

BGD 2025



PROGRAM

Shifting Power Shaping Prosperity

BGD 2025



Contents

04 Introduction

05 Thematic Pillars

06 Session Types

07 Program Day I

12 Program Day II

18 Program Day III

21 Side Events

26 Evening Program

27 BGD Young Voices

29 Our Advisors

31 Our Partners

Introduction

It is our pleasure to introduce the official program of BGD 2025!

This year's theme, "Shifting Power, Shaping Prosperity," reflects on a pivotal moment in time: we are witnessing the transition from a unipolar to a multipolar global order.

This transition is fundamentally reshaping global power structures. New actors are emerging, traditional alliances are evolving, and multilateral institutions are under strain. As power diffuses, so does predictability — creating new challenges for both businesses and governments.

Yet with every challenge comes opportunity. This year's program is a testimony to that — it mirrors today's political and economic realities while affirming our belief that multipolarity can be a driver of growth, equity, and opportunity for all.

The people gathered at BGD 2025 are not passive witnesses to these transformations. As leaders from business, government, and academia, you have the unique power to shape the rules of engagement for this new order.

The decisions we make now — as citizens, companies, or countries — will shape the prosperity of generations to come.

We look forward to discussing how to do so over the next few days.

Sincerely,



A blue ink signature of Lars-Hendrik Röller.

Lars-Hendrik Röller
Founder and Chair
Berlin Global Dialogue



A blue ink signature of Carolin Albrecht.

Carolin Albrecht
Founding Managing Director
Berlin Global Dialogue



A blue ink signature of Jenny zu Eulenburg.

Jenny zu Eulenburg
Managing Director
Berlin Global Dialogue

Thematic Pillars

We promote dialogue in four key areas shaping the future of the global economy:



Geopolitical Shifts

How can we adapt to a changing international order in an increasingly multipolar world?



Climate Change

How can we mitigate the impact of the climate crisis and accelerate the transition to a low-carbon economy?



Technological Advances

How can we meet the challenges and harness the opportunities of technological progress?



Global Inequality

How can we combat widening inequalities between and within countries?





BGD-Session Types

We have four session formats, which differ in participant composition and access level.

Leaders Dialogue

Fully accessible to media representatives and broadcasted on live television.

Partner Dialogue

Sessions hosted by our partners. Accessible to media representatives under Chatham House Rule.

Impact Dialogue

Accessible to media representatives under Chatham House Rule.

Private Dialogue

Invite-only sessions for select participants. Not accessible to media representatives.

Berlin Global Dialogue

Day 1 — 23 October

From 9:00

Registration and Accreditation

11:30 – 12:15 | Foyer I & II & Pavilion

Light Lunch & Networking

We invite you to join us for a light lunch at ESMT Berlin and the BGD Pavilion before the summit officially begins.

12:15 – 12:30 | Audit Max

Opening of Berlin Global Dialogue 2025

Jörg Rocholl – President, ESMT Berlin

Bernard Mensah – President of International, Bank of America

Lars-Hendrik Röller – Chair & Founder, Berlin Global Dialogue

Leaders Dialogue



23 OCT | 12:30 – 13:15 | AUDIT MAX

Investing amid Uncertainty: Capital Strategies for a Fragmented World

In an era defined by geopolitical tensions, economic volatility, and rapid technological shifts, how can capital be deployed with confidence? This session will discuss strategies to identify resilient investment opportunities in a landscape marked by inflationary pressures, shifting trade dynamics, and evolving supply chains. It will also explore how public-private partnerships are evolving to drive growth amidst unpredictability.

Nadia Calviño – President, European Investment Bank Group

Henry Kravis – Co-Founder & Co-Executive Chairman, KKR

Moderator: Francine Lacqua – Anchor, Bloomberg Television

13:15 – 13:30 | SHORT BREAK



Smart Regulation for a Competitive Europe

Regulatory policies can enable markets, support business interests, and protect customers. Yet regulation can be overbearing and complex, leading to depressed growth and innovation — especially in industries and economies going through rapid change. This session explores regulatory models that have successfully attracted and retained investment and innovation, and how they can be adapted to enhance Europe's competitiveness on the global stage.

Valdis Dombrovskis – Commissioner for Economy and Productivity;
Implementation and Simplification, European Union

Katherina Reiche – Federal Minister for Economic Affairs and Energy, Germany

Bill Anderson – CEO, Bayer

Hans Joachim Reinke – CEO, Union Investment

Moderator: Michaela Küfner – Chief Political Editor, Deutsche Welle



Fragmented Futures: Competing Paths to Electrification

In the pursuit of an electrified industrial future, countries are adopting various strategies from deregulation to state-led planning, bringing both increased risk and opportunity for businesses. This session will examine the differing electrification strategies and what that means for business in the quest for decarbonization and the green industrial transformation.

