

Global Agenda Council on the Future of Government 2012-2014



Understanding/Context

The digital revolution is transforming politics and the nature of government. From education improvement and tax collection to better healthcare systems and job creation, technology is putting pressure on governments to deliver more with less. Citizens' voices are increasingly present in public policy-making processes, and their demands for an "always-on", connected government are intensifying through social media. Governments are realizing that technology can act as an enabler to transform government processes, enhancing the provision of public services and enabling higher productivity.

Shaping the Agenda

The Council is set to produce a "smart" toolbox with transferable best governance practices. It will address the operational question of how eight priorities can improve the future of government with respect to the following priorities:

- The anti-corruption work stream led by Lord Peter Mandelson will address the issue of "big data and better government". It will examine how a more intelligent debate can be stimulated on the opportunities and challenges of compiling, aggregating and disseminating big data in the public realm.
- The political representation group led by Jane Fountain will discuss the evolution of political representation in the digital era to answer questions such as in what ways information technology improves political representation.
- The bureaucracies group led by Rolf Alter will answer key questions related to stovepiping and how IT can be used to reduce the lack of coordination between governments and other stakeholders.
- The delivery of services group led by Jacques Attali will discuss how IT can enhance government services and transform service delivery models.

- The trust stream led by Anders Borg and Diana Farrell will find examples of how IT can build trust in government. It will function as a point of convergence for all the other work streams.
- The security stream run by Jared Cohen will address the evolving nature of security.
- The innovation stream led by Mauro Dell'Ambrogio will explore how new technologies and related tools can help governments think and act differently in the field of innovation.
- The leadership work stream run by Melita Leoussis will look into whether and how information technology can lead to better leadership.

"Governments are responding to increased demands to keep up with their technologically enabled and agile citizenry."

The "smart" toolbox will be presented and challenged at the Summit on the Global Agenda. The Council aims to release its findings for the toolbox in early 2014. The Council will also take part in similar initiatives by key organizations and governments that are leading the government transformation debate.

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