CFR Convenes Global Think Tanks for Annual “Council of Councils”

In early March, the Council convened twenty foreign policy organizations from around the world for the second annual Council of Councils (CoC) Conference. The CoC is an initiative that connects global thought leaders in a discussion of critical governance challenges.

“The Council of Councils was created in order to look at the gap between global challenges and global arrangements,” said CFR President Richard N. Haass. “In some cases the idea is to hatch new institutions, in other cases to look at adapting existing ones.”

Roughly tracking the membership of the Group of Twenty, the CoC fosters candid, high-level dialogue among leaders from established and emerging nations through regional conferences held throughout the year. The discussions culminate in an annual meeting that enhances cooperation on common problems, builds support for innovative ideas, and injects remedies into the public debate and policymaking processes of member countries. The CoC also considers long-term structural reforms that are intended to strengthen the governance capacity of international and regional institutions.

Speaking on the global economy, First Deputy Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund David Lipton cautioned, “There’s no substitute for maintaining good policies, but I think that all of us have realized that the growing linkages coming from globalization and technology make this a much more interdependent world.” Lipton’s meeting was the only session on the record, and the video is available on CFR.org.

At this year’s meeting, the CoC tackled five major themes:

- multilateral approaches to climate change
- new goals and frameworks for international development
- global, regional, and plurilateral approaches to revitalize the trade agenda
- rules for governing outer space
- the status of global Internet governance
Council of Councils Member Organizations

Australia: Lowy Institute for International Policy
Belgium: Center for European Policy Studies
Brazil: Getulio Vargas Foundation
Canada: Center for International Governance Innovation
China: Shanghai Institutes for International Studies
Egypt: Al-Ahram Center for Political and Strategic Studies
France: French Institute of International Relations
Germany: German Institute for International and Security Affairs
India: Center for Policy Research
Indonesia: Center for Strategic and International Studies
Israel: Institute for National Security Studies
Italy: Institute of International Affairs
Japan: Genron NPO
Mexico: Mexican Council on Foreign Relations
Nigeria: Nigerian Institute for International Affairs
Poland: Polish Institute of International Affairs
Russia: Institute of Contemporary Development
Singapore: S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies
South Africa: South African Institute of International Affairs
South Korea: East Asia Institute
Turkey: Global Relations Forum
United Kingdom: Chatham House; International Institute for Strategic Studies

At podium, David Lipton of the IMF speaks on the global economy.

Participants at the Council of Councils opening dinner.

Yahushi Kudo of Genron NPO, with translator, converses with Sergey Kulik from the Institute of Contemporary Development.