

UK GOVERNMENT TO HOST MAJOR INTERNATIONAL SUMMIT ON HMS PRINCE OF WALES IN NEW YORK

- On 28-29 September, the UK Government will host the Atlantic Future Forum (*'AFF22'*) on the aircraft carrier HMS PRINCE OF WALES in New York. This will convene senior politicians, policymakers, military leaders and academia, together with business leaders and entrepreneurs from both the United Kingdom and the United States.
- AFF22 will address the 'New Threats and Security Dimensions of a New World', and seek to strengthen the collective defence, security, trade and economic resilience of Euro-Atlantic allies. It will look to cement the relationship between leading democratic nations and reassert our values and resolve in defence of the global rules-based order.
- AFF22 will be led by the Department for International Trade, working across government and with the Ministries of Defence and Foreign Affairs. It is chaired by Lord Sedwill and will be co-hosted by the First Sea Lord, Admiral Sir Ben Key and HM Ambassador Dame Karen Pierce.
- AFF22 will be the fifth Atlantic Future Forum and the third hosted in the United States. It will seek to strengthen the historic relationship between the United Kingdom and the United States. The Forum is staged at a time of international turbulence and will address the conflict in Ukraine, the expansion of NATO, the aftermath of COVID-19, the global energy crisis and climate change.
- The Forum will seek to advance the vital trading and economic partnership between the UK and US and explore how we boost innovation, economic growth and resilience. The Forum will bring together senior policymakers with some of the largest companies and exporters from the UK and US. It will serve to promote advances in emerging technologies, including Quantum, AI and Cyber, which are shaping our future prosperity, economic resilience and security.

On the 28-29th of September, the UK Government will bring together senior leaders in government, military and business for the annual Atlantic Future Forum. This will be hosted in New York on the Royal Navy's aircraft carrier, HMS PRINCE OF WALES, as part of its maiden visit to the United States. Six months after the Russian invasion of Ukraine, the Forum will be an opportunity to discuss the new dimensions of international security, the response of NATO allies, collective defence, international trade and economic resilience.

The Forum is being staged by the UK Government in close collaboration with the United States. It will be led by the Department for International Trade (DIT), reinforcing the importance of prosperity and trade alongside our defence and security relationships with like-minded allies. The Forum will seek to strengthen the trade and economic pillars of the Euro-Atlantic alliance and consider the possibilities of an economic Article Five in the development of the alliance.

Rt Hon Anne-Marie Trevelyan MP, Secretary of State for International Trade, said;

“The UK continues to play a leading role in fortifying defence systems around the world. And as Russia wages a reckless and illegal war in Ukraine, the Atlantic Future Forum will be an opportune moment to bring together like-minded allies on an international scale to work together to restore global security.

“Bolstering trade will be key to achieving this; not just the trade made up of our exports and imports, but that of ideas and strategies that will help us overcome challenges such as climate change, fight future pandemics, and reinvigorate our economies.”

AFF22 will be chaired by Lord Sedwill, the former UK Cabinet Secretary and National Security Advisor. It is being co-hosted by the First Sea Lord and Chief of Naval Operations, Admiral Sir Ben Key and Dame Karen Pierce, HM Ambassador to the United States. As in previous years, it is anticipated that senior politicians from both the UK and US will attend the Forum.

Lord Sedwill, chairman of Atlantic Future Forum, said:

“AFF22 comes at a critical time for the Euro-Atlantic alliance with the Russian invasion of Ukraine. The US/UK relationship has always been at the core of the alliance and the AFF is a unique opportunity to bring together government and the military, together with academia and business, to strengthen not only security and defence but also the trade and economic sinews of the alliance”

The Atlantic Future Forum is dedicated to strengthening the defence, security, technology, and trading relationships between democratic nations. This year's Forum will focus on the new dimensions of international security and how we strengthen the transatlantic alliance in a world of emerging threats – balancing the 'hard power' of military responses with 'soft' power strategies of influence, mobilisation, and diplomacy in Europe and beyond.

The Forum is unique amongst international summits in bringing together the worlds of business, government and the military. AFF22 will promote the importance of the UK and US as trade and economic partners and explore ways to boost innovation and technology. The Forum will gather many of the entrepreneurs driving the UK's vibrant tech ecosystem, SMEs and innovators with some of the largest UK and US private sector companies. The Forum will help showcase advances in Quantum, AI and Cyber and the emerging technologies proving important to our future prosperity, security and economic resilience. A number of private sector strategic partners are supporting AFF22 and helping shape the content agenda, including Arqit, BAE Systems, KPMG, Boeing, Ierus Technologies, Improbable, Lockheed Martin, Microsoft, Northrop Grumman, OneWeb and Raytheon. They will continue to play a critical role as partners in the evolution and development of the Atlantic Future Forum.

This will be the fifth Atlantic Future Forum and the third hosted in the United States. Some 400 delegates will attend the Forum in person aboard HMS PRINCE OF WALES, anchored off Lower Manhattan. The Forum will include a number of keynote speeches, presentations, plenary sessions, fireside chats and networking events. A gala event featuring the Royal Marines Band is scheduled for the evening of the 28th of September. This is a further demonstration of the UK's 'soft power' and the convening capability of the UK's two fifth-generation aircraft carriers.

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Notes to Editors

The Atlantic Future Forum is an International Summit dedicated to strengthening the defence, security, technology and trading relationship between democratic nations. The forum convenes senior decision-makers, thought leaders, military and government officials and high-level industry representatives, providing a unique platform to debate and discuss the most pressing global challenges. It is one of the government's keynote international events of 2022 and will be hosted on the Royal Navy's aircraft carrier, HMS

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PRINCE OF WALES, as part of her maiden visit to the United States. This year is the fifth iteration of the Future Forum, following successful events in New York (2018), Annapolis (2019), and Portsmouth (2020 & 2021). Past contributors have included UK Ministers and Secretaries of State for Foreign Affairs, Defence and International Trade, UK and US National Security Advisors, GCHQ, UK Chief of Defence Staff and Service Chiefs with US counterparts, NATO Secretary-General and the UK Prime Minister. This is alongside speakers from global companies such as BP, Barclays, Amazon, Microsoft and Lockheed Martin.

Last year the event convened as the Pacific Future Forum brought together 300 senior leaders on HMS PRINCE OF WALES in Portsmouth to discuss the challenges and opportunities in the Indo-Pacific region. Over 20 Nations were represented from across the political, diplomatic, military and industry spectrum including Ambassadors and High Commissioners from Australia, New Zealand, Fiji, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Mongolia, Papua New Guinea, Singapore, and Thailand. Over 1000 delegates joined virtually from around the world and throughout the Indo-Pacific region cementing the truly global nature of the Forum.

Media Enquiries

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