Understanding/Context

Despite worldwide hyperconnectivity, widespread conflicts continue. The challenges of connecting people of different opinions, values, beliefs, faiths and cultures are growing. Public demand for accountability and transparency, changes from scientific and technological development, growing income disparity, unemployment, and the breakdown of family structures are some of the concerns that remain at the forefront of the work of the Global Agenda Council on Values. In this context, the Members of the Council are exploring how they can advance the implementation of the New Social Covenant.

“The challenges of connecting people of different opinions, values, beliefs, faiths and cultures are growing.”

Shaping the Agenda

The objectives of the New Social Covenant are to inform key business, government and civil society representatives and to inspire the use of the Covenant to shift practices and cultures towards improving the state of the world. The Council has identified ways to move the New Social Covenant from theory to action through a network of “Covenanters”, who will champion the concept outlined in the Covenant in their communities, and by gaining support and commitment through a series of dinners, informal meetings and mini-sessions. The Council will also partner with universities such as Georgetown University to create curricula on value-based leadership.

The Council continues its collaboration with the Global Agenda Councils on the Role of Business and on Human Rights to address ethical practices within the supply chain industry, and proposes to produce a short film in collaboration with the Schwab Foundation for Social Entrepreneurship. The Silicon Values project has successfully gained the commitment of leading tech and social media leaders. Building on the Covenanter initiative, the Council will hold a series of meetings with industry and government leaders and with the Forum’s Global Shapers and Young Global Leaders communities from the tech, supply chain and consumer industries.

Over the next seven months, the Council will continue to use social media platforms to communicate and highlight elements of the New Social Covenant and Silicon Values, including digital media through the Forum platform and the Council’s micro-blog. In partnership with select Global Shapers (leaders under the age of 30), the Council will organize a series of meetings to kick off the Covenanter initiative. An event is scheduled at the Stellenbosch University in August to invite key leaders of the South African communities to a discussion the New Social Covenant.

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