In keeping with its mission, the Council on Foreign Relations pursues three goals:

**Add value by improving understanding of world affairs and by providing new ideas for U.S. foreign policy;**

**Transform the Council into a truly national organization to benefit from the expertise and experience of leaders nationwide; and**

**Find and nurture the next generation of foreign policy leaders and thinkers.**

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**Bette Bao Lord, William J. McDonough, and Speaker Madeleine K. Albright, U.S. Secretary of State, at the June 28, 1999, Meeting, “Kosovo and Building a Lasting Peace in Southeastern Europe.”**
Add value by improving understanding of world affairs and by providing new ideas for U.S. foreign policy.

The Council adds value to its own members’ thinking through private study groups, seminars, and meetings with world leaders. It also contributes to the public debate through Foreign Affairs—the world’s premier periodical on international politics and economics—Council books, Council-sponsored independent task forces, its websites, televised events, roundtables with congressional staffers, as well as congressional testimony, television appearances, and op-ed pieces by its staff of foreign policy experts. The Council’s aim here is, where called for, to provide new information, new analysis, and new ideas.
Council Goals

Transform the Council into a truly national organization to benefit from the expertise and experience of leaders nationwide.

Foreign policy is no longer an East Coast specialty; international affairs now permeate the lives of all Americans. To incorporate their views into the Council’s work, leaders from key internationally oriented U.S. cities are being elected to membership in increasing numbers. Through the Council’s new videoconferencing facility, the annual National Conference, Council websites, and meetings nationwide, these new voices regularly contribute to Council discussions.
Find and nurture the next generation of foreign policy leaders and thinkers.

The post–Cold War world has seen a decline in the number of young Americans who become foreign policy thinkers and practitioners. To help avoid a potential shortage of knowledgeable international affairs leaders and experts, the Council focuses on finding and nurturing the next generation through the Term Member Program, Next Generation Fellowships, and International Affairs Fellowships. These programs not only afford the rising stars the advice and counsel of their more seasoned colleagues but also provide foreign policy veterans with fresh insights.