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Introduction

Many challenges facing today’s leaders cannot be addressed by a single government, industry, company or other institution alone. The issues are often too complex, interrelated and rapidly evolving. A broader, interdisciplinary mobilization of expertise and resources is required. A wider network of relevant actors and initiatives must be activated and aligned behind shared priorities.

The world requires a new kind of cooperative platform in the 21st century – one that facilitates a more systemic approach to resolving problems and capturing opportunities that lie at the intersection of multiple industries, stakeholders and intellectual disciplines.

As the International Organization for Public-Private Cooperation, the World Economic Forum is applying its organizational capacity – its unique, leader-level multistakeholder communities, convening and facilitation capabilities, knowledge resources and interaction technology – to this purpose. In each of fourteen System Initiatives, it provides a platform that enables deeper communication and practical cooperation across a multistakeholder ecosystem of many of the world’s most relevant actors and experts on the topic in question.

Each System Initiative is guided by a Stewardship Board comprised of government ministers, CEOs and leading experts, who assume an informal, collective sense of stewardship for the public-private dimension of international cooperation and progress on their issue. Their work programmes consist of a portfolio of insight, policy or action-oriented projects that the community chooses to engage in, whether managed by the Forum or by consortia of institutions within the community. Each is supported by a dedicated Global Future Council of thought leaders as well as the Forum’s suite of digital interaction and knowledge integration tools.

The aim is to provide a more efficient “operating system” for the wider, but also better focused, multistakeholder cooperation required to innovate new approaches or scale the impact of existing ones. Systems leadership seeks to cultivate a shared vision for change and sense of community, encourage distributed innovation and action aligned with that vision, and enable mutual learning and accountability across the community ecosystem.

In this brochure, we are pleased to provide an overview of these Initiatives as well as a sampling of the sessions related to them during the Forum’s Annual Meeting 2017. Special sections are included on the Fourth Industrial Revolution and UN Agenda 2030, which are relevant to each Initiative.

We and our colleagues would be pleased to provide further information on this important work. We wish you a productive Annual Meeting.
The Fourth Industrial Revolution and Systems Thinking

The challenges facing our societies are deeply enmeshed in complex ecosystems. Issues do not exist in isolation; and yet, most formal dialogue and cooperation occurs within specific issue domains and stakeholder groups, rather than across them. How can technology help us to bridge this divide?

The Fourth Industrial Revolution is critical to all System Initiatives because no sector will be untouched by the powerful emerging technologies that are transforming how humans create, exchange and distribute value in society. The production of goods and services, mobility, communications and many more systems will change dramatically in coming decades.

Framing the Fourth Industrial Revolution in relation to the System Initiatives hinges on the following principles:

1. **Systems, not technologies**
   While there is a clear need to understand the power and potential impact of emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence, neurotechnologies, 3D printing and blockchain, the Forum focuses on how social, political, economic and environmental systems are co-evolving with these technologies, rather than concentrating on the technologies alone.

2. **Empowering, not determining**
   Our stance on technology must ensure a mind-set and approach that empowers society and counters a fatalistic and pre-defined view of technology. If we fail to realize that technologies are imagined, developed, diffused, influenced and employed by people both collectively and individually – in small and large ways each day – there is less room for optimistic proactive transformation.

3. **By design, not by default**
   Active governance (by individuals, governments, civil society, business and beyond) must play a central role in integrating transformative technologies to avoid a future delivered by default. Failing to consider critical governance questions risks undemocratic, random or malicious forces shaping the future of technology systems and their subsequent impact on people.

4. **Values as a feature, not a bug**
   As the power of technology increases, it is vital that positive values such as the common good, multigenerational environmental stewardship and the primacy of human dignity come to the fore. Technologies used – either purposefully or accidentally – in ways that increase disparity, poverty, discrimination and environmental damage work against the future we seek. Technologies should be designed based on values that help produce a better world, not a world of increased insecurity, instability and dislocation.

Dialogue at the Annual Meeting 2017 will be vital in shaping how the System Initiatives integrate Fourth Industrial Revolution potential into systemic change. Discussions will actively inform the development of the Forum’s new Center for the Fourth Industrial Revolution in San Francisco, which has been established to accelerate global cooperation for developing governance principles for new technologies.

**Fourth Industrial Revolution programme in the Loft**
Open to all Annual Meeting participants; sign-up via TopLink is required

The programme in the Loft is dedicated to the Fourth Industrial Revolution and will offer over 30 sessions during the Annual Meeting. Key technological areas are covered, including sessions on technological tipping points, open dialogue and policy. The programme will address artificial intelligence, biotechnologies, blockchain, 3D printing and space technologies, as well as technology for sustainability, smart cities and breakthroughs in computing technology.

**Related official sessions**
- Preparing for the Fourth Industrial Revolution
- The Future of Labour in the Fourth Industrial Revolution
- What If: Animals Become Human Organ Factories?
- The Future of Warfare
- What Is it to Be Human in the Fourth Industrial Revolution?
- Shaping Davos: Pioneering Change in the Fourth Industrial Revolution
 Related community sessions*

− **Global Future Council on the Fourth Industrial Revolution Dinner**: This session will bring together the Global Future Council on the Fourth Industrial Revolution, comprised of the co-chairs of 14 select councils, to discuss the progress on their councils’ mandates and delve deeper into the economic, societal and political impact of emerging technologies.

− **Government 4.0: Innovative Government Strategies that Drive Opportunities in the Fourth Industrial Revolution**: The speed of technology breakthroughs in the Fourth Industrial Revolution has no historical precedent and requires legislators and regulators to challenge and transform systems of management and governance in collaboration with innovators. Join this session to discuss potential governance models for mitigating risks, optimizing benefits and addressing the anticipated environmental, social and economic externalities of emerging technologies.

− **World Economic Forum Platform on Artificial Intelligence and Society**: In addition to the launch of its San Francisco Center on the Fourth Industrial Revolution, the Forum will support this initiative and others through the Platform for AI and Society, using its digital, events and media platforms to help initiatives to pool ideas, experts and resources and work with leaders to create a human-centric future.

− **Responsive and Inclusive Narratives for the G20**: The Forum is undertaking a collaborative session with the German G20 and T20 groups to co-create responsive and inclusive policies and narratives for G20 leaders, focusing on ensuring employment, social inclusion and positive identities in the context of the Fourth Industrial Revolution.

*Further information on official sessions can be found on TopLink and the Forum Events smartphone app. Community sessions are by invitation only. Interested participants are requested to contact their Primary Engagement Manager to explore the possibility of taking part.

**Contact:**
Nicholas Davis  
Head of Society and Innovation  
Member of the Executive Committee  
nicholas.davis@weforum.org  
+41 22 869 13 67
The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) – also known as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development – is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to transform the world. One year into the 2030 Agenda, a geographically and ideologically diverse consensus has emerged on the need for a new, or at least radically improved, economic growth and development model that balances social and environmental interests. The SDGs are an important framework to help economies navigate a transition to more inclusive and sustainable growth.

