



Global Security Form 2021

Cooperation or Competition? Changing Dynamics of Global Security

The **Global Security Forum (GSF)**, will take place from October 12–14, 2021, in Doha, Qatar. GSF 2021 is currently planned as a hybrid event: partially virtual and partially taking place in-person in Doha. However, should the need arise, format details may be adapted in line with the evolving impact of COVID-19 on events and gatherings.

Background: The Global Security Forum is an annual international gathering hosted by The Soufan Center. For several years, it has brought together an international network of experts from government, law enforcement, academia, media, and the private sector to address complex global security challenges. The Soufan Center is proud that GSF has consistently included high-level speakers and attendees, such as ministers, heads of security agencies, and prominent experts, academics, and journalists. In advance of further forthcoming details for this year, please reference **last year's report** and the **GSF 2020 agenda** as an example.

Theme: **As states vie for power and resources in a rapidly evolving geopolitical climate**, the 2021 Global Security Forum will focus on the imperative of balancing cooperation and competition in ensuring security and addressing critical challenges in governance and development.

Against the backdrop of increasing competition among states, the importance of uniting and reconnecting at the individual, organizational, national, and multilateral level is paramount if the international community is to stave off the ill-effects of political polarization, which has become more pronounced during the COVID-19 pandemic. Some sectors lend themselves towards cooperation, including global public health, climate change, and international trade, while competition will drive continue, in part, to define political, economic, and security spheres. GSF 2021 and its dynamic set of speakers will examine the diffuse range of threats, but will also emphasize the possible points of collaboration that can inform public and private sector leaders and policymakers. As they navigate a global community that looks to rebuild economies, recover resilience, and regenerate alliances, a host of obstacles remain.

The onset of COVID-19 has disrupted economic patterns, supply chains, and international and multilateral relationships, while also prompting tremendous innovation in human, professional, and political relationships. As states and regional organizations grapple with persistent and new challenges, the pandemic has forced global leaders and practitioners to rethink diplomacy and engagement and accelerated in many instances the role of emerging technologies. GSF 2021 will consider many of these dynamic challenges in their own right, but also the complex interconnections between them, and the nexus between issues like security and climate; transnational Salafi-jihadist terrorism and the rise of far-right extremism; global health and diplomacy; and unique national and regional responses.

Logistics: All are welcome to join us virtually for GSF 2021, as the conference will be livestreamed publicly on our website, www.globalsecurityforum.com. Participation and in-person attendance are by invitation only; invitations are non-transferable.

If you have any questions, please email The Soufan Center at info@thesoufancenter.org.