



London Parliamentary Intelligence-Security Forum
31st August - 1st September 2023

SUMMARY REPORT

ALICIA KEARNS MP
Member of Parliament for Rutland & Melton



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

21st November 2022

Dear Distinguished Colleague:

As we face a growing list of global challenges it is more vital than ever that likeminded policy makers get together to collaborate and share expertise. Hostile state actors continue to attempt to undermine us across a plethora of spheres, terrorist groups are a continued threat, and technology is creating new opportunities and avenues for aggressive actors to harm us and our societies.

Please do join us to discuss these vital issues, and many more, at the Parliamentary Intelligence-Security Forum in London, 31st August – 1st September 2023, at Central Hall, Westminster. There will be high level briefings and speeches delivered by experts from the UK, USA, Europe and beyond.

Collaboration is more important than ever in these challenging times and this conference promises to offer an exciting chance for us, as legislators, to share our knowledge and build new and enduring relationships.

Please RSVP to lucas@pi-sf.com to confirm your participation with us or for any inquiries.

Yours ever,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alicia Kearns".

Alicia Kearns MP
Member of Parliament for Rutland and Melton
Chair of the Foreign Affairs Committee



Colonel The Rt Hon Bob Stewart DSO MP
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

Tel: 00 44 20 7219 7011

Dear Colleague,

17th July 2023

May I welcome you to London as a British Member of Parliament. All of us very much look forward to you being in Westminster.

Along with Alicia Kearns MP, Chair of the House of Commons Foreign Affairs Committee (who is also attending the Forum), we are both members of the Joint Committee on National Security Strategy of the British Parliament. This Committee is composed of Government appointed participants and experts from both The House of Lords and House of Commons.

With that in mind and having been involved with setting up the Parliamentary Intelligence-Security Forum in London, which takes place from 31st August to 1st September, I believe the Conference can be of strategic importance to each of us as policymakers and legislators for our respective countries. Please have a look at the presentations and discussions in the attached program which are critical and highly relevant.

Obviously, I look forward to being with you at this important meeting and further develop personal friendships.

I shall also be pleased to host you for a private tour of the British Parliament on the final evening.

Kindly RSVP to lucas@pi-sf.com to ensure your place and gain information on accommodation *et cetera*.

With very best wishes,

Yours aye,
Bob Stewart

OPENING REMARKS

Honorable Robert Pittenger

Chairman, Parliamentary Intelligence-Security Forum

In his morning address, The Honorable Robert Pittenger warmly welcomed the attendees, complimenting their appearance and expressing gratitude for their efforts to join the event. With representatives from 61 countries present, Mr. Pittenger attributed the potential success of the upcoming dialogue to the collective support and participation of the audience. He encouraged attendees to see the day's proceedings as a high-level briefing, emphasizing the unique opportunity to gain insights from experts across various fields. Mr. Pittenger's dedication to efficiency was evident as he presented a structured agenda, complete with brief breaks for meals and socializing, underlining the importance of adhering to the schedule for a focused and productive day ahead.

Honorable Alicia Kearns

MP, Chair of the UK Foreign Affairs Committee

In her welcoming address, Honorable Alicia Kearns extended warm greetings to the attendees, emphasizing the value of their presence in the beautiful city hosting the event. She acknowledged the significant role of Congressman Robert Pittenger in organizing the 25th Parliamentary Intelligence Security Forum and paid a heartfelt tribute to the late Sir David Amess, a staunch supporter of the forum, highlighting his dedication to service and democracy. Honorable. Alicia Kearns candidly addressed the evolving global challenges, particularly the rising threats posed by autocratic regimes and hostile states, emphasizing the importance of deterrence, resilience, and commitment as critical priorities in safeguarding peace, democracy, and the international rules-based system. She called upon the delegates to engage in honest discussions and work together to find practical solutions to these shared problems, underscoring the value of defending fundamental principles such as democracy, human rights, and the rule of law.

Rt Hon. Colonel Bob Stewart

MP DSO, Member of Parliament, United Kingdom

Col. Stewart conveyed his deep personal connection to Northern Ireland, where he had served as a soldier during the Troubles. He expressed his affection for the region and its significance in his life. While touching on various topics, he primarily focused on the increasing intimidation faced by Taiwan from the People's Republic of China. Col. Stewart highlighted the economic and global supply chain implications of any conflict in the Taiwan Strait, given Taiwan's vital role in semiconductor manufacturing. He underlined the need for international support for Taiwan's sovereignty and democracy, emphasizing that Taiwan's security challenges are of global significance. Col. Stewart also commended the Foreign Affairs committee's report and urged everyone to support Taiwan's inclusion and recognition worldwide.

Honorable French Hill

Member of U.S. Congress and Member of the Intelligence, Financial Services and Foreign Affairs Committee

Honorable French Hill discussed three interconnected topics crucial to global growth and prosperity. He began by addressing the role of the US dollar in the international monetary system, dispelling concerns about its decline and emphasizing the importance of responsible fiscal policy in maintaining its status. He then turned to reforming the International Monetary Fund (IMF), advocating for governance reforms, and targeting Special Drawing Rights (SDR) allocations to ensure the IMF's focus on its original mission. Lastly, Mr. Hill highlighted the need for accountability in supporting Ukraine's struggle against Russia's illegal invasion, proposing the Ukraine Reconstruction Act to hold Russia responsible for long-term costs. Throughout his speech, he emphasized the importance of working together to uphold a rules-based system for global prosperity.

OMINOUS SECURITY CHALLENGES FROM ADVERSARIAL NATION- STATES

Honorable You Si-Kun

President of Legislative Yuan, Republic of China

In a spirited address, he delivered his message through legislator Tsai Shih-Ying, Mr. You Si-Kun expressed profound gratitude to the Global Alliance of Democracies for their unwavering

support of Taiwan. Citing a decline in global democracy, as evidenced by the 2022 Freedom in the World report, Mr. You emphasized Taiwan's strategic position as a frontline in the struggle between democracy and autocracy. He denounced China's claims over Taiwan as historical fabrications and noted a growing international recognition of China's dishonesty. Mr. You concluded with an impassioned affirmation that Taiwan will not stand alone in its stand against autocracy, calling for collective efforts to safeguard democracy and freedom worldwide.

