
Charter for Foundation Members

Article 1: Mission and Status of the World Economic Forum

The World Economic Forum (hereafter referred to as the “Forum”), headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland, is an independent organization committed to improving the state of the world.

Funded by the contributions of 1,000 of the world’s foremost corporations, the Forum acts in the spirit of entrepreneurship and in the global public interest to further economic growth and social progress. The Forum serves its Members and society by creating partnerships between business, political, intellectual and other leaders to define, discuss and advance key issues on the global agenda.

Incorporated as a foundation in 1971, the Forum is impartial and not-for-profit; it is tied to no political, partisan or national interests. (www.weforum.org)

Article 2: Definition and Role of Foundation Members

The Forum has set up the Foundation Member community (hereafter referred to as the “Foundation Members”) with the purpose of creating a long-term and intensive framework for the integration of the organizations and constituents in which the Forum serves.

The Forum orients its activities specifically towards the needs of its Member companies and according to its commitment to improving the state of the world.

The privileges and obligations of Member companies are defined in the Annex of this Membership Charter. Foundation Members are companies (not individuals) that are represented at the highest level of management.

Each Member company should be characterized by the following overall criteria:

- It is globally relevant or is actively growing in this direction
- Has a top management that is forward-looking, of high reputation and ethical
- Is a financially healthy organization

Article 3: Foundation Membership

The Foundation Member community is made up of 1,000 of the foremost corporations in the world today, companies which are driving the world economy forward. The typical Member company is a global enterprise with a minimum turnover of US\$ 5 billion, although it varies by industry and region.

In addition to the above overall criteria, these enterprises are characterized by the following specific aspects:

- They rank among the top companies within their industry and/or country (generally based on turnover in millions of US dollars; for financial institutions the criteria is based on assets)
- A leading role in shaping the future of their industry and/or region

Article 4: Privileges of Foundation Members

Only Member companies have the right to participate in the activities of the Forum. As appropriate, Member companies are invited to relevant regional and industry activities.

The global chair, chief executive or equivalent within the companies is entitled to participate at the World Economic Forum Annual Meeting in Davos-Klosters and at the Annual Meeting of the New Champions. Replacement by a senior executive that meets the meeting-specific criteria may be proposed only once every third year and must be approved by the Forum.

Member companies are kept regularly informed about the activities and services offered by the Forum.

Member companies have the right to refer business associates to be invited by the Forum to selected activities if space is available and they fulfill the criteria.

The Forum reserves the right to invite special guests to its activities if their presence and contribution to the activities create additional value for the Member companies taking part.

For more detailed information about Foundation Membership Privileges, please refer to Annex 2.

Article 5: Obligations of Foundation Members

Member companies pay an annual fee, as noted on the application form signed by a prospective Member. Membership fees cover general costs incurred by the Forum. The Forum reserves the right to adapt this fee as necessary. The invoice for the annual membership fee is payable within 60 days, and the Forum reserves the right to cancel membership without further notice if the fee is not paid within this period.

A participation fee is charged for taking part in specific events. This contribution is calculated to cover the direct costs of that event as accurately as possible. Participation is subject to the full payment of the participation fee before the start of an event.

The Managing Board of the Forum reserves the right to integrate into the calculation of the membership fee and participation fee a risk premium and a reserve to assure the long-term development of Forum activities, including the initiatives undertaken in the global public interest.

Beyond the annual membership fee and the participation fee for specific activities, Member companies do not incur any financial obligation or legal liability as a result of their membership.

Member companies are obliged to observe the required high level of participation criteria when registering individuals for different events. The Forum may refuse a registration from a Member company if it considers that the participant does not correspond to the required criteria.

Article 6: Relations among Members and Constituents

At the core of the World Economic Forum's constituencies are its Members. In addition, the Forum has established other distinctive groups and alliances to bring together individuals (called constituents) committed to strengthening international cooperation in their particular field.

All groups are subject to the strict conditions of admission in order to preserve their peer character. The Forum extends peer-to-peer interaction between the world's top decision-makers in the private area of www.weforum.org, an online social community, knowledge aggregation space and event management tool for Forum Members and constituents.

Membership offers a unique opportunity for interaction and the exchange of expertise with the community's other Members, including Strategic and Industry Partners, Foundation Members, Technology Pioneers, Young Global Leaders, Media Leaders, cultural and spiritual leaders and public figures.

Article 7: Meetings of the Foundation Members

The meetings of the Foundation Members are characterized by a personal, informal and confidential atmosphere. Select sessions, however, may be on the record.

