
World Economic Forum: Global Challenge Initiatives

In recent years, a number of steps have been taken to reinforce the Forum's role as a catalyst for informal dialogue and collaboration and to strengthen its service to members, constituents and the international community at large as a platform for public-private cooperation. The Forum's Foundation Board is now composed of an equal number of prominent business and non-business leaders from around the world. The Forum has also initiated a process with the Swiss authorities to reinforce its status as an international institution dedicated to fostering international public-private cooperation.

What is more, a special institutional emphasis has been placed on **ten specific global challenges** because an acceleration of progress on them is widely perceived to be contingent upon new or expanded public-private cooperation. In each such global challenge initiative, we are sponsoring a major **global project in partnership with international organizations**. Each project engages a wide spectrum of the Forum's private sector members and non-business constituents and will be supported (from the summer of 2015) by an advanced digital collaboration system, the Global Agenda Platform.

More concretely, the **Global Agenda Platform** is a virtual collaboration system that enables closer cooperation of multistakeholder communities of top decision-makers and experts working on specific global challenges. This virtual space developed on the TopLink Platform of the World Economic Forum aims to serve the international community by providing a more efficient means to combine the expertise and resources of governments and non-state actors, accelerating progress on global challenges that require a more public-private or interdisciplinary approach.

In addition, the strategic direction and action underpinning each global challenge initiative will be guided by a select group of the most committed public and private sector leaders, the **Global Agenda Trustees**. The Trustees in each global challenge initiative will represent a core group of their most relevant peers for the purpose of periodically taking stock of the state of public-private cooperation on their issue and thinking collectively about how it could be strengthened. Hence, these leadership peer groups are encouraged to think of themselves as trustees for the state of multistakeholder cooperation on their challenge, assuming a sense of collective stewardship and engaging in an ongoing strategic dialogue to help the international community set priorities and align efforts across relevant initiatives and institutions. Currently, there is no place in the international system where this kind of conversation among principals across stakeholders and regions takes place on a consistent basis.

The World Economic Forum's **ten Global Challenge Initiatives** are:

1. Agriculture and Food Security
2. Economic Growth and Social Inclusion
3. Employment, Skills and Human Capital
4. Environment and Resource Security
5. International Trade and Investment
6. Infrastructure, Long Term Investing and Development
7. Future of the Internet
8. Future of the Global Financial System
9. Gender Parity
10. Global Crime and Anti-Corruption