

World Economic Forum Annual Meeting 2018 Overview



COMMITTED TO
IMPROVING THE STATE
OF THE WORLD

Davos-Klosters, Switzerland 23-26 January

Creating a Shared Future in a Fractured World

At the close of the 20th century, the presumption was that greater economic interdependence among countries, buttressed by liberal democratic institutions, would ensure peace and stability well into the new century. The global context today has changed dramatically: geostrategic fissures have re-emerged on multiple fronts with wide-ranging political, economic and social consequences. *Realpolitik* is no longer just a relic of the Cold War. Economic prosperity and social cohesion are not one and the same. The global commons cannot protect or heal itself.

Politically, governance is being transformed by new and contending strategic narratives. Such narratives have emerged in response to national, regional and global divides, but many of them are bereft of the innovation, inspiration and idealism essential for transformational change.

Economically, policies are being formulated to preserve the singular benefits of global integration while limiting its shared obligations. Yet, such policy prescriptions are fragmented, biased or uninformed when considered in the context of sustainable development, inclusive growth and the Fourth Industrial Revolution.

Socially, citizens yearn for responsive leadership that addresses local and national concerns; yet, a shared identity and collective purpose remain elusive despite living in an age of social networks. All the while, the social contract between states and their citizens continues to erode. Changing the situation on the ground requires more responsive governance, but this cannot absolve governments of their regional and global responsibilities.

The fractures that have emerged politically, economically and socially must not foster intolerance, indecision and inaction. The **48th World Economic Forum Annual Meeting** therefore aims to rededicate leaders from all walks of life to developing a shared narrative to improve the state of the world. The programme, initiatives and projects of the meeting are focused on **Creating a Shared Future in a Fractured World**.

By coming together at the start of the year, we can shape the future by joining this unparalleled global effort in co-design, co-creation and collaboration. The Annual Meeting in Davos remains a global platform unmatched in engaging leaders from business, government, international organizations, academia and civil society in peer-to-peer working sessions. The programme's depth and breadth make it a true summit of summits.

Systems Leadership via Platform Engagement

The World Economic Forum was recognized in 2015 as the International Organization for Public-Private Cooperation by the Federal Council of Switzerland. In this context, we offer our organizational capacity – including convening power, community management excellence, insight generation and platform technology – for the benefit of the most effective players driving positive change through the following **14 System Initiatives**:

- Shaping the Future of Consumption
- Shaping the Future of Digital Economy and Society
- Shaping the Future of Economic Progress
- Shaping the Future of Education, Gender and Work
- Shaping the Future of Energy
- Shaping the Future of Environment and Natural Resource Security
- Shaping the Future of Financial and Monetary Systems
- Shaping the Future of Food Security and Agriculture
- Shaping the Future of Health and Healthcare
- Shaping the Future of Information and Entertainment
- Shaping the Future of International Trade and Investment
- Shaping the Future of Long-Term Investing, Infrastructure and Development
- Shaping the Future of Mobility
- Shaping the Future of Production

Communities Committed to Improving the State of the World

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

- Chief executives and chairs of our 1,000 Partner and Member companies actively engaged in the International Business Council, Community of Chairmen, Industry Governors, Regional Business Councils and System Initiative Stewardship Boards
- Political leaders from the G20 and other countries and heads of international organizations engaged in high-level dialogues facilitated by the Informal Gathering of World Economic Leaders (IGWEL) programme
- Members of our Global Future Councils, Expert Network and Global University Leaders Forum collaborating with spiritual and cultural leaders and representatives from important civil society, labour and media organizations
- Technology Pioneers, the Community of Global Shapers, the Forum of Young Global Leaders and the Schwab Foundation for Social Entrepreneurship, communities representing a new generation of innovators and entrepreneurs

The objective in Davos is to engage these communities to advance multiple agendas such as:

The Global Agenda

To improve global governance through public-private cooperation by working in close collaboration with key international organizations and providing substantial, yet informal, input into major multilateral processes related to our 14 System Initiatives

The Geopolitical Agenda

To convene public- and private-sector leaders and defence, intelligence and public-security experts to prepare for and respond to a rapidly changing geopolitical landscape

The Economic Agenda

To support multistakeholder efforts to deliver sustainable and inclusive economic development in the face of lower growth rates, declining productivity and skills gaps

The Regional and National Agenda

To examine in depth the social and economic transformations occurring in all regions of the world through informal interaction with over 250 political leaders on trade and investment-related issues in various national and regional contexts

The Industry and Business Agenda

To shape the evolution of industry ecosystems and business models, particularly in the context of scientific, technological and policy transformations, by engaging industry leaders with their peers from government to better prepare for the Fourth Industrial Revolution

The Future Agenda

To share ideas, innovations and discoveries that will reshape global systems by engaging those at the vanguard of change from such fields as the arts, media, medicine, science and technology, as well as the next generation of leaders

In the true “Spirit of Davos”, the aim is to advance these agendas with bold ideas and exciting opportunities to consider in the year ahead. They include insight from our **Global Future Councils**, representing over 1,000 of the world’s leading thinkers. The Annual Meeting is also distinct in its development of digital technology such as **TopLink**, our digital interaction platform, and our world-leading knowledge app, which features continuously updated contextual intelligence through our **Transformation Maps**. We encourage you to use these tools to prepare for your experience in Davos.

as of 16 October 2017

