

# The Network of Global Future Councils

CONCEPT NOTE  
2025 - 2026

## About

The World Economic Forum Network of Global Future Councils (GFCs) stands as the foremost global multistakeholder and interdisciplinary knowledge network. Its purpose is to generate insights into both cutting-edge subjects and established systems, exploring how these topics impact global challenges.

The network convenes experts from academia, business, government, civil society and international organizations, operating as a time-bound think-tank to identify and disseminate transformative ideas with the potential for positive global impact.

The Network of Global Future Councils operates on three fundamental principles:

- **Interdisciplinary collaboration and systems approach:** Promoting cross-disciplinary teamwork and fostering the constructive exchange of ideas and knowledge to bridge established and emerging issues
- **Fresh ideas and innovative thinking:** Identifying and examining emerging topics, issues and technologies that are expected to significantly influence the world
- **Expertise and evidence:** Providing a foundation for data-, evidence-, fact- and research-based public-private cooperation

The network is fully embedded across the Forum's 10 centres, ensuring that the work of the councils is developed alongside the key communities, alliances and initiatives in a position to convert ideas to action. The councils' insights are publicly disseminated through the [GFC Webpage](#) and showcased during the Annual Meeting of the Global Future Councils. Selected councils are also invited to join dialogue series, featuring livestreamed councils' deep dives on relevant topics or cross-council exchanges.

## Global Future Councils Portfolio 2025-2026

The 2025-2026 term brings together around 700 of the most relevant and knowledgeable thought leaders grouped into 35 expertise-based thematic councils:

- GFC on Advanced Manufacturing and Value Chains
- GFC on Antimicrobial Resistance
- GFC on Artificial General Intelligence
- GFC on Autonomous Systems
- GFC on Business of Economic Growth
- GFC on Clean Air
- GFC on Climate and Nature Governance
- GFC on Cybersecurity
- GFC on Data Equity
- GFC on Decentralized Finance
- GFC on Digital Public Infrastructure
- GFC on Energy Nexus
- GFC on Energy Technology Frontiers
- GFC on Entertainment and Lifestyle Economy
- GFC on Equitable Transition
- GFC on Financial Education
- GFC on Forest Economy
- GFC on Generative Biology
- GFC on Geopolitics
- GFC on Good Governance
- GFC on Government Technology
- GFC on Human Capital Development
- GFC on Human Science of Environment Action
- GFC on Information Integrity
- GFC on International Trade and Investment
- GFC on Investing in Gender Parity
- GFC on Jobs and Frontier Technologies
- GFC on Leadership

- GFC on Natural Capital
- GFC on Nature and Security
- GFC on Neurotechnology
- GFC on Next Generation Computing
- GFC on Regenerative Blue Economy
- GFC on Soil Health
- GFC on Space Technologies

Each council comprises approximately 20 experts and benefits from the stewardship of two co-chairs – eminent figures in the domain area under discussion – and is supported by a Forum employee who manages the operations and deliverables of the council.

Once a year, the full network convenes in the United Arab Emirates for the Annual Meeting of the Global Future Councils, a two-day, in-person meeting to advance or finalize council deliverables, engage within the thematic clusters of the Forum's centres, contribute to network-wide outputs and contribute to the wider Forum agenda, including the Forum's Annual Meeting taking place the following January.

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## Membership

Membership in the GFCs is by invitation only, spanning a two-year term from March 2025 to December 2026. Members benefit from:

- Collaboration with a global network of experts across disciplines to develop ideas associated with emerging and established systems.
- The extensive reach of the Forum's Centres for disseminating ideas and opinions, including through the Forum's public engagement platform and global, industry and regional dialogues and events organized or hosted by the World Economic Forum

- Interaction with the Forum's stakeholder communities to put ideas into action by engaging with initiatives, task forces, and activities undertaken by the Forum and its partners

Council members are expected to participate regularly in virtual interactions and council activities through the Forum's TopLink platform, emails and regular meetings. Each council's insights are also taken forward by the Forum's ongoing initiatives, communities and meetings to ensure impact and influence.

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## Milestones

The two-year term will consist of several milestones for virtual and in-person connections, both within each council and across the network.

- GFC 2025-2026 term launch – March 2025
- Virtual council meetings – from March 2025 to December 2026
- Dialogue Series – from June 2025 to October 2026
- Annual Meeting of the Global Future Councils – Dubai, October/November 2025
- End of the 2025-2026 term – December 2026

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## Contact

To learn more, please email [gfc@weforum.org](mailto:gfc@weforum.org).