Despite widespread consensus on the need to accelerate action and adapt behaviour, policy guidance and resource mobilization across governments, businesses and other sectors remains at an early stage on the key economic, social and environmental priorities enshrined in the Goals. Progress remains largely isolated and incremental at a time when exponential gains are needed. Developing and scaling holistic, integrated approaches requires new ways of thinking and new forms of public-private cooperation.

The Forum’s 14 System Initiatives seek to respond directly to this need. They are platforms for mobilizing a wider and more effective multistakeholder response to much of the agenda framed by SDGs. From environment and natural resource security to health to economic growth and social inclusion, the System Initiatives are catalysing new and more scalable models of progress. They are designed to help society move from its current mode of fragmentation and reaction to one of synergy and proactive, long-term engagement – to help society become agile enough to respond to the evolving global context rapidly and at scale.

The 2030 Agenda offers tremendous opportunities for business in terms of expanded markets and value creation. But capturing the trillions more in investment and billions more people as employees and consumers will require a better public-private blend of incentives, behaviours and resources. There is growing evidence that companies that embed the principles of long-term value creation and social and environmental sustainability into their core business strategies have experienced efficiency gains, are attracting investors as well as the best talent and have expanded their base of clients and customers. Whether addressing carbon risk, advancing towards gender parity or helping all players in a supply chain move to more sustainable sourcing, the Forum’s network and platform can be used to pursue meaningful change.

In Davos, the System Initiatives will focus on key points of leverage in the system, areas in which stronger public-private cooperation can lead to a major acceleration in progress on one or more of the SDGs. Examples include blended financing of sustainable infrastructure, increased investment in workforce development and gender parity, technological and other public-private solutions to critical environmental and public health challenges, etc. Further detail is provided in subsequent sections of this brochure.

If successful, the outcome will be a growing appreciation of the need and means to aim higher and move from the incremental to the exponential across all domains.

Related official sessions
- Advancing the Sustainable Development Agenda
- Creating Profit through Purpose
- Building New Alliances for Humanitarian Action
- Global Goals: The Road to 2030 (dinner session)
- Finance for Change

Related community sessions*
- Action: Advancing the Sustainable Development Agenda: This high-level session will synthesize the myriad of discussions on advancing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, with the objective of pooling participants’ collective thinking to create a mandate for united action in.
- Operationalizing the SDGs: Unlocking the Power of Public-Private Cooperation: This roundtable gathers key government and business leaders to agree on actions the business community can take to advance the SDGs, and how public-sector support can facilitate this progress.
- Scaling Public-Private Financing of Sustainable Infrastructure: Leaders from development banks and capital providers will discuss and determine potential actions to enable more capital flow to emerging and frontier markets.
- Promoting Open Societies for Sustainable Development: This session will highlight the vital role of collaboration between business, government and civil society in promoting rule of law and fundamental freedoms to achieve the SDGs.
- Country-Led Action to Achieve the Sustainable Development Goals: Senior leaders from multiple sectors will learn about engagement in country-led models, such as the Tropical Forest Alliance 2020, New Vision for Agriculture (NVA) initiative, 2030 Water Resources Group and Internet for All initiative.
- Faith to Achieve the SDGs: This discussion will highlight opportunities to engage and collaborate with faith leaders in supporting SDG implementation to realize a more inclusive and sustainable world.

* Further information on official sessions can be found on TopLink and the Forum Events smartphone app. Community sessions are by invitation only. Interested participants are requested to contact their Primary Engagement Manager to explore the possibility of taking part.
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Contact:
Terri Toyota
Head of Philanthropic Organizations and Sustainable Development
Member of the Executive Committee
terri.toyota@weforum.org
+41 22 869 36 49
How can technological disruption drive enhanced models of consumption with sustainable benefits for business and society?

The Fourth Industrial Revolution is transforming entire systems of production, distribution and consumption. Unprecedented levels of technological innovation are giving rise to new models of consumption – products and services – including where and how they are being accessed. This transformation will create significant economic opportunity across developed and emerging economies with the arrival of new business and operating models.

Navigating through the unchartered territories of digital disruption will give rise to key societal challenges that need to be addressed. How will the evolution of retail impact employment? What are the environmental challenges when millions of packages are moving every day to support on-demand desires? What regulation is needed to ensure data security and privacy?

The System Initiative on Shaping the Future of Consumption aims to enable the successful transformation of the industry by addressing the following challenges:

The changing face of the consumer
- How does business address consumer needs/behaviours amid massive hyperconnectivity, urbanization and the explosion of the middle class?
- What are the implications for consumption patterns as millennials mature and, concurrently, a large portion of the population turns 60?

New patterns of consumption
- How can business keep up with consumers’ desire for convenience, instant gratification, personalization, experiences over products, access versus ownership and well-being?

Advancement of technology
- How quickly can industry innovate by leveraging unprecedented levels of technological advances: Internet of Things, mobility, artificial intelligence, robotics, 3D printing, autonomous vehicles and virtual reality?
- How can data be utilized as an asset without breaching trust?

On the Annual Meeting agenda
With consumer spending as an engine of economic activity that drives approximately 60% of world GDP – although varying significantly at the region and country level – the opportunity to leverage the transformative power of technology to create new economic value for the populace should be front and centre. At the Annual Meeting, discussions will focus on how technology can transform consumption models and the necessary capabilities to drive long-term economic value while ensuring a positive impact on business and society. From these conversations, the Stewardship Board will set the course of action to advance the System Initiative for the coming year.

Related official sessions*
- Strategy Update: The Future of Consumption
- Building Trust in Brands
- From Farm to Plate
- Industry’s Next Frontier

Related community sessions*
- Stewardship Board Session: Participants will explore how technology can transform consumption models to drive long-term economic value while ensuring a positive impact on society.
- Future of Retail: Consumer Industries Governors Transformation Meeting: Participants will consider the potential paths retail may take over the next decade, and the responsive and responsible leadership needed to address societal implications of these changes.

* Further information on official sessions can be found on TopLink and the Forum Events smartphone app. Community sessions are by invitation only. Interested participants are requested to contact their Primary Engagement Manager to explore the possibility of taking part.

Contact:
Zara Ingilizian
Head, Shaping the Future of Consumption
Member of the Executive Committee
zara.ingilizian@weforum.org
+1 212 703 23 77
How can private-public collaboration realize digital technology’s potential to benefit humankind?

The exponential growth in digitization and internet connectivity is the backbone of the Fourth Industrial Revolution. It has the potential to propel societies forward, enable innovative business models and help governments address legitimate policy concerns.

Digitization is transforming business models, the policy landscape and social norms. The aim of the System Initiative on Shaping the Future of Digital Economy and Society is to cultivate a shared, trusted digital environment that is a driver of inclusion, economic development and social progress.

The System Initiative aims to create networks that enable and encourage action to promote the long-term health and stability of digitally enabled economies and societies through:
- Understanding the shift through leading-edge intelligence
- Collectively solving new issues via improved governance and policy-making in a digitized society
- Partnering to rapidly scale successes by cultivating an online environment of trust and increasing access and adoption

On the Annual Meeting agenda
The Annual Meeting agenda encompasses the System Initiative’s key themes – understanding and managing digital transformation, ensuring access to the internet for all, strengthening trust in the digital environment through improved security and resilience, and developing innovative policy and governance mechanisms for the 21st century.

