Daalder Takes Helm of The Chicago Council on Global Affairs

Ivo Daalder comes to The Chicago Council after serving as U.S. Ambassador to NATO


Daalder, 53, comes to The Chicago Council following a 4-year posting as U.S. Ambassador to NATO. Daalder is a widely recognized expert in American foreign policy, European security and transatlantic relations and national security affairs.

“I am excited by the opportunity to lead The Chicago Council,” said Daalder. “I look forward to building on the successes achieved under Marshall Bouton’s leadership and furthering the Council’s ability to generate new ideas and influence discussions about the critical issues confronting the nation and the world.”

“In the months ahead, I will spend time listening and learning, getting to know the Council’s talented staff, understanding the full range of our work and building relationships with the Board and other leaders in Chicago,” said Daalder. “My family and I are very excited to make Chicago our home, and we look forward to playing an active role in the community.”

The Chicago Council’s board of directors selected Daalder as the Council’s new president in February.

Daalder was appointed U.S. ambassador to NATO by President Barack Obama in May 2009. During his four-year tenure at NATO, Ambassador Daalder helped prepare President Obama and his administration for two summit meetings, including the May 2012 NATO summit in Chicago. He was deeply involved in negotiating NATO’s New Strategic Concept in 2010, in deliberations surrounding NATO’s successful intervention in Libya in 2011 and helping to put the NATO Mission in Afghanistan onto a successful course. Daalder previously served as director for European affairs on President Clinton’s National Security Council staff from 1995 to 1997, where he was responsible for coordinating U.S. policy toward Bosnia.

Prior to being appointed to his current position, Daalder was a senior fellow in foreign policy studies at the Brookings Institution, specializing in American foreign policy, European security and transatlantic relations and national security affairs. He has a long and distinguished scholarly career, authoring 12 books, including most recently, In the Shadow of the Oval Office: Profiles of the National Security Advisers and the Presidents they Served—From JFK to George W. Bush (with I. M. Destler) and the award-winning America Unbound: The Bush Revolution in Foreign Policy (with James M. Lindsay). He has written for the nation’s leading journals and newspapers and has been a frequent commentator on national and global affairs.

Ivo Daalder was educated at Oxford and Georgetown Universities, and received his Ph.D. in political science from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He is married to Elisa D. Harris, and they have two sons, Marc and Michael.

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About The Chicago Council on Global Affairs

The Chicago Council on Global Affairs, founded in 1922, is one of the oldest and most prominent international affairs organizations in the United States. Independent and nonpartisan, The Chicago Council is committed to influencing the discourse on global issues through contributions to opinion and policy formulation, leadership dialogue and public learning. Learn more at thechicagocouncil.org and follow @ChicagoCouncil for updates.