo "Governments are killing the blockchain business by being too slow in reactions" at #GLOBSEC2018 ●

THE FUTURE OF EUROPE

This year's GLOBSEC Bratislava Forum provided a rare opportunity to hear a clear pro-EU message delivered by Central European political leaders. In a session entitled One Size Does Not Fit All: A Multispeed & Multi-shaped Union, Slovak Prime Minister Peter Pellegrini made it clear that the country has a resolute commitment to pursue deeper EU integration, successful economic development and meet its commitments to NATO.

“We have to stay united and fulfill promises we gave to our citizens.”

H. E. Peter Pellegrini, Prime Minister of the Slovak Republic



RT @GLOBSEC: #Slovakia #PM #Prime-Minister @PellegriniP_: “77% of #Slovakia #citizens are pro-#EU, please do not destroy this #confidence by #mandatory #quotas.” #Globsec2018



► H. E. Peter Pellegrini

Sharing the stage was Czech Prime Minister Andrej Babiš, who agreed with his Slovak counterpart that while differentiated EU integration is a fact, it only encourages member states to build their pro-European agenda. Both prime ministers also underlined that the formidable economic performance of their countries was the basis of their current pro-EU agendas.

“Visegrad countries want to be part of Europe, we do want to be taken seriously and contribute effectively in working on issues. Europe needs a reform and we do support it.”

H. E. Andrej Babiš, Prime Minister of the Czech Republic



“It is important to keep unity inside the EU; in particular finish the #EU energy union, #CMU, #EMU, #DigitalSingleMarket“ @PellegriniP_ speaking at #Globsec2018 panel on Multispeed&Multishaped Europe w/ @MarosSefcovic and @AndrejBabis #FutureofEurope



► H. E. Andrej Babiš

The issue of populism loomed large over this year's event. Like it or not, populist politics and politicians will be part of the European political landscape for the foreseeable future. The reasons behind the populist resurgence seem plain to see. The concerns of large segments of Europe's population have been ignored for too long. Failure to listen or address their problems will only increase support for populist sentiment.



‘We need a re-vamped social policy - not more handouts, but more engagement with those left behind’ says Jakub Wisniewski from #GLOBSEC Policy Institute as part of a ‘Populism: Is the Tide Over Yet?’ discussion #Globsec2018



► Hon. Maroš Šefčovič

Conversely, the promises made by many populist leaders have not resulted in the economic upturn that they promised, which means that the situation for populists might also change in the not-so-distant future. Nevertheless, identity politics is still a driving force behind voting populations, and the gap between the haves and have-nots is still growing.

European Defence Integration

“In the EU, we should seek progress in every sector while preserving unity.”

Hon. Maroš Šefčovič, Vice President for the Energy Union, European Commission

One of the main issues facing the EU today is how to integrate further along the lines of Lisbon Treaty and deliver working solutions for the most pressing problems. Many European states have started to develop their military capabilities, but there are also voices calling for a coordination of these resources. EU's defence cooperation remains, however, still largely a political issue.

Europe has finally realised that its security is slowly coming back into its own hands. However, this will stay just a narrative while defence budgets remain way below the level of commitment expected by NATO.

In this respect, Permanent Structured Cooperation (PESCO) could be a game changer, but it all depends on how it will be implemented. While

the French approach is focussed on the ability to deliver security operations, Germany emphasises the need to keep integrated continental structures.

“Europe focuses mostly on capabilities. I hope we do not loose in area of operations. We need to be able to intervene when needed.”

Arnaud Danjean, Member, Committee on Foreign Affairs, European Parliament

There must also be an understanding that to increase European security there must be a strong “Go European” policy that prioritises the development of a continental defence industry. There are substantial differences in national strategic cultures that, for the time being, prevent a unified European strategic culture. However, small steps such as joint operations are becoming an increasingly promising avenue for defence cooperation.

“Third countries should have a right to contribute in PESCO initiatives. That makes a strong PESCO.”

Thomas Silberhorn, Parliamentary Secretary, Federal Ministry of Defence of Germany



► Thomas Silberhorn

The Visegrad Group

The format of the Visegrad Group was praised by Czech Minister of Foreign Affairs Martin Stropnický who asserted that it is not a smaller union within

a larger one. He presented the main value of the V4 as not based on its unity of views or positions but as the opportunity to come together and disagree in a familiar circle of states that share a common past.



