

2025-2026 Term of Global Future Councils – preliminary descriptions

Global Future Council on Advanced Manufacturing and Value Chains

Council Manager(s): Kyle Winters

The reemergence of industrial policy at regional and national levels of governance, is a clear indicator that policy makers are positing advanced manufacturing and value chains at the forefront of economic and societal progress. In an interconnected world, where manufacturers operate in multi-local manner, navigating various policies and regulations can be cost and time intensive. How can we influence a new era of industrial policy-making to best support manufacturing and supply chain organizations in delivering positive economic, social, and environmental impact?

Global Future Council on Antimicrobial Resistance

Council Manager(s): Judith Moore

A broader 'One Health' and multi-stakeholder approach is urgently needed to address drug-resistant infections. Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) is already a leading cause of death globally, surpassing HIV/AIDS and malaria. How can novel financing approaches accelerate effective action to address AMR challenges?

Global Future Council on Artificial General Intelligence

Council Manager(s): Benjamin Larsen

Artificial General Intelligence (AGI) represents the next frontier in artificial intelligence, aiming to create machines with human-like cognitive abilities and self-teaching capabilities. As we strive towards this ambitious goal, significant socio-economic opportunities and technical challenges such as control and safety emerge. How can we explore the path to AGI and the critical role of open source in addressing technical, ethical, and societal implications of advanced self-learning systems?

Global Future Council on Autonomous Systems

Council Manager(s): Maria Alonso and Sophie Tang

Autonomous systems, which integrate AI with engineering, pave the way for AI to engage with humans in the physical world. Successfully implementing these systems requires thorough understanding of their potential to enhance our quality of life and of the possible unintended consequences. How can we ensure that interaction and collaboration between humans and robots of all kinds are safe, effective, and meaningful across various domains?

Global Future Council on Business of Economic Growth

Council Manager(s): Jesse Caemmerer

At a time of profound economic upheaval, the nexus between business and economic policy has never been more important. As countries' growth strategies evolve rapidly, businesses must anticipate changes in the economic landscape, as well as partnering with policymakers to ensure alignment between government objectives and private-sector realities. How can businesses most effectively play a driving role in delivering balanced growth in the years ahead?

Global Future Council on Clean Air

Council Manager(s): Aoife Kirk

Almost everyone - 99% of the world's population - breathes ambient air that fails to meet the World Health Organization's (WHO) health-based guidelines. This reality is resulting in significant negative economic, health and development impact. How can we accelerate the transition to clean air globally by 2030 and unlock the environmental, economic, and social co-benefits?

Global Future Council on Climate and Nature Governance

Council Manager(s): Marlen Heide

Board members and senior executives are navigating an increasingly complex regulatory landscape, along with legal risks and opportunities related to climate change and the emerging connections between the climate and nature agenda. To build resilient and profitable companies, decision-makers must integrate climate and nature-related considerations into their governance structures, business strategies, and processes. How can we embed the essential incentives and regulations in corporate governance to mobilize decision-makers to accelerate the transition to a net-zero and nature-positive world in an economically sustainable way?

Global Future Council on Cybersecurity

Council Manager(s): Joanna Bouckaert

In today's interconnected world, digital systems are fundamental to economic and societal functions, yet they face complex and ubiquitous cyber threats. As businesses and governments become more reliant on these systems, the potential impact of emerging cyber threats grows significantly. How can we effectively measure and improve cybersecurity practices across diverse industries to safeguard our digital economy?

Global Future Council on Data Frontiers

Council Manager(s): Karla Yee Amezaga and Stephanie Teeuwen

The rapid advancement of AI and genAI towards artificial general intelligence, along with the merging of human and machine capabilities, requires new frameworks for responsible data management. Synthetic data emerges as a double-edged technology, offering significant opportunities to drive AI advancement, address data scarcity and strengthen privacy, but also introducing risks such as amplification of biases and generation of misleading data. How can the transformative potential of synthetic data be harnessed to ensure equitable data, appropriate attribution, privacy safeguards and fair benefit sharing?

Global Future Council on Decentralized Finance

Council Manager(s): Sandra Waliczek

Decentralized Finance has demonstrated explosive growth underscoring the viability of DeFi as an alternative to traditional finance. The integration of blockchain technology and smart contracts has enabled unprecedented transparency and efficiency in financial transactions. How can we understand the trajectory of DeFi's potential within the broader financial ecosystem?

Global Future Council on Digital Public Infrastructure

Council Manager(s): Dylan Reim and Judith Espinoza

Stakeholders worldwide are collaborating to develop, build, and scale both the physical and digital infrastructure for national digital ecosystems. However, challenges such as aligning global access and inclusion frameworks, standardizing safety and privacy protocols, and ensuring interoperable national systems remain significant. How can we ensure that considerations for hardware, connectivity, access, inclusion, safety, privacy, and interoperability are integrated globally to guide digital public infrastructure toward a maximally beneficial and sustainable future?