Frank Wetzel – State Secretary, Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy, Germany

Nathalie Oosterlinck – CEO, JERA Nex bp

Morten Wierod – President & CEO, ABB

Hui Zhang – Vice President, NIO Europe

Moderator: Bernhard Lorentz – Managing Partner, Deloitte



Shaping a Multipolar Future: A Conversation with the BGD Young Voices

Emerging generations are calling for bolder leadership rooted in climate responsibility, democratic values, accountability, and trust. As global challenges intensify, political and economic expectations are shifting rapidly. Developed by Berlin Global Dialogue's Young Voices, this session reflects a joint effort by emerging and established leaders to co-design practical solutions that strengthen democratic culture, rebuild trust in institutions, and align economic decision-making with long-term societal goals.

Xavier Bettel – Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Luxembourg

Hervé Ekué – Global Managing Partner, A&O Shearman

İma Essien – UC Berkeley & BGD Young Voice

Funeka Montjane – CEO Personal and Private Banking, Standard Bank Group

Elise Most – ESMT Berlin & BGD Young Voice

Moderator: Yanis Bourgeois – HEC Paris & BGD Young Voice



AI In Government: Advancing the Agentic State

The emergence of Agentic AI systems presents a transformative opportunity for governments to respond to the evolving needs of their citizens. This session explores the opportunities of Agentic AI in governance, strategies to foster trust and AI-native talent, and broader implications for digital resilience and national security.

Kyriakos Pierrakakis – Minister of Economy and Finance, Greece

Oleksandr Bornyakov – Deputy Minister of Digital Transformation, Ukraine

Mohamed Bin Taliah – Chief of Government Services, United Arab Emirates

Sean Kask – Chief AI Strategy Officer, SAP

Moderator: Luukas Ilves – Advisor to the Deputy Prime Minister of Ukraine & Former Government CIO, Estonia

14:45 – 15:15 | COFFEE BREAK



Turning Commitment into Capability: European Security in a Multipolar World

Despite a significant increase in defense spending, the European defense industry is facing many challenges – including fragmented defense production, slow technology adoption, and a lack of industrial alignment. This session brings together business and government to discuss how to scale and improve defense capabilities within NATO and the EU — and turn commitment into capability.

Andrius Kubilius – Commissioner for Defense and Space, European Union

Xavier Bettel – Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Luxembourg

Armin Papperger – Chairman, Rheinmetall

Michael Schoellhorn – CEO, Airbus Defence and Space

Elif Bilgi Zapparoli – Head of International Client Strategy, Bank of America

Moderator: Gordon Repinski – Executive Editor, Politico



Germany's Investment Horizon: Policy Priorities and Emerging Opportunities

In conversation with the Chancellor's Personal Representative for Investment in Germany, this session provides an exclusive outlook on the country's future investment landscape and key government strategies.

Martin Blessing – Personal Representative of the Chancellor for Investment, Germany

Moderator: Lars-Hendrik Röller – Chair & Founder, Berlin Global Dialogue



Redefining Global Cooperation in a Multipolar Age

As global power becomes more diffuse, traditional alliances are giving way to new, often unexpected coalitions. From Gulf-led infrastructure initiatives in Africa to new financial corridors linking Asia and Europe, emerging partnerships are redrawing the map of global influence, reshaping decision-making and legitimacy, and challenging conventional models. This session will explore how today's realignments create the foundations of future global cooperation.

Kyriakos Pierrakakis – Minister of Economy and Finance, Greece

Fernando Queiroz – CEO, Minerva Foods

Funeka Montjane – CEO Personal and Private Banking, Standard Bank Group

Maria Rocha Barros – SVP, Chief Legal & Public Affairs Officer, Booking.com

Moderator: Ali Aslan – International Television Presenter & Moderator



War Speed: Scaling Technology under Pressure

Europe's defense sector is slow and heavily reliant on the US, prioritizing incrementalism over existential urgency. In stark contrast, Ukraine has pioneered "innovation at war speed", rapidly deploying technologies in times of crisis. This session explores how Europe can learn from Ukraine to close the gap between outdated procurement models and battlefield realities to accelerate innovation, reform institutional frameworks, and build a defense sector ready for the challenges ahead.

Elena Dushenok – Head of Growth, Skyfall Industries

Serhii Kuprienko – CEO & Founder, Swarmer

Pavlo Shevchuk – CEO, Skyeton

Moderator: Magdalena Nasilowska – Partner, A&O Shearman



From Debt to Opportunity: Rethinking Investment in the Global South

With debt servicing outpacing investment in education, healthcare, and climate resilience, many developing countries are at a tipping point for long-term stability and growth. This session brings together leaders to explore how structural reforms and sustainable investment can turn crisis into opportunity in the Global South.

