



World Economic Forum – Great Reset Dialogue

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2020; 11:00-12:00AM (OTTAWA TIME); VIDEOCONFERENCE

Objectives

- Use this platform to foster a constructive discussion on rebuilding the foundations of our economic and social system for a fairer, sustainable and resilient future.
- Lead discussions on the importance of renewed global cooperation as a necessary precondition to advance economic recovery, sustainable development, and peace and security.
- Reiterate Canada's commitment to effective and accountable multilateralism, including as a core element of our collective efforts to combat COVID-19.

Run of Show

- You have been invited by the World Economic Forum to participate in the Great Reset dialogue for the first time. The 'Great Reset Dialogues' are a new series of virtual discussions initiated by the WEF which focus on rebuilding the socioeconomic foundations of the post-COVID context in a fairer, more sustainable and resilient manner.
- The theme for this Great Reset Dialogue discussion is: ***promoting global cooperation and revitalizing the multilateral system.***
- This discussion will take the form of a short, moderated Q&A with WEF President Børge Brende on the importance of **global cooperation and multilateralism**, where you will be asked to respond to a series of 4 related questions (see below). Your intervention will last approximately 7 to 8 minutes.
- Questions have been provided in advance and points to register can be found under key messages.
- The President of the WEF, Børge Brende, will serve as moderator. He will provide brief introductions, summarize key takeaways from previous meetings, and outline the direction for subsequent meetings (5 minutes).
- The session will be public and on the record, and will be promoted on the Forum's channels (with cross-posting available)
- [25-30] invitees are confirmed to participate. [XX] are Foreign Ministers, [XX] are business leaders, and [XX] represent international organizations and think tanks.
- **Departmental Representative:** [Patricia Peña, Director General, Strategic Policy, and, Andreia Santos, Senior Analyst, Policy Planning Division. TBC]

Key Messages

General

- Pleased to take part in this important discussion. Special thanks to Børge Brende for moderating today. I welcome the opportunity to explore together how we can collectively move forward in a principled manner.

Q1: How is the COVID crisis impacting global cooperation and multilateralism?

- For Canada, our assessment is that the COVID-19 pandemic and associated economic crisis has amplified and accelerated a number of pre-existing global trends which we were seeing manifest prior to the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. These include:
 - increased geopolitical competition, great power rivalries and proxy warfare;
 - strains on the rules-based international system, and a decline in some quarters to multilateral action and specific multilateral bodies;
 - resurgence of nationalism, authoritarianism and protectionism;
 - challenges to democratic values, growing inequality and social exclusion;
 - deployment of economic diplomacy and preoccupations with debt vulnerability



- more digitized economies;
 - rise of alternative models of governance and development.
- Further deterioration of US-China relations has impacted the nature and scope of international cooperation, including, among others, within the G20, the UN Security Council and the World Health Organization (WHO).
- Some countries have seized upon the crisis to project power and curry influence in an increasingly multi-nodal international order.
- Others have used the disruption to increase domestic control and suppress dissent. This may result in a rise of social unrest, particularly in regions where trust between citizens and government was already weak.
- The COVID-19 outbreak and the resulting economic crisis has the potential to significantly undermine security and stability worldwide, notably in fragile and conflict-affected states and protected crises where inequalities and economic insecurity feed instability.
- The pandemic also appears to be speeding up the use of new technologies, often for good but also with risks of intrusive technologies, digital surveillance, and censorship, sometimes under the pretext of countering "fake news".
- It is also important to note the pandemic's gender dimensions. COVID-19 is deepening pre-existing inequalities. These are slowing and, in some cases, reversing progress toward gender equality and the SDGs. The pandemic is increasing vulnerabilities in health, socioeconomic and political systems, and negatively affecting human rights.

