

A WORLD OF PARALLEL REALITIES CONCEPT NOTE AND SESSIONS

The international community is unable or unwilling to break the cycles of competition, insecurity and consequential antagonism, which sometimes lead to instability, violence or even conflict. Issues such as climate change, global health, addressing poverty and inequalities, ensuring food and water security, respecting human rights, navigating emerging technologies and adhering to fundamental rights and freedoms are being overtaken by the struggle for power and particular interests that hinder our potential for just and inclusive development.

- The world's relative, if often deceptive, age of peace, has come to an end; our peace dividend has expired. The Russian aggression on Ukraine and the conflict in the Middle East, both with unimaginable humanitarian consequences, are a vivid and catastrophic reminder of what can happen when the international community fails to act and uphold the necessary responsibility for global stability. Realpolitik and sabre-rattling are once again winning – bilateral and regional alliances, which are driven by competitiveness, partial interests, hedging and confrontation, are replacing multilateralism and global cooperation with narrow plurilateralism.

Roughly half the world's population is expected to go to the polls in 2024, with some of the world's most populous countries holding elections. With the upcoming elections in the United States and elections to the European Parliament just around the corner, the global political and security scene is growing in complexity and could be difficult to navigate.

What can be done to ensure that the instruments of the past are no longer used to solve today's problems? We need return to a multilateral cooperation, based on shared principles of democracy, human rights and a rules-based international order. But what if these principles and rules are no longer broadly accepted? How can we enhance mutual understanding to safeguard the future?

Europe is in the midst of high expectations, but also quite difficult decisions; strengthening the continent's cohesion will take time, confidence, fortitude and perseverance. Simultaneously, it is of the utmost importance that the EU act as a global player capable of demonstrating and leading the way toward a different, more sustainable, just and resilient international community.

A dedicated global commitment is needed now. But how can cooperation and dialogue be strengthened and parallel tracks overcome? How can we avoid double standards and, at the same time, take into account specific situations and contexts? And how can we ensure that global concerns are addressed equitably around the world and ensure that human life is valued equally everywhere? We must preserve human dignity and move towards more responsible politics.

PANEL DISCUSSIONS

Speakers are listed in alphabetical order of surnames.

| Monday, 2 September |

10:00–11:30 | Decrypting Ransomware: Challenges in Preventing Cryptocurrency Cashouts (Counter Ransom Initiative side-event)

Rikli Balance Hotel, Arnold Hall

Introductory remarks by **Uroš Svete**, Director, Government Information Security Office, Slovenia and **Tadej Rupel**, Ambassador; National Coordinator for External Aspects of Digitalization, AI and Cyber Security, Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of Slovenia

Gwen Clavon, Senior Vice President; General Manager, Cyber and Intelligence Solutions, Jacobs, United States

Martin Grasel, Head, IT-Investigation Unit – Criminal Intelligence Service, Ministry of Interior of Austria

Michał Gromek, Leadership Team Member; Co-Chair of the Digital Asset Task Force of the Global Coalition to Fight Financial Crime

Michał Kanownik, President, Digital Poland Association, Poland

Anita Veternik, District Prosecutor; Head of the Centre of Expertise and IT, Supreme State Prosecutor's Office of Slovenia

Moderated by **Hedi Navazan**, Director of Compliance and Regulatory Affairs, Crystal Blockchain

13:00–14:00 | Gathering (by invitation only)

Bled Festival Hall

14:00–14:30 | Opening (by invitation only)

Bled Festival Hall

Welcome address by **Tanja Fajon**, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign and European Affairs of Slovenia

Address by **Nataša Pirc Musar**, President of Slovenia

Moderated by **Peter Grk**, Secretary General, Bled Strategic Forum, Slovenia

Keynote addresses by:

António Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations [VIDEO ADDRESS](#)

Ursula von der Leyen, President, European Commission

14:30–15:15 | Leaders' Panel – A World of Parallel Realities (by invitation only)