Christiane Laibach – Member of the Executive Board, KfW

Ludger Schuknecht – Vice President for Policy and Strategy, Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank

Aminata Touré – High Representative of the President & former Prime Minister, Senegal

Moderator: Martín Guzmán – Professor, Columbia University & former Minister of Economy, Argentina



The Rise of Monetary Multipolarity: Advancing Digital Currencies

With global cash usage declining, digital payment systems – from cryptocurrencies to central bank digital currencies – are increasingly reshaping international commerce and challenging traditional financial structures. Countries are diverging in their responses, with some favoring private innovation and others public control. This session explores the role of digital money in redefining global monetary alignments and driving a multipolar financial system.

Martin Blessing – Chairman, Danske Bank, Personal Representative of the Chancellor for Investment, Germany

Prakash Kannan – Chief Economist & Director Economic and Investment Strategy, GIC

Almudena de la Mata – CEO, Blockchain Intelligence

Richard Nash – Vice-President & Global Head, Government Relations, Paypal

Moderator: Joachim Wuermeling – Executive in Residence, ESMT Berlin

China's Trade and Economic Policy for a New Era (by invitation-only)

Zhang Qi – Vice President (Vice Minister), Development Research Centre of the State Council, China

Moderator: Carolin Albrecht – Founding Managing Director, Berlin Global Dialogue

Opening Night

We invite you to our Opening Night at the BGD Pavilion for drinks and light bites. Registration required.

Berlin Global Dialogue

Day 2 — 24 October

Leaders Dialogue

24 OCT | 09:00 – 10:15 | AUDIT MAX



Growing Together: Trade and Alliances in a Changing World

The global trading system is under strain as countries prioritize domestic concerns and trade becomes more securitized. These shifts weaken the WTO and other international institutions, undermining cooperation and stability. This session explores how countries and businesses are responding to these challenges and explores future strategies for building a more resilient global trade environment.

Piyush Goyal – Minister of Commerce & Industry, India

Chris Bryant – Minister for Trade, United Kingdom

Ola Källenius – CEO & Chairman, Mercedes

Emma Marcegaglia – CEO, Marcegaglia Steel

René Obermann – Chairman, Airbus

Moderator: Larry Madowo – International Correspondent, CNN

Leaders Dialogue

24 OCT | 10:30 – 11:45 | AUDIT MAX



Financing in a Multipolar World: Strategies for Economic Security

As global power shifts and fiscal constraints grow, governments must adopt new strategies to sustain growth and resilience. In a multipolar economy, ensuring security, competitiveness, and mitigating geopolitical risk have grown complex. This session explores how governments respond through innovative financing, strategic investments, evolving trade corridors and new partnerships.

Faisal bin Fadhil Alibrahim – Minister of Economy and Planning, Saudi Arabia

Daleep Singh – Vice Chair and Chief Global Economist, PGIM

Elif Bilgi Zapparoli – Head of International Client Strategy, Bank of America

Moderator: Oliver Crook – Chief Europe Correspondent, Bloomberg



Economic Outlook 2030: Navigating Risks, Rules, and Innovation



Due to shifting trade patterns, security challenges, and technological revolutions, economic growth is becoming more difficult to predict. Are policymakers going to respond to these emerging global risks and uncertainties incrementally or with bold, transformative initiatives? Economists from across the world will offer their outlook and assess where growth is most likely to occur.

Di Dongsheng – Professor and Vice Dean of the School of International Relations, Director of the Institute of Global and Area Studies, Renmin University

Veronika Grimm – Professor at Technical University of Nuremberg and Member of the German Council of Economic Experts

Mike Pyle – Deputy Head of the Portfolio Management Group, BlackRock & former US Deputy National Security Advisor for International Economics

Nicolaos Vettas – Professor, Athens University of Economics & Business and General Director, Foundation of Economic and Industrial Research

Moderator: Tom Nuttall – Chief Germany Correspondent, The Economist



The End of Predictability? Adapting Enterprises to the Geopolitical Age

As globalization gives way to fragmentation and uncertainty, companies are rethinking how they operate across borders. This session explores how businesses are restructuring supply chains, legal entities, and innovation strategies, to build resilience and secure their global footprint.

Hervé Ekué – Global Managing Partner, A&O Shearman

Sandra E. Peterson – Operating Partner, Clayton Dubilier & Rice

Maria Rocha Barros – SVP, Chief Legal & Public Affairs Officer, Booking.com

Wolfgang Schmidt – Former Minister and Head of Chancellery, Germany

Moderator: Ali Aslan – International Television Presenter & Moderator



From Projections to Preparedness: Resilience for a 1.5°C World

The world is moving fast towards a 1.5°C future, with the climate crisis unfolding at a rapid pace and severity. Yet critical challenges to resilience, such as a widening protection gap, limitations to climate models, and infrastructure planning remain under-addressed. This session explores these challenges and discusses strategies and tools for long-term climate stability.

