

Global Agenda



World Economic Forum Annual Meeting 2020

COMMITTED TO
IMPROVING THE STATE
OF THE WORLD

Davos-Klosters, Switzerland 21-24 January

Stakeholders for a Cohesive and Sustainable World

Today, we see the erosion of the international solidarity that forms the foundation of our global governance architecture. New multilateral initiatives or supranational bodies are unlikely to stem the decay. This geopolitical reality is the reason why communities and networks are forming to address pressing global concerns such as climate change, sustainable development and economic inclusion. Although interconnected, most operate independently of other stakeholders to the detriment of achieving an even greater collective impact. Increasingly absent is the political and societal cohesion that enables such collaboration.

There is a way forward to heal a divisive world but it requires a change in both mindset and behaviour. At the core of the World Economic Forum's DNA is the stakeholder concept: no institution or individual alone can address the economic environmental, social and technological challenges of a complex, interdependent world. And, true to its origin, the Forum has had a single guiding vision for the past 50 years: to be the platform where business, government, international organizations, civil society and academia can act together to achieve a global impact. The World Economic Forum Annual Meeting provides the trusted space for leaders from all walks of life to build a more cohesive and sustainable world.

As the International Organization for Public-Private Cooperation, the Forum has evolved into a platform where stakeholders can collaborate more effectively to exercise leadership from within the systems that collectively shape our future. For the 50th Annual Meeting, the Forum will focus its convening power, community engagement and platform capabilities to support global, regional and national initiatives that generate positive impact for all stakeholders.

In this regard, four global issues clearly stand out as urgent and important, and will feature prominently on the agenda at the Annual Meeting 2020 in Davos:

1. How to address the urgent climate and environmental challenges that are harming our ecology and economy
2. How to transform industries to achieve more sustainable and inclusive business models as new political, economic and societal priorities change trade and consumption patterns
3. How to govern the technologies driving the Fourth Industrial Revolution so they benefit business and society while minimizing their risks to them
4. How to adapt to the demographic, social and technological trends reshaping education, employment and entrepreneurship

In response, industry leaders are transforming their business models and aligning their purpose to serve all stakeholders. One of the challenges is the multitude of competing standards, metrics and measurements designed to promote corporate global citizenship. The Annual Meeting in Davos offers a unique opportunity for business to integrate those efforts and to:

- Improve coordination given new challenges to multilateral cooperation
- Exercise systems thinking and global stewardship
- Increase social capital to enable multistakeholder collaboration
- Scale up innovative “lighthouse” projects that are catalysing change globally and locally

The programme for the 50th Annual Meeting will be co-designed to achieve impact by:

- Improving global governance through public-private cooperation and close collaboration with key international organizations
- Providing substantial, yet informal, input into key multilateral processes related to achieving inclusive and sustainable growth
- Mapping a rapidly changing geopolitical landscape and emerging cyberthreats to mitigate and manage global risks
- Promoting the agile governance of emerging technologies and the business models they enable
- Examining in depth the social and economic transformations occurring in key regional blocs
- Addressing important trade, taxation and investment-related issues in their bilateral and national contexts
- Engaging industry leaders with their peers to examine strategic issues that are transforming business models, technological innovation and global competitiveness
- Facilitating private- and public-sector collaboration to accelerate entrepreneurial, educational and employment opportunities in the Fourth Industrial Revolution
- Sharing and promoting ideas, innovations and discoveries that will benefit societies globally
- Engaging those at the vanguard of change from such fields as the arts, media, medicine, science and technology, as well as the next generation of leaders

Stakeholders in Davos

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

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

In the true “Davos Spirit”, the programme aims to generate bold ideas and exciting opportunities that will create the global impact needed to improve the state of the world. The Annual Meeting is also distinct in its development of digital technology such as **TopLink**, our digital interaction platform, which provides continuously updated contextual intelligence through our **Transformation Maps** developed with our Global Future Councils, representing the world’s leading thinkers. We encourage you to use **TopLink** to prepare for your experience in Davos.