About the GeoTech Center

Championing positive paths forward that nations, economies, and societies can pursue to ensure new technologies and data empower people, prosperity, and peace.

We champion positive paths forward that nations, economies, and societies can pursue to ensure new technologies and data empower people, increase prosperity, and secure peace. Without reservation, these common principles represent the bedrock of the work the Atlantic Council does around the world. Equally important, new technologies and data should advance these principles globally. The Atlantic Council GeoTech Center encourages global tech collaborations, evaluates good tech choices as well as measurable policy alternatives, and educates world leaders and the public on issues related to global tech competition.

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Stakeholder(s):

Frederick Kempe:
President & CEO — The next generation of technological change will have a more dramatic impact on how individuals live and work, how economies operate and how nations interact than any that has come before it.

GeoTech Commission:
We must transform how we make choices regarding technology and data, both locally and globally. Thus, the Atlantic Council GeoTech Commission recommends policy actions to ensure the most beneficial outcomes for people, prosperity, and peace. This is necessary because we must overcome significant challenges in distinguishing good from bad choices. We also must ensure people and societies are informed on key questions, such as:

- How can either societies or markets characterize new technologies and data choices regarding measurable benefits to people, prosperity, and peace?
- In what ways can more beneficial new technologies and data choices be incentivized, with attention to either policy or business approaches?
- How can overall adoption of beneficial new technologies and data initiatives be accelerated regionally, nationally, and globally?

Senator Mark Warner:
Honorary Co-Chair — Senator Warner (D, VA) was elected to the US Senate in November 2008 and reelected to a second term in November 2014. He serves on the Senate Finance, Banking, Budget, and Rules Committees as well as the Select Committee on Intelligence, where he is the Vice Chairman.

Senator Rob Portman:
Honorary Co-Chair — Rob Portman (R, OH) is a United States Senator from the state of Ohio, a position he has held since he was first elected in 2010. Rob is a member of the Senate Finance Committee, the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, and the Committee on Foreign Relations. He is also Chairman of the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations.

Congresswoman Suzan DelBene:
Honorary Co-Chair — Congresswoman Suzan DelBene (D, WA) represents Washington’s First Congressional District, which spans from northeast King County to the Canadian border, and includes parts of King, Snohomish, Skagit and Whatcom counties. She currently serves on the House Ways and Means Committee. Also appointed to the Select Committee on the Modernization of Congress.

Congressman Michael T. McCaul:
Honorary Co-Chair — Congressman Michael T. McCaul (R, TX) is currently serving his eight term representing Texas’ 10th District in the United States Congress. At the start of the 116th Congress, Congressman McCaul became the Republican Leader of the Foreign Affairs Committee. Also served as the Chairman of the House Committee on Homeland Security during the 113th, 115th, and 116th Congresses.

John Goodman:
Commission Co-Chair — Chief Executive, Accenture Federal Services — John Goodman is the Chief Executive of Accenture Federal Services (AFS), which serves clients across all sectors of the US federal government – defense, intelligence, public safety, health, and civilian.

Teresa Carlson:
Commission Co-Chair — Vice President, Worldwide Public Sector, Amazon Web Services — Teresa Carlson leads the Amazon Web Services (AWS) Worldwide Public Sector business, which includes state, local, central and regional governments; educational institutions and Ed Techs, and nonprofits and nongovernmental organizations (NGO), and acts as an advisor to Amazon Public Policy on global policy issues.

Vint Cerf:
Commissioner — Vice President and Chief Internet Evangelist, Google — Vinton G. Cerf is vice president and Chief Internet Evangelist for Google. He contributes to global policy development and continued spread of the Internet. Widely known as one of the “Fathers of the Internet,” Cerf is the co-designer of the TCP/IP protocols and the architecture of the Internet. He has served in executive positions at MCI, the Corporation for National Research Initiatives and the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency and on the faculty of Stanford University.

Shirley Ann Jackson:
Commissioner — President, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute — The Honorable Shirley Ann Jackson, Ph.D. became the 18th president of Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute on July 1, 1999. Dr. Jackson is a theoretical physicist. Since coming to Rensselaer, Dr. Jackson has led the development of the Rensselaer Plan (the Institute’s strategic blueprint), has begun implementation of much of the Plan, while restructuring processes and procedures; and secured a $360 million unrestricted gift commitment to the university.