Sheikh Khalifa Alharthy – Undersecretary for Political Affairs, Foreign Ministry, Oman

Günther Thallinger – Member of the Board of Management, Allianz

Lucy Yu – CEO & Founder, Centre for Net Zero, & AI Champion for Clean Energy, UK

Moderator: Cyba Audi – Senior Anchor and Editor-at-Large, Asharq News

Navigating Multipolarity: India's Trade and Industrial Agenda (by invitation-only)

Piyush Goyal – Minister of Commerce & Industry, India

Moderator: Carolin Albrecht – Founding Managing Director, Berlin Global Dialogue

11:45 – 12:15 | COFFEE BREAK

Leaders Dialogue



24 OCT | 12:15 – 13:30 | AUDIT MAX

Applied Intelligence: Europe's Edge in the Global AI Race

AI is transforming how Europe designs, produces, and delivers goods and services. This session explores how Europe can leverage its existing industrial and economic strengths to lead in AI across sectors, while ensuring competitiveness, resilience, and strategic autonomy.

Jens Spahn – Chairman, CDU/CSU Parliamentary Group, German Parliament

Jeannette zu Fürstenberg – Managing Director, General Catalyst

Christian P. Illek – Chief Finance Officer, Deutsche Telekom

Annika von Mutius – Founder & CEO, Empion

Moderator: Johannes-Tobias Lorenz – Senior Partner, McKinsey

Impact Dialogue



24 OCT | 12:15 – 13:30 | AUDIT I

Power Shifts: Increasing Energy Resilience

The convergence of geopolitical shifts, climate volatility, and technological advances is fundamentally redefining the concept of energy security. This session explores how businesses and governments can cooperate to achieve reliability, affordability, and decarbonisation in the energy sector.

Sanja Bozinovska – Minister of Energy, Mining and Mineral Resources, North Macedonia

Ditte Juul Jørgensen – Director-General, Directorate-General for Energy, European Union

Markus Krebber – CEO, RWE

Francesco Sciortino – Co-Founder & CEO, Proxima Fusion

Moderator: Thomas Losse-Müller – Managing Director, Climate Neutrality Foundation



An Automated World: Adapting to Workforce Disruption

AI, automation, and digital collaboration are reshaping the global workforce, redefining roles, and demanding new skill sets across industries. This session explores how businesses, educators, and governments can work together to close existing and emerging skills gaps.

Michael Ensser – Chairman, Egon Zehnder

Wolfgang Schmidt – Former Minister and Head of Chancellery, Germany

Michael Sen – Chairman of the Management Board, Fresenius

Katrin Suder – Chairwoman of the Supervisory Board, DHL Group

Moderator: Michael Bröcker – Editor-in-Chief, Table Media



Prosperity in Multipolarity: Unlocking Economic Growth

Economic leaders will examine the key forces shaping the global economy, from inflation and monetary policy to geopolitical shifts and technological disruption. This session offers crucial insights into navigating uncertainty and discusses strategies to unlock growth in a shifting global economy.

José Manuel Salazar-Xirinachs – Executive Secretary, Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, UN

Erik Berglof – Chief Economist, Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank

Haim Israel – Global Strategist, Head of Global Thematic Investing Research, Bank of America

Jörg Kukies – former Federal Minister of Finance, Germany

Wei Li – Managing Director & Global Chief Investment Strategist, BlackRock

Vera Songwe – Chair and Founder, Liquidity and Sustainability Facility, & Non-Resident Senior Fellow, Global Economy and Development, Brookings

Moderator: Tom Schmidtgen – Policy Reporter for Industry and Trade, Politico

13:30 – 14:45 | LUNCH BREAK



Global Shifts and Eurozone Anchors: A Central Bank Perspective

As the global economy is transforming, Europe faces challenges to its stability and strategic positioning. This session explores the evolving economic outlook, risks to financial stability, developments in digital currencies and stable coins, and the euro's role in anchoring Eurozone resilience. It discusses how central banks can contribute within their mandates to a more integrated, resilient, and strategically aligned European economy.

François Villeroy de Galhau – Governor, Banque de France

Joachim Nagel – President, Deutsche Bundesbank

Moderator: Francine Lacqua – Anchor, Bloomberg Television

Impact Dialogue

24 OCT | 15:45 – 17:00 | PALACE VIEW



Green Guarantee Group: Accelerating Climate Impact Through Financing

Emerging and developing markets face a significant climate finance shortfall. Backed by public institutions, Green Guarantees are designed to unlock private finance by de-risking investments and enhancing their attractiveness to private investors. This session gathers the members of the GGG Wise Persons Group to reflect on their recently published Flagship Report and discuss how to scale up green guarantees; and accelerate climate financing ahead of COP30 and the G20.