Highlights will include the launch of a set of cyber-risk tools for boards, joint meetings with the Broadband Commission to advance progress the Internet for All programme, a cross-disciplinary gathering to chart a path for digital trade and an opportunity to explore and contribute to transnational governance “Networks” – a new mechanism for developing governance and policy in the digital world.

Related official sessions*
- Strategic Update: The Future of the Digital Economy
- The Power of Platforms
- Data Is the New Oil
- Shaping a National Digital Strategy
- A Magna Carta for the Internet
- Digital Transformation Initiative: Platform Economy
- Tipping Point: Quantum Computing
- Tipping Point: The Blockchain Revolutionizes Global Transactions
- Artificial Intelligence

Related community sessions*
- Stewardship Board Session: Participants will explore how to cultivate a shared, trusted digital environment that drives inclusion, economic development and social progress.
- Leadership in Cyber Resilience: Participants will aim to drive action at the board and senior-executive level through practical tools, sharing real-world applications and developing an action agenda for industry and government.
- Innovations to Connect the Unconnected: Participants will explore opportunities for collaboration, including infrastructure finance, the gender digital divide, digital skills training and specific country endeavours.
- Public-Private Partnership against Cybercrime: This session brings together law enforcement representatives and businesses to address the challenge of cybercrime and continue discussions on the Forum’s Cybercrime project.
- Digital Policy: Participants will focus on how to improve coordination, opportunities for collaboration and the effectiveness and impact of the global digital development agenda with a focus on internet adoption.
- Digital Transformation Initiative: Unleashing Trapped Value for Society: Participants will explore the impact of the platform economy and its increasing impact in the business-to-business context.
- Partnerships for Digital Development (dinner session): Participants will further discuss coordination and collaboration opportunities on the digital development agenda for 2017.
− **Industrial Internet of Things**: The public and private sectors will come together to realign incentives, and merge supply and demand strategies to improve the marketplace for industrial Internet of Things security.

− **Digital Leaders Policy Meeting on Privacy, Security and Commerce**: Participants will focus on how trust can be fostered among governments, business and individuals to support the technological innovation needed to realize the potential of the digital ecosystem.

− **Digital Leaders Policy Meeting on Jobs**: This session aims to bring clarity to a polarizing debate in the ICT community between those who foresee limitless new opportunities and those who predict a massive dislocation of jobs.

− **Digital Leaders Policy Meeting on Investment in Infrastructure**: Participants will discuss the optimal mix of fiscal and regulatory incentives to promote private sector investment in Internet of Things networks and smart infrastructure, and how governments can drive more coherent collaboration.

* Further information on official sessions can be found on TopLink and the Forum Events smartphone app. Community sessions are by invitation only. Interested participants are requested to contact their Primary Engagement Manager to explore the possibility of taking part.

**Contact:**
Derek O’Halloran
Head, Shaping the Future of Digital Economy and Society
Member of the Executive Committee
derek.ohalloran@weforum.org
+41 22 869 38 59
How can the world strengthen growth and equality at the same time?

Slow economic growth and rising income inequality are major concerns in developed and developing countries alike. They reflect a missed opportunity for social progress. But while an international consensus exists on the desirability of a more inclusive growth model, this consensus is essentially a directional one. Little in the way of concrete policy guidance has emerged on how countries can strengthen growth and equity simultaneously.

What are effective ways to increase long-term competitiveness while strengthening the contribution of growth to broad-based progress in living standards?

The System Initiative on Shaping the Future of Economic Growth and Social Inclusion aims to accelerate public-private collaboration towards more competitive and inclusive economies around the world by:

- Enhancing understanding of which policies and institutions are particularly important for achieving international competitiveness and sustained, broad-based progress in living standards.
- Supporting regions and governments that wish to develop inclusive strategies informed by cross-country benchmarking evidence as well as a combination of domestic and international expertise from the business community, academia, international organizations and civil society.
- Identifying and diffusing best corporate practice on inclusive growth and sustainable development.
- Raising awareness of how people experience and are affected by challenges pertaining to economic growth and social inclusion through new forms of stakeholder participation and deeper emphasis on societal values.

On the Annual Meeting agenda

In Davos, the Initiative will be releasing important insight reports that will be the focus of related sessions: The Inclusive Growth and Development Report 2017; White Paper on a Future Preparedness policy framework; and Europe Inclusive Growth and Competitiveness Lab White Paper. Among other things, this work will:

- Articulate a policy framework for the pursuit of inclusive growth and development grounded in a renewed appreciation of the crucial role a wide ecosystem of structural policies and institutions plays in diffusing opportunity, income, security and quality of life while strengthening the resilience and potentially even rate of growth.
- Present a related set of policy and performance metrics that correspond more fully to the bottom-line measure of national economic performance: sustained, broad-based progress in living standards. Data for these Policy and Institutional Indicators as well as National Key Performance Indicators for 110 countries has been drawn upon.
- Derive a new global index, the Inclusive Development Index (IDI), based on the 12 National KPIs. The index provides an alternative ranking of countries’ level (and recent performance) of economic development to the conventional one based on GDP per capita alone.
- Interpret the implications of the framework and benchmarking results for national policy and international cooperation in the form of specific recommendations for each. We argue that a coordinated global growth agenda along these lines is what is required to transform inclusive growth from a general aspiration into a concrete strategy to address secular stagnation and dispersion at the same time by placing people at the center of national economic policy and international economic integration.
Related official sessions*
- Creating Profit through Purpose
- Economics for the Global Commons
- Global Economic Outlook
- The G20 Agenda: Charting a New Course for Growth
- Taxation without Borders: A Fair Share from Multinationals
- Britain and the EU: The Way Forward
- Rethinking Capitalism
- Basic Income for All: Dream or Delusion?
- Europe Roundtable: Fostering Inclusion and Competitiveness
- Governing Globalization
- Accelerating Reforms in the Middle East and North Africa
- Combating Rising Insecurity and Inequality
- Solving Inequality

Related community sessions*
- **Stewardship Board Meeting:** The Stewards will assess progress, provide strategic guidance on areas to prioritize, and identify how to deepen collaboration.
- **Future Preparedness:** Participants will discuss and validate a draft framework to measure and benchmark countries on their level of preparedness for the future.
- **Europe Regional Business Council:** This business-only session provides an opportunity to set forth the objectives for Europe in the coming year and identify how the council can have an impact on issues of socio-economic relevance.

*Further information on official sessions can be found on TopLink and the Forum Events smartphone app. Community sessions are by invitation only. Interested participants are requested to contact their Primary Engagement Manager to explore the possibility of taking part.

Contact:
Margareta Drzeniek
Head of Global Competitiveness and Risks
Member of the Executive Committee
margareta.drzeniek@weforum.org
+41 22 869 82 31
How can talent be developed and deployed to ensure that more than 7 billion people can fulfill their potential?

