



Meridian Center for Diplomatic Engagement

www.meridian.org/diplomacy

Overview



Diplomacy is constantly evolving to meet the demands needed to address several global challenges. Complex policy issues require collaboration among diplomatic, business and government leaders. However, gaps exist among these sectors, and stronger neutral, non-partisan channels among these communities are needed.

The **Meridian Center for Diplomatic Engagement** is an education and networking hub that accelerates collaboration between the international diplomatic corps and the U.S. public and private sectors to address global challenges and opportunities facing the United States and the world today. Leveraging more than 60 years of deep relationships with the diplomatic community, Meridian convenes programs across borders, parties and industries enabling participants to connect in intimate settings with top officials and policymakers, dive deeply into issues, understand how Washington works and strengthen peer-to-peer relationships.

Mission

The Meridian Center for Diplomatic Engagement serves as a **bridge** between the diplomatic community and the U.S. government and private sector to:



Provide diplomatic leaders with the political, social and economic context driving U.S. government policies.



Exchange perspectives and gain valuable insight on timely domestic and international issues in a neutral, non-partisan environment.



Strengthen important relationships among diplomatic, government and corporate leaders to promote collaboration on key global economic and national security issues.



Build capacity within the diplomatic corps and business community by serving as a training and resource hub that fosters knowledge and skills development.

Initiatives

Program Series



Insights@Meridian

Insights@Meridian sessions are held monthly and feature a high-level U.S. government speaker or thought influencers to brief the diplomatic community followed by Q&A/discussion and a networking reception. Ambassadors or senior representatives from Washington-based embassies are invited to join these events leading to a broad and diverse cross-section of regional interests and perspectives.



Diplocraft

We host a regular series of programs for diplomats to hear from and interact with organizations and individuals on the front lines of political, social, security and economic issues in Washington and beyond. This series includes policy deep dives, peer networking opportunities and navigating Washington seminars.

MeridianOnline: Virtual Convening

In 2020, Meridian harnessed the tools of digital connectivity and doubled down on our convening power to host well over 100 virtual programs. By using multiple virtual platforms from Zoom to Shindig to Swoogo we have adapted based on the format of our programs and thus been able to successfully host fireside chats, panels discussions, and networking activities with leaders in business, diplomacy and government around the world to discuss issues of heightened global importance and the impacts on the future of international engagement, cooperation, and collaboration. We understand how to successfully navigate the intricacies of virtual programming while being mindful of traditional diplomatic micro-moves in this distinct setting.

Initiatives

Special Events



Welcome to Washington

The Welcome to Washington reception honors newly-arrived Chiefs of Mission and provides them with an opportunity to meet and engage with a cross-section of Washington leaders from the government, business and policy communities. Building peer-to-peer relationships in Washington is crucial for diplomats to exchange information and facilitate bilateral cooperation on a wide variety of global issues.