Yusuf Tuggar – Minister of Foreign Affairs, Nigeria

Jochen Flasbarth – State Secretary, Federal Ministry of Environment, Climate, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety, Germany

Faruk Yusuf Yabo – Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Solid Minerals Development, Nigeria

Barbara Buchner – Global Managing Director, CPI

Ingrid-Gabriela Hoven – Managing Director of the Management Board, GIZ

Nicolas Picchiottino – Secretary General, International Development Finance Club (IDFC)

Lars-Hendrik Röller – Chair & Founder, Berlin Global Dialogue

Vera Songwe – Chair and Founder, Liquidity and Sustainability Facility, & Non-Resident Senior Fellow, Global Economy and Development, Brookings

Moderator: Morgan Després – Executive Director International Finance, European Climate Foundation

Impact Dialogue

24 OCT | 15:45 – 17:00 | AUDIT IV



The New Frontline: Enhancing Infrastructure Security

Critical infrastructure is increasingly vulnerable as digital complexity and geopolitical tensions grow. While governments are seeking greater control over key systems - from energy grids to data networks - businesses face rising security and investment risks. This session explores how businesses and governments can collaborate to protect, finance, and future-proof essential infrastructure.

Leon Schreiber – Minister of Home Affairs, South Africa

Benedetta Berti – Secretary General, NATO Parliamentary Assembly

Andreas Berger – Group CEO, Swiss Re

Amanda Dasch – Chief Development Officer, Ørsted

André Haagmann – Member of the Executive Board, Union Investment

Moderator: Moritz Koch – Berlin Bureau Chief, Handelsblatt



Europe's Life Sciences Sector: Supporting Innovation through Regulation

Creating the right regulatory environment for innovation and investment is vital to prosperity. This is especially important in the life sciences sector, where innovation and regulation are highly intertwined. This session focuses on how business and government can cooperate to establish an ecosystem for innovation, investment, and growth in the life sciences.

Jean-Christoph Tellier – CEO, UCB

Lindsay Du – CEO, WinDigital

Nathalie Moll – Director General, European Federation of Pharmaceutical Industries and Associations (EFPIA)

Chris Rehse – Founder, neotiv & Navan Technologies, State Representative for Berlin, German Startup Association

Moderator: Christina von Messling – Foresight Advisory Partner, Foresight Factory

Investment and Partnership: The Changing Economics of Statecraft (by invitation only)

Special Guest: Vjosa Osmani – President of Kosovo

Moderator: Carolin Albrecht – Founding Managing Director, Berlin Global Dialogue

17:00 – 17:15 | SHORT BREAK



Power, Principle, and Pragmatism: Leadership in a Fragmented Global Order

As global alliances shift and contested regions challenge traditional norms, leaders must navigate a landscape defined by ambiguity and strategic recalibration. This session brings together leading voices from government and business to explore how sovereignty, influence, and resilience are being redefined in a multipolar world. How do principled leadership and pragmatic decisions coexist and what is needed for cooperation to endure amid fragmentation?

Special Guest: Vjosa Osmani – President of Kosovo

Kay Bailey Hutchinson – former US Ambassador to NATO & Senator

Ebru Ozdemir – Chair, Limak Holding

Moderator: Lars-Hendrik Röller – Chair & Founder, Berlin Global Dialogue

24 OCT | FROM 18:30 | BGD PAVILION

Dialogue & Drinks

We invite you to our networking night at the BGD Pavilion. We will serve drinks and light bites. Registration required.

24 OCT | FROM 19:00 | HOTEL ADLON KEMPINSKI

Host & Speaker Dinner

We are honoured to welcome you to an exclusive dinner at the prestigious Hotel Adlon Kempinski. Please note that this is an invitation-only event.

Berlin Global Dialogue

Day 3 — 25 October

Leaders Dialogue

25 OCT | 08:45 – 09:15 | AUDIT MAX



Disruptive Solutions for Turbulent Times: Reinventing Governance and Business

In an era defined by uncertainty and systemic challenges, incremental change is no longer enough. The future demands radical reinvention where artificial intelligence, digital governance, and next-generation investment strategies become catalysts for resilience. This session will discuss how technology-driven solutions and unconventional thinking are necessary to ensure societies and economies can adapt to an unpredictable world.

Special Guest: Edi Rama – Prime Minister of Albania

Diella – Minister of State for Artificial Intelligence, Albania

Moderator: Ali Aslan – International Television Presenter & Moderator

09:15 – 09:30 | SHORT BREAK

Leaders Dialogue

25 OCT | 09:30 – 10:30 | AUDIT MAX



The Pivotal Role of Middle Powers in a Multipolar World

In an increasingly multipolar world, middle powers are asserting greater influence by forging strategic partnerships, shaping regional dynamics, and championing the emergence of competing institutions. In doing so, they are actively reshaping the operating environment for business. This session explores the rise of middle powers, and examines the implications for investors, multinationals, and entrepreneurs navigating this evolving landscape.