Technology and globalization are significantly transforming work. However, education and training systems, having remained mostly static and underfunded for decades, are largely inadequate for these new labour markets. Additionally, a prevailing gender bias is introducing further inefficiency and inequality. We must therefore rethink the way talent is developed and deployed in the world. This will require breaking down old siloes between education systems and labour markets, more agile approaches to regulation, new forms of public-private collaboration, and new norms and values.

The System Initiative on Shaping the Future of Education, Gender and Work seeks to ensure that talent is developed and deployed for maximum benefit to the economy and society. This is achieved by mobilizing leaders from business, government, civil society and others through new insights, common agendas and collaborative action.

The System Initiative aims to:
- Build an ecosystem of leaders by bringing together a community of business, policy-makers, civil society and other stakeholders
- Address the need for better knowledge, forecasts and metrics by disseminating analysis and insights
- Facilitate dialogue by bringing together the most relevant stakeholders, thought leaders and experts to advance the global dialogue and develop common agendas and priorities
- Drive action, especially through collaboration between business, government, civil society and the education and training sector, at the global, industry and regional level

On the Annual Meeting agenda
We must rethink the way talent is developed and deployed in the world. Technology and globalization are significantly transforming work, while education and training systems, having remained mostly static and underfunded for decades, are largely inadequate for these new labour markets. Additionally, gender bias introduces further inefficiency and inequality. The reform challenge is therefore urgent, with the next three years offering a critical window of opportunity for the education, gender and work agenda.

At the Annual Meeting, we aim to accelerate the pace of change of closing skills and gender gaps, and preparing stakeholders for the changing world of work. If successful, the outcome will be threefold: Widespread agreement on the economic and social case for reform; consensus on a common agenda and priorities for the way forward; and strengthened commitment to collaborative action through the Forum’s platform.

Related official sessions*
- Reshaping the Education Ecosystem
- Catching Up with the New World of Work
- Driving Growth through Care
- Rethinking Learning
- 1,000 Days for the Future Workforce
- Shaping Davos: Meeting the Youth Imperative
- A Basic Income for all: Dream or Delusion?
- What Is It to be Human in the Fourth Industrial Revolution?
- Prosperity in the Age of Longevity
- Promise or Peril: Decoding the Future of Work
Related community sessions*

- **Stewardship Board Meeting**: Participants will discuss the latest developments in education, gender and work, develop new approaches and set the 2017-2018 strategy for the System Initiative.

- **Shaping the Future of Education and Skills**: This session gathers a global community of leaders committed to closing the education and skills gaps to create a shared action plan.

- **Shaping the Future of Work and Employment**: This session gathers global leaders from business, government and civil society to design coherent and coordinated strategies to prepare for and shape the future of work.

- **The Future of Labour in the Fourth Industrial Revolution**: This session will explore how labour leaders can build a proactive agenda for managing the new world of work.

- **Shaping the Future of Gender Equality**: Participants will focus on creating a pathway to accelerate gender equality in the workplace, the home and in leadership.

- **Women Leaders Dinner: New Frontiers of Leadership**: This gathering convenes influential women in business, government, civil society and academia to celebrate success, inspire each other and share approaches for expanding female leadership to new frontiers.

* Further information on official sessions can be found on TopLink and the Forum Events smartphone app. Community sessions are by invitation only. Interested participants are requested to contact their Primary Engagement Manager to explore the possibility of taking part.

**Contact:**
Saadia Zahidi
Head, Shaping the Future of Education, Gender and Work
Member of the Executive Committee
saadia.zahidi@weforum.org
+41 22 869 14 70
How can effective transition to a more sustainable, secure and affordable energy system be enabled?

Energy is the lifeline of modern economic and human activity, with most consumed for mobility, by industry and in households. Yet, about 1.3 billion people lack access to affordable modern energy, impeding development. While energy enables economic development, it contributes to two-thirds of global greenhouse gas emissions and is, therefore, a critical area in tackling climate change. Once characterized by slow and steady change, the energy system is experiencing significant transformation, driven by a blend of innovation, major policy changes and changing consumer demands.

The System Initiative on Shaping the Future of Energy aims to:
- Enable energy system innovation to maximize Fourth Industrial Revolution opportunities and accelerate the transition to smarter and more efficient use of energy
- Enable an accelerated and cost-effective reduction of energy’s environmental footprint to significantly contribute to meeting COP21 and SDG targets
- Contribute to enabling universal access to affordable, reliable and modern energy services for all
- Deliver global benchmarking and support effective energy system transition and future preparedness for companies and governments
- Improve energy system resilience and security for countries, regions and consumers

On the Annual Meeting agenda

Global agreements like the Paris accord have put energy at the heart of creating concrete implementation plans. In Davos, the aim is to test with key stakeholders three key areas where the Forum can accelerate progress: effective energy transition and future preparedness; energy sustainability; and energy implications and opportunities of the technological revolution.

If successful, the outcome will be threefold: Effective energy transition will be higher on the sustainability and preparedness agendas; closer ties will have been forged with the mobility and other related systems; and subtopics will have been identified where the Forum should focus its efforts to drive change over the coming year.

Related official sessions*
- Strategic Update: The Future of Energy
- Powering Mobility
- Powering Africa
- The Global Energy Outlook
- Energy’s Clean Transition
- Energy Game-Changers

- Ask About: The Future of Batteries
- Ask About: The Future of Solar Energy
- Ask About: Clean Coal
- Ask About: Dynamic Modelling of Energy Systems
- Rethinking Energy Technologies with MIT

Related community sessions*
- Stewardship Board Meeting: The Stewards will explore areas where the System Initiative can have the greatest impact on public-private collaboration on energy.
- Electricity Steering Committee Meeting: The committee will set the 2017 System Initiative mandate.
- Catalysing Cross-Border Power Infrastructure to Improve Energy Security: Participants will focus on best practices for adopting cross-border, public-private investment into national planning processes, and scaling up large regional electricity interconnection plans.
- Partnering to Accelerate Sustainable Energy Innovation: Participants will focus on accelerating sustainable energy technology breakthroughs, reinforcing existing alliances and fostering energy innovation.
- Game-Changers in the Energy System (dinner session): This dinner gathers the wider Energy community to discuss major emerging trends impacting the energy system.
- Energy System Security and Resilience (dinner session): Participants will focus on the geopolitical developments with the strongest and longest-lasting impact, stakeholder reactions and improving energy system resilience.
- Unleashing the Power of the Fourth Industrial Revolution in the Energy System: This roundtable will focus on how policies and new customer-centric business models can unlock the value of digitalization, decentralized resources and electrification of transport to transform electricity.

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Contact:
Roberto Bocca
Head, Shaping the Future of Energy
Member of the Executive Committee
roberto.bocca@weforum.org
+41 22 869 37 10
How can the world achieve inclusive economic growth while combating climate change and other natural resource challenges?

The global environment and economic security are indelibly intertwined, with increasing greenhouse gases, environmental degradation and natural-resource depletion putting sustainable growth and existing business models at risk. The System Initiative on Shaping the Future of Environment and Natural Resource Security brings together leading experts and practitioners to provide systems leadership, curate platforms for multidimensional cooperation and engage in focused interventions.

