Alongside the tragic human toll, the coronavirus pandemic has ushered in the worst global recession since the Great Depression. Confronting growing uncertainty, a sluggish recovery, and burdensome debt, the international financial institutions have a critical role to play. In the face of these challenges – exacerbated by domestic “go-it-alone” policy approaches and tensions between major economies – global leaders must make the case for international cooperation.

This year’s International Council meeting will virtually convene global thought leaders to discuss how to rebuild the global economy and strengthen the multilateral system. Information and registration links for confirmed sessions are provided below.

Conference Agenda

1. **Central Banks: Crisis Panacea?**
   Monday, Oct. 12 | 10:30 AM - 12:00 PM ET | [REGISTER]

   The global downturn triggered by COVID-19 has highlighted the increasingly essential crisis-fighting role of central banks, which have deployed a range of traditional and innovative tools to stabilize financial markets. Going forward, which policy levers will be most effective and how can central banks best coordinate?

   - **Janet Yellen**, Distinguished Fellow in Residence, Brookings Institution and Former Chair, Federal Reserve Board
   - **Lorenzo Bini Smaghi**, Chairman, Société Générale and Former Executive Board Member, European Central Bank
   - **Moderator: William C. Dudley**, Executive Committee, Bretton Woods Committee and Former President, Federal Reserve Bank of New York

2. **Rebuilding the Global Economy and Multilateral System**
   Wednesday, Oct. 14 | 2:00 - 3:30 PM ET | [REGISTER]

   The Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund and the President of the World Bank will share their perspectives on the current crisis, assess international efforts to address the crisis, and consider how to rebuild the global economy and strengthen the multilateral system.
The novel coronavirus pandemic has battered the global economy: the latest IMF forecast projects negative 4.9% global growth in 2020 and extreme poverty is set to increase for the first time since 1998. Given these dramatic headwinds, how can the international community and the IMF help rebuild the global economy? In today’s shock-prone world, how can we build resilient, sustainable economies?

- Kristalina Georgieva, Managing Director, IMF
- Moderator: John Lipsky, Executive Committee, Bretton Woods Committee and Peter G. Peterson Distinguished Scholar, Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies

The World Bank predicts that the dual health and economic crises triggered by Covid-19 could push more than 70 million people into extreme poverty in 2020. How can the international community and the World Bank work to prevent development backsliding? What can be done to support countries facing a public health crisis, recession, and mounting debt?

- David Malpass, President, World Bank Group
- Moderator: William R. Rhodes, Executive Committee, Bretton Woods Committee and President and CEO of William R. Rhodes Global Advisors

The COVID-19 crisis continues to strain emerging market and least developed country economies, with many experiencing rising debt and precipitous declines in trade, capital inflows, and reserves. How can the international community help safeguard financial stability and mitigate risks posed by rising debt levels?

- Wei Sun Christianson, Chief Executive Officer, Morgan Stanley China, Co-CEO Morgan Stanley Asia Pacific
- Arminio Fraga, Founding Partner, Gávea Investimentos and Former Governor, Central Bank of Brazil
- Maria Ramos, Chief Executive Officer (Retired), Absa Group Limited
- Moderator: William R. Rhodes, Executive Committee, Bretton Woods Committee and President and CEO of William R. Rhodes Global Advisors

As COVID-19 continues to spread, countries around the world are dedicating significant public resources to combatting the pandemic, funding everything from contact tracing to equipment for hospitals to public education efforts. How are countries funding these programs, particularly in resource-constrained environments? Which countries have been most successful and what can be
learned from their experience? What risks are associated with redirecting limited public health resources towards the COVID-19 crisis? How can the international community and the World Bank support country efforts?

- **Kalipso Chalkidou**, Director of Global Health Policy, Center for Global Development
- **Cristina Valencia**, Epidemiologist, European Programme of Interventional Epidemiology Training
- **Feng Zhao**, Practice Manager, Health, Population and Nutrition Global Engagement, World Bank
- **Moderator: Alex Preker**, Executive Scholar, Columbia University, New York University, and Icahn School of Medicine at Mt. Sinai