

**THE AGE OF MULTIPOLARITY:
Many Directions, One Future**

DUBROVNIK, CROATIA
26-27 June 2026



20th anniversary

Draft as of 15 May

The conference program is subject to change. The organizers reserve the right to amend the schedule, speakers or programme content at their discretion and at any time, without prior notice.

DUBROVNIK FORUM 2026

THE AGE OF MULTIPOLARITY: Many Directions, One Future

P R O G R A M

Dubrovnik, 26-27 June 2026

CONTEXT

Set against the stunning backdrop of Dubrovnik, a city historically hailed for its culture, trade and skilled diplomacy, **this year's Dubrovnik Forum** offers a timely platform to reflect on the complexities of a rapidly evolving global order. Much like the former Dubrovnik Republic, which skilfully balanced between competing powers, countries of today navigate a **turbulent world** that is characterized by polarization, fierce competition for resources, shifting alliances and new power paradigms.

The **global order** continues to face tectonic changes, from an unprecedented wave of interconnected crises, to conflicts in **Eastern Europe, Middle East, Africa, Latin America and Asia**, economic shocks, energy volatility, shifting trade agendas and climate crisis, highlighting the need for dialogue and cooperation while ensuring that diverse voices, interests and concerns are heard and taken into account.

This year's the **19th edition** of the Forum will also mark the **20th anniversary** of the Forum's inauguration in 2006, known as the Croatia Summit at that time. The Forum will bring together top-notch policymakers, scholars, business leaders and civil society actors from across the globe to generate actionable insights for navigating the **new multipolar world**. The focus will be on the emerging concept of **multipolarity**, shaping the event's agenda in light of recent international developments, and aiming to **foster dialogue** between **Western countries** and countries of the **Global South**, thereby **amplifying diverse voices**. The conference's global outlook will be enriched by discussions with key stakeholders from **Southeast Europe**, offering unique insight into challenges and prospects of that region. Keeping in step with the spirit of the times, the Forum will seek to offer **fresh perspectives** on several contentious issues, including the **evolving values agenda** and its implications on foreign affairs.

As Croatia chairs the **EU MED9** and the **Three Seas Initiative (3SI)** in 2026, the Forum will place a special emphasis on **Mediterranean** perspectives and **shared strategic priorities**. This year, the Forum will also broaden its scope by introducing a dedicated youth dimension through the **Dubrovnik Youth Forum (DYF)**, which will take place from 24 to 28 June 2026 on the margins of the Dubrovnik Forum.

As a historic hub of dialogue and exchange, **Dubrovnik** offers an **ideal setting** for discussions leading to a better understanding of multipolarity and shaping strategies for a more resilient, secure and interconnected world.

Friday, June 26

Venue Dubrovnik Palace Hotel
Master of Ceremonies Ali Aslan

08:45 – 09:45 (60 min)	Digital Resilience and AI: Integrating Infrastructure, Data and Security for EU Global Competitiveness Event organized by the New Frontier Foundation		Conference Hall Mare I
10:00 – 10:30 (30 min)	Opening and Welcoming Remarks		Conference Hall Mare I
	Working Sessions		
10:30 – 12:00 (90 min)	Think Tank Panel: Emerging Powers in a Multipolar World – Many Paths, One Destination		Conference Hall Mare I
12:00 – 13:00	Lunch Break		
13:30 - 14:30 (60 min)	Energy Competition in a Multipolar World: How to Strengthen Europe's Sovereignty and Resilience?		Conference Hall Mare I
14:45 – 15:45 (60 min)	Geopolitics of Artificial Intelligence: Who will Rule the Digital Future?		Conference Hall Mare I
16:00 – 17:00 (60 min)	Supply Chains and Trade Under Fire: Maritime Security at a Point of No Return?	Regional Launch of the Industrial Development Report 2026 Industrial Futures: Transforming Eastern Europe and Central Asia towards a Sustainable Industrial Future Event organized by the UNIDO	Conference Hall Mare I Conference Hall Mare III
17:15 - 18:15 (60 min)	Melting Ice, Rising Stakes: Critical Materials, Geopolitical Competition and Global Health		Conference Hall Mare I
18:30 - 19:30 (60 min)	OECD Dubrovnik Talks Navigating Global Shocks: Green and Digital Transitions for South East European Businesses Event organized by the OECD	Cognitive Warfare in a Multipolar World Enhanced by Artificial Intelligence	Conference Hall Mare I Conference Hall Mare III
20:30	Gala Dinner (by special invitation only) hosted by Andrej Plenković , Prime Minister of the Republic of Croatia		Vala Beach

Saturday, June 27

08:45	Family Photo		10th Floor Terrace
	Working Sessions		
09:00 – 10:00 (60 min)	The Age of Multipolarity: Navigating New Realities		Conference Hall Mare I
10:15 – 11:15 (60 min)	One Sea, Many Partners: A Mediterranean that Delivers for All		Conference Hall Mare I
11:30 – 12:30 (60 min)	Beyond the Peace Dividend: Modern Warfare, Defence Industry and Europe's Strategic Choices		Conference Hall Mare I
12:30 – 13:30	Lunch Break		
14:00 – 15:15 (75 min)	Universal Values in a Multipolar World: What Can We Learn from Each Other?		Conference Hall Mare I
15:30 – 16:30 (60 min)	Africa's Evolving Role in a Multipolar World: Geopolitics, Growth and Global Influence	Clearing the Ground for Lasting Peace: Demining at the Frontline of Food Security and Geopolitics	Conference Hall Mare I Conference Hall Mare III
16:45 – 17:45 (60 min)	Asia-Pacific in Motion: New Powers, Old Rivalries	Between Power Centres: Lessons from Multi-Vector Diplomacy	Conference Hall Mare I Conference Hall Mare III
18:00 – 19:00 (60 min)	The EU and the Western Balkans: Resolving Unfinished Business Together (Part I)		Conference Hall Mare I
19:15 – 20:15 (60 min)	The EU and the Western Balkans: Resolving Unfinished Business Together (Part II)		Conference Hall Mare I
20:15 – 20:30 (15 min)	Closing remarks		Conference Hall Mare I
20:30 – 21:30	Cocktail – The Closing of the Conference		Conference Hall Mare III