

World Economic Forum Annual Meeting 2019 Overview



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Davos-Klosters, Switzerland 22-25 January



Globalization 4.0: Shaping a Global Architecture in the Age of the Fourth Industrial Revolution

Shaping the global, regional and industry agendas at the beginning of 2019 will take place in a context of unprecedented uncertainty, fragility and controversy. In a world preoccupied by crisis management at a moment of transformative change we will use the spirit of Davos to build the future in a constructive, collaborative way.

“Transformation” best describes the geopolitical, economic and environmental outlook globally. We are shifting from a world order based on common values to a “multiconceptual” world shaped by competing narratives seeking to create a new global architecture. We live in a world with new planetary boundaries for its development. We are entering into a Fourth Industrial Revolution shaped by advanced technologies from the physical, digital and biological worlds that combine to create innovations at a speed and scale unparalleled in human history. Collectively, these transformations are changing how individuals, governments and companies relate to each other and the world at large. In short, we are fast approaching a new phase of global cooperation: Globalization 4.0.

But, will the arrival of Globalization 4.0 result in our acknowledging these changes and working together to create new opportunities for humankind? Or will globalization suffer from multiple geopolitical, economic and environmental crises that strain multilateral institutions and hinder efforts to collaborate towards a shared future? Progress in either instance will require a platform that can act as an honest broker among the competing and increasingly conflicting values and ambitions of nations, industries and societies.

As the International Organization for Public-Private Cooperation, the World Economic Forum will focus its convening power, community engagement, insight generation and platform technology to shape a new framework for global cooperation. The World Economic Forum Annual Meeting will focus on the strategic ramifications of Globalization 4.0 and its future impact on global cooperation and the Fourth Industrial Revolution.

The programme in Davos will aim to foster systems leadership and global stewardship while recognizing the actuality of a more complex, “multiconceptual” world. In this regard, the development of the forthcoming Annual Meeting will be based on five working principles:

1. Dialogue is critical and must be multistakeholder-based
2. Globalization must be responsible and responsive to regional and national concerns
3. International coordination must be improved in the absence of multilateral cooperation
4. Addressing the biggest global challenges requires the collaborative efforts of business, government and civil society
5. Global growth must be inclusive and sustainable

Under the rubric of Globalization 4.0, a series of “Global Dialogues” in Davos will focus on the following interrelated areas:

- *A global dialogue on the geopolitics and a “multiconceptual” world* to understand major ongoing changes in international relations and to enable candid and constructive discussion on how to drive future cooperation along with a *global dialogue on peace and reconciliation* to catalyse large-scale, multistakeholder support for diplomatic efforts on key fault lines around the world, especially at a time when strategic geopolitical shifts create the danger of vacuums and/or unilateralism and escalation.
- *A global dialogue on the future of the economy* to review principles for economic and social decision-making that need to be redefined to better reflect the structural changes inherent in the Fourth Industrial Revolution along with a *global dialogue on financial and monetary systems* to jointly shape our monetary and financial systems by not only leveraging new technologies, such as cryptocurrencies and blockchain, but also making the systems more resilient for achieving sustainable growth and long-term societal well-being.
- *A global dialogue on industry systems* that anticipates how the Fourth Industrial Revolution provides opportunities to substantially enhance the availability and delivery of services in the areas of health, energy, communication and transport, among others, along with a *global dialogue on technology policy* to define the principles for new and emerging technologies, such as artificial intelligence and gene editing, to ensure that they are underpinned by the necessary ethical principles and values-based framework.
- *A global dialogue on cybersecurity* to ensure that digital innovation and the technological backbone of the Fourth Industrial Revolution are both secure and trusted along with a *global dialogue on risk resilience* to promote systems thinking to radically improve our collective and integrated management of the key environmental systems (climate, ocean and biosphere) upon which our societies and economies depend.
- *A global dialogue on human capital* to revisit the notion of work substantially changing and to rethink its future and the relevance of human capital along with a *global dialogue on a new societal narrative* to shape a new narrative for societies, moving from a consumption and materialistic fixation to a more idealistic, humanistic focus.
- *A global dialogue on institutional reform* to rethink the global institutional frameworks that emerged in the 20th century and adapt them to ensure they are relevant for the new political, economic and social context for the remainder of the 21st century along with a *global dialogue on economic cooperation* to create a new framework of rules and institutions integrating all aspects of global economic cooperation, including intellectual property, movement of people, competition policies, data protection, exchange rates, fiscal policies, state-owned enterprises and national security.

Recommendations and proposals from the “Global Dialogues” will be integrated into the Forum’s 14 System Initiatives, which curate, align and advance the efforts of the most globally relevant and knowledgeable individuals and institutions that are shaping the future.

- *System Initiative on Shaping the Future of Consumption*
- *System Initiative on Shaping the Future of Digital Economy and Society*
- *System Initiative on Shaping the Future of Economic Progress*
- *System Initiative on Shaping the Future of Education, Gender and Work*
- *System Initiative on Shaping the Future of Energy*
- *System Initiative on Shaping the Environment and Natural Resource Security*
- *System Initiative on Shaping the Future of Food Systems*
- *System Initiative on Shaping the Future of Financial and Monetary Systems*
- *System Initiative on Shaping the Future of International Trade and Investment*
- *System Initiative on Shaping the Future of Health and Healthcare*
- *System Initiative on Shaping the Future of Long-term Investing, Infrastructure and Development*
- *System Initiative on Shaping the Future of Information and Entertainment*
- *System Initiative on Shaping the Future of Mobility*
- *System Initiative on Shaping the Future of Production*

Participation in the Annual Meeting is by invitation for the following Forum communities:

- Chief executive officers and chairs of our 1,000 Partner and Member companies actively engaged in the International Business Council, Community of Chairmen, Industry Governors, Regional Business Councils and System Initiative Stewardship Boards
- More than 250 political leaders from the G20 and other countries and heads of international organizations engaged in high-level dialogues facilitated by the Informal Gathering of World Economic Leaders (IGWEL)
- Members of the Forum’s Global Future Councils, Expert Network and Global University Leaders Forum collaborating with spiritual and cultural leaders and representatives from major civil society, labour and media organizations
- Technology Pioneers, the Global Shapers Community, the Forum of Young Global Leaders and the Schwab Foundation for Social Entrepreneurship, communities representing a new generation of innovators and entrepreneurs

The Annual Meeting remains the foremost gathering of top leaders from politics, business, civil society and academia to shape global, industry and regional agendas in the context of Globalization 4.0 and the Fourth Industrial Revolution. In the true “Davos Spirit”, the aim is to advance these agendas with bold ideas and exciting opportunities to consider in the year ahead.