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**SIR MARK SEDWILL APPOINTED CHAIRMAN OF THE ATLANTIC FUTURE FORUM
AFF'20 TO BE HOSTED ON HMS QUEEN ELIZABETH, 20-21 OCTOBER 2020**



Sir Mark Sedwill addresses the AFF onboard HMS QUEEN ELIZABETH in Annapolis, November 2019

Sir Mark Sedwill is to become the first Chairman of The Atlantic Future Forum (AFF); the annual defence, security, technology and trade summit between the United Kingdom and United States of America which is hosted on the Royal Navy aircraft carrier, HMS QUEEN ELIZABETH.

Sir Mark assumes the role of Chairman as the AFF prepares to host its third annual Forum, bringing together the brightest minds, high-level decision takers and the most forward-thinking organisations from the United Kingdom and the United States of America.

The AFF brings together political, military and business leaders, tech sector CEOs, think tanks, academia, and specialist subject matter experts from both the UK and US. This year, the AFF will look at how the two Nations secure their futures and strengthen their relationships in an increasingly disrupted world, with seismic shifts in global power and strategic competition between countries. The agenda will also focus on the impact of pandemics, climate breakdown, mass migration, cyber warfare and the militarisation of space.



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The AFF was first convened in 2018 and hosted on HMS QUEEN ELIZABETH, during the new aircraft carrier's maiden visit to New York. In 2019, the carrier was anchored off Annapolis for AFF'19 and close to Washington DC. The AFF draws inspiration from the Atlantic Charter of 1941, when Prime Minister Winston Churchill and US President Franklin D. Roosevelt met on HMS PRINCE OF WALES, to reimagine the transatlantic community, deepen alliances and to help shape the post-WW2 order.

Sir Mark Sedwill, Chairman of the AFF, said;

I am delighted to become Chairman of The Atlantic Future Forum. The AFF has established itself as a valuable Forum for the UK and US as we seek to bring greater security and prosperity to all, including through private and public sector partnerships. AFF'20 will take place as the UK conducts the Integrated Security, Defence and Foreign Policy Review and launches its 'Ready to Trade' agenda. I am looking forward to using my Chairmanship to continue to enhance the Forum and to strengthen the relationship between the UK and US in order to face the future confident that our countries and our shared values will prosper and prevail.

Stephen Watson, Director, AFF, said;

"We're delighted that Sir Mark has agreed to become the first Chairman of The Atlantic Future Forum. As Cabinet Secretary and as the UK's National Security Adviser, Sir Mark was closely involved in the establishment of the AFF in 2018. He will now work with us as we prepare to host our third Forum, AFF'20, this October.

The AFF enables the United Kingdom and United States of America to come together to advance the special defence, security, technology and trade relationship between our two countries. Sir Mark's knowledge, insight and the respect he commands on both sides of the Atlantic will be of huge value to the AFF and in securing the outcomes we want to see."

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