Honorable Tshua' Sik-Ing

Member of the Taiwan Legislative Yuan

Honorable Tshua Sik-Ing, a legislator from Keelung, Northern Taiwan, and a prominent figure in Taiwan's foreign affairs emphasized the growing importance of the Indo-Pacific region. He highlighted the UK's strategic shift towards this area and the region's critical role in global trade. Mr. Tshua voiced concerns about Taiwan's security amidst increasing military threats from the People's Republic of China while underlining Taiwan's unwavering commitment to self-defense. He also called for international cooperation to maintain peace and stability in a world marked by conflicts, underscoring Taiwan's unique position as a nation dedicated to democratic values, freedom, and human rights despite its lack of UN recognition. Mr. Tshua concluded with a heartfelt hope for global peace and safety.

Mr. Matt Pottinger

Former U.S. Deputy National Security Advisor

Addressing the Parliamentary Intelligence Security Forum; Mr. Matt Pottinger emphasized the urgent need for candid and robust international cooperation in addressing the threats posed by the Chinese Communist Party (CCP). He pointed out that the CCP's actions, including its reckless handling of the COVID-19 outbreak, environmental degradation, intellectual property theft, and support for rogue regimes, have endangered global health, prosperity, security, and liberty. Mr. Pottinger highlighted the deceptive tactics employed by the CCP, such as dual messaging and covert operations, to advance its agenda. He urged nations to speak openly to Beijing about actions that undermine sovereignty, impose costs on the CCP's harmful actions, and take measures to protect the rights of Chinese people living abroad while fostering united front efforts among independent and sovereign nations to safeguard their shared values and interests.

Rt Hon. Theresa Villiers

MP, United Kingdom

As a House of Commons Intelligence and Security Committee member, Honorable Theresa Villiers shed light on the growing concern about China's influence and actions, particularly in the United Kingdom. She highlighted the committee's recent report, emphasizing China's ambition to become a technological and economic superpower and its extensive efforts to penetrate various sectors of the UK's economy, including academia. Hon. Villiers needed a more proactive and long-term approach to addressing China's influence while balancing economic interests. She cautioned against complacency and highlighted the importance of safeguarding national security and democratic values in the face of China's evolving role on the global stage, echoing the sentiments expressed by Mr. Matt Pottinger in the accompanying video presentation.

ILLICIT FINANCE

Mr. John Walsh

President and Chief Executive Officer, SightSpan Inc. Washington D.C.

The Honorable John Walsh highlighted the evolution of the private sector's role in combating illicit finance, particularly in the aftermath of 9/11 when financial institutions worldwide were deputized and tasked with identifying terrorists and money launderers. He emphasized the rapid advancement of technology and data gathering, noting the staggering volume of data generated globally and the potential for quantum AI to enhance illicit activity detection further. Walsh underscored the growing responsibility of governments to respond to the findings of the private sector as they uncover illegal financial activities involving both small-scale and high-profile individuals. Mr. Walsh highlighted the increasingly technology-driven nature of the dialogue surrounding illicit activities in the financial sector and requested elected officials for clearer laws to allow for greater fairness and more significant public-private partnerships worldwide.

Mr. David Lewis

Managing Director, Kroll and former Financial Action Task Force Executive Secretary

Mr. David Lewis drew attention to the vital role played by the private sector in identifying and addressing money laundering, highlighting the global financial sector's significant involvement

in this issue. He underscored the critical importance of transparency and regulation in curbing money laundering, emphasizing that it's not a victimless white-collar crime but one that directly impacts lives. Mr. Lewis also pointed out the staggering scale of money laundering, estimating the annual amounts to be in trillions, with significant consequences for both developed and developing nations. He called for a more practical approach to tackling this concern, including investment, enforcement, and cultural change within financial institutions, to cut off the profits from crime and protect economies and societies worldwide.

Mr. Tom Keatinge

Director for Financial Crime and Security Studies at RUSI.

Mr. Tom Keatinge, who heads the research program at the Royal United Services Institute's Center for Financial Crime and Security Studies, emphasized that democracies significantly underestimate the threat posed by illicit finance. He challenged conventional notions that primarily associate illicit finance with criminal activities such as drug trafficking. Mr. Keatinge underscored that its influence extends far beyond, encompassing the subversion of democratic institutions and national security.

Mr. Keatinge expressed deep concern about the lack of urgency and action from global and national bodies, including the Financial Action Task Force (FATF). He argued that the current measures are inadequately equipped to combat what he terms "malign finance" that poses a direct threat to democracies. He called for a multifaceted approach, encompassing critical scrutiny of political commitments, enhancements in investigative journalism, and active engagement of the next generation in recognizing the perils associated with illicit finance. Furthermore, Mr. Keatinge stressed that it's imperative for lawmakers to move beyond mere rhetoric and take swift and decisive action to address the dangerous gaps in existing policies.

Ms. Lilita Infante

**Chief Executive Officer, CAT Labs, Former U.S. Department of Justice
Special Agent**

To continue with the panel, Ms. Lilita Infante, a former special agent with the Department of Justice and founder of CAT Labs, took her audience on a decade-long journey from traditional money laundering investigations involving drug cartels and terrorist organizations to the complex world of cryptocurrency in criminal enterprises. Ms. Infante shared how her early interest in Bitcoin led her to pioneer cryptocurrency and dark web-related investigations, creating multi-agency task forces targeting large-scale cryptocurrency crimes. Over the years, she

observed a shift from conventional methods of money laundering to the rapid adoption of cryptocurrency, particularly stablecoins, in every facet of criminal activity, from drug cartels to state actors like North Korea and China. Ms. Infante argues that the rise in crypto crime necessitates a fundamental change in law enforcement strategy, advocating for more tools, education, and automation to equip every cop and agent for this evolving landscape.

GLOBAL SUPPLY CHAIN

Rt Hon. John Spellar

Member of Parliament, United Kingdom

In his comprehensive speech, Mr. John Spellar delved into the critical importance of supply chain resilience, particularly in defense and military contexts. Reflecting on his own career, from university to serving as Armed Forces Minister under the Blair government, Mr. Spellar criticized the U.K. government and armed forces for neglecting long-term planning and inventory, particularly considering recent events like the Ukraine conflict and the COVID-19 pandemic. He underscored the importance of reliable, domestic supply chains, lamenting a prevalent tendency to cut corners in aspects like munition storage and equipment maintenance, often to the detriment of national security. Mr. Spellar insisted that individual skills are crucial but emphasized that teamwork and production teams are undervalued yet vital components in this discussion. He concluded by saying the post-Ukraine scenario should be viewed as an aberration, not a pattern for the coming decade, imploring the audience to recognize the urgency in addressing these issues.