The System Initiative aims to:
- Improve the effectiveness of the international community’s response to environmental challenges
- Support public-private action that accelerates the climate action agenda, improves ocean health, realizes deforestation-free supply chains, enables more water-secure economies and helps unlock a $1 trillion opportunity in the circular economy
- Explore how Fourth Industrial Revolution innovations can be harnessed to address environmental issues, including redefining what effective global environmental governance looks like

Responding to these challenges requires breaking down traditional siloes and building new forms of cooperation and innovation across the public and private sectors to quickly effect change at scale. The System Initiative offers a platform to support this action.

On the Annual Meeting agenda

This is a pivotal moment for the global environment and natural resource security agenda. Following the Paris Climate Agreement and the Sustainable Development Goals of 2015, the next three years to 2020 will be a key period to mobilize delivery against the ambitious targets that the international community has set. While promising, however, the pace and scale of the transformation effort is proving insufficient to meet these targets, and uncertainty about a global desire to work together on environmental issues could increase. Potential new champions in the global environmental agenda, such as Canada and China, are also emerging. Within this context, the aim of the environment-related discussions at the Annual Meeting is to focus on the role (and impact) that non-state actor initiatives, public-private coalitions and new technologies can deliver in decoupling the global economy from resource use; and advancing the narrative and substance of pursuing a “just transition” towards a sustainable and inclusive economic system that delivers local prosperity without perturbing global environmental systems. The role of new political leadership will also be explored. If we are successful, the outcomes will be: environment-related risks and opportunities will be higher on the agendas of the global economic and financial system and championed by new actors – including new efforts to finance green infrastructure investment through public-private finance; and increased momentum for harnessing new public-private partnerships and technological innovations to address global environmental governance challenges.

Related official sessions*
- A New Chapter for Climate Action
- An Insight, An Idea with Matt Damon and Gary White
- Beyond the Anthropocene
- Business Leadership on Climate
- Powering Africa
- Pathways to a 1.5 Degree World
- Powering Mobility
- Energy’s Clean Transition
- Economics for the Global Commons
- Finance for Change
- The Return of Carbon Markets
- The Global Energy Outlook
- Global Goals: The Road to 2030
- The 21st-Century Planet
- Fertile Ground for Sustainable Growth
- Restoring Ocean Resources
- Energy Game-Changers
- The Circular Awards
- Industry’s Next Frontiers
- From Farm to Plate
- Transitioning from Response to Resilience
- Behind the Artist Idea: Aerocene
- Worlds Underwater
- Climate Change: COP Out?
- Climate Crisis: The Big Picture
- Responding to Climate Change with Princeton University
- Liquid Gold: The Economics of Water
- Wildlife without Borders
- The Sixth Great Extinction
- Ask About: The Good Anthropocene
- Ask About: Biodiversity Loss
- Ask About: Climate Risk Reduction
- Ask About: Climate Adaptation
- Ask About: Air Pollution
- Ask About: Photosynthesis

Related community sessions*
- Stewardship Board Meeting: The board will review achievements to date and define priority areas and proposals to accelerate progress in 2017.

- Accelerating the Circular Economy: This session will officially launch the Accelerating the Circular Economy Initiative, which aims to transform economic systems and reshape production and consumption processes.

- Investing in Production of Sustainable Commodities: Participants will explore the investment and financing opportunities and challenges of the shift towards sustainable commodity production.

- Tropical Forest Alliance 2020 Partners Meeting: Partners and stakeholders will convene to build the 2017 agenda on deforestation-free growth and development in key countries in South-East Asia, West Africa and Latin America.

- CEO Climate Leaders: Creating the Business Opportunities to Deliver the Paris Agreement: CEOs and chairs of major companies, government leaders, heads of international organizations and non-government organizations will convene to report on progress and continue shaping initiatives to advance the 2017 agenda towards the first review of the Paris Agreement in 2018.

- Shaping a New Water Economy: Participants will explore how the model, experience and leadership lessons from the 2030 Water Resources Group will shape a new water economy.

- Changing Expectations on Corporate Disclosure: Recommendations of the Financial Standards Board’s Industry-Led Task Force on Climate-Related Financial Disclosures: Leaders from industry, financial markets and government will provide feedback and discuss recommendations for the Financial Standards Board regarding disclosure of climate change-related risks and performance in mainstream corporate reports.

- Operationalizing the SDGs: Unlocking the Power of Public-Private Cooperation: This roundtable gathers key government and business leaders to agree on actions the business community can take to advance the SDGs, and how public sector support can facilitate this progress.

- Transforming Investment Risk: Leaders from development banks and capital providers will discuss and determine potential actions to enable more capital flow to emerging and frontier markets.

- Roadmap to Clean Mobility: Policy-makers and business leaders from the mobility sector will discuss ongoing and planned action to achieve a low-carbon and low-emission mobility system.

* Further information on official sessions can be found on TopLink and the Forum Events smartphone app. Community sessions are by invitation only. Interested participants are requested to contact their Primary Engagement Manager to explore the possibility of taking part.

Contact:
Dominic Waughray
Head, Shaping the Future of Environment and Natural Resource Security
Member of the Executive Committee
dominic.waughray@weforum.org
+41 22 869 12 00
How can the global financial system reinforce its contribution to sustained economic growth and social development?

The global financial crisis demonstrated the downside of interconnectedness and revealed a range of systemic vulnerabilities. As the global financial system recovers, major collaborative efforts are required to rebuild public trust, respond to regulatory and technological change and overcome barriers to financial inclusion.

The System Initiative on Shaping the Future of Financial and Monetary Systems aims to build a more efficient, resilient and equitable international system by:
- Enhancing financial stability, innovation and economic growth by analysing the implications of industry transformation to better understand the competitive, human capital and regulatory dynamics that will exist in the financial sector of the future
- Promoting global financial inclusion through a portfolio of in-country impact projects, identifying the highest potential opportunities to increase access to quality, affordable financial services for the unserved and underserved
- Exploring how innovations are changing business models and restructuring ecosystems in specific areas of financial services to better understand disruptive innovation in financial services

On the Annual Meeting agenda
A significant metamorphosis is occurring in the financial services sector, making this a pivotal moment for the financial and monetary system agenda. Technology-enabled innovation is redrawing the lines of global finance, with benefits including greater competition, enhanced efficiencies, improved risk management and increased access and use of financial products and services. However, potential risks to financial stability also exist. At the Annual Meeting, the Stewardship Board will draft recommendations for the public and private sectors that underscore the benefits of technology-enabled innovation while pinpointing potential risks to financial stability stemming from financial sector transformation.

Related official sessions*
- Strategic Update: The Future of Finance
- Monetary Policy: Where Will Things Land?
- The Africa Outlook
- The European Markets Outlook
- Global Growth Markets Outlook
- China’s Role for Global Prosperity
- The Latin America Outlook
- The Asia Market Outlook
- The Global Fintech Revolution
- Finance for Change
- Financial Inclusion in the Digital Economy
- Global Economic Outlook
- Economics for the Global Commons
- Global Banking Outlook
- Britain and the EU: The Way Forward

Related community sessions*
- Stewardship Board Meeting: Stewards will discuss balancing the risks and rewards of transformation across the financial services sector, and how technology-enabled innovation is significantly redrawing the lines of global finance.
- Disruptive Innovation in Financial Services: Leading voices from institutions, fintechs and regulatory authorities will share insights on the key enablers of, and barriers to, effective collaboration.
- Financial Stability, Innovation and Economic Growth: Practitioners and policy-makers aim to better understand the competitive, human capital, and regulatory dynamics of the financial sector of the future.
- Harnessing Foreign Investment for Local Capital Markets: Participants will explore country-level opportunities and barriers to shaping the role of foreign investors in their capital markets.

