

# The Changing International Security Landscape: Charting the way forward

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The international security landscape is evolving rapidly. In the past decade, the world has witnessed a return of strategic competition between states and the simultaneous multiplication of asymmetric threats, both occurring against a backdrop of eroding trust in the multilateral system. These trends are accelerated by increasing technological, demographic and environmental change in an interconnected economy. For companies assessing where to invest, or governments considering closer trade links and diplomacy, it is critical to understand these transformations and their long-term implications.

What is certain is that conflicts are no longer peripheral but transcend borders and economies. Meeting the challenges of this changing international environment requires a better understanding of how security issues might evolve in the future and where greater collaboration between public and private actors can address them today. To foster this understanding and collaboration, the World Economic Forum will take a long-term perspective to explore how the dynamics of security challenges might unfold over the next 15 years, enabling business leaders and policy-makers to understand the implications for strategic decisions taken in the present.

## Objectives and outcomes

Applying strategic foresight methodology, the Forum will:

- Explore the key factors that will drive change in the international security landscape over the next decade, from both a global and regional perspective
- Develop scenarios to explore how these factors could evolve and interact over time
- Understand the implications of these scenarios for decision-makers in industry, governments and beyond

Anchoring the scenarios within the Forum's unique public-private platform, the Forum aims to:

- *Strengthen awareness* – Knowledge of the nature of future security issues from global, regional and industry perspectives
- *Transform agendas* – Understanding of how emerging security risks and geopolitical turmoil could affect communities and industry
- *Establish stewardship* – Identification of how, where and on what issues public-private collaboration could better address the changing security landscape

### International Security

International security describes issues generated by state or non-state actors with ramifications across national, regional and digital borders. These ramifications are increasingly global in nature.

## Strategic Foresight

It is unwise to rely on predictions when faced with a high degree of uncertainty in the international security landscape. Strategic foresight enables us to make an assessment about what the future context might look like in the format of carefully researched and validated scenarios. Scenarios provide insights to develop new ideas to inform more robust decision-making. The collaborative process of developing and using the scenarios also generates the relationships necessary to drive change.

## How to get involved

The Forum will engage with our networks of business, government, academic, civil society and international organizations through scenarios workshops held at regional and industry events throughout 2015. The scenarios workshops will be complemented by consultations with a wider set of key stakeholders throughout the year.

This engagement will drive part of a broader effort to develop the Forum's international security agenda to promote peace, security and transparency. The outcomes will be presented during the Annual Meeting 2016 in Davos, Switzerland.

## Forum events in 2015

World Economic Forum on East Asia, Jakarta, Indonesia, 19-21 April

World Economic Forum on Latin America, Riviera Maya, Mexico, 6-8 May

World Economic Forum on the Middle East and North Africa, Dead Sea, Jordan, 21-23 May

World Economic Forum on Africa, Cape Town, South Africa, 3-5 June

Workshop, Geneva, July (TBC)

Annual Meeting of the New Champions 2015, People's Republic of China, 9-11 September

Industry Strategy Meeting, London, United Kingdom, 30 September – 1 October

Summit on the Global Agenda 2015, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, 25-27 October

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