Bled Festival Hall

Robert Golob, Prime Minister of Slovenia

Andrej Plenković, Prime Minister of Croatia

Edi Rama, Prime Minister of Albania

Miloš Vučević, Prime Minister of Serbia

Moderated by **Ali Aslan**, International TV presenter and journalist, Germany

15:15–15:30 | Presentation of the BSF Distinguished Partner 2024 Award (by invitation only)

Bled Festival Hall

Award presenter:
Robert Golob, Prime Minister of Slovenia

Award recipient:
Yulia Navalnaya, Chairwoman of the Advisory Board, Anti-Corruption Foundation; widow of former Russian opposition leader Alexei Navalny

 **15:30–15:45 | Conversation with Garry Kasparov, Co-founder and Member of the Free Russia Forum**

Bled Festival Hall

Moderated by **Ali Aslan**, International TV presenter and journalist, Germany

 **15:55 –16:10 | Conversation with Amal Jadou, Ambassador; Senior Foreign Policy Advisor to the Prime Minister of the State of Palestine** ONLINE SPEAKER


Bled Festival Hall

Moderated by **Nafisa Latic**, Presenter, TRT World, Türkiye

 **16:10 –16:25 | Conversation with Tzipi Livni, Former Vice Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Israel**

Bled Festival Hall

Moderated by **Nafisa Latic**, Presenter, TRT World, Türkiye

 **16:30–18:00 | Global Turmoil: Seeking Stability Amidst Chaos**

Bled Festival Hall

Kate Marie Byrnes, Ambassador, Civilian Deputy and Foreign Policy Advisor to U.S. European Command

Stephen Doughty, Minister of State for Europe, North America and Overseas Territories, Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office of the United Kingdom

Tanja Fajon, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign and European Affairs of Slovenia

Gordan Grlić Radman, Minister of Foreign and European Affairs of Croatia

Andreas S. Kakouris, Ambassador, Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Cyprus

Péter Szijjártó, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Hungary

Nathalie Tocci, Director, Istituto Affari Internazionali, Italy

Imma Tor Faus, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Principality of Andorra

Moderated by **Nik Gowing**, International Broadcaster and Visiting Professor, King's College, United Kingdom

16:15–17:45 | Navigating the Global Flux: Disruptions and Prospects in Trade, Economy and Industry Dynamics

Rikli Balance Hotel, Arnold Hall

Welcome remarks by **Matjaž Han**, Minister of the Economy, Tourism and Sport of Slovenia

Mark Bowman, Vice President for Policy and Partnerships, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development

Klemen Boštjančič, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance of Slovenia

Mathias Cormann, Secretary-General, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development

Matevž Frangež, State Secretary, Ministry of the Economy, Tourism and Sport of Slovenia

Anne Marie de Jonge–Schuermans, Global Head of Biologics and Injectables Operations, Sandoz, Switzerland

Kerstin Jorna, Director-General, Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs, European Commission
Kyriacos Kakouris, Vice-President, European Investment Bank
Steffen Lang, President of Operations, Novartis, Switzerland
Fariz Rzayev, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan

Moderated by **Ajša Vodnik**, CEO, AmCham Slovenia; Chair, AmChams in Europe

17:45–18:30 | Inclusive Diplomacy Lounge | Interview with Tobias Lindner, Minister of State, Federal Foreign Office of Germany

Rikli Balance Hotel, Voda Hall

Facilitated by **David Patrician**, Freelance journalist and presenter; Member, Global Diplomacy Lab, Germany

18:00–19:15 | Enabling Technologies and the Future of Economy

Rikli Balance Hotel, Arnold Hall

Andrew Caruana Galizia, Head of Europe and Eurasia, World Economic Forum
Boštjan Košak, President of the Management Board, Telekom Slovenije
Dušan Lukič, Head of innovation and development MOON, Porsche Slovenija
Eva McLellan, Country President and General Manager, Roche Slovenia
Artane Rizvanolli, Minister of Economy of Kosovo
Julia Schvarcova, Government Affairs and Public Policy Manager, Google