Mr. Charles Parton

Adviser, House of Commons Foreign Affairs Committee; Associate Fellow RUSI; Expert in Chinese politics

The speaker discussed the rapidly growing importance and potential risks associated with cellular IoT modules, particularly those manufactured by Chinese companies. Mr. Parton argued that China, specifically the Chinese Communist Party, is actively seeking to monopolize the supply chain of these modules. He contended that this poses a substantial threat in three key ways: data security, policy influence, and critical national infrastructure operational shutdowns. He cited examples, such as the use of Chinese cellular modules in government vehicles and Tesla, to illustrate how data can be compromised. Additionally, Mr. Parton raised concerns about how such a monopoly could be leveraged to exert policy

pressure or even disable essential services in countries dependent on this technology. The speaker emphasized the urgency of recognizing and mitigating this looming threat, suggesting that governments must take preemptive action.

Ms. Diana Furchtgott-Roth

Director, Center for Energy, Climate, and Environment and The Herbert and Joyce Morgan Fellow in Energy and Environmental Policy, The Heritage Foundation, United States

Ms. Diana Furchtgott-Roth, Director of the Center for Environment, Climate, and Energy at the Heritage Foundation, delivered a riveting talk addressing the critical issue of global supply chain problems, specifically focusing on electric vehicles (EVs). She warned the audience, largely consisting of legislators, about the upcoming risk of global dependency on China for EV batteries, as China currently produces 80% of the world's batteries. Ms. Furchtgott-Roth argued that this dependency is a self-inflicted wound, exacerbated by Western governments mandating a switch to EVs without considering the repercussions. She highlighted how China can dominate the market by subsidizing labor, energy, and capital and by monopolizing strategic minerals in Africa. She criticized Western countries for refusing to mine the resources necessary for battery production and criticized the World Bank for its refusal to support fossil fuel projects in emerging economies. Urging legislators to take action, she called for a cutback of EV mandates, support for clean technology worldwide, and a focus on fostering independence from China by supporting countries with strategic minerals.

Mr. Anthony Kim

Research Fellow in Economic Freedom, Editor of the Index of Economic Freedom, and Manager of Global Engagement, Margaret Thatcher Center for Freedom, Davis Institute for National Security and Foreign Policy, The Heritage Foundation

Mr. Anthony Kim from the Heritage Foundation presented an insightful overview of global supply chains and the intersection of economics and national security. Mr. Kim argued that today's discussions about supply chains are not merely technical but fundamental to safeguarding core values like freedom and civil society. He believes that addressing gaps and vulnerabilities in the global supply chain is a multi-dimensional exercise that needs to be "based on adding and multiplying our willingness and ideas." Offering examples of key upcoming elections around the world, he underscored the need for candid dialogue and cooperation among nations to ensure a more transparent and accountable global network. Amid geopolitical tensions, Mr. Kim stressed the idea that this is "our journey together," highlighting the different destinies of South and North Korea as a testament to the consequences of good and bad ideas.

GLOBAL IMPORTANCE OF TAIWAN STRAIT

Honorable Olivier Cadic

Member of the French Senate / Vice President of the Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee

In his impassioned address to the Parliamentary Intelligence Security Forum, Mr. Olivier Cadic outlined the significant increase in France's military budget, stressing the nation's deepening commitment to preserving global peace and stability. He emphasized France's role as an Indo-Pacific power and highlighted the strategic importance of the region, both demographically and economically. Drawing attention to the escalating tensions in the Taiwan Strait and the South China Sea, Mr. Cadic highlighted China's expansionist maneuvers as direct threats to international law and global trade. Pointing out the potentially catastrophic economic and security implications, he called upon fellow democracies to legally enshrine the defense of freedom of maritime navigation. He ended by highlighting France's lead in this endeavor, urging other nations to follow suit in the defense of a free, open, and prosperous Indo-Pacific region.

CYBERSECURITY: THE CASE FOR ZERO TRUST, RESILIENCE AND REGULATION

Mr. Steve Hill

Deputy Group CISO at Credit Suisse and Former UK National Security Secretariat in the Cabinet Office

Mr. Steve Hill, the Chief Information Security Officer for Credit Suisse, underscored the mounting risks of a digitally connected world. Hill paints a stark picture, emphasizing that the threats are not only growing but diversifying, with bad actors ranging from nation-states to cyber criminals. Despite this evolving menace, Mr. Hill noted that the objectives and methodologies employed by these entities have remained relatively consistent over the last decade. Focusing on financial gain, espionage, and disruption, these adversaries employ techniques like credential harvesting and supply chain compromises to infiltrate systems. Mr. Hill contended that while it's unrealistic to eliminate these threats, organizations and

governments must strive to bring the risk within an acceptable range, advocating for strategies drawn from global experiences to strengthen defenses.

Mr. Simon Hodgkinson

Former Group Chief Information Security Officer and VP of Global Infrastructure and Operation, BP

Mr. Simon Hodgkinson emphasized that cybersecurity is not merely a technological issue but a comprehensive risk management challenge that organizations must integrate into their broader risk portfolio. Mr. Hodgkinson criticized the prevalent notion that cybersecurity is the sole responsibility of Chief Information Security Officers or CIOs, arguing that CEOs and business leaders must also be accountable for this domain. He stressed the need to break down the alarming narrative around cybersecurity, advocating for an open, transparent culture where organizations learn from their security incidents rather than hiding them. Highlighting the concept of "zero trust" as a design principle, Mr. Hodgkinson advised organizations to continuously verify identities and limit network vulnerabilities. He also underscored the necessity to align cybersecurity measures with key business processes, emphasizing that it requires a well-rounded approach involving technology, people, and processes for effective risk mitigation.

Honorable Cyrus Vance

Partner, Baker McKenzie's North America Litigation and Government Enforcement Practice and Global Investigation, Former Manhattan District Attorney

Mr. Cyrus Vance, the former elected prosecutor for Manhattan, highlighted the critical need for cities to not only focus on preventing cyber-attacks but also to cultivate resilience against them. Drawing from his experience in New York City, he revealed the absence of a unified response plan to major cyber threats against critical infrastructures like water supply or power and how this led to the establishment of a public-private partnership model. In this model, NYPD serves as the hub for intelligence sharing, while various sector leads and agencies, both public and private, actively train together and share real-time threat intelligence. Mr. Vance passionately argued for a collective, community-based approach to cyber resilience, emphasizing that it is not merely the responsibility of federal agencies but involves everyone from local government to small businesses. Through this public-private collaboration, New York City has been able to better safeguard its ecosystem and its people, offering a working model for other urban environments facing similar challenges.

