Strategic Foresight
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The Forum is a not-for-profit organisation, committed to improving the state of the world

**Our Mission and Background**

- Committed to improving the state of the world by engaging business, political, academic and other leaders of society to shape global, regional and industry agendas.

- **Impartial:** tied to no political, partisan or national interests

- **Global:** based in Geneva, with offices in New York, Beijing and Tokyo

**Delivering unique value to the participants**

- **Multi-stakeholder**
  Brings together leaders in business with government, NGOs, international organisations, academics and civil society on a neutral platform

- **Long-term issues**
  Creates dialogues, insights and actions on critical global issues posing a risk to business and society

- **Global Reach**
  High-level events in all the key regions throughout the year, based on the long-standing, strong networks with the governments

- **Cross-industry**
  Convenes CEOs and senior executives from over 1,000 global companies from 20 industries
The Strategic Foresight team at the World Economic Forum

Engages policy-makers and leaders from business and civil society in strategic dialogues

To better understand and address complex and long-term challenges

All reports can be found at: http://www.weforum.org/community/strategic-foresight
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<th>Five characteristics of today’s global challenges</th>
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<td>1</td>
<td><strong>Hard to define</strong>&lt;br&gt;— Before thinking about solutions, we need to reach consensus about what the problem is</td>
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<td><strong>Require new ways of thinking</strong>&lt;br&gt;— Current ways of thinking and acting are often not delivering the desired outcomes, but there is no clarity on how to stimulate fresh approaches</td>
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<td><strong>No-one is in charge</strong>&lt;br&gt;— Governance of complex issues is increasingly diffused, with no current entity obviously responsible for taking the lead</td>
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<td><strong>Transcend traditional boundaries</strong>&lt;br&gt;— As the world becomes more interconnected, issues tend to cross national borders and affect multiple industries</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td><strong>Need a long-term approach</strong>&lt;br&gt;— Incentive structures in both the private and public sector typically favour short-term thinking, meaning insufficient attention is paid to the potential long-term implications of actions or inaction.</td>
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The Foresight team uses different methodologies, including scenarios, for three main purposes.

Our approach is multi-method and multi-stakeholder, and has three main uses.
The team has been involved in a number of high-impact projects that have progressed strategic dialogue

Three examples of international foresight projects

1. Future of Mongolia

To chart a course for Mongolia’s long-term sustainable and diversified growth to 2040.

2. Future of Ukraine

To foster a forward looking dialogue that leads to more effective cooperation among stakeholders within Ukraine and in the EU, Russia and beyond.

3. Future availability of Natural Resources

To develop a more integrated, future-oriented view to shift the debate beyond a simplistic and polarized scarcity-abundance debate.
The Emerging Technology project

Emerging Technologies hold the potential to significantly disrupt existing geopolitical, societal, and economic systems.

In this context, the Forum aims to:

- **Uncover emerging technology spaces**
- Identify and explore the most critical debates around the interplay between emerging technologies and society, geopolitics and economics
- Define and **shape desired futures** based on the outcomes of those debates

We will highlight **three areas of focus** that we are currently exploring.

Our blogs on emerging technology have been published on the Scientific American website. [http://blogs.scientificamerican.com/observations/2014/11/12/](http://blogs.scientificamerican.com/observations/2014/11/12/)
1. Technology and Geopolitics

Not so far in the future…

• Resources might no longer be linked to territories
• Thoughts might be visualized
• Leaders might be so closely monitored that their actions and decisions become near predictable

What would this really mean for our geopolitical landscape?

Key Questions

• Will technology be the future gold?
• Will we transcend cultures?
• 1984, representation, what else?
• Will we stop talking?
Not so far in the future…

• We might live healthily well beyond 100 years
• Technology might enhance our intellectual and physical abilities, and completely control our emotions
• People might become producers of their own products

What would these changes really mean for the real ‘us’?

Key Questions

• Will perfection “on demand” turn us off?
• Will we all be the same?
• Will we give up our bodies as our last private space?
• Will computers replace our brains, hearts and souls?
• Who will write the code?
3. Technology and Economics

Not so far into the future…

- manufacturing and resource exploitation might be highly localized with automated services
- employee productivity and consumer sentiment highly transparent and predictable

What would this really mean for ‘us’ as individuals and for our economy?

Key Questions

- Will robots be our peers?
- Will schools become implanted?
- Will technology determine social class?
- Will prosumers oust companies?
- Will there be anything left to transport?
WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM

COMMITTED TO IMPROVING THE STATE OF THE WORLD