Moderated by **Jernej Pintar**, Chief Executive Officer, Technology Park Ljubljana, Slovenia

19:30–21:30 | Networking Reception

Grand Hotel Toplice, Grand Hall

 **21:15–22:45 | Orchestrating Dialogue: Night Owl Concert & Discussion**

Bled Festival Hall

Featuring performances and artistic perspectives on bridging the divides
BSF Symphony Orchestra

Welcome address by **Nataša Pirc Musar**, President of Slovenia

Nour Darwish, Palestinian soprano
Emmelie de Forest, Danish singer and songwriter, Eurovision winner
Ana Soklič, Slovenian singer and songwriter
Shachar Ziv, Israeli horn player and composer

Moderated and conducted by **Žiga Pirnat**, Creative Director, Bled Strategic Forum, Slovenia

| Tuesday, 3 September |

9:00–10:15 | Summit of the Future: What Kind of Future Can it Deliver?

Rikli Balance Hotel, Arnold I Hall

Kristijan Fidanovski, Doctoral Researcher in Population Aging, University of Oxford; Young Bled Strategic Forum participant, North Macedonia

Ahmed Abdel-Latif, Director General, Cairo International Center for Conflict Resolution, Peacekeeping and Peacebuilding, Egypt

Päivi Kaukoranta, President of the Assembly of States Parties, International Criminal Court

Danilo Türk, Member, High-Level Advisory Board on Effective Multilateralism, Slovenia

Moderated by **Manas Chawla**, CEO and Founder, London Politica, United Kingdom

9:00–10:15 | Reconciliation: Learning from the Past to Build a More Just Future

Rikli Balance Hotel, Arnold II Hall

Dirk Brengelmann, Deputy Chair, Board of Commissioners, Chair, Audit Committee, International Commission on Missing Persons; Dean, Global Diplomacy Lab, Germany

Reem Hajajreh, Founder and Director, Women of the Sun, Palestine

Nasser Kamel, Secretary General of the Union for the Mediterranean

Albie Sachs, Former South African Constitutional Court Justice and anti-apartheid activist

Vesna Teršelič, Director, Documenta, Croatia

Na'ama Barak Wolfman, Member of the Board, Women Wage Peace, Israel

Keynote listener: **Juan Arturo Sánchez**, Survey Administrator - Sciences Po's Centre for Socio-Political Data; Treasurer - Collectif Guatemala; Young Bled Strategic Forum participant, Guatemala

Moderated by **Redi Tlhabi**, Award winning South African broadcaster, author and moderator

9:00–10:15 | Strategic Green? Accelerating the Energy Transition to Strengthen Strategic Autonomy and Resilience

Rikli Balance Hotel, Zrak Hall

Maciej Bukowski, Non-resident fellow with the Digital Innovation Initiative Program, Center for European Policy Analysis; Young Bled Strategic Forum participant, Poland

Sabrina Schulz, Climate Security Fellow, German Council on Foreign Relations

Erik Solheim, Co-Chair of the Board, The Europe-Asia Center, Belgium

Gauri Singh, Deputy Director-General, International Renewable Energy Agency

Ana Stanič, English Solicitor Advocate/Irish Solicitor, E&A Law Limited, United Kingdom

Christian Zinglensen, Director, European Union Agency for the Cooperation of Energy Regulators

Moderated by **Grégoire Roos**, Head of Political Dialogue & Policy Innovation, BMW Foundation Herbert Quandt

9:00–10:15 | Strengthening Democracy in the Digital Age: Strategies for Resilience and Protection

Rikli Balance Hotel, Sonce Hall

Nicholas J. Cull, Professor of Communication; Global Communication Policy Fellow, Center for Communication Leadership and Policy, USC Annenberg School for Communication and Journalism, United States

Nicolai Gerard, Managing Director of Government and Social Impact, Meta EMEA

Sirpa Rautio, Director, European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights

Emilija Stojmenova Duh, Minister for Digital Transformation of Slovenia

Stephanie Sutton, Chief of Staff at Office of the Undersecretary for Public Diplomacy and Public Affairs, U.S. Department of State

