

COUNCIL *on*
FOREIGN
RELATIONS

Membership

Membership

Founded in 1921, the Council on Foreign Relations includes among its ranks many of the most prominent leaders in the foreign policy arena. With over five thousand members based throughout the country and around the world, CFR's roster is composed of government officials, renowned scholars, business leaders, acclaimed journalists, prominent lawyers, and distinguished nonprofit professionals. CFR has a longstanding commitment to a diverse membership that reflects the broad interests of the United States.



*CFR President
Richard N. Haass*

The Member Experience

CFR members enjoy unparalleled access to a nonpartisan forum through which they engage with and gain insight from experts in international affairs. Members have in-person access to world leaders, senior government officials, members of Congress, and prominent thinkers and practitioners in academia, policy, and business, many of whom are members themselves. Member events include expert panel discussions, historymaker interviews, CEO forums, symposia, town halls, film screenings, and national and international member trips. For members residing outside New York and Washington, CFR hosts foreign policy roundtables in ten cities that build on the expertise of local members and community leaders, as well as interactive conference calls and teleconferences, livestreams, and the annual National Symposium and National Conference.

Membership Eligibility

CFR offers two types of individual membership. Membership is for those above the age of thirty-six. Term membership is a five-year membership for those between the ages of thirty and thirty-six.

CFR seeks quality, diversity, and balance in its membership. Criteria for membership include intellectual attainment and expertise; degree of experience, interest, and current involvement in international affairs; promise of future achievement and service in foreign relations; potential contributions to CFR's work; desire and ability to participate in CFR activities; and standing among peers.

“The Council on Foreign Relations after ninety years remains at its core a membership organization.”

—Richard N. Haass, *CFR President*



CFR President Richard N. Haass (far left), former President of Ireland Mary Robinson, former UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, and former President of Liberia Ellen Johnson Sirleaf discuss conflict prevention in multilateral systems.

Applying for Individual Membership

Membership

CFR membership is restricted to U.S. citizens and permanent residents who have formally applied to become citizens. Candidates applying for membership must be above the age of thirty-six, nominated in writing by a CFR member, and seconded by three to four other individuals.

The annual application deadlines are March 1 and November 1. New members are elected each June and February.

Term Membership

The Stephen M. Kellen Term Member Program, established to cultivate the next generation of foreign policy leaders, encourages promising young women and men to engage in sustained conversation on international affairs and U.S. foreign policy. CFR term membership is restricted to U.S. citizens and permanent residents who have formally applied to become citizens. Candidates for term membership must be between thirty and thirty-six years of age on January 1, nominated in writing by a CFR member, and seconded by two to three other individuals.

The annual application deadline is January 3. New term members are elected each June.

How to Apply

To apply, complete the membership application request form at cfr.org/membership/individual-membership.

For additional information, please visit cfr.org/membership or contact Membership at applications@cfr.org or 212.434.9456.



President Barham Salih of Iraq speaks with Meghan L. O'Sullivan, Jeane Kirkpatrick professor of the practice of international affairs at the Harvard Kennedy School and CFR board member.



Left: Christine Lagarde, president of the European Central Bank, speaks at the keynote session of the Women and the Law symposium.



Right: Jamie Dimon, chairman of the board and chief executive officer of JPMorgan Chase, discusses the changing nature of the global economy at the Corporate Conference.

CFR Mission

The Council on Foreign Relations (CFR) is an independent, nonpartisan membership organization, think tank, and publisher dedicated to being a resource for its members, government officials, business executives, journalists, educators and students, civic and religious leaders, and other interested citizens in order to help them better understand the world and the foreign policy choices facing the United States and other countries. CFR takes no institutional positions on matters of policy.

To learn more, please see the Annual Report at [cfr.org/annual-report-2019](https://www.cfr.org/annual-report-2019).

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