

Doha Forum

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October 2026 Newsletter

Redefining Global Trust



Doha Forum 2026: 5-6 December

Two Months to Doha Forum 2026

Doha Forum 2026 is now two months away. On 5-6 December, global leaders, policymakers and experts will gather in Doha under the theme Redefining Global Trust to examine how diplomacy and cooperation can respond to a changing world.

This edition looks ahead to the conversations taking shape for December, alongside highlights from our recent international engagements and ideas worth following as the countdown continues.

From Maha's Desk



With two months to go before Doha Forum 2026, our international conversations keep returning to a central question: what does credible cooperation look like when institutions, alliances and established assumptions are under pressure?

That question has practical implications for how we address conflict, govern emerging technologies and respond to shared economic and humanitarian challenges. December offers an opportunity to examine these issues together, drawing on perspectives from different regions and sectors.

For Doha Forum, the task is to bring different perspectives into the same conversation and ask what credible cooperation requires in practice. We do not need to agree on every issue to identify where progress is possible. That is the focus we are bringing to December, and I look forward to continuing these discussions with you in Doha.

MAHA AL KUWARI, GENERAL MANAGER

What to Expect in December

The 24th edition will bring together perspectives from across regions and sectors at the Sheraton Grand Doha. Under the theme Redefining Global Trust, the programme will explore seven interconnected areas of focus:

- Geopolitics and Security in a Fragmented Order
- Mediation
- Global Governance and Multilateralism
- Trade and the New Economy
- Artificial Intelligence and Emerging Technology
- Humanitarian Aid and Development
- Cultural Diplomacy

Across keynote remarks, panel discussions, expert roundtables and newsmaker interviews, participants will examine where dialogue and cooperation can help bridge divides and identify practical paths forward. Look out for the detailed agenda and further announcements as December approaches.

On the Global Stage

This September, Doha Forum joined panels and high-level meetings in New York during UNGA week. Our involvement centered on dialogue around regional stability, economic resilience, and global governance, with these issues providing a link to the conversations we will convene in December.



Qatar Economic Forum: UNGA Special Edition

Doha Forum's participation in the UNGA Special Edition, held under the theme Growth on New Terms, placed our work alongside discussions among policymakers, investors, and business leaders on the changing global economy.



Future of International Cooperation Report 2026 Launch

At the International Peace Institute, Doha Forum joined the Stimson Center and the Global Institute for Strategic Research to launch the fourth edition of the Future of International Cooperation Report, themed Redefining Global Trust.

[READ MORE →](#) [READ FULL REPORT →](#)



Concordia Annual Summit

At the 2026 Concordia Annual Summit in New York, Dr. Majed Al-Ansari joined a Doha Forum conversation on Qatar's role in advancing dialogue, de-escalation and peace through mediation, humanitarian aid and international cooperation.

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Clinton Global Initiative

Doha Forum participated in the CGI Annual Meeting, marking the 25th anniversary of the Clinton Foundation. Our attendance reflects our interest in how governments, business, and civil society translate commitments into action, a question we will bring into December's discussions on credible cooperation.



TUNE IN

The Counterpoint Podcast

Foreign Policy's debate podcast Counterpoint, produced in partnership with Doha Forum, returned this September for its third season. This season opened with two episodes published during UNGA week.

EPISODE 01 ·

Has NATO Expansion Made Europe Safer?

EPISODE 02 ·

Can the United States and China Build a Stable Relationship?

Signals Worth Watching

These developments offer context for the questions Doha Forum will explore in December, from regional security to AI governance and confidence in international institutions.

01 UNGA Puts Trust at the Centre of the Agenda

The 81st session of the UN General Assembly convened this September under the theme "Restoring Trust, Managing Transformation: A United Nations That Delivers for All," placing the same question Doha Forum has built its 2026 agenda around.

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02 Global Peacefulness Continues to Decline

The 2026 Global Peace Index recorded a twelfth consecutive year of declining global peacefulness, with 99 of 163 countries becoming less peaceful, the highest number since the index began.

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03 A New Case for Shared AI Infrastructure

A World Economic Forum paper argues that AI sovereignty depends less on owning infrastructure outright and more on building interoperable systems and reliable partnerships. Economies that share compute, data, and technical capacity end up more competitive than those that try to go it alone.

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04 Trust in Global Institutions Is Climbing

A September poll of over 35,000 people across 34 countries found rising trust in international institutions, with confidence in the World Health Organization reaching 69 percent and the UN reaching 62 percent. 57 percent of respondents want countries to work together on shared challenges, even without the United States or China in the lead.

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05 Sovereignty Returns to the Centre of Regional Security

Opening the Qatar Economic Forum's UNGA Special Edition, Qatar's Prime Minister H.E. Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani called for a regional framework in which sovereignty is respected and no state poses a threat to another, warning that permanent security cannot be built on arrangements that leave any state permanently exposed.

