Overview

The World Economic Forum’s network of Global Future Councils is the world’s foremost multistakeholder and interdisciplinary knowledge network dedicated to promoting innovative thinking to shape a more resilient, inclusive and sustainable future.

The network convenes more than 1,000 of the most relevant and knowledgeable thought leaders from academia, government, international organizations, business and civil society, grouped in expertise-based thematic councils. It is an invitation-only community and members are nominated for a one-year period.

Mission

Global Future Council members provide strategic insights, scientific evidence, forward guidance and multidisciplinary understanding of major issues that will shape the post-COVID world through:

- Identifying and monitoring the latest trends, scientific research and frontier technologies with significant potential to transform societies, industries and regions
- Contributing their expertise and knowledge, sharing key lessons and developing innovative ideas to “building back better” initiatives of industry, regional and solution platforms
- Providing decision-makers from business and government with a multidisciplinary understanding of the strategic implications
- Deepening understanding of the drivers and enablers of the Fourth Industrial Revolution and how emerging technologies can be leveraged to address global, regional and industry issues
- Informing the World Economic Forum’s strategic initiatives by providing feedback on the direction of existing projects as well as new areas of focus
- Increasing public awareness of the potential benefits and risks related to major breakthroughs

Membership and benefits

Membership of a Global Future Council is individual. Each council is led by two co-chairs and comprises 20-30 leading experts from academia, government, international organizations, business and civil society.

Members can take advantage of the following benefits:

- Collaboration with a global network of experts across disciplines
- Interaction with the Forum’s stakeholder communities, including the CEOs of some of the world’s largest corporations, decision-makers from government and international organizations, leading academics and leaders from other stakeholder groups
- The extensive reach of the Forum’s platforms to disseminate ideas and opinions
- The opportunity to put ideas into action by being engaged in initiatives, task forces and activities undertaken by the Forum and its partners
- The possibility to engage in global, industry and regional dialogues and events organized or hosted by the World Economic Forum

The current council term, which began in October 2020 for a one-year period, has been exceptionally extended until June 2022 to provide all councils with an opportunity to finalize key deliverables and outputs, and focus on dissemination to drive impact.

During the extended term, councils will continue to address the most pressing challenges of our time by offering interdisciplinary perspectives and pathways towards greater resilience for businesses, governments and societies.

Membership will be revoked if a member fails to participate in three consecutive activities of the council (the Forum may review this decision if the member has been prevented from participating by force majeure).
Engagement

Council members participate regularly in online interactions and council activities via the Forum’s TopLink platform, emails and regular virtual meetings. The council delivers its outcomes as part of the Forum’s ongoing projects, initiatives and meetings.

Global Future Council portfolio 2020-2022

The portfolio is composed of 37 councils across five thematic areas:

Fourth Industrial Revolution
- Agile Governance
- Artificial Intelligence for Humanity
- Augmented Reality and Virtual Reality
- Cities of Tomorrow
- Cybersecurity
- Quantum Computing
- Space
- Synthetic Biology

Nature and Climate
- Clean Air
- Nature-Based Solutions
- Net-Zero Transition
- SDG Investment

Global and Regional Cooperation
- China
- Geopolitics
- Japan
- New Agenda for Fragility and Resilience
- Scientific Collaboration
- Trade and Investment

Industry Transformation
- Advanced Manufacturing and Value Chains
- Clean Electrification
- Energy Transition
- Investing
- Media, Entertainment and Sport
- Responsive Financial Systems

- Sustainable Tourism
- Transparency and Anti-Corruption
- Urban Mobility Transitions

New Economy and Society
- Frontier Risks
- Healthy Ageing and Longevity
- Human Rights
- Mental Health
- New Agenda for Economic Growth and Recovery
- New Agenda for Education and Skills
- New Agenda for Equity and Social Justice
- New Agenda for Fiscal and Monetary Policy
- New Agenda for Work, Wages and Job Creation
- Social Cohesion and Just Transition