Yusuf Tuggar – Minister of Foreign Affairs, Nigeria

Arif Havas Oegroseno – Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs, Indonesia

Leila Fourie – Group CEO & Executive Director, Johannesburg Stock Exchange

Dirk Arts – Partner, A&O Shearman

Moderator: Carolina Chimoy – International Journalist & Correspondent



Multilateralism in Transition: Shaping the 2025 G20 Summit

How is the role of the G20 evolving in a multipolar global order? In this session, G20 Sherpa's and the G20 Advisory Panel will discuss the upcoming G20 Summit in South Africa. This session will explore the G20's role in inclusive growth, digital transformation, energy transition, and innovation to address the question of what is the role of the G20 in the new geopolitical environment.

Zane Dangor – Director-General of the Department of International Relations and Cooperation & G20 Sherpa, South Africa

Michael Ellam – Second Permanent Secretary, European Union and International Economic Affairs, United Kingdom

Luke Goh – Permanent Secretary & G20 Sherpa, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Singapore

Peter Hill – Member of the G20 Advisory Panel, United Kingdom

Nels Nordquist – Member G20 Advisory Panel, former G7 & G20 Sherpa, United States

Pedro Villagra Delgado – Member G20 Advisory Panel, former G20 Sherpa, Argentina

Moderator: Caroline Atkinson – Former G7 & G20 Sherpa, United States



Pledges to Progress: Mobilizing Business Ahead of COP30

As COP30 convenes in the Amazon, Brazil's "Global Mutirão" vision calls for collective climate action rooted in Indigenous values. This session will explore how businesses can contribute to implementation through climate finance, cross-border investment, and strategic alignment with national climate plans.

Matthias Berninger – EVP, Head of Public Affairs, Sustainability and Safety, Bayer

Lubomila Jordanova – Co-founder and CEO, Plan A

Grazielle Parenti – Executive Vice President of Sustainability, Vale

Moderator: Giulia Saudelli – Political Correspondent, Deutsche Welle

10:30 – 11:00 | COFFEE BREAK



Doubling Down on Europe in a Multipolar World

Europe's role in the world is under pressure due to a severe security challenge from Russia, increased economic competition from China, and a strained relationship with the US. This session discusses how Europe can find a middle ground between competition and cooperation with other regions and double down on its leading role in a multipolar world.

René Obermann – Chairman, Airbus

Anish Shah – CEO, Mahindra

Jean-Christophe Tellier – CEO, UCB

Moderator: Suzanne Lynch – Brussels Bureau Chief, Bloomberg

Special Address and Q&A with:

Ursula von der Leyen – President of the European Commission

Moderator: Lars-Hendrik Röller – Chair & Founder, Berlin Global Dialogue

25 OCT | 12:10 – 12:15 | AUDIT MAX

Closing Remarks

Lars-Hendrik Röller – Chair & Founder, Berlin Global Dialogue

25 OCT | FROM 12:15 | BGD PAVILION

Farewell BBQ

Join us for our Farewell BBQ at the BGD Pavilion.

Side Events

23 October

Partner Dialogue

23 OCT | 11:00 – 12:00 | BGD Pavilion | General Access

The CEO Response: Adapting to a New Geoeconomic Reality

Hosted by Egon Zehnder

This session discusses the chances and challenges for CEOs based on Egon Zehnder's new survey „The CEO Response“, which will be exclusively presented at BGD.

Bill Anderson – CEO, Bayer

Gerald Braunberger – Editor in Chief, FAZ

Moderator: Elke Hofmann – Managing Partner Germany, Egon Zehnder

24 October

Partner Dialogue

24 OCT | 07:30 – 08:30 | Chancellor's Office | Invitation-only

Digital Money, Distributed Ledger Technology, and the New Financial Order

Hosted by Bank of America

Bank of America private breakfast roundtable exploring how digital money and DLT — from crypto to central bank digital currencies – is reshaping global finance, currency dominance, trade and capital markets.

Kyriakos Pierrakakis – Minister for the National Economy and Finance, Greece

Holger Laubenthal – CEO, Cembra Money Bank

Marcus Mosen – Co-CEO, N26

Chris Chan – Finance Executive, Bretton Woods Committee

Ali Görçin – President, TÜBİTAK BİLGEM

Moderator: Elif Bilgi Zapparoli – Head of International Client Strategy at Bank of America

Partner Dialogue

24 OCT | 07:30 – 08:30 | Andreas Dombret | General Access

European SMEs: Too Small to Matter or too Big to Ignore?

Hosted by Booking.com

Join Booking.com for an exclusive breakfast with senior business, government, and opinion leaders to explore the overlooked role of small businesses (SMEs) in competitiveness and how tech adoption and partnerships can unlock their full potential.

