

NEW REALITY



Bled
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| Fishbowl Discussion

| **DIGITAL DIPLOMACY IN THE 21ST CENTURY:**

| **TO TWEET OR NOT TO TWEET IN FOREIGN AFFAIRS?**

| **The session is organized in partnership with the Global Diplomacy Lab.**

Never before in the annals of foreign affairs or diplomacy has there been such a method of immediate, uncensored communication through which heads of state can conduct affairs of state as we have today with social media tools, such as Twitter.

We saw social media shape the Arab Spring, or call to action the people of Turkey during an attempted coup. We see political leaders bypass traditional forms of communication and conduct foreign policy in 140 characters or less via Twitter.

Mexican President Enrique Peña Nieto cancelled a meeting with President Trump after Trump tweeted "If Mexico is unwilling to pay for the badly needed wall, then it would be better to cancel the upcoming meeting", South Korea has even hired a "Twitter Officer" to monitor President Trump Tweets! The overall number of heads of state who now utilize Twitter has increased astronomically.

Should Twitter be used as a tool for foreign policy or should it not? Can Twitter enable new, more robust foreign affairs, in line with the trend of digitalization? Join us at the discussion, set in an innovative and collaborative format, where we will discuss the issue together with experts and active participation from the audience.

To Tweet or not to Tweet in foreign affairs, that is the question!



Global Diplomacy Lab

The **Global Diplomacy Lab (GDL)** is a growing, members-driven platform of highly creative and influential diplomats, academics, activists, entrepreneurs and artists. Together, they explore questions such as: What does the future of diplomacy look like? How does information technology shift the balance of power? Do we need a more inclusive diplomacy which goes beyond traditional politics?

The interdependent nature of political issues, such as radicalisation, migration and climate change, requires collective action beyond national borders. While the international community is becoming more fragmented, non-state actors are expanding their scope of influence in global affairs. Diplomacy is no longer limited to national governments and international organisations.

Under the patronage of Federal Foreign Minister Sigmar Gabriel and in partnership with the BMW Foundation Herbert Quandt, Bosch Alumni Network, the Global Leadership Academy of the GIZ and the Stiftung Mercator, the Global Diplomacy Lab was launched in 2014. Ruprecht Polenz, Chairman of the German Bundestag's Committee on Foreign Affairs from 2005 to 2013, serves as the Dean of the Global Diplomacy Lab.

For more information please see www.global-diplomacy-lab.org or contact info@global-diplomacy-lab.org.