

Civil Society TopLink Community Charter

The World Economic Forum Civil Society TopLink Community enables leaders from non-governmental organizations, labour unions, faith-based organizations and religious leaders to help shape global agendas. Via TopLink, the Forum's digital knowledge and interaction platform, they can contribute expertise and thought leadership to the most important global issues and developments. TopLink also allows for sharing and publishing of own research, analysis and commentary, engaging in dialogue, collaboration, calls to action and co-designing of Forum sessions and meetings.

Dialogue and Platform Engagement

Dialogue as a means of advancing mutual understanding and the exchange of information and perspectives are at the core of the Civil Society TopLink Community. Members are encouraged to engage openly and respectfully in discussions with their peers on TopLink. The sharing and discussion of research, opinions and other content capturing the latest trends and developments are significant forms of engagement in the Civil Society TopLink Community.

Membership Benefits

Community members are invited to take advantage of the following benefits and opportunities:

- To access and collaborate with peers as well as with leading experts across the Forum's digital collaboration platform

- To inform and shape the thinking of the Forum's stakeholder communities, including the CEOs of the world's 1,000 largest corporations, decision-makers from government and international organizations, and leaders from other stakeholder groups to improve strategic decision-making
- To disseminate and publish research, analysis and opinions to the media and general public via the Forum's public digital platforms
- To translate ideas into action by engaging, where possible, in relevant task forces and other Forum activities
- To co-design and participate in sessions at official annual Forum events or at ad hoc expert workshops

Terms of Individual Membership

All members of the Civil Society TopLink Community are expected to adhere to the principles of this charter. Membership is reviewed on a rolling basis without a definitive term limit. The World Economic Forum reserves the right to terminate membership at any time owing to a member's non-engagement or to their violation of the principles of this charter. Similarly, a member may choose to disengage at any time.

Community membership is personal. No alternates are permitted – each nomination is evaluated individually. Membership in the Civil Society TopLink Community does not grant or indicate Forum endorsement or sponsorship of the member's goods or services, or otherwise express any preferences for, or promotion of, the member's activities or their organization's goods or services.

The term “engagement” is understood to mean:

- Sharing knowledge or engaging in discussions taking place on the digital platform on any of the 100+ topic areas
- Responding to calls for action by the World Economic Forum, its Partner organizations or other members of the Civil Society TopLink community
- Contributing knowledge and thought leadership via content products such as blogs, articles or reports through the Forum’s digital media channels

Compliance and Ethics

The independence and intellectual integrity of the Forum are of the utmost importance to the preservation of the Forum’s unique status as an international organization and its close relationship with the entirety of its constituents. The Forum adheres to the principles of human dignity, non-discrimination, fair treatment, ethical business, business integrity, anti-corruption, social responsibility, economic sustainability, fair competition, good governance, fair labour practice, health and safety, environmental protection, animal welfare and the rule of law.

Members of the community shall safeguard such principles and avoid any action or inaction that could conflict with such principles. They shall also refrain from any initiative or activity linked to the Civil Society TopLink Community that would conflict with such principles with respect to the mission of the Forum and its Code of Conduct.

Intellectual Rigour and Integrity

The intellectual property of content and contributions made within the context of the community shall remain the property of each contributing member. Upon acceptance of nomination, each community member grants the World Economic Forum a non-exclusive, worldwide, royalty-free, transferable, non-revocable, perpetual licence to reproduce, print, publish, distribute, broadcast, make available to the public, copy and store this content and contributions in any medium, in particular on the Forum’s virtual platform or in any other means that it deems necessary to publicize the Civil Society TopLink Community.

Each member of the community shall make fair use of knowledge and insight gained in the course of their related activities. Members are responsible for the content they share and must ensure their contributions do not infringe on any third-party intellectual property rights.

The sharing of deliberations or related written or recorded materials outside Forum communities by members is not permitted without the express consent of the World Economic Forum.

Projects, initiatives, publications, meetings and any other outcomes of the work of the Civil Society TopLink Community are not automatically endorsed by the World Economic Forum and cannot be branded as such without the Forum’s written permission.

The World Economic Forum may not be held liable for any third-party claims regarding the unauthorized use of content submitted by a member. Members agree to indemnify and hold harmless the World Economic Forum, their officers, directors, employees and agents against any and all claims, suits, actions, costs, counsel fees, expenses, damages, losses, liabilities, judgements and decrees in this regard.

The use of World Economic Forum intellectual property (including, but not limited to, trademarks and logos), whether printed or in electronic format, is not permitted unless expressly authorized by the World Economic Forum.

Confidentiality and Data Protection

Members are reminded that the securities laws of various jurisdictions and countries restrict trading of securities while in possession of material, non-public information about those securities. Members must, therefore, avoid disclosing any such information and, if disclosed in conjunction with the activities of the Civil Society TopLink Community, may not use that information in a way that may violate such laws.

The sharing of deliberations or related written or recorded materials outside Forum communities will be subject to the approval of the Forum’s Society and Innovation Team.

Members are also reminded that personal data must be protected. For the purposes of this charter, the term “personal data” shall mean any data or information relating to any identified or identifiable legal or natural person that is protected by applicable law. In the case of the World Economic Forum, “personal data” shall include, without limitation, personal data of the (i) World Economic Forum (as well as Beijing and Japan offices); (ii) World Economic Forum LLC; (iii) their Partners, members, officers, directors, employees, consultants, attorneys, accountants or agents; as well as (iv) any participants in World Economic Forum events and/or activities.

Compliance with Antitrust/Competition laws

Similarly, members are reminded that the antitrust/competition laws of various jurisdictions limit coordination of commercial activities, exchanges of competitively sensitive information and other behaviour that may distort market competition. Members, therefore, must avoid any discussions or activities that may violate such laws. Members acknowledge the World Economic Forum Guidelines on Competition Law.

Governing Law and Jurisdiction

This charter – and all questions, claims or disputes arising from the charter – shall be governed by Swiss law and the exclusive place of jurisdiction shall be Geneva, Switzerland.

Geneva, 12 September 2017