Global Economy during COVID-19

- Macroeconomic projections for 2020 point to deep recession affecting all regions.
- Projections have been continually downgraded over the past few months as the scope of the crisis has become clearer and new data becomes available. Even under relatively optimistic sets of assumptions about how the pandemic and containment measures will unfold, all regions and individual countries stand to be sharply affected.
- Advanced economies are expected to see the biggest contractions into negative growth, but there is great variability within emerging markets and different geographic regions. Projections vary depending on countries' respective mix of economic activities and perceived vulnerability to shocks.
- The economic slowdown is being transmitted and amplified through financial markets, commodity prices, and world trade.
- Of particular note, the COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in significant economic implications for many developing economies. For example, the volume of remittances will be significantly reduced, cutting off a crucial source of direct cash support to households in developing countries most dependent on remittances as a percentage of GDP, including the Caribbean, Central America and Small Island States.



- Debt financing has become also an acute issue in the context of the pandemic. Many developing countries had high debt loads before the current crisis, often priced in U.S. dollars, which now limit their ability to respond to COVID-19 as the value of their currencies decline and the cost of national health services, social safety-nets and the relative burden of debt obligations increase – all exacerbated by a sudden collapse of economic activity.
- The World Bank analysis suggests that COVID-19 is likely to cause the first increase in global poverty since 1998, when the Asian Financial Crisis hit; International Financial Institutions (IFIs) have called on official bilateral creditors to freeze debt service for the world's poorest countries.

International Trade during COVID-19

- COVID-19 measures have sharply impacted trade and investment. The precarious global economic situation, as well as the scramble for suddenly scarce medical supplies and pharmaceuticals, has prompted debate about the vulnerabilities of supply chains and the need to reduce barriers to trade and avoid new trade restrictions.
- Firms will gradually be inclined or encouraged to restructure supply chain relationships in response to the current disruption. They have also been forced into new ways of doing business, in many cases accelerating what had been a gradual shift towards digital tools and the digital economy.
- SMEs are especially at risk of taking longer to return to normal operations and to sort out re-configured value chain relationships. Many will require additional supports to remain viable and to participate in the shift to a more digital economy.
- Significant stresses to the multilateral rules-based trading system had emerged before the pandemic and the global pandemic may have well ushered in a tipping point for some issues. At the same time, it is expected that the negative impact of COVID-19 on the global economy will provide additional impetus to advance initiatives that can contribute to the recovery of international trade.

Q2: How can we strengthen cooperation and multilateralism without further polarizing the international system?

- Current public health and economic challenges should not push us apart, but serve as an opportunity for the international community to reset global relations and find common purpose.
- Indeed, renewed global cooperation is necessary to advance our common priorities around peace, sustainability and inclusive growth. I am a genuine believer in this principle.
- Global cooperation is facilitated by effective and accountable international institutions that make our cooperative efforts more accessible, legitimate and effective, providing opportunities for dialogue, shared understanding and collective decision-making.
- Maintaining the best of the current rules-based international system, while reforming the components in need of revitalization, will require an increasingly strategic approach, advanced through nimble alliances, new partners and partnerships, and support to the most vital institutions.
- In this regard, I would like to highlight three important features, non-negotiable ones in my view, about the kind of cooperation that is required in the post-pandemic world.
- First, **principles of institutional competency, coherence, and legitimacy** should underpin our collective efforts in this regard.



