



BACKGROUND AND MISSION

In 2003, former U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright founded the Aspen Ministers Forum to strengthen diplomatic ties between the U.S. and Europe. The group soon evolved to embrace a more global mission and membership. It has established itself as a leading platform for nonpartisan dialogue aimed at addressing and developing concrete policy recommendations for many of the international community's greatest challenges.

APPROACH

The Aspen Ministers Forum is a nonpartisan initiative of former Foreign Ministers from around the world. This diverse group of AMF members meets in-person and virtually to elevate specific topics, which may be a crisis that demands urgent attention or a long-term policy challenge that deserves closer examination. AMF members engage in intensive off-the-record moderated roundtable discussions where participants leverage their history of constructive negotiations, policy acumen, and continued influence to develop new strategies that address difficult global problems. Senior government

officials and leading experts are also invited to participate in the discussions based on each specific topic. These participants are in turn able to draw on insights from the meeting to enhance their own work. The group has expanded their work to include various digital components by convening via Zoom and launching a series of digital public products.

SELECT AMF VIRTUAL SESSIONS

- May 2020: The COVID Crisis: Toward a Global Response
- January 2021: Strengthening the NATO Alliance
- May 2021: Foreign policy priorities with Jake Sullivan
- October 2021: Asia, AUKUS and Afghanistan

WHY IS THE ASPEN MINISTERS FORUM UNIQUE?

- The AMF is a preeminent platform with the ability to regularly convene 20-25 former Foreign Ministers of diverse nationalities and political perspectives that remain engaged and influential on the world stage.
- The AMF frequently hosts and engages with senior government and international officials, allowing them to speak candidly in a private, off-the-record setting, forge new relationships, and apply lessons learned in their roles as world leaders.
- The AMF tackles international challenges to provide high-level policy guidance to governments, international organizations, and NGO leaders.
- AMF members bring findings from the meetings back home to their countries, and often communicate insights directly to senior world leaders through their professional networks and more broadly via their written work, lectures, and media interviews.

SELECT PAST AMF IN-PERSON SESSION TOPICS

- 2019: The 21st Century Battlefield
- 2019: Reimagining Domestic and International Institutions: From Past Lessons to New Challenges
- 2018: Africa Rising: Trends, Challenges, and Opportunities
- 2018: Global Rise of Nationalism: Realities vs. Perception
- 2017: A Repositioned Europe and Its Role in the World



IMPACT

The Ministers use their discussions as an opportunity to raise the profile of key international issues and present practical and innovative solutions to timely problems. Following meetings, members publish public letters and opinion editorials in major news media outlets around the world both individually and collectively. Often, the Ministers' joint signatures make articles and letters more powerful and result in the pieces being more widely read and discussed across the world. These pieces have been included in a wide range of publications, including The New York Times, The Washington Post, Al-Ahram Weekly, Le Monde, Spiegel Online, and the Financial Times, among others. In addition, the Ministers often correspond privately with heads of state and other high-level officials. AMF meetings have also produced private letters and in-person conversations with UN Secretary-General António Guterres. During the meeting with the Secretary-General, several AMF members presented insights and policy recommendations from recent forums. The Ministers are required to take the ideas that come out of these convenings back to their respective communities.

SELECT ASPEN MINISTERS FORUM MEMBERS

Founding Chair

Madeleine Albright - United States

Current Members

Lloyd Axworthy - Canada

Ali Babacan - Turkey

Mohamed Benaïssa - Morocco

María Eugenia Brizuela de Ávila
El Salvador

Erik Derycke - Belgium

Lamberto Dini - Italy

Alexander Downer - Australia

Jan Eliasson - Sweden

Joschka Fischer - Germany

Fu Ying - China

Jaime Gama - Portugal

Ibrahim Gambari - Nigeria

Mircea Dan Geoană - Romania

Igor S. Ivanov - Russia

Marina Kaljurand - Estonia

Kang Kyung-wha - South Korea

Tzipi Livni - Israel

Susana Malcorra - Argentina

Don McKinnon - New Zealand

David Miliband - United Kingdom

Daniel Mitov - Bulgaria

Federica Mogherini - Italy

Amre M. Moussa - Egypt

Marwan Muasher - Jordan

Ana Palacio - Spain

George A. Papandreou - Greece

Lydie Polfer - Luxembourg

Malcolm Rifkind - United Kingdom

Claudia Ruiz Massieu - Mexico

Jozias van Aartsen - The Netherlands

Hubert Védrine - France

Knut Vollebæk - Norway

Margot Wallström - Sweden

BERTELSMANN LEADERSHIP IN ACTION SERIES

An animated video series exploring leaders' experiences navigating times of crisis to reveal practical lessons on leadership.

Marina Kaljurand: 2007 Russian Cyberattacks on Estonia

Madeleine Albright: The U.S. Response to the Conflict in Kosovo

George Papandreou: Euro Crisis in Greece

Malcolm Rifkind: The Transfer of Power in Hong Kong

Federica Mogherini: Negotiating the Iran Nuclear Deal

Susana Malcorra: The U.N. Response to the Ebola Outbreak

These products include high-level briefings for their national leadership; presentation of their ideas in TV, radio, or journal interviews; personal op-ed pieces; research papers; and lectures. The AMF has expanded our digital products to include an animated video series on leadership, one-on-one fireside chats, and virtual convenings of the group.



"The Aspen Ministers Forum brings together the world's most experienced diplomats to explore the key international challenges of our time, ranging from the global refugee crisis to the fraying of the international liberal order. By providing a platform for former Foreign Ministers to candidly debate the issues without reference to their national position, the Forum helps them test new ideas, develop innovative solutions, and ultimately continue their efforts to promote international peace and understanding. The AMF is a unique institution that is more relevant and necessary than ever."

– **Madeleine Albright**, Former U.S. Secretary of State and Aspen Ministers Forum Founder