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Stakeholders (continued)

Michael Chertoff: Commissioner — Former United States Secretary of Homeland Security — Michael Chertoff heads the Chertoff Group, providing high-level strategic counsel to corporate and government leaders on a broad range of security issues, from risk identification and prevention to preparedness, response and recovery. Mr. Chertoff is also senior counsel at Covington & Burling LLP, and a member of the firm’s White Collar Defense and Investigations practice group.

Zia Khan: Commissioner — Vice President for Innovation, The Rockefeller Foundation — As Senior Vice President for Innovation, Zia oversees the Foundation’s approach to developing solutions that can have transformative impact on people’s lives, with a focus on innovative finance, data & technology, and science. He writes and speaks frequently on leadership, strategy, and innovation. Zia has served on the World Economic Forum Advisory Council for Social Innovation and the US National Advisory Board for Impact Investing. He is an investor and advisor to a range of impact-oriented enterprises.

Paul Daugherty: Commissioner — Group Chief Executive of Technology Services and Chief Technology Officer, Accenture Technology Innovation & Ecosystem Group — Paul Daugherty is a leading authority on the technology innovations shaping the future of business and society. In his role as Accenture’s Chief Technology and Innovation Officer, Paul predicts the future, sets Accenture’s technology strategy and directs its technology research and development, ventures and ecosystem relationships to incubate the next wave of technology businesses. As the founder of Accenture’s businesses in Cloud, Artificial Intelligence (AI), Blockchain and other emerging technologies, Paul advises the world’s top business and technology leaders on how to apply technology to reimagine and reinvent their organizations’ futures.

Ramayya Krishnan: Commissioner — Director, Block Center for Technology and Society, Carnegie Mellon University — Ramayya Krishnan is the W. W. Cooper and Ruth F. Cooper Professor of Management Science and Information Systems at the H. John Heinz III College and the Department of Engineering and Public Policy at Carnegie Mellon University. A faculty member at CMU since 1988, Krishnan was appointed Dean when the Heinz College was created in 2008. Krishnan was elected in 2017 to serve as the 25th President of INFORMS, and is an INFORMS Fellow.

Philippe Gillet: Commissioner — Chief Science Officer, SICPA — Philippe Gillet is currently Chief Scientific Officer at SICPA and a Professor at the École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne (EPFL), where he was also VP of Academic Affairs, President ad Interim and Director of the Human Brain project for two years. Before EPFL, he served as Chief of Staff of the French Minister for Higher Education and Research – Mrs Valérie Pécresse. Prior to that, Philippe was Director of the CNRS Institut National des Sciences de l’Univers, President of the French synchrotron facility SOLEIL, of the French National Research Agency and Director of Ecole normale supérieure de Lyon.

Michael J. Rogers: Commissioner — Former Chairman for the US House Intelligence Committee — Michael J. Rogers is an executive producer for the CNN program Declassified: Untold Stories of American Spies. He was the US Representative for Michigan’s 8th congressional district from 2001 to 2015. From 2011 to 2015, he was Chairman of the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence.

Susan M. Gordon: Commissioner — Former Principal Deputy Director of National Intelligence — The Honorable Susan (Sue) M. Gordon served as Principal Deputy Director of National Intelligence in the Office of the Director of National Intelligence (DNI) until August 15, 2019. With nearly three decades of experience in the IC, Ms. Gordon has served in a variety of leadership roles spanning numerous intelligence organizations and disciplines. Most recently, Ms. Gordon served as the Deputy Director of the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA) from 2015 to 2017. In this role, she helped the director lead the agency and manage the National System of Geospatial Intelligence. She drove NGA’s transformation to meet the challenges of a 21st century intelligence agency. She also championed agile governance, recruitment and retention of a diverse workforce, and expansion of geospatial intelligence services to the open marketplace. She is known for her commitment to diversity and inclusion and, to the women and men of the IC.