STRATEGIC MINERALS

Prof. Milos Ivkovic

**MA, LL.M., LL.M., International Arbitrator/Advisor to Governments,
Austria**

Mr. Milos Ivkovic emphasized the dire consequences of nations falling into a state of dependence on adversaries for essential resources. Mr. Ivkovic lamented that the international status quo leans more towards conflict than cooperation, notably pointing to two bills in the U.S. Congress aimed at prohibiting cobalt imports sourced through child labor. He painted a grim picture of the complexities involved, extending beyond mere extraction to include refining and production. Mr. Ivkovic warned against the monopolization of any aspect of this supply chain, asserting that it jeopardizes international economies and national securities, while also highlighting China's near-total monopoly. Nonetheless, he expressed hope in fostering cooperation rather than conflict, particularly between African countries, rich in these critical minerals, and Western nations, leaders in industrial know-how. Urging global leaders to recognize the value of mutually beneficial partnerships, Mr. Ivkovic expressed his optimistic belief in the power of collaboration over short-term, "power-greedy" incentives.

Mr. James Black

**Assistant Director, Defence and Security; European Lead, RAND Space
Enterprise Initiative**

The Honorable James Black highlighted the opacity and complexity of global supply chains and how governments and the private sector often lack complete awareness of their vulnerabilities. As solutions, Mr. Black advocated for the generation of more evidence through data analytics and comprehensive studies, sharing information and intelligence across the value chain, and adopting a holistic, inclusive approach that involves not just governments and businesses but also academia, media, and society at large. He stressed that grappling with this "wicked problem" requires not just mitigating risk but also navigating the often-uncomfortable landscape of uncertainty.

Capt. Morgan Murphy

**U.S.N., Former National Security Advisor, United States Senate,
Former Pentagon Press Secretary.**

Mr. Morgan Murphy took the audience on a deep dive into the untapped potential of thorium as a critical mineral and a safe, efficient alternative to uranium for nuclear energy. He delved into the history, detailing thorium's discovery and its subsequent overshadowing by uranium for largely bureaucratic and military reasons. Mr. Murphy highlighted the alarming dependency of the U.S. on imports of strategic

minerals like titanium and rare earth elements, most of which come from China. He made an impassioned plea to reconsider the shelved technology of thorium-based molten salt reactors, arguing they offer a more waste-efficient, safer, and non-proliferative means of generating nuclear power. Mr. Murphy's speech serves as a wake-up call, urging leaders to seize the game-changing opportunities that thorium presents for American energy independence and global sustainability.

THE BUSINESS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING: PROTECTING CHILDREN FROM GLOBAL CRIMINAL NETWORKS

Ms. Anne Basham

**Chair of the Interparliamentary Taskforce on Human Trafficking and
CEO of Ascend Consulting, United States**

Ms. Anne Basham delved into the harrowing story of Hazel, a young woman from Ghana trafficked into indentured servitude. Ms. Basham emphasized the devastating scale of human trafficking as a global issue, intricately tied to organized crime, armed conflicts, and illicit financial networks. She cited shocking statistics, including the vulnerability of unaccompanied children crossing the U.S. Southern border and the staggering \$150 billion generated by human trafficking annually. However, she also shed light on solutions, urging lawmakers to focus on preventive measures. Ms. Basham leads an interparliamentary task force and recommended the adoption of model legislation aimed at funding educational curricula for the states, emphasizing the significant cost-effectiveness of prevention over the long-term expenses of victim restoration.

Rt Hon. Karen Bradley

**Co-Chair of the APPG on Human Trafficking and Modern Slavery,
United Kingdom**

She distinguished between human trafficking and people smuggling, calling attention to the vulnerability of children targeted by global criminals for financial gain. Citing 'County Lines' in the UK as an example, Ms. Bradley described how children in care homes are exploited to run drugs and weapons. She also

highlighted the alarming issue of sports trafficking, where young athletes are deceived into believing they will play for big sports leagues but are instead exploited. Urgently touching on the crisis involving Ukrainian children forcibly taken by Russia, Ms. Bradley stressed the collective responsibility to act. The education of both young people and professionals is the key to recognizing signs of trafficking, in addition to going after criminal finance to break the business model. Innovative approaches like PACT's initiative to distribute Ukrainian-dubbed children's content with anti-trafficking messages were cited as a positive example of how technology can help combat this atrocity.

Honorable Arnold Viersen

MP, Canada

Canadian Member of Parliament, Mr. Arnold Viersen outlined the extensive measures Canada is taking to combat human trafficking and its relation to pornography. Initially motivated by the desire to understand the societal impacts of pornography, Mr. Viersen quickly realizes its deep connection to the human trafficking industry. He discussed legislative efforts underway in Canada to enforce age verification barriers for access to pornographic content and stricter documentation for age and consent in adult videos. Mr. Viersen also highlighted initiatives to prevent registered sex offenders from traveling internationally for exploitative purposes, expressing frustration at the slow pace of policy implementation. He concluded by emphasizing the importance of international police collaboration, citing Canada's deployment of RCMP officers to Cambodia to curtail child exploitation by Canadian citizens abroad.

Honorable Tanya Gould

**OSCE International Survivor of Trafficking Advisory Council member and
Anti-Human Trafficking Director for the Commonwealth of Virginia, United States**

Ms. Tanya Gould, Director of Anti-Human Trafficking for the Office of the Attorney General in the Commonwealth of Virginia and a survivor of domestic trafficking, laid out a comprehensive blueprint for government intervention to protect children from human trafficking. She highlighted the significance of age verification on adult websites as a bulwark against exploitation, a policy now implemented in multiple U.S. states. Ms. Tanya also highlights "Virginia Rules," an educational curriculum on human trafficking, drugs, gangs, and guns, which aims to equip children from fifth to twelfth grades with knowledge about laws and criminal tactics. She emphasized the utility of child ID kits containing DNA and fingerprints to help law enforcement identify missing children. Furthermore, she supported collaborations with businesses for community outreach and staff training to identify trafficking risks. She concluded with an impassioned plea for leaders to remember their humanity, to listen to survivors rather than observers, and to make human trafficking a central issue, equating its eradication with the upliftment of human value.

Honorable Linda Reynolds

Senator, CSC, Australia

Senator Linda Reynolds of Australia addressed the clear slavery connection between security issues and modern slavery. The two be tackled in concert for the sake of preserving democratic freedoms. As proud as she is for her role in Australia's defense strategy, she is prouder still for championing anti-modern slavery legislation. She castigated nations that posed not just a security threat but also exploited slave labor, infiltrating supply chains of everyday goods from smartphones to military tech. Using the example of "orphanage trafficking," Ms. Reynolds shed light on how even charitable intentions can unwittingly contribute to child exploitation. She asserted that these complex issues require political will and international collaboration to establish alternative, slavery-free supply chains. In closing, she called for an end to the collective blind eye turned towards the deeply embedded exploitation and slavery that taints modern conveniences and technology.