- This work is not easy and requires open and transparent dialogue. It requires us to actively listen, to challenge our own preconceptions about each other and about the international system. Fundamentally, it requires trust.
- Importantly, it entails reinforcing vital international institutions so that they are resilient to crises, can continue to provide spaces for solutions and are 21st Century ready in terms of supporting innovative practices.
- In the short-term, this means continuing to work through collaborative platforms, much like we are doing here today, to make our shared institutions more effective, efficient, accountable and transparent, including the UN, its technical agencies, and international financial institutions.
- Canada is open to exploring through the WEF, discussions to enhance the accountability of our shared institutions.
- Given our divergences over issues such as protectionism and transparency, we must be prepared to have difficult conversations on the rules-based system, including which parts need serious reform. The status quo is no longer an option. We also need to be clear about what we are not prepared to lose.
- The healthy divergences of opinion among us are factors which strengthen the case for common standards and rules that even the playing field - rules that are internationally respected, enforced and upheld. Getting there in an increasingly multi-nodal world won't be easy.
- Second, we will need a **greater diversity of partners**, old and new, to enable broader representation and buy-in and even more work through issue-based coalitions.
- In the medium and long-term, we will need to reflect carefully on the current crisis and draw out lessons with a view to revitalize the current system to better serve the interests of all states and their citizens, though there will be significant disagreement over the nature and extent of the changes required.
- The challenge for all of us here is to broaden the tent, to listen, to recognize concerns around the representativeness and legitimacy of shared institutions, while ensuring that a revitalized rules-based system reflects our core democratic values. The system must continue to protect and promote these values – respect for human rights and the rule of law, gender equality, democratic accountability – while adapting to the new global context.
- Third, and related to this last point, respect for **human rights, gender equality and inclusion** must be at the center of all efforts to contain and combat the spread and recover from this pandemic.
- We know that when all people, regardless of their gender, race, income, ability, ethnicity, age, or migratory status can fully benefit from and participate in economic, political, social, and cultural life, we build safer, more prosperous, equitable and more sustainable communities and countries.
- The response to COVID-19 must not therefore be allowed to reproduce or perpetuate existing social norms that fuel inequalities and social unrest. This applies to the on-line sphere, notably as technology has come to permeate everyday life at an accelerated pace in places than was the case before.
- We must also actively support democracies around the world, fostering democratic cooperation and building support for the effective revitalization of a rules-based system that reflects our democratic values.
- We can and must explore other approaches such as non-monetary partnerships with academia and innovators from the Global South, the private sector and even subnational actors like cities.
- In closing, Canada is committed to double our efforts towards inclusive cooperation to create a post pandemic world that delivers on our priorities around peace, sustainability and inclusive growth.



Q3: How do we rebuild the foundations of our economic and social system for a more fair, sustainable and resilient future?

- For Canada, this is really about rebuilding socioeconomic foundations in a more principled manner. This means a rebuild that is more equitable, sustainable, sustainable and which promotes peace and security. Let me elaborate on what I mean by these two concepts.

Rebuilding Equitably

- Much work remains to be done in supporting an inclusive and sustainable global recovery. I've spoken about inclusive cooperation, but let me talk about the digital realm too. We will need a shift from the narrow focus on digital divides towards a broader concept of digital inclusion.
- We must also renew our focus to accelerate progress on the Sustainable Development Goals through the Decade of Action, so that no one is left behind. Our goal here should be to seize the opportunity provided to us by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development to "build back better".
- Leaving no one behind must remain central to our efforts to advance an inclusive approach to trade that helps ensure that the benefits and opportunities of trade are more widely shared, including with under-represented groups such as women and Indigenous peoples.
- This is more important than ever as these groups have been disproportionately affected by the COVID shut down and their economic engagement will be vital to an inclusive and equitable economic and trade recovery.
- The pandemic and our urgent need for action in support of a global recovery provides us a unique opportunity to unlock the power of innovation to re-globalize equitably. Indeed, innovation is a key development tool that could boost economies
- We also need to build back greener, by using this moment to advance climate adaptation and mitigation objectives, preservation of environment and biodiversity, including building more resilient supply chains and promoting a green transition
- We must also be mindful of the unique challenges to liquidity and financial stability that some countries face, including the fact that those with deteriorating debt positions lack the reserve cushion to withstand a temporary but possibly pronounced economic impact from COVID-19.
- It will be important to support the revitalization of the WTO and enable open and rules-based trade and investment regimes as a means to ensure open trade and supply chains and to combat protectionism. Diversification of both supply chains and market access is a strength, and provides support to help weather unexpected changes to the global economy.
- Lastly, as businesses renew international supply chains, ensuring that those networks are resilient and flexible enough to weather future challenges will be important, especially to enable efficient recovery from the pandemic.

Rebuild Sustainably

- The pandemic has exposed vulnerabilities in our international system, shedding light on where we can build back better and what is needed to ensure a future where no one is left behind.
- Canada views the 2030 Agenda as a comprehensive framework for responding to and recovering from the COVID-19 pandemic, and building more resilient, inclusive, and sustainable societies that can help to prevent and better withstand future crises and shocks.

