

The World Economic Forum is a membership based non-governmental organization which promotes interaction among all stakeholder groups of society e.g. leaders from government, business, academia and the arts with the objective of improving the state of the world. It has the status of a not-for-profit foundation under Swiss law and is not tied to any political, partisan or regional interests. The World Economic Forum has its headquarters in Geneva, and its Founder and Executive Chairman is Klaus Schwab.



*U.S. Secretary of State
Colin Powell at the Global
Reconciliation Summit held in
Jordan in June 2003.*

The World Economic Forum pursues its aims by organizing high-level meetings and summits, the largest and best-known of which is its Annual Meeting held in the ski resort of Davos in eastern Switzerland. This five-day long meeting, brings together over 1,000 chief executives, some 200 government leaders, numerous high ranking officials from regional and international organizations, and some 300 experts, scientists, artists, religious leaders and representatives of the media. Recent high-level U.S. government participants in Davos include Secretary of State Colin Powell (2002) who chose the gathering to deliver a major address on Iraq.

The World Economic Forum seeks to promote reconciliation processes in regions of conflict or tension, and its Annual Meeting has often provided the venue for initiatives to that end. In 1988 the prime ministers of Greece and Turkey attending the Annual Meeting signed the “Davos Declaration,” thereby moving their countries back from the brink of conflict, and in 1989 both Koreas met in Davos during the Annual Meeting for the first time for discussions at the ministerial level. In 1994, Israeli Foreign Minister

Shimon Peres and PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat reached a draft agreement in Davos on Gaza and Jericho. In 1992, South African President F. W. de Klerk met with Nelson Mandela and Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi in Davos, their first joint appearance outside South Africa. In 2002, as a response to the events of September 11, 2001, for the first time in Forum history, the Annual Meeting was moved from Davos, Switzerland to New York City as a show of solidarity for the city.

The World Economic Forum has launched a number of on-going initiatives aimed at solving global and regional problems. These include the Global Governance Initiative which seeks to ensure that the goals set by the UN’s Millennium Declaration are pursued by companies and international organizations and the Global Health Initiative

(GHI) which promotes business programs fighting HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis (TB) and malaria. In 2000, the World Economic Forum was the site of the launching of the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization, known as GAVI.

The foundation encourages the creation of economic regions as pillars of the world economy. In addition to its Annual Meeting, it organizes and runs regional and national meetings around the world. Recent regional meetings include the East Asia Economic Summit held in Singapore in October 2003 and the Global Reconciliation Summit held in Jordan in June 2003 which was addressed by both Secretary of State Colin Powell and US Trade Representative Robert Zoellick. The World Economic Forum – with few exceptions – also holds a yearly meeting in the United States.

PUBLICATIONS

The Foundation's publications include an annual Global Competitiveness Report which ranks nations worldwide for their competitiveness in the global economy, and an annual-economic and political publication Global Agenda Magazine.

MEMBERSHIP AND FUNDING

Foundation members are 1000 companies, from over 70 countries, representing major firms from all sectors of business and industry. The World Economic Forum is financed through membership fees and cost contributions from participants in specific events.

INTERNET

www.weforum.org

ADDRESS

World Economic Forum
 91-93 route de la Capite
 CH-1223 Cologny, Geneva
 Tel: 022.869.1212
 Fax: 022.786.2744
 E-mail: contact@weforum.org