Ambassador John Cotton Richmond (ret)

**Former Ambassador-at-Large to Monitor and
Combat Trafficking in Persons and President of the Libertas Council, United States**

Mr. John Cotton Richmond argued that human trafficking is intrinsically linked to global security concerns. Drawing from a rich career that spans from serving as a federal prosecutor in the U.S. to working on foreign policy, Mr. Richmond contended that human trafficking not only fuels the philosophies of extremist organizations but also compromises international supply chains. He noted that state-sanctioned forced labor, particularly in countries like China, poses a unique challenge that requires urgent legislative intervention. Stressing the need for transparency laws, due diligence regulations, and trade law to tackle this issue, Mr. Richmond called for a more unified approach that integrates human rights into security strategies, citing it as not only morally imperative but also smart and strategic for enhancing global security.

RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

Dr. Bob Fu

Chairman, China Aid

The Honorable Dr. Bob Flu boldly highlighted the worsening state of religious freedom and human rights in China under President Xi Jinping. Citing personal experiences, such as his own imprisonment, he exposed China's escalated efforts to suppress religious practices, including the forced removal of crosses from churches, the unjust imprisonments of religious leaders, and the horrific treatment of Uighur Muslims. He also mentioned the transnational repression efforts by the Chinese government, which extend to imprisoning and kidnapping individuals overseas. The speaker urged international leaders, particularly from Muslim countries, to stand up against these atrocities, asserting that silence and inaction are complicit in the ongoing human rights abuses and contravene universal principles of freedom and dignity.

TRADE-BASED MONEY LAUNDERING

Honorable Marco Campomenosi

Member of the European Parliament, Italy

Honorable Marco Campomenosi, a member of the European Parliament specializing in transport and trade, emphasized the urgency of addressing trade-based money laundering. He noted that the lack of sufficient information hampers the fight against this form of financial crime, which is intricately linked with organized crime and terrorism. Mr. Campomenosi highlighted various methods employed in money laundering through international trade and expressed concern over the low rates of successful investigations. He suggested the implementation of artificial intelligence tools to consolidate data and called for enhanced international cooperation. Stressing the need for more investment in research and technology, he appreciated existing legislative packages and advocated for their expansion to tackle this multifaceted issue better.

Hon. Dr. Ben M. Phiri

**Malawi Parliament, Vice Chairperson of the Public Appointments
Committee of Parliament**

In a powerful and urgent address, Dr. Ben Phiri, a Member of Parliament in Malawi, laid bare the crippling issue of trade-based money laundering and illicit financial flows draining Africa of essential resources. He called upon global cooperation to put an end to the debilitating practices that render Africa dependent despite its wealth in resources. With resounding conviction, he declared that the time for passivity has passed; specific and actionable resolutions must be reached to reclaim Africa's lost billions and end its imposed state of impoverishment.

DAY 2

AFRICA PERSPECTIVE

Dr. Ambe Valentine

Economic and political consultant, Ambassador for U.S.- Global African Leadership

Dr. Ambe Valentine, a political and economic consultant from Cameroon, delivered an impassioned address, imploring the international community to heed Africa's growing concerns about foreign influence. Specifically, he criticized Russia and China for what he termed the "second wave of the scramble for Africa." Dr. Valentine lambasted Russia for propping up strongmen over institutions and criticized China for saddling African nations with debilitating debt. He called for a re-evaluation of democracy in Africa, tailored to the continent's unique needs. With urgency, he argued that Africa must rise to defend its interests and free itself from foreign influence that undermines growth and sovereignty. The speech serves as a clarion call for a united African stance against diplomatic and financial maneuvers that jeopardize the continent's future.

Honorable Bol Gai Deng

President Republic of South Sudan Government in Exile

In his impassioned speech, Mr. Bol Gai Deng laid the harrowing conditions in South Sudan, pointing to an ongoing history of war, authoritarianism, and resource exploitation that have brought the young nation to its knees. Mr. Deng called out the failings of the current government, led by an "appointed leader," and accused them, in conjunction with Chinese oil companies, of impoverishing and polluting the land and its people. Citing the staggering number of people facing starvation and displacement, he advocated for earnest elections in 2024 as a critical step toward establishing a true democracy. Mr. Deng represents the South Sudanese government-in-exile and appeals for international community support, invoking the principles of the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights to help South Sudan transition to a government "of the people, by the people, and for the people." He concluded by echoing Martin Luther King's sentiment that "injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere," declaring that the struggle for a free and fair South Sudan is not just a national concern but a global imperative.

REMARKS

Mr. Fahad Bin Mohammed Al-Attiyah

Ambassador of the State of Qatar to the United Kingdom

In a thoughtful address, Mr. Fahad bin Muhammad underscored the importance of international cooperation in the evolving landscape of global security and intelligence. He highlighted that intelligence is not just about data collection but also about deploying that data responsibly to protect citizens and uphold values. Applauding the participation of 61 countries in the forum, Mr. Fahad emphasized the all-encompassing nature of security, which extends beyond borders to fortify the very pillars of nations. He also placed a strong emphasis on the role of legislative bodies in crafting laws that govern intelligence agencies, balancing the scales between freedom and security. With special mention of Qatar's contributions to fostering international dialogue and peace, Mr. Fahad advocated for good governance as the linchpin for confronting modern challenges ranging from cyber threats to transnational crimes. Finally, he called for increased collaboration between the private sector and governments, concluding that resilience and collaboration are the watchwords to transform the world into a bastion of hope, stability, and collective progress.

Mr. Michael Chertoff

Former Secretary of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and Co-founder and Executive Chairman at the Chertoff Group

In his reflective address, Mr. Michael Chertoff, former head of the Criminal Division of the Department of Justice and Secretary of Homeland Security, took stock of the evolution of intelligence and security over the past 25 years. Mr. Chertoff noted that the post-9/11 era led to a heightened focus on tactical intelligence, often at the expense of long-term strategic planning. He emphasized that today's security challenges are multifaceted, encompassing not just traditional battlefields but also domains like cyber, space, economic supply chains, and information. Drawing upon historical context and geopolitical shifts, Mr. Chertoff argued that intelligence agencies and leaders must expand their scope to address these diverse challenges, moving beyond just immediate threats to embrace a more comprehensive view of global security.