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Contact:
Matthew Blake
Head, Shaping the Future of Financial and Monetary Systems
Member of the Executive Committee
matthew.blake@weforum.org
+1 212 703 66 21
How can the world feed 9.7 billion people by 2050?

By 2050, a global population of 9.7 billion will demand 70% more food than is consumed today. Feeding this expanded population nutritiously and sustainably will require substantial improvements to the global food system – one that provides livelihoods for farmers as well as nutritious products for consumers.

The System Initiative on Shaping the Future of Food Security and Agriculture seeks to develop a long-term strategy and ways of working across the public, private and social sectors to achieve a 20% improvement each decade in food security, environmental sustainability and economic opportunity. This will be achieved through a market-based and multistakeholder approach, in line with the New Vision for Agriculture (NVA).

The System Initiative aims to:
- Strengthen global food systems by developing new insights, facilitating collaboration on priority action areas to achieve healthy diets and sustainable landscapes, and mobilizing leadership and expertise at the global level
- Achieve the New Vision for Agriculture by strengthening multistakeholder collaboration at the country and regional level, and by mobilizing new investments, partnerships and best practices to achieve concrete results

On the Annual Meeting agenda

The world population is increasingly malnourished, and food systems are putting unsustainable strain on the planet. A full-scale transformation is needed to ensure healthy diets and sustainable, efficient food production for all. The Annual Meeting 2017 will feature an unprecedented number of sessions on food security, nutrition and agriculture – and their linkages to many of the Sustainable Development Goals. Global leaders will assess current trends and future scenarios for the food system; engage in action-oriented, country-led multistakeholder partnerships in Africa, Asia and Latin America; and commit to action and collaboration to ensure a food-secure future at global, regional and country levels.

The desired outcomes include: Shift in mind-sets and actions to transform food systems; commitment to accelerate and scale the impact of partnerships; and new insight on technology innovations that can empower farmers, consumers and others to drive this transformation.

Related official sessions*
- Food Crisis: The Big Picture
- World-Changed Technology: Bio and Nanotechnologies
- Tipping Point: Genetic Engineering
- Healthy People, Healthy Planet
- Ask About: Nutrition
- Tipping Point: Synthetic Food
- Envisioning a Food-Secure Future
- The State of the Genetic Revolution
- Fertile Ground for Sustainable Growth
- Advancing Healthy Food Systems
- Shaping a Sustainable World with McGill University
- Behind the Artists Idea: Middle Fork
- Ask About: The Microbiome of Soil
- Ask About: Sustainable Food Systems
- An Insight, An Idea with Jamie Oliver

Related community sessions*
- Food Systems for the Future: Stewardship Board Meeting: Stewards will discuss insights and actions to nutritiously and sustainably feed a global population in 2030, informed by a scenarios analysis on the future of food systems.
- Country-Led Action to Achieve the Sustainable Development Goals: This high-level workshop will focus on how country-led partnership platforms – such as the New Vision for Agriculture, 2030 Water Resources Group, Tropical Forest Alliance 2020, Internet for All initiative, and Scaling-Up Nutrition Movement – can help achieve the SDGs.
- The New Vision for Agriculture: Building and Strengthening Multistakeholder Partnerships (lunch session): Leaders from all sectors will review progress and define scaling strategies for action partnerships supported by the New Vision for Agriculture initiative including Grow Africa, Grow Asia, and growing opportunities in India and Latin America.
- Bio-Innovation in Agriculture and Food: Co-Shaping a Vision around Society’s Needs: This session will create a space for open dialogue on the role of bio-innovation by examining the past, inspiring fresh thinking and aligning on society’s needs.

* Further information on official sessions can be found on TopLink and the Forum Events smartphone app. Community sessions are by invitation only. Interested participants are requested to contact their Primary Engagement Manager to explore the possibility of taking part.

Contact:
Lisa Dreier
Head, Shaping the Future of Food Security and Agriculture
Member of the Executive Committee
lisa.dreier@weforum.org
+1 212 703 23 49
How can the world deliver healthy lives and healthcare for 9.7 billion people by 2050?

By 2050, the world’s population is expected to rise to 9.7 billion, with 2 billion over the age of 60. However, the global health and healthcare system is ill-equipped to deal with this demographic transformation. To keep populations healthy and treat patients more effectively, solutions need to come from outside traditional healthcare. The System Initiative on Shaping the Future of Health and Healthcare provides a unifying framework for health preservation and improved healthcare delivery. The initiative brings together stakeholders from the public and private sectors to catalyse opportunities to accelerate these goals.

The System Initiative aims to:
- Better manage future epidemics
- Promote healthy behaviours
- Improve financial efficiencies and sustainability
- Accelerate access to healthcare in emerging economies

On the Annual Meeting agenda
To advance the health agenda globally, more than 50 sessions and workshops have been woven into the Annual Meeting programme. These will focus on topics including value in healthcare, precision medicine, affordable innovation, data, healthy diets, consumerization of health, infrastructure for health, health security and antimicrobial resistance. The desired outcome is to clarify the role of leaders in the transformation of the health and healthcare industry systems to tap into the growth potential of the Fourth Industrial Revolution. Key dimensions include: potential roadmaps for patients and societies to be able to afford life-saving, cutting-edge therapies; the role of genomic and regenerative medicine as part of new care pathways; and a vision for individuals and society to prepare for life-long, human-centric health, based on understanding the risks factors leading to chronic disease and addressing them through behaviour change.

Related official sessions*
- Curing Alzheimer’s: The Research Imperative
- Ask About: Nutrition
- Precision Public Health with the Australian National University
- Pandemics: The Big Picture
- Mental Health Matters
- The Science of the Microbiome with Cornell University
- Human-Centric Health
- Breaking the Bias in Healthcare
- The Hospital of the Future

Related community sessions*
- Stewardship Board Meeting: Stewards will identify areas for action in health promotion and healthcare delivery to complement the ongoing work of institutions and existing initiatives.
- Pandemic Simulation: Participants will respond to a simulated pandemic threat, prompting open discussion of how to shape a roadmap for better preparation and response.
- Value in Healthcare: This session will provide an interim readout of evolving findings and recommendations from the Value in Healthcare Project.

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Contact:
Arnaud Bernaert
Head, Shaping the Future of Health and Healthcare
Member of the Executive Committee
arnaud.bernaert@weforum.org
+41 22 869 36 55
How can a sustainable flow of information, content and data inform, entertain and educate while empowering society?

In today’s fast-changing and technology-driven landscape, every stakeholder – from artists and rights owners to advertisers and end-users – stands to benefit from effective and equitable flows of content. Organizations also require support to design policies that both stimulate business growth and safeguard citizens.

