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In Photos: Promoting a 'Multipolar' World at the St. Petersburg International Economic Forum

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Once dubbed the "Russian Davos," the annual St. Petersburg International Economic Forum (SPIEF) once attracted top Western business leaders and policymakers, serving as a platform for major deals like the Nord Stream gas pipeline. Since 2022, the forum's lineup has reflected Moscow's pivot toward countries in Asia and Africa amid its isolation from the West. Some 20,000 guests from 140 countries were expected to attend the forum in person and online, the Kremlin said this week. Among the around 50 countries sending government officials to SPIEF 2025 were China, Vietnam, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, the Central African Republic and Burkina Faso. Taliban officials also arrived from Afghanistan on Wednesday. In a written message to SPIEF guests earlier this week, Putin said the 2025 forum would focus on "technology and digital transformation as key drivers of leadership in the modern world," along with issues like demographics, science and education, labor productivity and social protection.



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