Global Leadership Summit

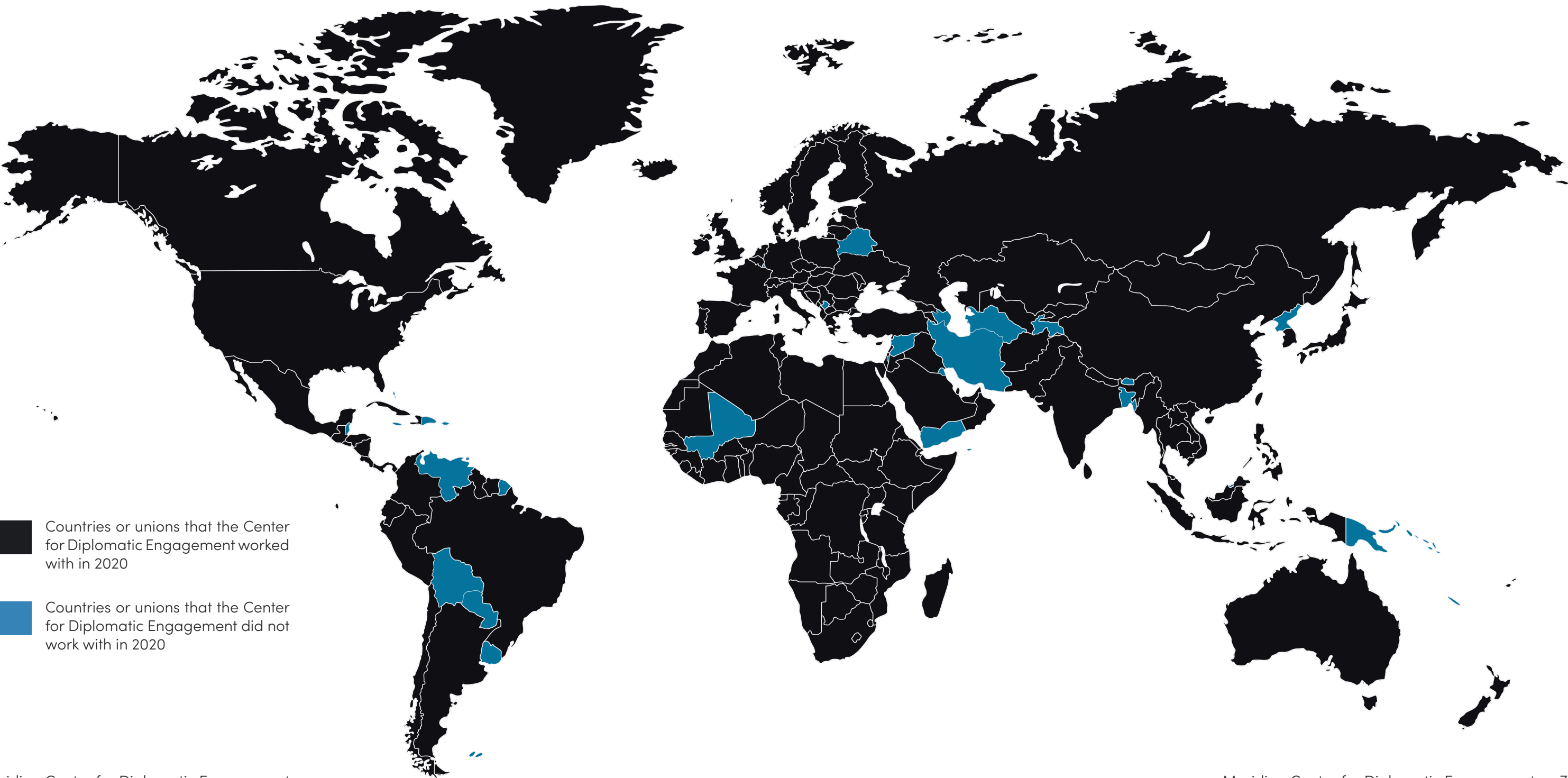
Held in conjunction with the Meridian Ball, the Global Leadership Summit is the leading convening of diplomatic, business and government leaders in a neutral, non-partisan forum. The Summit is a platform to exchange ideas and collaborate on solutions to the global challenges and opportunities in a rapidly changing world.

Diplomacy Forum

Diplomacy is an everchanging artform that shifts with the times and the needs of a nation. Meridian's annual Diplomacy Forum explores trends and challenges in U.S. and international statecraft. The 2021 Diplomacy Forum examined The Path Forward: Strengthening American Statecraft and highlighted the restoration of the State Department and U.S. global leadership as well as the need to reconceive and modernize our diplomatic practices and capacity to meet the demands of today's new challenges. Over 500 visionaries and decisionmakers from U.S. government, Congress, embassies, the private sector and civil society gathered online to share an all-of-sectors approach to retool and strengthen the United States' engagement with the world. Previous Diplomacy Forums have explored U.S. relations with Cuba, India, Japan and mainland Southeast Asia.

Our Reach

In 2020, there were **878 foreign diplomats** and **2,340 total direct beneficiaries** across Meridian Center for Diplomatic Engagement programming. **95% of diplomats** say Meridian improved their ability to perform effectively in their field.



Contact Us

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