Maurice Sonnenberg: Commissioner — Worked with the Administration of five US Presidents — Maurice Sonnenberg has served as an outside advisor to five presidential administrations in the areas of international trade, finance, international relations, intelligence, and foreign election monitoring. In 1994 and 1995, he served as a member of the Moinihan Commission on Government Secrecy, and in 1996 as the Senior Advisor to the US Commission on the Roles and Capabilities of the US Intelligence Community. He was a member of the President’s Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board under President Bill Clinton for 8 years. In 2000, he served as Vice-Chairman of the National Commission on Terrorism, also known as the Bremer Commission. In 2002, he was a member of the Task Force Report No. 40 of the Council on Foreign Relations called Terrorist Financing. In 2012-14, he served as co-Chairman of the National Commission for the Review of the Research and Development Programs for the Intelligence Community. He has also served as an Official US Observer at elections in Latin America. This includes multiple elections in El Salvador, Guatemala, Nicaragua and Mexico.

GeoTech Partners: The Atlantic Council’s GeoTech efforts succeed in light of our wide range of Partners. Above all, our Partners embody the collaborative, multi-faceted work that we do. Together, we champion positive paths forward for new technologies and data globally.

Accenture
The Rockefeller Foundation
Amazon Web Services

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Our Fellows are jointly appointed with other Centers and Initiatives at the Council.

Amy Webb:
NONRESIDENT SENIOR FELLOW, GEOTECH CENTER — China | Cybersecurity

Bob Gourley:
NONRESIDENT SENIOR FELLOW, GEOTECH CENTER

Andrea Little Limbago, PhD:
NONRESIDENT FELLOW, GEOTECH CENTER — Security & Defense | Digital Policy

Joseph T. Bonivel Jr., PhD:
NONRESIDENT SENIOR FELLOW, GEOTECH CENTER

Pari Esfandiari, PhD:
NONRESIDENT SENIOR FELLOW, GEOTECH CENTER

Paul Saffo:
NONRESIDENT SENIOR FELLOW, STRATEGIC FORESIGHT INITIATIVE

Bobbie Stempfley:
SENIOR FELLOW, CYBER STATECRAFT INITIATIVE

Franklin D. Kramer:
DISTINGUISHED FELLOW, SCOWCROFT CENTER FOR STRATEGY AND SECURITY

Vision
Prosperity and peace

Mission
To ensure new technologies and data empower people

Values
  Work
  Data
  Trust
  People
  Prosperity
  Peace
1. Work

Collaborate across societies so that all people can evaluate, accept, and receive benefit from new technologies.

Future of work — Firstly, certain inventions, such as the assembly line, both benefited societies and required new laws to protect individuals from an asymmetrical distribution of power—for example, unsafe working conditions. The Future of Work will require new ways of collaborating across societies so that all people can evaluate, accept, and receive benefit from new technologies.
2. Data

_Enable individuals and societies to choose how we want to reshape norms and distribute power in our communities._

Future of data — Secondly, informed choices can shape behaviors that, over time, become ‘sticky’ habits across societies. As a result, these repetitive habits inculcate norms. A central issue for the Future of Data is the ability of individuals and societies to choose how we want to reshape norms and distribute power in our communities.
3. Trust

*Examine the prospective effects of new technologies and greater control by society.*

Future of trust — Thirdly, we are now witnessing widening polarization and mistrust within societies. In part this is because new technologies, once developed, are difficult to regulate even if they prove disruptive to social cohesion, market operations, and institutional trust. The Future of Trust depends on us building bridges across different tech, commerce, and community sectors, thereby enabling the examination of the prospective effects of new technologies and greater control by society.
4. Space

*Develop initiatives that benefit people, prosperity, and peace while working to deter actions and policies that do not promote these values for all nations.*

Future of space — Fourthly, as space becomes the new frontier to be explored by national governments and private sector interests, the Future of Space requires us to develop initiatives that benefit people, prosperity, and peace while working to deter actions and policies that do not promote these values for all nations.
5. Health

*Understand and regulate technologies at a pace that matches the speed by which personalize medicine and other bio-related technologies are advancing.*

Future of health — Fifthly, we are now in an era where we can change our genes and biological processes that regulate our bodies. The Future of Health requires new abilities for understanding and regulating technologies at a pace that matches the speed by which personalize medicine and other bio-related technologies are advancing.