Climate Change and Environment

- Sustainable development recognizes the need to balance economic interests with environmental stewardship and social cohesion. It is time to shift to a greener way of thinking about economic growth and understand that building back better requires us to build back greener.
- Just as environmentally conscious policies and practices are a pre-requisite to sustainable development, so is achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls.



- Intersectional gender-based analyses are critical to ensuring that our actions have maximum effectiveness and impact. Initiatives that exclude or discriminate only further exacerbate an already dire situation and further risk hard won development gains.
- Climate change remains a top priority for Canada, even in the midst of this global pandemic. COVID-19 is testing the resilience of populations and economies around the world – and as with the impacts of climate change, the poorest and the most vulnerable people in both developed and developing countries are often the hardest hit.
- We know that we must do more to address climate change, which is why Canada has committed to bring forward new measures to exceed our 2030 target and achieve net-zero by 2050 and reach net zero-emissions by 2050.

Increasing Global Resilience

- Open supply chains are a key element to fostering global resilience to future shocks. Canada was one of the few large economies that did not implement any new export restrictions in response to COVID-19, and it has been vocal about keeping global supply chains open during the COVID-19 crisis, especially for medical supplies, agriculture, and other essential products.
- Trade restrictions taken in response to COVID-19 need to be temporary, targeted, transparent, proportionate, and consistent with WTO obligations.
- Supporting global resilience must also include efforts that prevent development gains from being lost. Canada has advocated for a global stimulus package that leaves no one behind, fosters a sustainable and inclusive economic recovery, and supports smart climate action.
- For least developed economies and small island developing states to mitigate risks to their health, education, and food security systems, they need access to financial liquidity and strategies to address debt vulnerability. We may also need to consider new instruments such as some kind of pandemic risk insurance – as we have for natural disasters.
- Finally, any efforts we pursue must be grounded in a commitment to promote and protect human rights, advance gender equality and inclusion, and sustain capable government institutions – as these are essential ingredients for sustaining the trust and confidence of our citizens in a crisis.
- Indeed, public engagement is a key ingredient to garnering the trust of citizens and building global resilience to weather future pandemics.
- Bottom line – it is vital that we continue to provide every support to foster an effective rules-based international system to minimize the human and economic costs of the pandemic; to ensure that we support the most vulnerable; and to foster an inclusive and sustainable global economic recovery that fosters resilience to future crises.

Promoting Peace and Security

- Unlike previous global crises, this pandemic is highlighting how the health and prosperity of our own citizens is intertwined with an inclusive and sustainable global socio-economic recovery. It is therefore in our collective interest to reinforce the capacity of vulnerable countries to protect their stability and prosperity, and prevent the loss of development gains.
- Failing to respond to the growing humanitarian needs further exacerbated by the current pandemic, poses serious medium and long-term risks that threaten to completely derail 2030 implementation.

Strengthening Humanitarian and Peace Frameworks

- COVID-19 has exacerbated already delicate socio-economic, governance, and security conditions in fragile and conflict-affected states (FCAS). It has heightened the risks of opportunistic behavior by violent extremists or external actors, interrupted or undermined peace processes, and disregard for the protection of civilians. An integrated approach in FCAS that includes elements of conflict prevention, stabilization and peacebuilding will be critical in building peace.



- In line with Women, Peace and Security Agenda principles, the gendered elements of peace and security must continue to be prioritized to promote effective peace and security programming.

Nexus issues:

- As an adherent to the OECD-DAC Recommendation on the Triple Nexus, we strongly encourage a global response to COVID-19 that is coordinated, comprehensive and coherent, drawing on the strengths and support of all partners across the humanitarian-development-peace spectrum, aiming to achieve collective outcomes while ensuring respect for humanitarian principles.
- This framework will help to build the trust with national governments needed so that the voices of the most vulnerable people are heard, so that we do not lose hard-won development and peace building gains, and so that it's possible to build back better.

Q4: What role does Canada see itself playing in resetting and reshaping the post-pandemic global order?

