
World Economic Forum Annual Meeting 2014 Executive Summary

Davos-Klosters, Switzerland 22-25 January

The Reshaping of the World: Consequences for Society, Politics and Business

Mapping the Transformation

Profound political, economic, social and, above all, technological forces are transforming our lives, communities and institutions. Rapidly crossing geographic, gender and generational boundaries, they are shifting power from traditional hierarchies to networked heterarchies. Yet, the international community remains crisis-driven instead of strategic in the face of the trends, drivers and opportunities pushing global, regional and industry transformation.

We therefore need to pause and consider the following:

- At an individual level, technological revolutions are changing the context for decision-making and disrupting our conventional learning processes.
- At an institutional level, a hyperconnected world requires systemic, integrated issue mapping to create coherence and overcome compartmentalized thinking.
- At an international level, the formal architecture for global governance was not designed for the interdisciplinary challenges and collective action problems of today. As a result, international cooperation has yet to fully enter the information age and capture its associated productivity gains.

The World Economic Forum Annual Meeting provides an unparalleled platform for leaders to map the complexity and interconnectivity of our changing world at the beginning of the year. The aim is to develop the insights, initiatives and actions necessary to respond to current and emerging challenges. It achieves this by convening global leaders from across business, government, international organizations, academia and civil society in a series of strategic dialogues that map the key transformations reshaping the world.

As such, the Annual Meeting remains the foremost gathering to develop and shape global, regional and industry agendas based on the principle that today's challenges can best be tackled through a multistakeholder, future-oriented approach.

Among the issues to be addressed through sessions, task forces and community events at the Annual Meeting 2014 are:

The Global Agenda

The Annual Meeting 2014 is where 250 top political leaders and heads of international organizations will meet with business leaders to discuss how global governance can be improved through public-private cooperation. Global issues to be discussed include climate change, multilateral trade and the post-2015 development agenda. These discussions will be prepared in close collaboration with the responsible international organizations to ensure action-oriented results in Davos. In this way, the Annual Meeting will provide substantial, but informal, input into the official discussions taking place at the G8 and the G20, as well as other important global processes.

The Economic Agenda

The Annual Meeting 2014 aims to increase global economic risk resilience in the wake of acute structural unemployment and widening income inequality. At the top of leaders' minds will be how to manage the consequences of expected changes in monetary policy and financial regulation in the face of slower global growth. The presence of the relevant economic decision-makers, such as the G20 finance ministers and heads of central banks, will ensure the highest possible impact of the Annual Meeting.

The Regional Agenda

The Annual Meeting 2014 will explore in depth the social and political transformation occurring in all regions of the world. Emphasis will be on the new actors, policies and structures that are driving stable and legitimate forms of governance to address a wide range of regional and national challenges. The interaction of leading political leaders from around the world creates an opportunity for sharing insights and innovations across regions. The Annual Meeting will offer many opportunities to privately discuss trade and investment-related issues in various national and regional contexts.

The Industry and Business Agenda

The Annual Meeting 2014 is the world's leading platform for gaining strategic insight into the evolution of industry ecosystems and business models, particularly in the context of scientific, technological and policy innovations. Each industry will engage in strategic dialogues that map the trends, drivers and opportunities transforming their sector globally and regionally. The informal interaction of industry leaders with their peers from government enables innovative ideas and proposals to be acted upon by building trust and identifying delivery gaps.

The Future Agenda

The Annual Meeting will explore the ideas, innovations and discoveries that are reshaping our world by working closely with those in the vanguard of change from such fields as the arts, culture, engineering, media, medicine, science and technology. "New Champions", representing leaders of the Millennial generation, will also play a significant role in the design and development of the sessions focusing on the theme of the Annual Meeting.

The World's Foremost Multistakeholder Community of Leaders

Participation in the Annual Meeting is by invitation only for the following Forum communities:

- Chief executives and chairs of our 1,000 Partner and Member companies
- Political leaders (from the G20 and other relevant countries)
- Heads of international organizations
- Experts representing our Global Agenda Councils
- Representatives from our civil society stakeholder groups
- Young Global Leaders
- Social Entrepreneurs
- Technology Pioneers
- Global Shapers (under the age of 30)
- Media leaders
- Spiritual and cultural leaders

Participants will gain understanding of the key drivers of change and emerging trends by exploring "transformation maps" that represent the reshaping of the world. And, in the true "Davos Spirit", the aim is to highlight not only the risks and opportunities that lie ahead, but also to elaborate bold ideas and strategic options to consider in the year ahead.