Moira Whelan, Director of Democracy and Technology, National Democratic Institute, United States

Keynote listener: **David Timis**, Global Communications & Public Affairs Manager at Generation.org; Community Champion at the Global Shapers Community; Young Bled Strategic Forum participant, Belgium

Moderated by **Daniel Voda**, Spokesman, Government of the Republic of Moldova

10:30–11:45 | The Fading Pax Americana

Rikli Balance Hotel, Arnold I Hall

Małgorzata Bonikowska, President, The Centre for International Relations Foundation, Poland

Philippe Étienne, Former Ambassador of France to the United States

Tobias Lindner, Minister of State, Federal Foreign Office of Germany

Nathalie Tocci, Director, Istituto Affari Internazionali, Italy

Jakub Wiśniewski, Undersecretary of State, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Poland

Keynote listener: **Jernej Štromajer**, Alumni, Fulbrigh, Slovenia

Moderated by **Aaron Korewa**, Director, Atlantic Council's Warsaw Office

10:30–11:45 | India Rising: What Kind of a Great Power Can India be?

Rikli Balance Hotel, Arnold II Hall

Ashok Malik, Partner and Chair of India Practice, The Asia Group, India

Satu P. Limaye, Vice President, East-West Center; Director, East-West Center in Washington and Research Program, United States

Gunnar Wiegand, Visiting Distinguished Fellow, Indo-Pacific Program, German Marshall Fund

Moderated by **Sunjoy Joshi**, Chairman, Observer Research Foundation, India

10:30–11:45 | Heritage Beyond Borders: Turning Local Roots into Global Strengths

Rikli Balance Hotel, Zrak Hall

Shota Bukoshi, Adviser, German Society for International Cooperation; Member, Global Diplomacy Lab, Germany/Kosovo

Dagmer Hovestadt, Independent Researcher and Author; Member, Global Diplomacy Lab, Germany

Banu Pekol, Senior Program Manager, The BMW Foundation Herber Quandt; Member, Global Diplomacy Lab, Germany/Turkey

Annegret Warth-Shahlaei, Network Management Specialist, City Of Stuttgart; Member, Global Diplomacy Lab, Germany

10:30–11:45 | Private Contributions to Cyber Operations: An International Law Perspective

Rikli Balance Hotel, Sonce Hall

Kaja Ciglic, Senior Director of Digital Diplomacy, Microsoft

Samit D’Cunha, Legal Adviser, International Committee of the Red Cross

Duncan Hollis, Laura H. Carnell Professor of Law; Co-Faculty Director, Institute for Law, Innovation & Technology; Director, LL.M. and J.D./LL.M. in Transnational Law, Temple University Beasley School of Law, United States

Maral Kashgar, Legal Advisor, Office of the Minister of Defence, Federal Ministry of Defence, Germany

Vasilka Sancin, Professor of International Law, Faculty of Law, University of Ljubljana; Director of the Institute for International Law and International Relations; Member of the UN Human Rights Council Advisory Committee, Slovenia

Moderated by **Dapo Akande**, Chichele Professor of Public International Law and Fellow of All Souls College, University of Oxford; Co-director of the Oxford Institute for Ethics, Law and Armed Conflict; Member of the UN International Law Commission, United Kingdom

10:00–12:00 | Tourism Panel: The Power of Data: Shaping tomorrow's Tourism

Grand Hotel Toplice, Grand Hall

Address by **Maja Pak Olaj**, Director, Slovenian Tourist Board

Opening remarks by **Matevž Frangež**, State Secretary, Ministry of the Economy, Tourism and Sport of Slovenia

Speakers:

Natalia Bayona, Executive Director, UN Tourism

Erwin Hinteregger, Chief Executive Officer, IDM South Tyrol, Italy

Dubravka Kalin, Director-General, Directorate of Tourism, Ministry of the Economy, Tourism and Sport of Slovenia