- As countries and international institutions grapple with its near-term implications, Canada is seeking to position itself as a leader in shaping the global response to COVID-19, including by promoting a sustainable and equitable global economic recovery.
- A crisis of this magnitude can be an opportunity to shape the evolving global architecture, promote our values and protect and advance our core interests.
- Immediately after the onset of the crisis, Canada stepped up to play a leadership role in easing the international aftershocks of the COVID-19 pandemic. This of course meant fighting the pandemic at home. Internationally, our efforts focused on **managing financial stresses and stabilizing economies abroad and supporting the most vulnerable and reinforcing recovery**
- With regards to **managing financial stresses and stabilizing economies abroad**, Canada has always stressed that COVID-19 cannot be a justification for countries to introduce protectionist measures which will further disrupt the global economy.
- Countries will need to continue to cooperate multilaterally to avoid constricting the global supply of critical goods and essential enabling services, especially as the world grapples with the second COVID-19 waves and looming subsequent lockdowns.
- This is why I created the Ministerial Coordination Group on Covid-19, along with my counterparts from Australia, Brazil, Germany, Morocco, Peru, South Africa and the United Kingdom. The forum has been an effective forum to:
 - Coordinate multilateral work on vaccines and supply chains;
 - advocate for the freest possible export of goods and services, particularly those essential to addressing the pandemic (e.g. medical and food supplies);
 - develop common principles around the reopening of borders and the repeal of emergency measures put in place in response to the crisis; and, importantly,
 - coordinating multilateral responses to the economic effects of COVID-19 while pursuing an economic recovery plan that is inclusive, sustainable and resilient,
- With regard to supporting the **most vulnerable and reinforcing recovery**, Canada doubled down its efforts to fight the COVID-19 pandemic through its international and humanitarian assistance.
- The Government of Canada recently committed \$220 million through the COVAX Advance Market Commitment to purchase vaccine doses for low- and middle-income countries, because we cannot beat this virus unless we end it everywhere.
- In conclusion, Canada will always be there to provide global leadership for supporting economic recovery and foster global resilience as the world navigates the challenges brought on by this pandemic.



RESPONSIVE ONLY

Responsive – World Health Organization (WHO)

- Canada is committed to working with multilateral organizations, including the WHO, which is at the forefront of the fight against COVID-19. Canada values WHO's leadership and coordination role on global health issues in the COVID-19 response.
- Canada welcomes the establishment of the Independent Panel on Pandemic Preparedness and Response (IPPR) to lead the COVID-19 response evaluation set out in the World Health Assembly resolution and we are equally pleased with the appointment of the co-chairs of this Panel and glad that a Canadian candidate Dr. Joanne Liu was selected to serve on the Panel.
- Canada's continued commitment to the WHO includes our interest in making it a strong, transparent, accountable, and well-governed institution, whose actions and recommendations are guided by Member States and the best available science and evidence.

Responsive—COVAX Advance Market Commitment

- Canada is committed to a robust global effort to stop COVID-19 and strongly supports a multilateral approach to ending this pandemic.
- Since February 11 2020, the Government of Canada has announced commitments of approximately \$500 million in direct support to the global response to COVID-19, as well as making an additional \$1 billion available for IMF loans related to COVID-19.
- Canada is highly supportive of the ACT Accelerator, and believes that global collaboration is necessary to ensure affordable and equitable access to diagnostics, therapeutics, and vaccines.
- Committed to ensuring equitable access to successful COVID-19 vaccines. The COVAX Facility, and the Advance Market Commitment (AMC) within it, are designed to facilitate rapid, fair and equitable access to COVID-19 vaccines for every country in the world to slow the global pandemic.
- Countries with the resources to pay to procure doses for their populations have until September 18th to sign a legally binding agreement to join the COVAX Facility. On August 31, Canada submitted a non-binding 'confirmation of intent' letter to participate in the COVAX facility. This signaled our intent to sign a binding commitment by September 18.
- Canada is also working in close coordination with the COVAX Facility and the COVAX AMC, administered by Gavi, on options for engagement to ensure that ability to pay does not become a barrier for developing countries to access safe and effective COVID-19 vaccines. Canada has provided an initial contribution of up to US\$25M to the COVAX AMC, through a reallocation of funds previously committed to an earlier pneumococcal initiative that was successfully winding down its operations, and is currently assessing the AMC's additional funding requirements.