“Problem in Europe and the Eurozone is complacency. We seem to need another crisis, to finish reforms.” @IvanKorcok at #GLOBSEC2018

Since joining the EU and NATO, the V4 have travelled divergent paths. Yet, with the numerous issues facing the region, the bloc also needs to find a coherent message and present it as unified policy to the EU. But do V4 countries have a plan for Europe? Here, Minister Stropnický, his Polish counterpart Jacek Czaputowicz and Hungarian Minister of State, Levente Magyar favoured a smaller role for the EU Commission and an increased inter-governmental format. Conversely, Slovak State Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs, Ivan Korčok, maintained that inter-governmental approach is far from being favourable to countries such as the Visegrad ones. At the same time, it was acknowledged that the V4 public is far more pro-European than most other parts of the EU.

“East-West division is becoming a generally accepted truth and I am totally against it. It is a very dangerous approach.”

Ivan Korčok, State Secretary, Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic



Interesting that Polish MFA sees the dividing line in Europe as the countries that contribute to European growth and those that ... don't? (Over 3% MS?). That's a new one. #GLOBSEC2018

Ukraine

There is hardly any country in Europe that has undergone three major revolutions in the last three decades. Ukraine is at a very specific moment in its history, with an oligarchy trying to legislate itself into existence. Does this mean that Ukraine is out of tune with the rest of Europe?

“Key for stability is to push away a very common narrative that Ukraine is so corrupted that it basically is a failed state.”

Katarína Mathernová, Deputy Director-General, DG NEAR, European Commission

Ukraine is both underperforming and overperforming in terms of previous expectations. Yet, there has been a considerable backslide inside the country regarding the reforms necessary for closer cooperation with Europe. US interest seems to be waning while corruption is still rampant, and there have been questionable political manoeuvres relating to the upcoming election.



Good point by @kmathernova: Ukraine took down budget deficit from 10% of GDP to little more than 1% at the same time as defence expenditures had to increase substantially. Eliminating big scale corruption was key. Impressive achievement. #GLOBSEC2018

The conflict with Russian-backed forces in eastern Ukraine often overshadows other geopolitical constraints, namely Moscow's annexation of Crimea. One of the bolder assessments outlined how the Ukraine conflict might end. Put simply, if Russia decides that it's not worth continuing, then it will withdraw its troops. If this happens, the West needs to make sure it does not fall for any middle of the way compromise which satisfies only the Russian contingent and compromises peace in the long run.



► Katarína Mathernová



► H. E. Ivanna Klymush-Tsintsadze

'Ukraine is implementing reforms which in other countries would have risked major social upheaval, but we have done it' says @IKlymush #GLOBSEC2018

The Western Balkans

This panel agreed that the EU is the most important player in Western Balkans and that accession remains the region's main priority. It is anticipated that NATO and EU accession will be a stabilising factor for the region, but this will only be achieved when the last state signs up to both organisations.

“If the EU does not put enough interest in the Western Balkans, somebody else will fill the gap.”

*H. E. Predrag Bošković,
Minister of Defence of Montenegro*

At #WesternBalkans session of #GLOBSEC2018, @MeGovernment MoD #PredragBošković rightly appeals to #USA (@DeptofDefense @StateDept) to step up engagement in the region. Don't sleep on the candor of the newest @NATO Ally #Montenegro

While accession negotiations are well underway, progress varies from country to country. Issues connected to the rule of law, environment and economy are just some of the main obstacles that need to be overcome. The region nevertheless remains determined to fulfil all accession

requirements irrespective of the considerable pressure by the EU to comply with common rules also in these sectors. It is anticipated that the adoption of this legislation will provide a significant boost to economic growth, something which will also be a stabilising factor for this troubled region. ●

“The richest relation right now is the one between the EU and the Western Balkans.”

*Christian Danielsson, Director General,
DG NEAR, European Commission*



From left to right ► Josip, Brkić, H. E. Predrag Bošković, Christian Danielsson

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