CRYPTOCURRENCY AND DIGITAL ASSETS

Dr. Oonagh McDonald

Former Member of British Parliament; author and international financial regulatory expert

In a critical review of digital assets, Dr McDonald described Bitcoin, often pictured as a gold coin, as a virtual asset, consisting only of a string of numbers, requiring a public and a private key in order to transfer Bitcoins, to transfer the Bitcoin from one individual to another via the blockchain. The transfers are all public but not the identity of the transferors. Its pseudonymity makes it an attractive vehicle for money laundering and terrorist financing. Its utility as a currency is hampered by its extreme volatility, 10-14% intraday and over time falling from \$69, 000 on November, 2021 to about \$34,800 recently.

Stable coins, usually pegged to a leading fiat currency, are also transferred via blockchains, with the same degree of anonymity. Their stability is entirely parasitic on the fiat currency. Tether dominates the stable coin market, is registered as a company in the British Virgin Island but not with the BVI Financial Services Commission. It has never published audited accounts, including a profit and loss account, which means that it cannot demonstrate that it has \$84.8 bn dollars in liquid assets in banks somewhere, but where? Holders of Tethers do not know how or when they can redeem them for US dollars. Tethers are easily purchased through exchanges, but if held by the exchange, they are vulnerable to hacking. The price of international transfers is not revealed.

The crypto currency world argues that they are offering financial inclusion and low-cost international transfers for remittances, but neither claim is true. Stable coins as a replacement for fiat currencies, which have to be purchased are pointless. Governments would do better to ensure that all have access to basic bank accounts and encourage low cost and effective international transfers, as an alternative to crypto currencies. The latter require comprehensive regulation, but possible uses of new technology should be explored.

Honorable Brian Quintenz

Former Commissioner, U.S. Commodity Futures Trading Commission; Head of Policy for a16z crypto, Andreessen Horowitz

The Global Head of Policy for Crypto Funds at Andreessen Horowitz, Mr. Brian Quintenz, outlined the transformative potential of the crypto economy in forging the next era of the internet, termed "Web 3.0." Highlighting Andreessen Horowitz's long-term, committed investment in the crypto ecosystem, Mr. Quintenz underscored the intrinsic value of decentralization as the cornerstone of blockchain technology.

He traced the evolution of the Internet from its open-source origins to its current centralized state, arguing that blockchain and tokenization technologies are set to revert the Internet to a transparent, user-empowering platform where value is democratized. Mr. Quintenz asserted that the technological strides in creating unique digital items, enabling trustless transactions, and facilitating smart contracts set the stage for a future where individuals can truly own their digital identities and contributions.

Mr. Combiz Abdolrahimi

Esq., Global Emerging Technology & Innovation Leader, Deloitte

Mr. Combiz Abdolrahimi, who leads emerging Technology Innovation for Deloitte's government and public services practice, offered a seasoned perspective drawn from his experience in both the public and private sectors. Mr. Abdolrahimi stressed the need for a balanced regulatory framework that views digital assets and cryptocurrencies not just as enablers of illicit finance but also as catalysts for financial inclusion and modernization of capital markets. He argued against outright bans or offshoring technologies, stating such moves would lead to dangerous unregulated markets. By analyzing various international approaches, including the U.S., European Union, and the Middle East, he highlighted the need for comprehensive, adaptable, and transparent legislation that fosters consumer protection and global collaboration. With a view toward financial stability and technological innovation, he advocated for robust public-private partnerships and industry engagement to craft pro-innovation regulations. Overall, he emphasized that getting this regulatory balance right could establish jurisdiction as the digital financial hub of the future.

ADVERSARIAL FOREIGN INVESTMENTS

Dr. Roslyn Layton

Visiting Fellow, Aalborg University. Founder, ChinaTechThreat

Ms. Roslyn Layton, an Internet Economist and founder of the think tank China Tech Threat, emphasized the pressing need for stringent and adaptable foreign direct investment screens to safeguard national security. Pointing to her experience in scrutinizing China's technological ambitions, she urged policymakers to focus on a wide range of sectors beyond traditional national security, including farmland and startups in emerging technologies. Ms. Layton underscored the complexity of the task, citing cases like TikTok and Lenovo as instances where inadequate early scrutiny led to complicated security challenges. She called for empowered legislative frameworks, the capacity to enforce and monitor

compliance, and the budgetary means to do so. Her message was clear: the work is complex and ever-evolving, but crucial in the current geopolitical landscape.

Mr. Andreas Jahn

Bundestag Foreign Policy Senior Advisor

Andreas Jahn stated in his remarks that many German small and medium-sized companies are world market leaders in their niche and are therefore very attractive acquisition targets for adversarial foreign investments. Germany is the most export driven economy in the world, with close to half of its GDP deriving from exports. It also has the globe's largest per capita current account surplus and is heavily dependent on industry and on the import of energy and other raw materials to fuel its industrial core. The role of foreign investment and takeovers of German companies in key sectors is therefore crucial to Germany's continued economic power and independence.

Dr. Sohan Dasgupta

Partner, Taft, Stettinius & Hollister LLP - Former Deputy General Counsel, U.S. Department of Homeland Security

Mr. Sohan Dasgupta underscored the gravity of contemporary threats—ranging from adversarial foreign investments to technological sabotage—that imperil national and global security. He meticulously dissected the role of sanctions, export controls, and several U.S. interagency efforts, such as the Committee on Foreign Investments in the United States (CFIUS) and Team Telecom, in combating these risks. Mr. Dasgupta advocated for fortifying intelligence-sharing and other partnerships, augmenting the Free World's supply chains and strengthening the four-quadrant partnerships across the hemispheres. Noting that the rule of law and specifically the freedom of thought stand as bulwarks against tyranny, he implored the assembly to unite in defense of liberty and the rule of law, declaring it an exigent duty for the continued existence of free societies globally.

SPACE FORCE

Honorable Jaak Madison

Member of the European Parliament, Estonia, Deputy Chairman of the Conservative People's Party of Estonia Parliament

Mr. Jaak Madison explored the critical role of space forces in a rapidly evolving geopolitical landscape. He humorously contrasted the branding and uniforms of the U.S. Space Force with science fiction

mainstays like Star Trek and Battlestar Galactica before diving into the serious need for international cooperation to counter space-related threats from China and Russia. Mr. Madison emphasized the full spectrum of these threats, ranging from GPS jamming to cyber warfare, and cited significant investments made by countries in their space programs. He also pointed to the opportunity for collaboration with allies like India, Middle Eastern, and African nations. Balancing the risks posed by China and Russia through international cooperation was stressed as a crucial focus. Mr. Madison wrapped up by encouraging everyone to reimagine the future of space through the lens of science fiction before dashing off to catch a train back to Brussels.

TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION: 5G, ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AND QUANTUM COMPUTING

Honorable Cristian Bacanu

Member of Parliament, Chamber of Deputies of Romania

Mr. Cristian Bacanu articulated the gravity of the technological arms race that had been burgeoning, emphasizing how Western civilization had faced formidable challenges from states like Russia, China, and Iran. With the adoption of technologies like 5G, artificial intelligence, and quantum computing, these states attempted to undermine the moral and economic superiority of the Western model.

Mr. Bacanu advocated for the urgent need to safeguard democracy and critical infrastructure by collaborating with like-minded countries beyond NATO. He raised ethical and philosophical concerns about the uncharted territory of quantum technology and AI, questioning whether the rapid advancements could outpace our moral and regulatory frameworks. At the crux, Mr. Bacanu presented a daunting moral dilemma: the possible future in which rogue nations or uncontrollable AI systems could gain quantum advantage, potentially undermining Western civilization's core values and freedom.

Mr. John Strand

CEO of Strand Consult

Mr. John Strand delved into the concerning practices within the telecommunications industry, with a specific focus on the questionable activities of Huawei in Europe. He provided an account of espionage, alleged leaks, and even political influence exerted by Huawei on the Danish government. Mr. Strand drew attention to the vulnerabilities faced by European countries, notably Germany, due to their heavy reliance on Chinese telecom infrastructure.

He challenged the complacency exhibited by governments and companies, using Denmark as an example of resistance against Chinese pressure. Mr. Strand concluded his discourse with a call to action, emphasizing the possibility of implementing rapid and substantial changes. Drawing from his experience in challenging the French satellite company, Eutelsat, he urged immediate vigilance and action to safeguard both national and international telecommunication infrastructures.

Mr. Markus Pflitsch

Chairman and CEO, Terra Quantum AG

Asserting that quantum computing's exponential computational speed-up is a game-changer, Mr. Pflitsch highlighted that Terra Quantum, with over \$100 million in fundraising and a globally leading team of quantum physicists, is at the forefront of this innovation. Mr. Pflitsch stressed that the urgency to adopt quantum technologies is now outlining their 'hybrid approach' that sidesteps current hardware limitations by deploying quantum capabilities via simulators, yielding staggering performance enhancements across various industries. He also dismissed the current hype around generative AI, heralding quantum AI as the "next level," endowed with the potential for truly non-deterministic, non-local, and non-causal operation.

Mr. J.C. Boggs

Esq., Partner, King & Spalding LLP

Mr. JC Boggs delved into the historical evolution, current advancements, and the complex implications of Artificial Intelligence (AI). He took the audience from the birth of AI at a Dartmouth symposium in 1955 to its transformative role today in healthcare and national security sectors. With an emphasis on the legislative landscape, Mr. Boggs pointed to numerous bills and international frameworks aimed at governing AI's impact. He elaborated on the dual nature of AI: its potential for breakthroughs in data analysis, medical therapies, and scientific advancements, but also the associated risks like misinformation, job displacement, and ethical quandaries. The speech also underscored the geopolitical dimensions of AI, particularly the ambitious AI and nanotechnology initiatives underway in China, positing them as a strategic concern for the United States and its allies. His speech concluded by calling AI a "major game changer," likening its impact to the paradigm shift from bow and arrows to missiles.

AFRICA PERSPECTIVE

Hon. Dr. Dansa Kourouma

President of the National Transitional Council, Guinea

Dr. Dansa Kurama, the President of the National Transitional Council in Guinea, emphasized the escalating security challenges, particularly in Africa. He pointed to the surge in armed conflicts, citing troubling statistics that suggest a 70% increase in major conflicts since 2010, which has resulted in devastating human losses. He lamented the disintegration of trust among regional and sub-regional entities, insisting that this erodes the solidarity needed to combat shared threats. Dr. Kurama urged nations to strengthen security and intelligence cooperation at a global scale, adapting legislation to address current threats like cybercrime. He closed his speech by calling for justice and a rightful place for Africa in the global security landscape, cautioning that "the law must control technology, but technology cannot control the law."

NATION STATE RISK AND THE FUTURE INFLUENCE IN SECURITY FROM CHINA, RUSSIA AND NORTH KOREA

Honorable Baroness Pauline Neville Jones

**House of Lords, United Kingdom, former Chairman of
the Joint Intelligence Committee**

Ms. Baroness Pauline navigated the landscape of modern geopolitics, cyber threats, and state-sponsored covert operations. She expressed concern about the diminishing optimism once held by Western democracies as autocratic regimes continued to close off rather than open. Addressing the concept of 'living with risk,' she argued that nation-states, whether old or new, are constantly dealing with various forms of risk, even though the nature of these risks has changed in the 21st century.

MS. Baroness criticized the lack of a cohesive strategy by Western nations to counter adversarial powers like Russia and China, questioning the efficacy of mere sanctions. She emphasized that effective risk management should involve proactive and imaginative approaches, not just defensive stances. Urging a need for a 'positive offer' and constructive dialogue, she suggested that the international community must reorient its efforts to mitigate increasing global tensions and successfully tackle collective challenges like climate change.

Hon. Nathan Sales

Former U.S. Under Secretary of State for Civilian Security, Democracy, and Human Rights (acting); Nonresident Senior Fellow, Atlantic Council.

Ambassador Nathan Sales dispelled two prevailing myths about Western support for Ukraine amid Russia's continued aggression. The first, he argued, is that increased military aid to Ukraine will escalate tensions to the point of triggering World War III. Sales contends this notion is unfounded, pointing out that Putin escalates in response to weakness rather than strength. The second myth is that support for Ukraine distracts from the "true" geopolitical threat—China. Sales refutes this by showing that not only does Taiwan see Ukraine's struggle as inherently connected to its own, but a Russian victory would embolden China and potentially result in far more catastrophic global conflict. Stressing the minimal cost yet strategic advantage of supporting Ukraine, Ambassador Sales made a compelling case for robust, multi-pronged engagement as vital to both transatlantic and Indo-Pacific security and stability.