Global Future Council on Energy Nexus

Council Manager(s): Olivia Zeydler

Energy systems are deeply interconnected with our economies, natural ecosystems and agriculture, yet these critical interlinkages are often poorly understood or managed. There is a need to create better understanding of key nexus issues, such as the intersections between energy and water, agriculture, economic development and growth, and the role of greater regional and global coordination and action. How can the energy community, through better public-private cooperation, better link the energy transition agenda setting with these complex energy and nexus challenges?

Global Future Council on Entertainment and Lifestyle Economy

Council Manager(s): Saiful Salihudin

The retail, hospitality, and entertainment industries have undergone a series of dramatic changes, accelerated by the COVID-19 pandemic, which compelled traditional in-person businesses to rethink and reinvent the consumer experience. Concurrently, technological advancements such as AI have transformed the landscape of possibility by enabling new personalized experiences in shopping, travel, and leisure. How can the public and private sectors capitalize on new opportunities while preserving the unique identity and value that brick-and-mortar establishments and experiences have offered to consumers, visitors, and community residents for centuries?

Global Future Council on Equitable Transition

Council Manager(s): Tarini Fernando

Fairness in the costs and benefits of mitigation actions is crucial to enabling accelerated climate action. Yet the language and organizing principles required to bridge discussions on climate and inequality are still lacking, risking the prospect of a truly equitable transition. How can we develop innovative economic policies and models that promote a just and equitable shift towards a more sustainable future?

Global Future Council on Financial Education

Council Manager(s): Hallie Spear

Amidst the rise of individual investing, innovation in financial products and tools, and economic uncertainty, it is essential to reimagine the future of financial education to ensure individuals can access the information and products needed to achieve long-term financial wealth. With the onus of financial wellbeing increasingly falling on individuals, how can we empower people with the skills they need to navigate this challenging and evolving economic landscape?

Global Future Council on Forest Economy

Council Manager(s): Florian Vernaz

Demand for wood products is expanding exponentially to meet the growing need for bio-based products and low-carbon construction materials, creating increasing pressure on natural forests. The development of coherent landscape restoration strategies must integrate traditional conservation work with commercial forestry to strengthen forest connectivity and resilience. How can we leverage the demand for wood products to trigger large-scale investment in land restoration rather than the clearing of natural forests?

Global Future Council on Generative Biology

Council Manager(s): Brynne Stanton

The future of generative biology is poised to revolutionize biotechnology as we know it. Breakthroughs in big data, compute power, generative AI algorithms, and advanced biotechnologies promise unprecedented advancements in medicine, agriculture, and environmental sustainability. How can we develop technologies and ethical standards to pave the way for generative biology to revolutionize societies, industries, and economies in the coming decade?

Global Future Council on Geopolitics

Council Manager(s): Jessica Margolis

Peace and stability have been in decline over the past decade, with climate, economic, and technological shocks adding additional complexities to the already-fraught global security landscape. Geopolitical realignments, driven by recent conflicts and competition, have further complicated efforts to achieve sustainable peace. How can leaders from the public and private sectors navigate current geopolitical headwinds to identify and build mechanisms for strengthening collective security?

Global Future Council on Good Governance

Council Manager(s): Nivedita Sen and Houssam Al Wazzan

Experts argue that the changing global landscape, with its shifting geopolitical order, sustainability, energy transitions, and rapid technological advancements, is reshaping corporate governance. To future-proof themselves, corporations need strong governance strategies that emphasize leadership, ethics, and stakeholder protection. How can corporations promote ethical and sustainable practices in this complex, fast-evolving world?

Global Future Council on Government Technology

Council Manager(s): Kelly Ommundsen

Technology is changing the demands citizens have of their governments and governments must act as technology innovators, investors and partners. However, many technological solutions lie in the private sector and across borders. How can government achieve effective cooperation to realize digital transformation, as govtech grows into the biggest software market in the world?

Global Future Council on Human Capital Development

Council Manager(s): Ostap Lutsyshyn

Employers increasingly seek to broaden their talent pipelines through alternative skills development programmes and skills-based job postings. In parallel, global participation in tertiary education continues to rise, as degrees remain a key indicator of long-term career success. How can education institutions and employers effectively collaborate to enhance talent recognition, development, and supply to meet the demands of evolving labour markets?

Global Future Council on Human Science of Environment Action

Council Manager(s): Anis Nassar

At the core of all our actions are humans making imperfect, biased decisions. Due to their complexity, scale and time horizon, decisions on how to act to protect nature and climate are particularly prone to such biases which lead to suboptimal decision making and action. How can we ensure that we apply our best scientific understanding of human behaviours and decision making to support action for the environment?

Global Future Council on Information Integrity

Council Manager(s): Daegan Kingery

Disinformation and misinformation are increasingly pervasive, eroding trust in information sources across all sectors. This crisis in information integrity comes at a time when accurate information is crucial for technological advancements like artificial intelligence and the stability of social, economic, and governmental institutions. How can we effectively address both current and future threats to information integrity?