The System Initiative on Shaping the Future of Information and Entertainment aims to:
- Enable an economically viable, accountable and transparent flow of content to inform, influence, entertain and/or educate stakeholders while supporting and empowering them
- Foster an innovative information and entertainment ecosystem at the leading edge of technology
- Increase trust and accountability between stakeholders that ultimately improves social cohesion and societal well-being

On the Annual Meeting agenda
Brexit and results of the recent US elections and Italian referendum show how powerfully the information and entertainment system can impact the state of the world. The Annual Meeting will highlight key obstacles to sustainable content flows, with proposed Forum-managed or supported activities focusing on the informed society and the creative economy.

If successful, the outcome will be threefold: The Forum community will understand the fundamental importance of fostering a well-informed society, and its impact on the other 13 systems; the creative economy’s role in harnessing general innovation, supporting sport and culture, and driving societal development will be clearer; and proposed Forum activities in this space will be agreed upon.

Related official sessions*
- Strategic Update: The Future of Media and Information
- An Informed Society
- The New Lead Characters
- Today’s Storytellers
- Truth or Tale?
- An Insight, An Idea with Wang Jianlin
- What If: Privacy Becomes a Luxury Good?
- Where Does Truth Lie? (dinner session)

Related community sessions*
- Stewardship Board Meeting: The Stewards will discuss the public-private agenda for the coming year and where the initiative can best drive change.
- Sport and the Creative Economy: Participants will focus on examples of how policy-makers have stimulated cooperation with key creative industry business leaders to improve social inclusion and economic growth.

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Contact:
Claudio Cocorocchia
Acting Head, Shaping the Future of Information and Entertainment
claudio.cocorocchia@weforum.org
+41 22 869 35 99
How can trade and investment drive growth and development?

International trade and investment are important drivers of economic growth and development, and crucial for the success of individual businesses. However, shifting geopolitics, new business models and changing societal expectations are creating new challenges. The spread of international production networks, growth in the digital economy and the strengthening role of investment as a determinant of trade are game-changers for international cooperation. Societal unease with globalization is evident in debates on the power of corporations, employment, labour and environmental standards, and taxation. Successful change requires an understanding of the new dynamics of commerce, inspiring narratives, operational and strategic integration, the reallocation of resources and results-oriented leadership.

The System Initiative on Shaping the Future of International Trade and Investment aims to inform the policy debate on critical issues and drive practical steps to unlock the full potential of trade and investment by:

- Advancing proposals for modernizing the international trade and investment system
- Catalysing trade facilitation reforms
- Establishing norms for investment policy and global value chains
- Securing agreement on digital trade best practice and a pathway to reform

On the Annual Meeting agenda

International trade and investment discussions in Davos will be infused with a focus on inclusive growth. Inequalities within and between countries are influencing political decision-making and the role of trade is under scrutiny. Leaders will look at views on the challenges and opportunities for leveraging trade and investment for sustainable development in a world characterized by rapid change and disruption.

Investment and digital trade discussions will provide an in-depth exchange on emerging policy priorities, while E15 Initiative ideas on innovation, competition, regulation and more will be explored across a number of sessions. Likely coinciding with the entry into force of the World Trade Organization Trade Facilitation Agreement, Annual Meeting discussions will steer the development of the Global Alliance for Trade Facilitation, as well as explore avenues for services, investment and e-commerce facilitation. Permeating all discussions will be deep reflection on what citizens want from globalization and how best to shape trade and investment to meet these expectations.

Related official sessions*
- Governing Globalization
- Overcoming Invisible Borders
- Asia Takes the Lead
- Protectionism: Back to the Future?
- Global Economic Outlook
- Global Growth Markets Outlook
- The Silk Road Effect

Related community sessions*
- Stewardship Board Meeting: The Stewards will debate the most pressing questions on international trade and investment agendas and discuss how to arrive at practical solutions with global impact.
- Digital Trade in the Fourth Industrial Revolution: Participants will address digital trade in the context of the Fourth Industrial Revolution, including facilitating electronic commerce and cross-border data flows, with an eye on the role of public-private partnership.
- Global Alliance for Trade Facilitation: Participants will discuss the latest advances on in-country projects and measurement, and seek feedback from high-level representatives from the private sector and government.
- FDI in the New Global Rhetoric: Participants will explore strategic options for the global investment system to deal with 21st-century challenges, and review current trends, including projections for deep declines in FDI and anti-trade sentiments.
- Measuring the Development Footprint of Companies: Participants will learn about and discuss a newly developed framework and tool that companies can use to measure their social impact along value chains.

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Contact:
Sean Doherty
Head, Shaping the Future of International Trade and Investment
Member of the Executive Committee
sean.doherty@weforum.org
+41 22 869 12 15
How can the world sustainably close the $1 trillion infrastructure investment gap?

Short political cycles, short-term investment horizons and a lack of viable financing structures and risk assessment frameworks mean that infrastructure and development lacks investment. There is currently a $1 trillion annual shortfall versus a $4 trillion demand for infrastructure alone. Closing these gaps is paramount if the world is to stay on a path to inclusive economic growth and recovery.

The System Initiative on Shaping the Future of Long-Term Investing, Infrastructure and Development seeks to provide a more strategic dialogue that allows policy-makers to express their long-term vision for infrastructure and development, the benefits this would bring to society, and how to share fairly with investors.

The System Initiative aims to:

- Help governments and regions streamline/accelerate infrastructure project pipelines
- Address key gaps that currently prevent institutional investors from engaging more fully in infrastructure
- Provide a multistakeholder platform for parties involved in infrastructure investment to help capture the full transformational potential of megaprojects
- Provide a platform for blended finance practitioners to mobilize $100 billion of investment by 2021
- Examine how emerging capital markets development can be accelerated and build private-public partnerships on the national level to share best practices and visions for development

On the Annual Meeting agenda

This is a crucial point in time, with fiscal stimulus being considered in many developed economies and infrastructure representing a primary delivery mechanism. At the same time, innovation has changed the economics of some infrastructure relevant to emerging markets, particularly in renewable energy. It is therefore a time to explore updates to public-private cooperation models, new financing models such as blended finance, and further standardization and risk mitigation for infrastructure projects – with the goal of creating a tradable asset class showing significantly different risk and liquidity profiles from the historic past.

At the Annual Meeting, representatives of the public and private sectors will consider action towards these goals, ultimately creating a better pipeline of investable projects to deliver social good in developed and developing economies alike. In addition, the Annual Meeting will aim to generate momentum for long-term-oriented leadership not only in infrastructure, but also across all areas of business and society.

Related official sessions*

- Strategic Update: The Future of Infrastructure Development
- Preparing for the City Century
- The Silk Road Effect
- The Asia Market Outlook
- Finance for Change
- Global Goals: The Road to 2030
- Global Growth Markets Outlook

Related community sessions*

- Stewardship Board Meeting: The Stewards, key private-sector leaders and policy-makers will take stock of progress and chart a course of action to accelerate increased investment in infrastructure.

- Harnessing Foreign Investment for Local Capital Markets: Participants will explore country-level opportunities and barriers to shaping the role of foreign investors in their capital markets.