Apolonija Oblak Flander, Director-General, Statistical Office of Slovenia

Tobias Pogorevc, CEO, Helvetic Airways AG, Switzerland

Eduardo Santander, Chief Executive Officer, European Travel Commission, Belgium

Moderated by **Martina Gojkošek**, Head of Corporate Communications, Slovenian Tourist Board

10:45–11:45 | Young Bled Strategic Forum Powered Discussion | Truth and Forgiveness: A Conversation with Albie Sachs, Former South African Constitutional Court Justice and anti-apartheid activist

Grand Hotel Toplice, Lake Lounge

Moderated by **Young Bled Strategic Forum participant** (to be announced)

11:20–12:20 | Inclusive Diplomacy Lounge | Seat at the Table – City Diplomacy: A Ballast for International Relations in Times of Uncertainty

Rikli Balance Hotel, lobby in front of the Registration & Information Desk

Dirk Brengelmann, Deputy Chair, Board of Commissioners, Chair, Audit Committee, International Commission on Missing Persons; Dean, Global Diplomacy Lab, Germany

Elsa Marie D'Silva, Founder, Red Dot Foundation (Safecity); Member, Global Diplomacy Lab

Sylvia Groneick, Ambassador of Germany to Slovenia

Nejc Krevs, Young Bled Strategic Forum participant, Slovenia

Andrijana Lazarevic, Young Bled Strategic Forum participant, Serbia

Audrey Namdiero-Walsh, Director, Global Diplomacy Lab, Germany

Ana Novak, Department for Global Challenges, Directorate for Multilateral Cooperation, Minister of Foreign and European Affairs of Slovenia

Hosted and moderated by **Chris Fowler**, Member, Global Diplomacy Lab, United States

12:00–13:15 | Post-Election EU – Acting or Sleepwalking?

Rikli Balance Hotel, Arnold I Hall

Rastislav Chovanec, State Secretary, Foreign and European Affairs Ministry of Slovakia

Elmedin Konaković, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina

Guillaume Klossa, Executive President, EuropaNova, France
Igor Mally, State Secretary for European Affairs, Office of the Prime Minister of Slovenia

Moderated by **Ivana Dragičević**, Journalist; Head of Europe Future Centre, Croatia

12:00–13:15 | Peace and Prosperity in the Indo-Pacific and the World

Rikli Balance Hotel, Arnold II Hall

Shin Kak-Soo, Deputy Chairman, NEAR Foundation; Former Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Republic of Korea

Lieutenant General (ret.) Koichi Isobe, Distinguished Senior Fellow (Non-Resident), Sasakawa Peace Foundation, Japan

Erik Solheim, Co-Chair of the Board, The Europe-Asia Center, Belgium

Henry Huiyao Wang, Founder and President, Center for China and Globalizations, China

Moderated by **David Patrician**, Freelance journalist and presenter; Member, Global Diplomacy Lab, Germany

12:00–13:15 | Sustaining Peace in a Fragmented World: Promoting Peace Responsive Health Interventions

Rikli Balance Hotel, Zrak Hall

Mariana Beselga, Founder and Chief Executive Officer, Policy Hub for Inclusive Development; Young Bled Strategic Forum participant, Portugal

Frédéric Deycard, Associate Director, Conflict Resolution Program, The Carter Center, United States

Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director General, World Health Organisation [ONLINE SPEAKER](#)

Kerstin Vesna Petrič, Rapporteur, Executive Board, World Health Organization, Slovenia

Libakiso I. Matlho, Executive Secretary, African Union Centre for Post-conflict Reconstruction and Development, Egypt

Moderated by **Itonde Kakoma**, President, Interpeace, Switzerland

12:00–13:15 | "Living library" session on the topic of flight and migration

Rikli Balance Hotel, Sonce Hall

Kim Freidberg, Director, Home affairs (JAI.1) – General Secretariat, Council of the European Union

Olena Grab, Representative of refugees from Ukraine

Marko Gašperlin, Senior Police Superintendent, Slovenian Police

Nina Gregori, Executive Director, European Union Agency for Asylum

Jonas Grimheden, Fundamental Rights Officer/Head of the Fundamental Rights Office, European Border and Coast Guard Agency

