The Global Agenda 2010: The View from Davos

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In this brainstorming session, experts from over 70 Global Agenda Councils map the critical global issues that emerged from the World Economic Forum Annual Meeting 2010

Key Points
- After this year ' s Annual Meeting, the challenge is to turn ideas and proposals into actionable solutions that work
- It is critical to rethink the world ' s 20th century institutions and redesign them to meet 21st century demands
- In redesigning and rebuilding institutions and mechanisms of global governance, the international community should move to adapt new models of cooperation, moving away from adherence to global solutions that require unanimity among all countries
- New metrics are needed that integrate social goals and values
- The world ' s coordinated responses to global systemic risks should be grounded in values; there is a need to protect the rights of people

Synopsis
Members of the Global Agenda Councils and other World Economic Forum constituents gathered to consider the past four days of the Annual Meeting and the key messages that came out of the sessions. The aim: to drive the Global Redesign Initiative (GRI) forward by narrowing the scope of the wide-ranging efforts to shape feasible proposals into actionable solutions. The challenge for participants is to move to the next stage and transform ideas into on-the-ground reality, drawing on the multistakeholder resources of the Forum.

The midway point in the two-year GRI comes at a crucial moment in the aftermath of the global economic crisis, which put in stark relief the deficiencies of the global system of governance. Now that short-term relief measures have staved off another Great Depression, the international community, particularly the G20, is beginning to concentrate on reforms that will have a long-term impact. Interdependence and mutual vulnerability are only going to intensify. The risks and dangers of this interconnected world are particularly daunting because of the high level of uncertainty that people feel and the sense that global and national political leadership is weak or missing. The UN Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen served to underscore this worrying drift despite the high tension.

These are among the high-level ideas and priorities that emerged from the Annual Meeting:
- Rethink the world ' s 20th century institutions and redesign them to meet 21st century demands
- Draft new rules for the governance of globalization – the international community must rebuild global systems based on new networks and forms of collaboration; what is needed is a kind of " institutional reboot " to move the world from talking to doing
- Consider " variable geometry " or pluralist solutions, public-private partnerships and smaller-scale region- or city-driven initiatives, moving away from single undertaking, one-size-must-fit-all arrangements that require unanimity among all countries in redesigning and rebuilding institutions and mechanisms of global governance
- Develop new metrics that integrate social goals and values
- Drive the world ' s responses to the most pressing global risks through values and the protection of people ' s rights to address systemic problems
- The international community should outline global goals and guidelines for moving forward in addressing global risks, while respecting a person ' s individual pathway

Disclosures
This summary was prepared by Alejandro Reyes. The views expressed are those of certain participants in the discussion and do not necessarily reflect the views of all participants or of the World Economic Forum.

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