Global Future Council on Innovative Financing for Nature and Climate

Council Manager(s): Yvonne Leung

To achieve net zero emissions and reverse biodiversity loss by 2050, funding for equitable climate and nature transitions must increase by over \$3 trillion annually. Multistakeholder partnerships are essential to heighten ambition, unlock innovative financing, and build accelerated capabilities to address the planet's most pressing crises. How can we develop and implement new financing models that accelerate transitions toward net zero and nature-positive outcomes?

Global Future Council on International Trade and Investment

Council Manager(s): Simon Lacey

As global economic growth appears to be faltering in many places and environmental concerns continue to rise the world over, the trading system is increasingly fractured by geopolitical rivalries and regional conflicts. The imperative to deliver on the promise of increased prosperity for all has never been more urgent. How can global trade policies be reformed to balance economic growth with sustainability and inclusivity in an increasingly complex geopolitical landscape?

Global Future Council on Investing in Gender Parity

Council Manager(s): Kim Piaget

Gender gaps loom large in financial services, wealth, and investment. Working towards gender parity among investors, investees and as a KPI for investment impact will shift the ways in which public and private investments are allocated. How can innovations in capital markets drive investments that create more gender equal and sustainable economies?

Global Future Council on Jobs and Frontier Technologies

Council Manager(s): Sam Grayling

Frontier technologies will be among the biggest drivers of labour market transformation in the coming years. This could create higher wage, better quality jobs in economies across the globe; or it could exacerbate inequalities within and between countries. How can frontier technologies be harnessed to provide more productive jobs to the global workforce inclusively?

Global Future Council on Leadership

Council Manager(s): Ida Jeng Christensen

Global leadership faces a crisis, and research demonstrates that distrust of leadership is prevalent in the majority of global society, identifying failing leadership and declining institutional trust as endemic trends in socio-political crises worldwide. As today's leaders face a complex web of interconnected challenges, understanding the role of effective leadership in improving the state of the world has never been more important. How can we nurture and deploy effective leadership to rebuild trust, decrease polarization, and address global challenges in an increasingly complex world?

Global Future Council on Natural Capital

Council Manager(s): Shivin Kohli

Current economic models do not adequately incentivize the protection, maintenance, and enhancement of natural capital. While promising initiatives in natural capital accounting and valuation aim to change this paradigm, socioeconomic decisions continue to prioritize traditional financial and physical capital. How can we prioritize natural capital on the global socioeconomic agenda and mainstream the use of natural capital data in decision-making processes?

Global Future Council on Nature and Security

Council Manager(s): Eric White

Human activities have brought about complex and intertwined stresses on Earth systems. Coupled with existing geopolitical instability, these stresses create an emerging risk landscape that necessitates a new approach to security. How can environmental and security stakeholders work together to define and operationalize this approach?

Global Future Council on Neurotechnology

Council Manager(s): Jitka Kolarova

While neurotechnology holds great promise for enhancing human capabilities and addressing various health challenges, it also necessitates careful consideration of the associated risks and ethical dilemmas. The rapid advancement in brain-computer interfaces, for instance, raises questions about privacy and informed consent in accessing neural data. How can we ensure their responsible development, integration, and deployment to unlock new avenues for human enhancement, medical treatment, communication, and cognitive augmentation?

Global Future Council on Next Generation Computing

Council Manager(s): Arunima Sarkar

The increasing demand for computational power and the limitations of current systems necessitate innovations in next-generation computing. As traditional computing architectures reach their limits in processing power and energy efficiency, there is a growing urgency to explore quantum computing and emerging paradigms like biocomputing, neuromorphic computing amongst others. How can next-gen computing transform industries and societies that are built on secure, sustainable, and inclusive computing capabilities?

Global Future Council on Regenerative Blue Economy

Council Manager(s): Alfredo Giron

The blue economy is vital to the global economy supporting the livelihoods of billions of people through key sectors such as maritime transport, coastal tourism, aquaculture and fisheries, and provides the world's largest untapped source of renewable energy. While the sustainable blue economy is often cited as a key aspect of sustainable development, the ocean is still degrading rapidly. How can we chart a viable economic trajectory for marine sectors, while supporting innovation that leads to healthier marine ecosystems, mitigates climate change impacts and ensures equity?

Global Future Council on Soil Health

Council Manager(s): Jaskiran Warrik

Approximately 33% of global soils are degraded, impacting food and water security, biodiversity, and climate regulation. Healthy soils are essential for food production, ecosystem services, climate change mitigation, water quality improvement, and biodiversity support. How can we foster collaborations to unlock and adopt a holistic soil health agenda?

Global Future Council on Space Technologies

Council Manager(s): Nikolai Khlystov

From satellite communication systems enabling global connectivity to advancements in manufacturing in micro-gravity for specialty materials and human tissues, space technologies are poised to revolutionize industries and expand human presence beyond Earth. The exploration of these technologies underscores the need to prepare for their safe, sustainable, and inclusive deployment. How can we ensure space technologies continue to serve humanity in a positive and beneficial way?