

# Mission Statement

*The Council on Foreign Relations is an independent, nonpartisan membership organization, think tank, and publisher dedicated to being a resource for its members, government officials, business executives, journalists, educators and students, civic and religious leaders, and other interested citizens in order to help them better understand the world and the foreign policy choices facing the United States and other countries.*

Founded in 1921, the Council takes no institutional positions on matters of policy. The Council carries out its mission by

- maintaining a diverse membership, with special programs to promote interest and develop expertise in the next generation of foreign policy leaders;
- convening meetings at its headquarters in New York and in Washington, DC, and other cities where senior government officials, members of Congress, global leaders, and prominent thinkers come together with Council members to discuss and debate major international issues;
- supporting a Studies Program that fosters independent research, enabling Council scholars to produce articles, reports, and books and hold roundtables that analyze foreign policy issues and make concrete policy recommendations;
- publishing *Foreign Affairs*, the preeminent journal on international affairs and U.S. foreign policy;
- sponsoring Independent Task Forces that produce reports with both findings and policy prescriptions on the most important foreign policy topics; and
- providing up-to-date information and analysis about world events and American foreign policy on its website, CFR.org.

# At the Council

*Pakistan isn't an ordinary country, and it's not facing an ordinary situation now. We have two different fault lines. We have one fault line between dictatorship and democracy, and we have a second between the forces of moderation and the forces of extremism.*

— Benazir Bhutto (8/15/07)  
Former Prime Minister of Pakistan



*I don't think we should fear sovereign wealth funds any more than we should fear any investment into the United States that is done on commercial grounds.*

— Robert M. Kimmitt (1/28/08)  
Deputy Secretary, U.S. Department of the Treasury



*We responded to the potential threat of a nuclear weapon eliminating civilization as we know it. [In climate change] we're staring at another kind of weapon—man-made, likewise, and uncontrolled at this moment—that has the ability to change life as we know it on this Earth.*

— John Kerry (10/29/07)  
U.S. Senator (D-MA)



*Our engagement in Lebanon is very serious and we have more than 2,500 soldiers there. . . . At the same time, our military presence is not enough to give a solution to the problem of an independent and stable Lebanon. . . . We are convinced that it's necessary to involve Syria in discussions.*

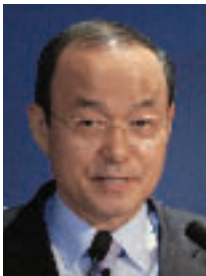
— Giorgio Napolitano (12/13/07)  
President of Italy





*Our neighbors [in Latin America] realize that the paradigm of development has changed, that development in the region cannot come solely from within, that it must come from competing successfully in global markets and using democratic institutions to expand opportunity to the poor and to the vulnerable.*

— Condoleezza Rice (10/9/07)  
U.S. Secretary of State



*My government has a position that peace does not come with a single declaration, and peace does not exist all of a sudden just with a single signature. For peace we need confidence-building measures.*

— Song Min-soon (9/26/07)  
Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade,  
Republic of Korea



*We believe sharia is only for Muslims. If you are not a Muslim, you have nothing to do with sharia. You can live peacefully in any part of the country, and sharia will not catch up with you.*

— Muhammad Sa'ad Abubakar III (11/19/07)  
Sultan of Sokoto, Nigeria



*Lowering interest rates to keep the economy on an even keel when adverse financial-market developments occur will reduce the penalty incurred by those who exercise poor judgment.*

— Donald L. Kohn (11/28/07)  
Vice Chairman, Board of Governors,  
Federal Reserve System



*You cannot coerce nations into democracy. You can't intimidate nations into democracy or force them into democracy or fight them into democracy. Every country in the world finds its own level of entry, its own center of gravity.*

— Chuck Hagel (11/28/07)  
U.S. Senator (R-NE)



*The information age means you don't need training camps to become a terrorist; all you need is an Internet connection. The Web is terrorism's new frontier, offering both persuasive inspiration and practical instruction.*

— Robert S. Mueller III (9/28/07)  
Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation



*For more than four years, it was easy to say: "[Iraq] is an American problem." That is not true because this is our problem. . . . We have to do something. Otherwise it will be more than a disaster—a real catastrophe.*

— Bernard Kouchner (9/25/07)  
Minister of Foreign and European Affairs, France



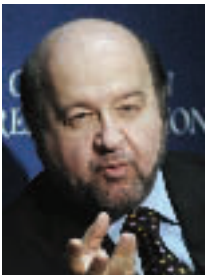
*The progress on gender parity [in the UN] is an area where we are really critically challenged, because statistics have shown that the higher you go, the fewer women there are. . . . The goals are there. The resolutions are there. The challenge is in really taking concrete action to ensure that we have women there and we retain them.*

— Asha-Rose Migiro (3/11/08)  
Deputy Secretary-General, United Nations



*Intelligence is sometimes described as analogous to putting the pieces of a puzzle together, except we hardly ever get to see the picture on top of the box. The individuals that we detain provide us with a bunch of new puzzle pieces, but most important, very often they have seen the picture on top of the box.*

— Michael V. Hayden (9/7/07)  
Director, Central Intelligence Agency



*We know that there are 1.5 billion hectares of the world producing food. But there are 2.7 billion hectares that lie idle, and 90 percent of that is in Latin America and Africa, and none of it is titled. And if it is not titled, how is it going to get the credit that is necessary to start clearing the rocks, getting the channels into place, and getting the irrigation?*

—Hernando de Soto (6/4/08)  
President, Institute of Liberty and Democracy, Peru



*The Iraqi authorities and the United States must urgently take concrete measures beyond simply paying lip service to the compact with the PKK [Kurdistan Workers' Party]. The bloodshed each day at the expense of innocent lives as a result of this terror intensifies the collective trauma and exhausts the patience of the Turkish public, limiting the political choices of our government.*

— Recep Tayyip Erdoğan (9/27/07)  
Prime Minister of Turkey