



Global Diplomacy Lab

## **Background & idea**

The nature of diplomacy is evolving. It is no longer the exclusive purview of national governments and international organisations. The **Global Diplomacy Lab (GDL)** is a platform for exploring a new and more inclusive diplomacy that goes beyond traditional politics. Creative professionals from various fields are thus needed to explore new tools of communication on the basis of mutual trust and to re-formulate an agenda for collective action.

***What should diplomacy look like in the future?***

***Which competences do we need in order to define our scope of action more precisely?***

These are questions that the Federal Foreign Office, under the **patronage of Federal Foreign Minister** and in partnership with the BMW Foundation Herbert Quandt, the Bosch Alumni Network, the Stiftung Mercator and the Global Leadership Academy of GIZ, are eager to investigate with outstanding members of their networks from every continent.

The **Global Diplomacy Lab** is managed by a Secretariat based at the Federal Foreign Office. It is responsible for organising regular meetings worldwide and fostering a permanent dialogue between partners, members and external stakeholders, designed to lead to concrete action to shape policy-making.

## **The bi-annual Labs**

Around forty alumni of programmes run by the Federal Foreign Office, the BMW Foundation Herbert Quandt, the Robert Bosch Stiftung, the Stiftung Mercator and the Global Leadership Academy are invited each year to apply for the bi-annual meetings of the **Global Diplomacy Lab**.

In 2019, new and established GDL Members meet in **Accra** (16-19 June) and in **Berlin** (27-30 October) to investigate the **potential of realising the demographic dividend**.

The GDL's history dates back to 2014. Together with the **Global Diplomacy Lab's Dean Ruprecht Polenz**, Chairman of the German Bundestag's Committee on Foreign Affairs from 2005 to 2013, the members first gathered in Berlin in November 2014 to outline the multiple facets of trust in global affairs. The second Global Diplomacy Lab took place in Istanbul in June 2015 and dealt with the issues of fragmentation versus integration, while the broad and complex issue of migration was the topic of the third Lab, which was held in Berlin in November 2015. In 2016, the Labs focused on the Significance of International Law and Moral Standards in Diplomacy (Berlin in June) and Global Diplomacy in the Digital Age (Montreal in November).

The 2017 Labs (Buenos Aires in June, Berlin in November) were the first to be designed as **GDL Incubator** and **Impact Labs**. While the Incubator focuses on learning new (diplomatic) skills and innovative methods as well as the identification of relevant questions, the Impact Lab invites GDL members to obtain policy inputs, present GDL proposals and recommendations to the public and work on common projects. This design proved to be very apt and effective and was therefore kept for the 2018 Labs (Berlin in June, Chicago in November) which explored strategies to overcome urban violence, as well as for the following Curricula.

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