[WATCH HERE →](#)

The Global Dialogue

What Does It Take to Redefine Global Trust?

On 21 September 2026, Doha Forum, the Stimson Center and the Global Institute for Strategic Research launched the fourth edition of the Future of International Cooperation Report at the International Peace Institute in New York. The report examines how global trust can be redefined through more credible and inclusive cooperation.



Four perspectives from the panel stood out:

01 Trust Erodes Across Three Gaps

H.E. Laura Chinchilla identified three sources of declining trust: a delivery gap, as institutions struggle to meet public expectations; a representation gap in institutions designed for a very different world; and a narrative gap, as criticism of the rules-based order increasingly goes unanswered. Rebuilding trust, she argued, requires institutions not only to perform better but to offer a credible and hopeful account of why cooperation still matters.

02 Trade and Technology Need Predictability and Equity

Dr. Adriana Abdenur noted that the international trade system, however flawed, provided predictability, and that its dismantling has left developing countries most exposed to uncertainty and fragmentation. On AI, access alone is insufficient: developing countries need genuine technological innovation capacity, or they will remain exporters of primary commodities at one end of the supply chain.

03 Trust Is a Process, Not a Destination

Dr. Mohammed Al-Hashemi said trust in the Middle East should be treated as an ongoing process, more like reading a barometer than achieving a destination. He offered three tests: predictability among actors, which over time produces trust; tangible outcomes, since trust deficits have become physical and economic; and testable commitments, designed to be verified, not just believed.

04 Participation Must Go Beyond Consultation

Cynthia Chiguena said the dominant framing of youth participation remains tokenistic: young people are consulted but rarely given genuine decision-making power. For those who have never had access to decision makers, social media democratizes negotiating power. The UN Youth Campus project is attempting to bridge the trust deficit between governments and young people through structured engagement.



“Trust is not disappearing; it is being actively redefined. This report offers citizens and governments practical proposals to counter disinformation and injustice, strengthen cooperation, and work toward a more secure and trustworthy world. At Doha Forum, we remain committed to convening the dialogue this moment demands.”

H.E. MUBARAK AL-KUWARI, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

In Conversation

Q & A

Richard Ponzio, Lead Author, Future of International Cooperation Report 2026

Director, Global Governance, Justice & Security Program, Stimson Center



Q This year's report centers on trust. Why did that become the organizing theme?

Nearly everything we work on, from peacekeeping to trade to AI governance, runs into the same obstacle. States and institutions can agree on the right policy and still fail to act on it, since neither side is confident the other will follow through. We made trust the organizing theme this year because it is not a soft addition to global governance. It is the precondition for any of it to function.

Q Disinformation is fragmenting how countries respond to a shared threat. What does the report propose to change that?

Every country and institution is left to fight disinformation on its own, and that fragmentation is itself part of the problem. It deepens mistrust between the very actors who need to be coordinating. We propose a Multilateral Information Integrity Council, bringing technical experts together across the UN system, the World Bank, and regional bodies to set common standards and track how the threat is evolving.

Q A handful of countries and companies now control most of the world's AI infrastructure. Can the Global AI Hub actually shift that balance?

That concentration is the exact imbalance we designed the Hub to address. Left to the market alone, it would lock much of the world out of the technology altogether, simply because they lack access to compute. The Hub pools infrastructure and capacity so a country's access to AI is not determined by where it happens to sit today.

Looking Ahead

As the countdown to Doha Forum 2026 accelerates, our international engagements will continue through Warsaw, Stockholm and Paris before the global community convenes in Doha on 5–6 December.

OCTOBER 2026
WARSAW, POLAND

Warsaw Security Forum 2026

The Warsaw Security Forum brings together heads of state, ministers, and senior officials to address Euro-Atlantic security, defense policy, and the strategic challenges reshaping the transatlantic alliance.

NOVEMBER 2026
STOCKHOLM, SWEDEN

Stockholm Forum on Peace and Development

Doha Forum will convene a Nordic/GCC mediation session in partnership with the Folke Bernadotte Academy (FBA), the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), and the Martti Ahtisaari Peace Foundation (CMI), examining pathways for mediation cooperation between the Nordic and Gulf regions.

NOVEMBER 2026
PARIS, FRANCE

Paris Peace Forum 2026

A leading international platform for global governance, the Paris Peace Forum convenes heads of state, international organizations, and civil society to advance multilateral solutions to shared global challenges.

5–6 DECEMBER 2026
DOHA, QATAR

Doha Forum 2026

Guided by the principles of Diplomacy, Dialogue, and Diversity, Doha Forum 2026 will take place on 5-6 December in Doha, Qatar. If you have not yet received an invitation to attend, you are welcome to express your interest in attending via dohaforum.org

UNTIL DECEMBER

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