Saifudin Mirsada, Representative of refugees outside the Schengen zone, Afghanistan/Belgrade [ONLINE SPEAKER](#)

Doaa Al Zamel, Award Winning Human Rights Advocate, Sweden

Salam Ibrahim Al-Nidawi, Representative of refugees inside the Schengen zone, Iraq/Zagreb

Damir Selimović, Representative of an NGO helping refugees, Caritas Rijeka, Croatia

Facilitated by **Sonja Schirmbeck**, Director, Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung Zagreb, Croatia

12:15–13:15 | Young Bled Strategic Forum Powered Discussion | Where to Draw the Line?

Grand Hotel Toplice, Lake Lounge

Ali Aslan, International TV presenter and journalist, Germany

Peter Grk, Secretary General, Bled Strategic Forum, Slovenia

Moderated by **Magdalena Rakovec**, Young Bled Strategic Forum Programme Director, Slovenia

13:15–14:45 | Networking Lunch

Rikli Balance Hotel Restaurant

14:20–15:20 | Inclusive Diplomacy Lounge | Designing an Inclusive World – Feminist Policy for a Gender Inclusive World

Rikli Balance Hotel, lobby in front of the Registration & Information Desk

Chris Fowler, Member, Global Diplomacy Lab, United States

Tatiana Grinkevich, Young Bled Strategic Forum participant, Russia

Dagmar Hovestadt, Independent Researcher and Author; Member, Global Diplomacy Lab

Myriam Lyri, Intern, Global Diplomacy Lab, Germany/Greece

Global Diplomacy Lab, Germany

Andrijana Paljušević, Young Bled Strategic Forum participant, Montenegro

Elsa Marie D'Silva, Founder, Red Dot Foundation (Safecity); Member, Global Diplomacy Lab

Vuk Velebit, Young Bled Strategic Forum participant, Serbia

Annegret Warth-Shahlaei, Network Management Specialist, City Of Stuttgart; Member, Global Diplomacy Lab, Germany

📺 14:45–16:00 | NATO Beyond 75: An Alliance Fit for the Future

Rikli Balance Hotel, Arnold I Hall

Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu, Member, National Assembly of Türkiye; Head of of the Turkish delegation to the NATO Parliamentary Assembly

Damir Črnčec, State Secretary, Ministry of Defence, Slovenia

Alexandre Escorcia, Head of Service for Europe, North America, and Multilateral Action, Directorate-General for International Relations and Strategy, Ministry of the Armed Forces of France

Angus Lapsley, Assistant Secretary General for Defence Policy and Planning, The North Atlantic Treaty Organization

Valerio de Luca, Chairman, Academy for Innovation, Economic Development and Security

Philip Reeker, Chair, Wilson Center Global Europe Program; Partner and Lead of the Europe and Eurasia practice, Albright Stonebridge Group, United States

Robin S. Quinville, Director, Global Europe Program, The Wilson Center, United States

Moderated by **Maša Ocvirk**, Program Coordinator, Global Europe Program, The Wilson Center, United States

📺 14:45–16:00 | Preparing for Unknown Futures

Rikli Balance Hotel, Arnold II Hall

Sirkka Heinonen, Professor Emerita at University of Turku, Member of the Club of Rome, Finland

Matthias Lüfkens, Founder and CEO, @DigiTips

Ilan Manor, Senior Lecturer, Department of Communication Studies, Ben Gurion University of the Negev, Israel

Maricela Muñoz, Director of Strategic Partnerships, Geneva Science and Diplomacy Anticipator Foundation, Switzerland

Kristofer Nevall, Strategic Foresight Analyst, Development Concepts and Doctrine Centre, Ministry of Defence of the United Kingdom

Moderated by **Sabina Stadler**, Ambassador, Chief Strategist, Service for Strategic Studies and Analysis, Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of Slovenia

