

## **Abstract**

### ***Scenario Planning and Strategic Foresight Activities of the World Economic Forum***

Scenario Planning at the World Economic Forum is used to support our communities in making sense of complexity, creating mutual understanding, and catalyzing action to better prepare for the future. The work has a multi stakeholder, cross-industry and regional and qualitative focus. For more information and to consult our work please visit our website: [www.weforum.org/scenarios](http://www.weforum.org/scenarios)

At the World Economic Forum, scenarios are developed by conducting open-ended interviews and discussions to gather a broad range of perspectives, and convening a series of multi-stakeholder workshops bringing together leaders in business, society, government and academia. The scenarios are the joint creation of those who took part in the project and go beyond the assumptions and perspectives of any individual, interest group or organisation.

The Forum is a good place for scenario development as scenarios are more robust when their development involves a diverse range of stakeholders. As an impartial and not-for-profit organisation, tied to no political, partisan or national interest, the Forum provides the necessary neutral space for multi-stakeholder dialogue and has the profile to attract high-level international participants. Furthermore, while scenarios are interesting to read in isolation, their value is most obvious when they are proactively used in a dynamic environment such as the Forum can provide. As it is well-known for its orientation towards long-range and interdisciplinary thinking, the Forum is ideally placed not only to nurture the development of integrated frameworks of thought but also to facilitate the subsequent translation of scenarios into multi-stakeholder action.

Beyond the Scenario Planning activities, the Forum also created in 2008 the Global Agenda Council of Strategic Foresight which brings together selected foresight experts and aims to improve practices that will help identify global challenges and opportunities for leaders.