Maria Barros – Senior Vice President and Chief Legal & Public Affairs Officer, Booking.com

Philip Meissner – Founder and Director, European Center for Digital Competitiveness

Hester Somsen – Ambassador, Netherlands

Moderator: Horst von Buttlar – Editor in Chief, WirtschaftsWoche

Partner Dialogue

24 OCT | 07:30 – 08:30 | Palace View | Invitation-only

Powering Digital Age: Innovation, Resilience, and Sustainable Sovereign AI

Hosted by Deloitte

AI is driving unprecedented energy demand. Deloitte hosts a breakfast session to explore how balancing innovation, infrastructure resilience, and strategic sovereignty is key to ensuring sustainable growth in an increasingly electrified and data-driven world.

Andreas Feicht – CEO, RheinEnergie

Thomas Losse-Müller – Managing Director, Climate Neutrality Foundation

Sören Petersen – Developer Relations Manager AI, NVIDIA

Denis Terrien – Chairman IFA, Chairman Colisée, Board Member & Advisor, EQT Group

Moderator: Bernhard Lorentz – Managing Partner and Global Climate & Infrastructure Leader, Deloitte

Private Dialogue

24 OCT | 07:30 – 08:30 | BGD Pavilion | Invitation-only

Critical Minerals' Geopolitical Trajectory: US-China escalation and impact

Hosted by Eurasia Group

This invitation-only geopolitical breakfast briefing will showcase Eurasia Group's latest analysis of China's Oct 9 export controls on critical minerals and discuss the geopolitical ramifications and outlook for key sectors, including defense and technology.

Moderator: Justin Sheperd – Global Head of Corporates, Eurasia Group

Handelsblatt Morning Briefing Live

Hosted by Handelsblatt

This live edition of the Morning Briefing Podcast provides an overview of the day ahead and contextualises Europe's current foreign and security policy.

Susanne Wiegand – Member of the Executive Board, German Council on Foreign Relations (DGAP)

Moderator: Christian Rickens – Editorial Director Handelsblatt

Defining a New Equity Story for Europe

Hosted by Bank of America

Bank of America private lunch discussion on how Germany's fiscal strategy and Europe's evolving industrial policy, capital market integration and investment landscape are reshaping Europe's equity narrative and global competitiveness.

Levin Holle – Economic and Financial Policy Advisor to Federal Chancellor Friedrich Merz and G7 and G20 Sherpa, Germany

Andreas Berger – Group Chief Executive Officer, Swiss Re

Christoph Rauwald – Germany Bureau Chief, Bloomberg

Moderator: Armin von Falkenhayn – Country Executive Germany at Bank of America

Scaling Security: Investment Opportunities in the Defense Sector

Hosted by A&O Shearman

A&O Shearman invites you to a session to get insights from market participants and experts as to which investment opportunities and corresponding strategies with regard to the rapidly growing defence industry are under discussion.

David Kaden – Senior Managing Director, Blackstone

Alex Stepura – Founder, Skyeton

Susanne Wiegand – Investor, Member of the Supervisory Board, Volkswagen Group, Advisor Quantum Systems

Moderator: Alexandra von Nahmen – Deutsche Welle

FAZ PRO Weltwirtschaft Live Podcast

Hosted by Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung

This live edition of the popular FAZ Podcast features a strategic deep dive with Wolfgang Schmidt.

Wolfgang Schmidt – Former Minister and Head of Chancellery, Germany

Christoph Hein – Editor in Chief, FAZ PRO Weltwirtschaft

Driving Growth: Local Value Chains and Global Trade

Hosted by Global Perspectives & Bayer

Amid rising global trade tensions, Global Perspectives and Bayer invite you to a session exploring how Europe can strengthen engagement with Global South countries through local value chain development, trade agreements, and enhanced private capital investments for shared prosperity.

Wamkele K. Mene – Secretary General of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) Secretariat

Vera Songwe – Founder and Chair of Liquidity and Sustainability Facility

Matthias Berninger – Senior Vice President für Public Affairs, Science & Sustainability, Bayer

Moderator: Christine Mhundwa – Journalist and Moderator

25 October

Is China Considered Too Risky a Partner?

Hosted by WinDigital & Xunce

Xunce and WinDigital invite you to a dialogue to discuss how China and Europe can rebuild trust, deepen cooperation, and pursue sustainable growth amid global geopolitical change.

