



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 quickly grew into a global network of former Foreign Ministers working together on the world's toughest challenges. Today, under the guidance of former Secretary Hillary Rodham Clinton, it is a trusted space for honest conversations and practical ideas to help solve international problems.

APPROACH

The Aspen Ministers Forum is a nonpartisan initiative made up of former Foreign Ministers from around the world. They meet regularly—both in person and online—to focus on major global issues, whether it's a fast-moving crisis or a long-term challenge. Their conversations are off the record and deeply informed, drawing on members' decades of experience in diplomacy, negotiation, and policymaking. These meetings often influence the work of current leaders and institutions. The Forum has expanded its reach with digital tools—hosting virtual sessions and creating public content—to share key insights more widely.

WHAT MAKES THE ASPEN MINISTERS FORUM UNIQUE?

- The Aspen Ministers Forum provides high-level policy guidance to governments, international organizations, and NGOs.
- AMF members bring the Forum's insights back to nearly two dozen countries, where they brief top government leaders, shape policy decisions, and share key findings through articles, public talks, and media appearances.
- The group 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 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.

SELECT PAST MEETING SESSIONS OF THE AMF

- Building Stability In a Fractured World
- The Reconciliation: Leveraging New Tools to Protect Democracy and Global Cooperation
- Sparking a Democratic Resurgence
- The 21st Century Battlefield
- Africa Rising: Trends, Challenges, and Opportunities
- Global Rise of Nationalism: Realities vs. Perception



IMPACT

The AMF serves as a powerful platform for raising the profile of critical global issues and offering practical, innovative solutions. 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. Beyond public discourse, the Ministers maintain private channels with heads of state and high-ranking officials, providing direct, high-level counsel. 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 committed to taking the ideas that come out of these convenings back to their respective communities.

LEADERSHIP IN ACTION SERIES

A collaboration between the AMF and the Bertelsmann Foundation (North America), Inc., this animated video series explores various leaders' experiences navigating times of crisis to reveal practical lessons on leadership.

Tzipi Livni: On Negotiating Peace

Bobi Wine: A Dream of Democracy

Marina Kaljurand: 2007 Russian Cyberattacks on Estonia

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

George Papandreou: Euro Crisis in Greece

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 its digital products to include an animated video series on leadership, one-on-one fireside chats, and virtual convenings of the group.

SELECT ASPEN MINISTERS FORUM MEMBERS

Lloyd Axworthy – Canada

Ali Babacan – Turkey

María Eugenia Brizuela de Ávila – El Salvador

Hillary Rodham Clinton – U.S.

Erik Derycke – Belgium

Alexander Downer – Australia

Jan Eliasson – Sweden

Joschka Fischer – Germany

Ibrahim Gambari – Nigeria

Arancha González Laya – Spain

Mircea Dan Geoană – Romania

Monica Juma – Kenya

Marina Kaljurand – Estonia

Kyung-wha Kang – South Korea

Taro Kono – Japan

Tzipi Livni – Israel

Susana Malcorra – Argentina

Don McKinnon – New Zealand

David Miliband – United Kingdom

Daniel Mitov – Bulgaria

Federica Mogherini – Italy

Marwan Muasher – Jordan

Marty Natalegawa – Indonesia

George A. Papandreou – Greece

Malcolm Rifkind – United Kingdom

Claudia Ruiz Massieu – Mexico

Knut Vollebæk – Norway

Margot Wallström – Sweden

Fu Ying – China



"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, 64th U.S. Secretary of State and AMF Founder