Hon. Ravi Batra

Esq., Chairman, National Advisory Council South Asian Affairs, USA

Chairman Ravi Batra passionately advocated for the revival of classical diplomacy, minus appeasement, exemplified by Neville Chamberlain speaking to adversaries, to support Winston Churchill's courageous steel-spine in contemporary geopolitics. That "First Step" of conventional war is more dangerous in our nuclear-armed world, and must be prevented. He emphasized the importance of public respect in diplomacy, to offset private candid discussions. Chairman Batra highlighted the existential challenges posed by nuclear-armed adversaries and called for the establishment of multilateral commitments akin to NATO for the South China Sea to prevent war from starting.

He emphasized the pressing need to uphold international agreements, such as the 1994 Budapest Memorandum, and criticized the failure to do so as a breach of trust and sovereign integrity. Mr. Batra extended this vision to include a plea for cultural co-existence and an approach to international relations based on mutual respect. All these measures, he argued, are essential to prevent the catastrophic consequences, including collateral damage and injury, that accompany modern warfare, let alone endless wars.

Lord Toby Haris

Member of the House of Lords of the United Kingdom and Chair of the UK Cyber Preparedness Commission

Mr. Toby Haris presented an overview of the current global challenges, ranging from shifting geopolitical dynamics to the looming threat of climate change and mass migration. He closely examined the United States' diminishing global influence and China's increasing economic and technological power, often achieved through questionable means like intellectual property theft.

Mr. Harris also addressed Russia's utilization of both conventional and cyber warfare tactics to expand its influence. He discussed the growing prevalence of "gray zone" tactics such as cyber-attacks and disinformation campaigns aimed at undermining democracy. He underscored the importance of strong political leadership and comprehensive public education to reinforce trust in democratic institutions. The speech served as a call for collective vigilance, preparedness, and unity in an era marked by escalating global uncertainties and divisions.

ENERGY SECURITY

Honorable Helene Conway Mouret

Member of Senate, France

Ms. Conway Mouret highlighted the critical interconnection between energy security and national security, warning that short-term profits and global dependencies jeopardize both. Reflecting on geopolitical shifts and crises from the COVID-19 pandemic to the war in Ukraine, she emphasized the need for nations to invest in renewable energies and local production to combat climate change and ensure national sovereignty and resilience. Citing examples from Senegal to Africa's broader economic vulnerabilities, especially due to China's and Russia's exploitative practices, she called for a refocused attention on Africa, as it is central to global future security. Ms. Mouret concluded by affirming support for Ukraine, praising its people's resilience as an exemplary display of human courage and determination.

Ambassador Carla Sands

Vice Chair, Center for Energy and Environment, America First Policy Institute; former US Ambassador to the Kingdom of Denmark

Ms. Carla Sands advocated for a decisive reevaluation of prevailing Western energy policies, asserting that they were rooted in climate alarmism and utopian ideals of achieving net-zero emissions. She critiqued these policies for fostering increased dependence on adversarial countries like China and Russia,

emphasizing the urgency of a pro-growth, pro-energy agenda to ensure economic, national, and energy security.

Drawing upon her experience as the U.S. Ambassador to Denmark, she highlighted her contributions to countering the influence of Huawei in Europe and contended that fossil fuels remained crucial for human flourishing and poverty alleviation. Ms. Sands concluded by urging nations to prioritize energy security and human prosperity over impractical and potentially harmful environmentalist goals, recommending a future focused on abundant, clean, and affordable energy resources.

Mr. Lucian Pugliaresi

President, Energy Policy Research Foundation, Inc

The Honorable Lucian Pugliaresi, President of the Energy Policy Research Foundation, critically examined the Net Zero program's feasibility and the uncertainties inherent in current energy models. He emphasized that the U.S. administration's focus on specific technologies, like electric vehicles and renewable energy, may not be the most effective path to reducing carbon emissions. Pointing to the billions already spent with minimal impact on the share of renewables in the global energy supply, Mr. Pugliaresi argued for a more nuanced, systems-based approach. He warned that developing countries, crucial for any meaningful reduction in global carbon emissions, require dense, reliable energy sources for economic growth and that policies should be robust against uncertainties rather than being rigidly planned around specific technologies.

Mr. François Baird

Chairman and Founder, Baird's US LLC/Baird's CMC Limited/Calbridge (Pty) Ltd/FairPlay, United States

Mr. Francois Baird addressed the urgent issue of energy insecurity in Africa, linking it to systemic unemployment, food scarcity, and regional instability. Mr. Baird underscored the dire statistics that reveal Africa's worsening access to electricity, emphasizing the ripple effects such as poverty and child stunting. He called on parliamentarians to enforce the rule of law and encourage private ownership for a stable energy supply, also advocating for local financing and development of Africa's rich energy resources like coal, oil, and gas. Mr. Baird argued that this is not merely an African issue but a global imperative, warning that neglecting energy access will perpetuate poverty and instability, potentially leading to continent-wide crises. He concluded by arguing that unlocking Africa's energy potential is crucial for sustainable development, poverty reduction, security and geopolitical stability.

CYBERSECURITY: THE CASE FOR ACCURATE INTELLIGENCE AND DATA

Mr. Brian Cavanaugh

**Visiting Fellow for Cybersecurity and Intelligence
The Heritage Foundation**

Mr. Brian Cavanaugh emphasized the critical juncture at which the world finds itself, caught between boundless technological innovation and escalating cyber threats. Serving as a senior director for resilience policy on the U.S. National Security Council, he underlined the imperative for security and resilience to be woven into the very fabric of our digital advancements. Mr. Brian strongly advocated for a robust public-private partnership, exemplified by programs like the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Joint Cyber Defense Collaborative, to bridge the gap between technical know-how and strategic insight. Citing data-driven approaches and hash monitoring as pivotal strategies for swift detection and prevention, he made it abundantly clear that accurate intelligence and close cooperation are the cornerstones of a secure and resilient cyber landscape.

Dr. Zakir Durumeric

**Assistant Professor of Computer Science at Stanford University and
Co-Founder of Censys**

The Honorable Zakir Durumeric delved into the stark vulnerabilities in today's cybersecurity landscape. He emphasized that the real threats are not futuristic technologies like quantum computing or advanced machine learning models but rather the persistent, unaddressed vulnerabilities in current systems. Mr. Zakir critiqued the inadequacies of commercial threat intelligence and the severe talent shortage in the field. He argued for a collaborative approach among government, academia, and private industry to prioritize vulnerabilities, disseminate actionable intelligence, and tackle the industry's foundational issues head-on. His speech vividly depicted an industry struggling with its basics, emphasizing the need for urgent, collaborative action to make meaningful progress.