Dongsheng Di – Professor and Vice Dean of the School of International Relations, Director of the Institute of Global and Area Studies, Renmin University

Lindsay Du – Founding Partner and Executive Partner, WinDigital Capital

Luke Hu – Co-founder, Electroder

Joachim Pfeiffer – Managing Director, MACONSO GmbH

Fabian von Heimburg – Head of European Operations, Primavera Capital Group

Moderator: Lorna Chen – Co-Head of Greater China, A&O Shearman

Scaling European Innovation: From Ideas to Global Giants

Hosted by Milken Institute

Europe struggles to translate world-class innovation into global commercial success. This exclusive session will examine what is holding Europe back and explore strategies to unlock its potential as a competitive tech powerhouse, including barriers to growth and strategies to attract greater capital.

Simeon Bochev – CEO and Co-Founder, Compute Exchange

Markus Pflitsch – Chairman and CEO, Terra Quantum AG

Jürgen Pinker – Senior Managing Director, Blackstone

Alan Poensgen – Partner, Antler

Moderator: Simon Radford – Director, Policy & Programming, Milken Institute

Evening Program

23.10.

Opening Night

Please join us for our Opening Night at the BGD Pavilion after the first day of the summit. We will serve light food and drinks. Registration required.

From 18:00 | BGD Pavilion | Schlossplatz 1, 10178 Berlin

24.10.

Dialogue and Drinks

We invite you to our networking night at the BGD Pavilion. We will serve drinks and light bites. Registration required.

From 18:30 | BGD Pavilion | Schlossplatz 1, 10178 Berlin

Host and Speaker Dinner

We look forward to welcoming selected guests to our Host and Speaker Dinner at Hotel Adlon. Please note that attendance is by invitation-only.

From 19:00 | Hotel Adlon Kempinski | Unter den Linden 77, 10117 Berlin

25.10.

BBQ Farewell

Please join us for our traditional Farewell BBQ after the last session of the summit.

From 12:15 | BGD Pavilion | Schlossplatz 1, 10178 Berlin



Berlin Global Dialogue

Presented by **ESMT** Berlin



BGD Young Voices

Today's leaders meet tomorrow's voices. With the BGD Young Voices program, we are empowering tomorrow's leaders to engage with today's decision-makers.

Since its inception in 2023, BGD has been committed to fostering dialogue between business and politics, between North and South, and between different generations.

The BGD Young Voices Program is an integral part of that ambition, ensuring that tomorrow's leaders already have a seat at the table today.

This is more important than ever: geopolitical shifts, climate change, global inequality, and technological progress are not just key pillars of our program – they are also determinants of our collective future.

The BGD Young Voices Cohort of 2025 consists of 29 young people who are already shaping this future today. Hailing from 18 universities across 16 countries, they were selected based on their academic and professional accomplishments.

Over the next few days, they will bring new ideas, diverse perspectives, and the courage to challenge the status quo to this year's summit.

The BGD Young Voices program offers more than just a seat at the table; it provides a platform to amplify youth-driven solutions for global prosperity.



Dennis Ruhinda
Strathmore Business School
Kenya

Our Advisory Council

Berlin Global Dialogue is grateful for the strategic guidance of its exceptional Advisory Council.



BERNARD MENSAH

President of International
Bank of America



CECILIA MALMSTRÖM

Nonresident Senior Fellow, Peterson
Institute, Former Trade Commissioner
European Union



EMMANUEL BONNE

Chief Diplomatic Advisor to the
President, G7 and G20 Sherpa
France



JENNIFER FELLER

Head of Human Rights & Democracy,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Mexico



JONATHAN BLACK

Former Deputy National Security
Advisor, G7 and G20 Sherpa
United Kingdom



JÖRG KUKIES

Former Minister of Finance
Germany



LEVIN HOLLE

Economic and Financial Policy
Advisor to the Federal Chancellor,
G7 and G20 Sherpa
Germany



LUKE GOH

G20 Sherpa, Permanent Secretary,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Singapore



MARTÍN GUZMÁN

Former Argentinian Minister of the
Economy, Professor of Economics
Columbia University



MIKE PYLE

Former Deputy National Security
Advisor,
G7 and G20 Sherpa
United States



TRUDI MAKHAYA

Former Chief Economic Advisor
to the President, Economist
South Africa



VALERIYA IONAN

Advisor to the Deputy Prime Minister of
Ukraine on Innovation, Digitalization and
Global Partnerships & Former Deputy
Minister
Ukraine



Our Partners

Berlin Global Dialogue is proud to partner with leading global organizations for this year's summit and beyond.

PRINCIPAL PARTNER

BANK OF AMERICA 

STRATEGIC PARTNERS

A&O SHEARMAN

Allianz 

سابك
sabic



 Union
Investment

xunce.®

PARTNERS

AIRBUS

amazon



Booking.com

CD&R

Deloitte.

EgonZehnder



McKinsey
& Company



RWE



SCHAEFFLER



WIN DIGITAL
博信资本

MEDIA PARTNERS

Bloomberg



Frankfurter Allgemeine

Handelsblatt

POLITICO

We Thank our Design Partner **vitra.**



Presented by **ESMT** Berlin