- Improving Defined Contribution Retirement Systems: This session will present proposals for improving defined contribution pension plans, as developed by the steering and expert committees of the Retirement Investment Systems Reform project.

- Investors Impact Investing: Participants will address roadblocks to a long-term investment mind-set by assembling a “dream team” of key stakeholders to evaluate the impact measurement ecosystem and align with those that contribute most effectively to the growth of the sector.

- Scaling Public-Private Financing of Sustainable Infrastructure: Leaders from development banks and capital providers will discuss and determine potential actions to enable more capital flow to emerging and frontier markets.
- **Infrastructure Finance Standardization and Risk Mitigation:** Leaders from multilateral development banks, governments and the private sector will chart tangible solutions to enable more private investment in sustainable infrastructure.

- **Digital Leaders Policy Meeting on Investment in Infrastructure:** Participants will discuss the optimal mix of fiscal and regulatory incentives to promote private-sector investment in Internet of Things networks and smart infrastructure, and how governments can drive more coherent collaboration.

- **Catalysing Cross-Border Power Infrastructure to Improve Energy Security:** Participants will focus on best practices for adopting cross-border public-private investment into national planning processes, and scaling up large regional electricity interconnection plans.

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**Contact:**
Michael Drexler  
Head of Financial, Infrastructure and Investment System Initiatives  
Member of the Executive Committee  
michael.drexler@weforum.org  
+1 212 703 23 69
How can we accelerate the transformation to secure, inclusive and smart global transportation systems?

Mobility – the movement of people and goods – is a fundamental human need and a key enabler of economic and social prosperity. After decades of relative stability, the mobility environment is undergoing a remarkable transformation. Technology, such as autonomous vehicles, biometrics and ultralight materials, is enabling new business models and mobility services for new and changing customers.

As global demand for mobility continues to grow, innovative public-private partnerships offer unique opportunities to overcome the persistent challenges in transport, such as greenhouse gas emissions, congestion and security. The System Initiative on the Future of Mobility provides a platform for business leaders from transport, technology, energy, infrastructure, insurance, health and other related sectors to partner with policy-makers to shape the future of mobility.

The System Initiative aims to accelerate the transformation to a global mobility system that is clean, safe, secure, inclusive and smart by:
- Enabling new and better mobility solutions – for cities, nations and the world – by leveraging Fourth Industrial Revolution technologies
- Safeguarding transport systems and networks from terrorism, cyberattacks and other shocks by fostering international cooperation and standards
- Reducing the environmental impact of mobility related to greenhouse gas emissions, polluting emissions, materials usage and waste, and noise
- Providing access to affordable mobility solutions, particularly for underserved segments of the population

On the Annual Meeting agenda

New developments in mobility captured the public’s imagination in 2016 – from autonomous taxis and delivery drones to virtual reality travel. In Davos, the Stewards will review the accomplishments of the Forum’s collaboration with the City of Boston to implement an autonomous vehicle pilot programme; assess progress with the Security in Travel initiative and determine how to implement a scalable smart traveller pilot; and explore how to decarbonize the transport system through collaboration with international organizations.

If successful, the new Board of Stewards will catalyse public-private collaboration to reshape the future of mobility and develop a clear mandate for advancing mobility at the urban, intercity and global levels.
How can the transformation of production systems drive innovation, sustainability and employment?

The world is at the threshold of a new industrial revolution characterized by a confluence of emerging technology breakthroughs, from mobile connectivity, artificial intelligence, Internet of Things, next-generation robotics, 3D printing, wearables and genetic engineering to nanotechnology, advanced materials, biotechnology and others. These technologies, combined and connected, will transform manufacturing and production systems with unprecedented speed and scope, impacting business models, economic growth, employment and sustainability.

Businesses in manufacturing and distribution sectors and policy-makers need new approaches and capabilities, and must work together to build truly innovative and sustainable production systems that benefit all people.

The System Initiative on Shaping the Future of Production aims to:

- Understand and anticipate, beyond the hype and with input from global experts, which technologies – individually and combined – will transform production
- Connect the prime actors in the future of production, including established companies and innovators from multiple industries, policy-makers, small and medium-sized enterprises, Technology Pioneers, academia, labour unions and civil society
- Build an inclusive and exciting collective vision for future production that improves the state of the world
- Foster cooperation between key stakeholders by identifying leading company practices and exploring future-oriented policy frameworks to accelerate innovation and support technology adoption
- Build opportunities for investment and new partnership types in increasingly smart factories and ever more connected production ecosystems

On the Annual Meeting agenda

Production comprises manufacturing, distribution and the full chain of activities required to “make” – from research and development to the consumer. It is the dominant focus for innovation and development in most countries, and is being transformed by the impact of new technologies. We stand at a pivotal moment, with production elevated to the leadership agenda and critical decision points pending for business, policy-makers and other stakeholders.

In 2016, the Forum assembled a group of experts, business leaders, worker representatives, civil society leaders, and government ministers and officials representing nations that deliver 85% of current global manufacturing output. At the Annual Meeting 2017, this group will share scenarios of production in 2030, how technologies are shaping the future of “making” with real-world application and beyond the hype, and how leaders are readying their organizations and nations for the future of production.

In 2017, the World Economic Forum will be a platform for leaders to understand the opportunities and challenges offered by the growing landscape of production technologies, inform strategic decision-making and place production higher on industrial strategy, skills and sustainability agendas.

Related official sessions*

- Strategic Update: The Future of Production
- Mainstreaming Sustainable Production
- Technology Partnerships: Industrial Internet of Things
- World-Changing Technology: Space, Materials and New Production Technologies
- Governing Disruption: New Production Technologies
- Industry’s Next Frontier
- Fertile Ground for Sustainable Growth
- Transitioning from Resource to Resilience

Related community sessions*

- Stewardship Board Meeting: The Stewards will explore scenarios for the Future of Production to define a common vision that balances growth with inclusiveness and sustainability.
- Innovation through Technology in Production: Participants will assess technologies that will disrupt production, identifying critical success factors, obstacles to development, impact on value chains and opportunities and challenges for businesses and governments.
- The Future of Production: Exploring Regional Trends: Based on case studies, this session will explore regional production trends in a global economy.

* Further information on official sessions can be found on TopLink and the Forum Events smartphone app. Community sessions are by invitation only. Interested participants are requested to contact their Primary Engagement Manager to explore the possibility of taking part.

Contact:
Helena Leurent
Head, Shaping the Future of Production
Member of the Executive Committee
helena.leurent@weforum.org
+41 22 869 14 47
Contact

For further information on or to inquire about becoming involved with the work of any of the World Economic Forum System Initiatives, please contact the System Initiative Management Team: simgmtteam@weforum.org

Rick Samans
Member of the Managing Board

Cheryl Martin
Member of the Managing Board

Dominic Waughray
Head, Public-Private Cooperation
Member of the Executive Committee

Terri Toyota
Member of the Executive Committee
The World Economic Forum, committed to improving the state of the world, is the International Organization for Public-Private Cooperation.

The Forum engages the foremost political, business and other leaders of society to shape global, regional and industry agendas.