Neither the Forum nor Member companies can make official statements on behalf of all Members unless such a statement is based on unanimous consensus.

Members, however, can use these meetings as an opportunity to set forth personal opinions.

Article 8: Application for Foundation Membership

Enterprises that fulfill the criteria mentioned in Articles 2 and 3 may apply for Foundation membership.

The Forum, represented by the Managing Board, has the obligation to ensure that a candidate for membership not only fulfills the membership criteria, but is also in line with the achievement of an optimal regional and sectoral representation of Member companies.

The Managing Board can turn down applications or refer them to a waiting list. It has the ultimate decision-making authority in matters of membership application, without further recourse, and is not obliged to accept a company as a Member.

After Managing Board approval of the membership application, membership is effective for a one-year period, with tacit automatic renewal.

The Forum cannot condone Members using and publicizing their association with the World Economic Forum with the intention to improve their financial status or reputation. Such action may lead to termination of membership as outlined in Article 11, and possible legal action.

Article 9: Cancellation of Membership

Member companies wishing to cancel membership at the end of the current one-year period must announce their intention in writing at least three months in advance; otherwise they are in principle liable for the next year's fee.

Article 10: Code of Conduct for Foundation Members

Members agree to abide by the Foundation Members' Code of Conduct (see Annex1). Breach of these rules will lead to immediate termination of membership, as detailed in Article 11.

Article 11: Termination of Membership

Membership can be terminated by decision of the Managing Board of the Forum at any time, with immediate effect.

In addition to any breach of the articles contained in the Members' Code of Conduct, the Managing Board can consider the following reasons as justification for a termination of membership:

- Changes in a Member company's business or status such that it no longer fulfils the criteria outlined under
- Articles 2 and 3 or if inaccurate information was given at the moment of accession to membership
- Disruptive behaviour during one of the Forum's activities
- Inappropriate commercial activities directed towards other Member or Partner Companies or Foundation constituents (including aggressive, unsolicited selling of products or services) through misuse of privileged information (for instance, membership lists and participants booklets)

Each decision to terminate membership is preceded by communication between the Managing Board and the Member company involved.

The decision to terminate membership is final and the Member company in question explicitly renounces any possibility to appeal the decision to legal authorities.

As a preliminary measure, membership may be suspended by the Managing Board, particularly in cases that require further clarification.

Article 12: Relations between the Forum and its Foundation Members

In general, the global chair/chief executive is the principal contact between his/her company and the Forum. However, the Member company is asked to nominate an official contact person who is in charge of relations between the Forum and the Member company, either the global chair, chief executive or another senior executive.

The Forum also nominates a person responsible for relations with each Member company. The Forum strives to appoint a dedicated Forum Community Manager who is fluent in the Member's working language, but English is in general the official language of the Forum and prevails in all written information.

Annex 1: Foundation Members' Code of Conduct

1. Confidentiality

The Forum's independence and intellectual integrity are of utmost importance to the preservation of the Forum's unique status and its close relationship with the entirety of its Members and Partners.

Member companies agree to safeguard these principles and to refrain from any initiative linked to this relationship that would conflict with these central principles.

Member companies expressly agree that any information about participants or preparations for Forum activities provided to a Member company in the context of the membership is strictly confidential and for the sole purpose of planning for the meetings. Proprietary information may not be transmitted in any form to outside parties. Post-meeting information for solicitation of participants will not be provided.

2. Non-exclusivity

Membership does not grant or imply the Forum's endorsement or sponsorship of a Member's goods or services or otherwise express any preferences for, or promotion of, the Member's goods or services in the marketplace.

3. Communications Guidelines

Member companies cannot cooperate with third-party public relations firms in matters related to the membership relationship, including press matters.

Due to the independent and non-commercial nature of the Forum, Members agree to coordinate with the Forum prior to any public relations or publicity initiatives linked to their membership.

Member companies must obtain the express approval of the Forum before engaging in sending out any pre-meeting press releases or communications containing information related to the meeting or project in question and in using the Forum's name or reference to its activities in print, on the Internet or in any other form of media, or for external marketing or advertising purposes.

To avoid any appearance of commercialization of the Forum activities, Member companies commit to the greatest restraint in conducting any promotional activity outside the regional meeting or Annual Meeting venue.

As requested by participants, Member companies are discouraged from systematically distributing material to hotel rooms.

4. Use of Logos and Other Promotional Material

Member companies must refrain from any promotional activity which goes against the non-commercial spirit and atmosphere of Forum activities.

