

# Diplomatic Powerhouses Meet Amid Worldwide Unrest

● More than 20 heads of state and government,

● 40+ foreign ministers, and representatives

● 75+ international organisations

● Over 40 panel discussions

The fifth edition of the Antalya Diplomacy Forum (ADF) was held in Antalya, Türkiye, beginning on April 17, bringing together heads of state and government, foreign ministers, diplomats, academics, think tank experts, and journalists from around the world.

The three-day forum, which runs until today, was inaugurated by Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan. This year's theme, "Mapping Tomorrow, Managing Uncertainties," reflected growing global concerns over geopolitical tensions, shifting power dynamics, rising trade barriers, and challenges to multilateral cooperation.



Organisers said the discussions took place against a backdrop of increasing global unpredictability, highlighting the need to anticipate risks, identify opportunities, and develop long-term strategies to strengthen international stability.

The forum brought together more than 20 heads of state and government, over 40 foreign ministers, and representatives from more than 75 international organisations. Delegations from around 150 countries participated, along with hundreds of academics and students.

Among the participants were

Azerbaijan President Ilham Aliyev, Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, Syria President Ahmad al-Sharaa, Serbia's Prime Minister Đuro Macut, Democratic Republic of Congo President Félix Tshisekedi, North Macedonia President Gordana Siljanovska-Davkova, Somalia President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud, Georgia Prime Minister Irakli Kobakhidze, Kazakhstan President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, and Moldova President Maia Sandu.

The forum featured more than 40 panel discussions covering key geopolitical, diplomatic, economic,

and political issues. It also provided a platform for bilateral and multilateral meetings between participating delegations.

On the sidelines of the forum, Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan held several high-level meetings, including the third Foreign Ministers' Meeting of the Balkan Peace Platform, a Gaza-focused multilateral meeting involving eight parties, an informal session of the Organisation of Turkic States Foreign Ministers Council, and a four-party meeting involving Türkiye, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, and Egypt.

## Saudi-Algeria Strategic Dialogue



On the sidelines of the Antalya Diplomacy Forum 2026 in Türkiye, His Highness Prince Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud, Minister of Foreign Affairs, held a meeting with His Excellency Ahmed Attaf, Minister of State, Minister of Foreign Affairs, National Community Abroad, and African Affairs of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria.

The meeting took place as part of ongoing diplomatic engagements at the forum, which brings together global leaders and foreign ministers to discuss key regional and international developments, strengthen cooperation, and

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Both sides reviewed bilateral relations between Saudi Arabia and Algeria and discussed ways to further strengthen cooperation across various fields, in addition to exchanging views on regional and international issues of mutual interest.

## NATO Pushes Defence Industry Growth



NATO Deputy Secretary General Radmila Šekerinska outlined the Alliance's progress on defence commitments during her participation at the Antalya Diplomacy Forum 2026

in Türkiye.

Speaking on a panel titled "Securing Europe: Unity and Strategic Renewal towards the NATO Ankara Summit," Šekerinska said that Allied nations are expected to demon-

strate concrete progress on decisions made at last year's NATO Summit in The Hague.

She stressed that increased defence investment and faster defence production are strengthening NATO's over-

all capabilities, noting that "our security is strongest when it is transatlantic."

The Deputy Secretary General highlighted that while European Allies and Canada are expanding defence spending and taking greater responsibility for collective security, further efforts are needed to develop advanced capabilities and technologies.

She also underlined the importance of cooperation between NATO Allies and international partners, including Ukraine and Indo-Pacific nations, to enhance defence industrial capacity.

Reaffirming NATO's continued support for Ukraine, Šekerinska said Allies are increasing military assistance and deepening cooperation with Ukraine's defence sector, including through the UNITE-Brave programme.

## Kuwait Reaffirms Hormuz Stance

Kuwait's Foreign Minister Shaikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, reaffirmed the country's firm position that the Strait of Hormuz is a natural international waterway, in line with established principles of international law and the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.

He made the remarks while chairing Kuwait's delegation on behalf of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah during an international meeting on freedom of navigation in the Strait of Hormuz, held via video conference.

The Kuwaiti delegation emphasized the importance of safeguarding maritime security and ensuring the uninterrupted flow of global trade through international waterways, underscoring Kuwait's continued commitment to international legal frameworks governing maritime navigation.



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### Tensions Escalate Around Hormuz Corridor



U.S. Army AH-64 Apache helicopters conduct aerial patrols over the Strait of Hormuz on April 17, maintaining a visible security presence to support freedom of navigation and regional maritime stability.



The Littoral Combat Ship USS Canberra (LCS 30) conducts maritime patrol operations in the Arabian Sea as part of ongoing U.S. naval enforcement activity. Since the operation began, U.S. forces have directed multiple commercial vessels to alter course while naval units maintain monitoring and control measures across key shipping routes near Iranian coastal waters.

## Qatar-Syria Meeting Ahead of Forum



Qatar's Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani met Syrian President Ahmed Al-Sharaa ahead of the opening of the Antalya Diplomacy Forum, according to a post shared on his official Instagram account.

The meeting took place prior to the start of the forum, where several regional leaders have

gathered to discuss key developments in the region.

Qatar's Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani, was also present during the meeting, underscoring Doha's diplomatic engagement at the high-level event.