14:45–16:00 | Neither Human nor Rights? A Discussion on Human Rights in a World of Turmoil

Rikli Balance Hotel, Zrak Hall

Michael O'Flaherty, Commissioner for Human Rights, Council of Europe
Renata Salecl, Philosopher and sociologist, Slovenia

Moderated by **Burak Ünveren**, Journalist and freelance moderator; Member, Global Diplomacy Lab

14:45–16:00 | The Role of Security Actors in Conflicts Relating to Natural Resources and the Environment

Rikli Balance Hotel, Sonce Hall

Ahmed Abdel-Latif, Ambassador; Director General, Cairo International Center for Conflict Resolution, Peacekeeping and Peacebuilding, Egypt

Benedetta Berti, Head of Policy Planning in the Office of the Secretary General, North Atlantic Treaty Organization ONLINE SPEAKER

Munini Mutuku, Senior Programme Officer, National Cohesion and Integration Commission, Kenya

Ambika Vishwanath, Co-Founder and Director, Kubernein Initiative, India

Mark Zeitoun, Director General, Geneva Water Hub, Switzerland

Moderated by **Susanne Schmeier**, Head, Water Governance Department, and Associate Professor of Water Law and Diplomacy, IHE Delft Institute for Water Education, The Netherlands

14:45–15:45 | Young Bled Strategic Forum Powered Discussion | We Dare to Make a Change: Aspirations of the Young Public Officials of the Western Balkans

Grand Hotel Toplice, Lake Lounge

Opening remarks by **Jana Repanšek**, Director, Center of Excellence in Finance, Slovenia, and **Vlado Dimovski**, Economist, philosopher, politician, and professor, Slovenia

Milica Alavanja Maksimović, Head of Department for EU Integration and International Cooperation, Ministry of Public Investments, Serbia

Aleksandra Brdjić, Advisor, Ministry of Labour, Employment, Veterans and Social Affairs, Serbia

Miroslav Grozdanovski, Member of the Cabinet, Ministry of Digital Transformation, North Macedonia

Valdrin Dervishaj, External Advisor, Ministry of Education, Science, Technology and Innovation, Kosovo

Adela Kula, former Director of Training, the Albanian School of Public Administration, Albania

Moderated by **Vladana Vučinić**, Journalist and performance artist; Art Director, Radio and Television Broadcasting Service, Montenegro

16:05–16:50 | Europe Whole and Free: A Renewed Commitment to European Security

Rikli Balance Hotel, Arnold I Hall

Lasha Darsalia, First Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of Georgia
Igli Hasani, Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs of Albania

Pierre Heilbronn, Special Envoy for Ukraine's Relief and Reconstruction, Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs of France

Filip Ivanović, Deputy Prime Minister for Foreign and European Affairs of Montenegro

Vahan Kostanyan, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of Armenia

Marko Makovec, Deputy Managing Director (EUROPE.DMD), European External Action Service

Timcho Mucunski, Minister for Foreign Affairs of North Macedonia

Hryhoriy Nemyria, First Deputy Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee, Parliament of Ukraine

Keynote listener: **Andrijana Lazarević**, Program Director, RESECO - Regional Security and Cooperation; Young Bled Strategic Forum participant, Serbia

Moderated by **Jovan Ratković**, Senior Adviser, Agora Strategy Group AG, Germany

16:20–17:20 | Inclusive Diplomacy Lounge | The Future We Want – Engaging Young Bled Strategic Forum With GDL Members And Diplomats

Rikli Balance Hotel, lobby in front of the Registration & Information Desk

Alexandru Andronic, Young Bled Strategic Forum participant, Romania

Shota Bukoshi, Adviser, German Society for International Cooperation; Member, Global Diplomacy Lab, Germany/Kosovo

Chris Fowler, Member, Global Diplomacy Lab, United States

Prithvi Gupta, Young Bled Strategic Forum participant, India

Marija Hodalj, Young Bled Strategic Forum participant, Croatia

Nozipho Makhanda, Project Assistant, Global Diplomacy Lab; Member, Global Diplomacy Lab, Germany/Zimbabwe