Use of the Forum's logo by Member companies on any type of document or in their promotional, marketing, advertising and/or public relations activities, whether printed or in electronic format, is not permitted. The Forum must not endorse another organization or its products.

The Forum does not accept the presence of any logo or banner from Member companies in the context of its activities (such as sessions, media meetings and hosted meetings) except in special cases of partnership at the Forum's sole discretion.

Annex 2: Foundation Membership Privileges

The World Economic Forum's Foundation membership is created to establish a long-term and intensive framework for the integration of organizations and personalities served by the Foundation. The Foundation orients its activities particularly towards the needs of its Members.

The membership is made up of the **1,000 foremost global enterprises**, which are characterized by:

- Global activities in multiple markets
- A top industry ranking as weighted by turnover and market capitalization; such ranking has a minimum turnover of US\$ 5 billion
- A solid projected growth potential
- A leading role in shaping the future of their industry and/or region
- Healthy, solid and reputable organizations

Membership offers a unique opportunity for interaction and the exchange of expertise with the **Foundation's other constituents** including Industry Governors, Public Figures, Global Growth Companies, Forum Fellows, Technology Pioneers, Media Leaders, Cultural Leaders and Religious Leaders, among others.

Privileges of Foundation Membership

- The **World Economic Forum Annual Meeting** in Davos is a forum to discuss the global agenda at the beginning of the year, concentrating on issues shaping the world business environment and having a far-reaching impact on world affairs. A privileged occasion for peer-to-peer interaction and networking, participation in the Annual Meeting is reserved for chief executives of Member companies, outstanding political leaders, scientists, experts and thinkers from academia and the media. Each Member company is entitled to be represented at the World Economic Forum Annual Meeting by its global chair/chief executive or equivalent.
- The **Annual Meeting of the New Champions** is the yearly gathering of the Community of Global Growth Companies (GGCs). These are companies that are redefining the global economy as they take advantage of the shifts in the competitive landscape and look beyond conventional wisdom to run their businesses. This platform brings together GGC chief executives with Forum Foundation Members and leading thinkers from across business, society, geographies and cultures, to understand what it takes to successfully compete in the changing competitive environment. Each Member company is entitled to be represented at the World Economic Forum Annual Meeting of the New Champions by its global chair/chief executive or equivalent.
- Members have privileged access to the Foundation's **regional activities**. The Foundation has built an integrated concept of regional meetings to provide Members with a unique opportunity to define their global strategy by being fully informed about political, economic and business developments and prospects in regions and countries showing particular promise. Members can thus build networks tailored to company priorities with

top business and government leaders. Each Member company is entitled to be represented at any regional meeting by its global chair/chief executive or one senior executive (e.g. member of the most senior executive decision-making body of the parent company) to be mutually agreed upon. In addition, representatives can be nominated from parent and affiliate companies to participate in these events for the members' participation fee.

- Members may be invited to participate in a portfolio of issue-based **task forces** and **initiatives**, ranging from those devoted specifically to research and awareness building to those formed to foster dialogue and promote negotiation. These task forces and initiatives are founded on global agenda partnerships involving Members, Partners and constituents in collaborative efforts to achieve tangible outcomes on key global challenges. They are vehicles for sharing knowledge, views and resources among all involved stakeholders, and provide a platform for launching strategic responses to challenging issues.
- Members are invited to join TopLink, the World Economic Forum's digital interaction and knowledge platform exclusive to its Members and constituents. TopLink facilitates ongoing interaction, both in conjunction with and independent of physical events in a secure and mobile environment.
- Each company is assigned a **dedicated Forum community manager** who looks after the company's membership on a permanent basis to ensure that its interests are fully incorporated into Forum events and activities.
- Members have access to the *Global Competitiveness Report*, the world's most authoritative comparative study on the competitiveness of nations, prepared each year by the World Economic Forum. Similarly, Members benefit from regional competitiveness reports, the *Global Gender Gap Report* and the *Global Information Technology Report*, as well as special studies on broader issues of global interest.
- Members have access to the *Outlook on the Global Agenda report*, a resource of the very best thinking and knowledge from experts on key global issues and challenges.
- **High-level and strategy meetings for senior executives of Member companies** may be held at the **World Economic Forum's headquarters** in Geneva and its offices in New York, Beijing and Tokyo. The availability of facilities and organization of these meetings need to be approved by the Foundation in advance. Member companies may exercise this privilege once per year.