

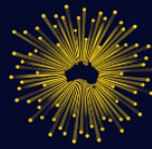


## 2026 National Conference Agenda

### *Diplomacy on the Brink: Navigating Existential Crises in the 21st Century*

#### Day 1 – Thursday 16 April

- 9:00 am – 9:30 am Participant Arrival/Registration
- 9:30 am – 9:45 am **Welcome to Country**
- 9:45 am – 9:50 am **Opening Remarks**  
Sarah Ramantanis, Chief Executive Officer, Young Australians in International Affairs
- 9:50 am – 10:00 am **Video Address**  
Her Excellency the Honourable Sam Mostyn AC, Governor-General
- 10:00 am – 10:30 am Morning Tea
- 10:30 am – 11:00 am **Keynote Address**  
Ema Lawrence, Global Engagement Director, Global Victoria
- 11:00 am – 12:00 pm **Panel Discussion: Cyber, AI & Geopolitics**  
Dr Adam Bartley, Nakita Prasad, Annaliese Williams and Dr Mark Manantan  
*This panel will explore the geopolitics of emerging technologies, building a greater understanding of cybertechnology and AI in the global security landscape.*
- 12:00 pm – 12:55 pm Lunch
- 12:55 pm – 1:55 pm **Panel Discussion: Global Conflict & Nuclear Threats**  
Professor Maria Rost Rublee and Amanda Gorely, other panellists to be confirmed  
*This panel will focus on conflict, security and mitigating existential threats at the edge of escalation.*
- 1:55 pm – 2:55 pm **Keynote Address**  
Luke Brown, Australia Initiative Director, Climate Imperative
- 2:55 pm – 3:25 pm Afternoon Tea
- 3:25 pm – 4:25 pm **Panel Discussion: Climate Governance**  
Elina Forsyth and Ellie Drenth, other panellists to be confirmed  
*This panel will investigate the global fragmentation of climate governance at a time of accelerating climate change impacts.*
- 4:25 pm – 4:40 pm **Closing Remarks**
- 6:00 pm onwards **Networking Drinks Event**  
Co-hosted by Women in International Security - Australia



## Day 2 – Friday 17 April

- 10:00 am – 10:30 am Welcome Tea/Coffee
- 10:30 am – 10:45 am **Opening Remarks**  
Paul Stephens, Director Victoria State Office, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
- 10:45 am – 11:45 pm **Keynote Address**  
Rachel Thompson, Chief Executive Officer, Asialink
- 11:45 pm – 12:45 pm Lunch
- 12:45 pm – 1:45 pm **Panel Discussion: Multilateralism, Trade & Economic Security**  
Professor James Laurenceson, Dr Premesha Saha and Yoshiko Tanaka, other panellists to be confirmed
- This panel will explore multilateralism, trade and economic security in an era of global insecurity.*
- 1:45 pm – 2:45 pm **Breakout Professional Development Session 1**
- 2:45 pm – 3:15 pm Afternoon Tea
- 3:15 pm – 4:15 pm **Breakout Professional Development Session 2**
- 4:15 pm – 4:30 pm **Closing Session**