Samantha Mashapa, Young Bled Strategic Forum participant, South Africa

Banu Pekol, Senior Program Manager, The BMW Foundation Herber Quandt; Member, Global Diplomacy Lab, Germany/Turkey

David Timis, Young Bled Strategic Forum participant, Belgium

John Zhao, Young Bled Strategic Forum participant, China

Hosted and moderated by **Elsa Marie D'Silva**, Founder, Red Dot Foundation (Safecity); Member, Global Diplomacy Lab

16:55–17:40 | Europe Whole and Free: Enlargement as a Strategic Reconciliation project

Rikli Balance Hotel, Arnold I Hall

Christopher R. Hill, Ambassador of the United States of America to Serbia

Donika Gërvalla-Schwarz, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Diaspora of Kosovo

Mihai Popșoi, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Moldova

Miroslav Lajčák, EU Special Representative for the Belgrade-Pristina Dialogue and other Western Balkan regional issues

Tanja Mišćević, Minister of European Integration of Serbia

Marko Štucin, State Secretary, Ministry for Foreign and European Affairs of Slovenia

Keynote listener I: **Christian Schmidt**, High Representative for Bosnia and Herzegovina

Keynote listener II: **Strahinja Matejic**, Associate Director in the Office of the President, Eurasia Group, United States

Moderated by **Srdjan Majstorović**, Chairman, Governing Board of the European Policy Centre, Serbia

📺 16:15–17:30 | Putin's Long War and Parallel Realities in Russia's Domestic Affairs: In-Between Chaos and Stability

Rikli Balance Hotel, Arnold II Hall

Tatiana Grinkevich, Human rights activist; Young Bled Strategic Forum participant, Russia

Terhi Hakala, Ambassador, EU Special Representative for Central Asia

Vojko Volk, State Secretary for International Affairs and National and International Security, Office of the Prime Minister of Slovenia

Leonid Volkov, Political director, Anti-Corruption Foundation

Keynote listener: **Pavel Berstou**, Foreign Policy Advisor, Democratic Movement of Belarus; Young Bled Strategic Forum participant

Moderated by **Denis Mancevič**, Partner, NC3 GLOBAL d.o.o., Slovenia

16:15–17:30 | Feeding the Future: Ensuring Food Security in Times of Climate Crisis

Rikli Balance Hotel, Zrak Hall

Martin Frick, Director, World Food Programme Global Office Berlin, Germany

Eva Knez, State Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food of Slovenia

Kristjan Magdič, Managing Director, Paradajz d.o.o., Slovenia

Zhala Ibrahimova, COP29 Presidential Action Agenda Team Co-Lead; Deputy Head, Department for Cooperation with International Human Rights Institutions, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Azerbaijan

Moderated by **Damjan Krnjevič Mišković**, Professor of Practice; Director for Policy Research, Analysis and Publications, ADA University, Azerbaijan

16:15–17:30 | Support for Peacekeeping in the Ever-Changing Environment: How can Governments Contribute to Improving Peacekeeping Performance?

Rikli Balance Hotel, Sonce Hall

Michael Keating, Executive Director, European Institute of Peace, Belgium

Ann Linde, Former Minister for Foreign Affairs of Sweden

Libakiso I. Matlho, Executive Secretary, African Union Centre for Post-conflict Reconstruction and Development, Egypt

Dan Sanaren, Sahel Research Coordinator, Conflict Resolution Program, The Carter Center; Young Bled Strategic Forum participant, Slovenia

Samo Selimovič, Coordinator, Peace Operations Training Centre, Slovenia

Stefano Tomat, Managing Director for Civilian Planning and Conduct Capability, European External Action Service

René Troccaz, Special envoy for the Western Balkans, France

Moderated by **Itonde Kakoma**, President, Interpeace, Switzerland

17:40–17:45 | Closing remarks by Tanja Fajon, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign and European Affairs of Slovenia

Rikli Balance Hotel, lobby in front of Arnold Hall I&II