



**IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**PRESS RELEASE**

**2020 GLOBAL SECURITY FORUM REPORT:**

**“A NEW WORLD (DIS)ORDER? MANAGING SECURITY CHALLENGES IN AN INCREASINGLY COMPLEX LANDSCAPE”**

*Leading experts and practitioners from around the world gathered virtually to address the evolution of global security challenges compounded by geopolitical dynamics and the COVID-19 pandemic.*

**[LINK TO REPORT](#)**

**(New York, NY – January 14, 2021)** The 2020 Global Security Forum (GSF) took place (virtually) from 16-19 November, 2020. Through a series of interactive sessions, the 2020 event addressed the topic, “A New World (Dis)order? Managing Security Challenges in an Increasingly Complex Landscape.” The event underscored the need for the international community to work together to address contemporary security challenges, with governments marshalling the innovation of the private sector, civil society and harnessing the fortitude and compassion of their citizens. Key themes raised over the four-day event included: a strategic assessment of national, regional, and international security challenges; changes in the production and consumption of information; the impact of disinformation; and popular responses to such threats and narratives.

**2020’s complex geopolitical landscape**

The 2020 Global Security Forum commenced with a fireside chat with **Ambassador Robert C. O’Brien**, United States National Security Advisor. Reflecting on America’s leadership and the 2020 U.S. Presidential election, Ambassador O’Brien assured “a very professional transition from the National Security Council” with the incoming Biden Administration.

A discussion with **H.E. Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al-Thani**, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the State of Qatar, touched upon the long-standing partnership between Qatar and the United States, among other regional and international matters. “We have the desire to find a resolution for a stable GCC...We have all the good intention[s] and the good faith to have a constructive engagement with them and to reach a fair resolution for all countries,” stressed Qatar’s foreign minister.

The four-day event touched upon security matters from across the globe. On global terrorism, **Nathan Sales**, Ambassador-at-Large and Coordinator for Counterterrorism at the State Department, described Africa as “the key front in the next stage of the fight against terrorism.” Singapore’s **Ambassador Bilahari Kausikan**, Former Permanent Secretary of the Singapore Ministry of Foreign Affairs, focused on security dynamics in Asia: “The most dangerous issues in Asia are hard power issues: South China Sea, North Korea, Taiwan Straits, Senkakus, and Himalayas. You can’t deal with these by soft power.”

Speaking on the drawdown of U.S. troops in Afghanistan, **General John R. Allen (Ret.)** declared, “There was no tactical, operational, or strategic merit to doing this in such a short period of time,” while former CIA Director **John Brennan** called for “a fresh look at whether the United States government is organized in a manner that is poised to deal with the challenges of the future as opposed to the past.”

### **A virtual gathering**

In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, the event convened virtually. Among the additional government and expert participants were: **Michèle Coninsx**, Assistant Secretary-General and Executive Director at the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED); **Gilles de Kerchove**, European Union’s Counter-Terrorism Coordinator; **Karen J. Greenberg**, Director at the Center on National Security, Fordham Law; **David Scharia**, Chief of Branch at UN CTED; **Fionnuala Ní Aoláin**, United Nations Special Rapporteur; **Rami G. Khouri**, Director of Global Engagement at American University of Beirut; **Max Rose**, former U.S. Congressman; **Nicholas J. Rasmussen**, Executive Director of the Global Internet Forum to Counter Terrorism (GIFCT); **Joshua Geltzer**, former NSC Senior Director for Counterterrorism; and **Alex Gibney**, Award-Winning Director, among many others.

The event drew upon a distinguished set of journalists to serve as moderators, including: *The Hill’s* **Steve Clemons**, *MSNBC’s* **Ali Velshi**, *Bloomberg’s* **Bobby Ghosh**, *CNN* Analysts **Kimberly Dozier** and **Peter Bergen**, *Defense One’s* **Kevin Baron**, *The Atlantic’s* **Adrienne LaFrance**, and *The New Yorker’s* **Lawrence Wright**.

At the 2020 Global Security Forum’s conclusion, **Ali Soufan**, Founder of The Soufan Center, expressed his wish that the solutions presented at this year’s GSF, by some of the greatest minds in international affairs, would help solve the complex problems facing the world today.

### **About the Global Security Forum:**

The 2020 Global Security Forum took place from 16-19 November and addressed the topic, “A New World (Dis)order? Managing Security Challenges in an Increasingly Complex Landscape.” In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, the event happened virtually and was broadcast publicly each day. The Global Security Forum is an annual conference organized by The Soufan Center (TSC). The 2020 partners were the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED), New America Foundation, Defense One, and the Qatar International Academy for Security Studies (QIASS). Please visit <https://globalsecurityforum.com/> and follow **#GSF2020**.

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