

Global Agenda Council on Complex Systems 2012-2014



Understanding/Context

Complexity lies at the root of important issues that people face every day, such as hunger, energy use, water supply, healthcare, climate change, security, increasing urbanization, sustainability, innovation and the impact of technology. Across the public, social and commercial sectors, there is now widespread appreciation for the increasing complexity of the world. Many frequently make note of this complexity when describing the uniqueness of the present times, but do not have the tools to fully make sense of the complexity and think about implications for governance systems and leadership.

Shaping the Agenda

The Global Agenda Council on Complex Systems is developing holistic strategies to help other Global Agenda Councils understand the relationships between the different issues that are addressed within the Network. The Council published a white paper, *Perspectives on a Hyperconnected World*, for the World Economic Forum Annual Meeting 2013 in Davos-Klosters, describing how a complex-system perspective can bring clarity and insight to many of the world's problems. At the Summit of the Global Agenda 2013 in Abu Dhabi, the Council discussed the absence of a constructive basis for discussing and thinking about leadership from a complexity-science perspective. While there is an increasing recognition of "complexity" among experts and policy-makers, there is no accessible way of bringing the complexity-science perspective into the discussion.

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For the remainder of the term, the Council will develop a thought experiment to apply the lens of complexity and network science to an imagined future of the global agenda as a whole, and address the question: “What might a future world look like if designed and governed through the lens of complexity science?”

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