

## The World Economic Forum Annual Meeting 2019 at Davos, Switzerland

The World Economic Forum Annual Meeting 2019 held on 22-25 January 2019 at Davos-Klosters, Switzerland. The 49th World Economic Forum Annual Meeting closed with an exciting agenda of global initiatives and commitments to better the state of our world.

Few outcomes of the meeting:

- Prime Minister of Japan pledged his country's G20 chairmanship to the development of an agenda for global data governance.
- German Chancellor reaffirmed her commitment to multilateralism in a plenary address at the Annual Meeting, calling on leaders to find common ground in search of a strengthened, but more flexible, global architecture. Striking a similar note, Chinese Vice-President Mr Wang Qishan reiterated the values of the rising superpower, stating China's wish to work with all countries for common development, promoting global growth and upholding the international order.
- United Nations Secretary-General called for a united response to global challenges, underlining the importance of multilateral institutions and advocating for leaders to understand and address the root causes of social unrest.
- Prime Minister of New Zealand unveiled a new approach to the country's finances, announcing a "well-being budget" to gauge the long-term impact of policy on the quality of people's lives.
- President of Brazil, outlined the reforms his new administration is planning: Reducing the size of

the state, lowering the tax burden, improving social safety nets and fostering greater business opportunities.

- The prime ministers of Italy and Spain called for a radical revision of global economic systems and committed their countries to transformative economic change to improve opportunities for working people.
- The Presidents of South Africa and Rwanda called for the continent to take advantage of digital technologies in order to spur job creation and develop human capital.
- The Forum's Closing the Skills Gap Initiative, launched in 2017 in collaboration with Tata Consultancy Services, announced it has secured pledges for training more than 17 million people globally, as well as supporting public-private partnerships that promote future skills in Argentina, India, Oman and South Africa.
- The Forum's Centre for the New Economy and Society announced it is expanding its network of Closing the Gender Gap national task forces to eight countries.
- The Forum joined forces with the World Bank and International Committee of the Red Cross to launch a High-Level Group on Humanitarian Investing to unlock private-sector capital for investment in fragile economies.
- The Forum's Centre for Global Public Goods initiated a project to create a formal electronic waste recycling industry in Nigeria, backed by USD2 million in funding from the Global Environment Facility and supplemented by USD13 million of financing from business.
- A total of 25 global businesses announced they will work with Terracycle, a recycling specialist, to launch the Loop Alliance Initiative, a new concept of reusable packaging.
- The Global Youth Alliance was launched at the Annual Meeting by Facebook, Nestlé and Nielsen to support skills for young people in emerging and developed countries and help 71 million currently unemployed young people.
- Increasing e-commerce and trade: Rwanda became the first African country to join Alibaba's global trading platform, which is aimed at increasing e-commerce in emerging markets.

Meanwhile, a group of more than 70 countries confirmed intentions to commence WTO negotiations on trade-related aspects of e-commerce, and members of the Forum's business and civil society trade community issued a statement calling for a new digital trade deal for the global economy.

- The Forum's Centre for the Fourth Industrial Revolution Network announced it has grown to more than 100 businesses and governments, including five G7 nations. Colombia, Israel and the United Arab Emirates will open Affiliate Centres – independent institutions committed to helping shape and pilot policies for emerging technologies.
- The Indian state of Andhra Pradesh adopted the Network's policy framework for commercial drone operators, developed in collaboration with civil aviation authorities, international governmental organizations and private companies. The Centre for the Fourth Industrial Revolution Japan launched a coalition of G20 cities focused on accelerating the responsible and sustainable development of smart cities.

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