Responsive – the Ottawa Group on World Trade Organization (WTO) Reform

- Canada pleased to host an Ottawa Group on WTO Reform ministerial meeting at WEF in January.
- The pandemic has demonstrated the urgent need for supporting a revitalized WTO, and Canada is taking this opportunity to continue leading meaningful discussion on WTO reform.
- On June 15, my colleague, Minister Ng, convened Ottawa Group trade ministers virtually for the first time since WEF to chart the course forward on the role of the WTO and reforming the organization in a COVID-19 context.
- This includes addressing the trade-related impacts of COVID-19, laying the groundwork for global economic recovery, and ensuring that the WTO is well-equipped to respond to similar future crises.
- Ottawa Group trade ministers endorsed a Joint Statement on COVID-19 on June 15th 2020.
- This 6-point Joint Statement set out action items for the Ottawa Group members to promote transparency in COVID-19-related trade measures, maintain open and predictable agricultural trade, intensify work to modernize e-commerce rules, facilitate trade in a COVID-environment, explore trade in medical supplies, and enhance stakeholder engagement—including with the global private sector and small business.

Context



- **Previous Interactions:** Since March 2020, the WEF has launched a series of multi-stakeholder virtual dialogues on the implications of COVID-19. On June 8, and then subsequently on July 7, you co-chaired, along with the foreign ministers of the Netherlands and Singapore, the first and second meeting of the WEF's Global Action Group (GAG) on the Post-COVID-19 World. The last GAG meeting focused on 1) building global resilience; 2) identifying new avenues for public-private partnership; 3) committing to a new global social contract; and, 4) strengthening humanitarian frameworks. You launched discussions on "committing to a new global social contract," stressing that any new global social contract must be underpinned by gender equality while advancing the Sustainable Development Goals, aim to close the digital divide, and build back better and greener. The Great Reset dialogue series is a follow up to the GAG and an important vehicle for brainstorming solutions to respond to the current crisis, including how to support an inclusive and sustainable economic recovery. These dialogues are organized under the WEF's Great Reset Initiative.
- Recent high level Canadian engagement in the Forum's initiatives include Deputy Prime Minister Freeland's participation in an "Action Platform" dialogue among global leaders on Canadian priorities and experiences in tackling the pandemic on May 6. The Prime Minister has provided a recorded keynote message to the Forum for its Virtual Oceans Dialogue being held from June 1 to 5, held in lieu of the cancelled United Nations Oceans Conference.
- **International Efforts and Canadian Leadership:** The COVID-19 pandemic and its aftermath can be expected to dominate the global agenda for at least the next 6-12 months, and its far-reaching socio-economic impact will be felt for many years. As countries and international institutions grapple with its near-term implications, there will be openings for Canada to leverage its strengths to position itself as a leader in shaping the global response to COVID-19, including in promoting a global economic recovery. Three areas are: 1) Fighting the pandemic, 2) Managing financial stresses and stabilizing economies, and 3) Supporting the most vulnerable and reinforcing recovery.
- **Rules-Based Trade / Supply Chains:** As a trading nation, Canada's economic well-being is heavily tied to trade and a free and open trading system is in Canada's best interest. Canada is a leader in supporting the continuation of rules-based trade and in securing access for Canadian businesses in foreign markets. Canada regularly works with partners in the support of the multi-lateral trading system at the WTO, G20, G7, and APEC.
- The most recent **Ottawa Group** Joint Statement issues on June 15, 2020 entitled **Focusing Action on Covid-19**, outlines key areas where the Ottawa Group can demonstrate leadership in supporting an inclusive and sustainable global recovery, preparing for future crises, and prioritizing targeted WTO reform efforts. It includes action items organized along six key themes: 1) Transparency and Withdrawal of Trade-Restrictive Measures; 2) Keeping Open and Predictable Trade in Agricultural and Agri-Food Products; 3) E-commerce; 4) Trade Facilitation – Use of Information Technology and Streamlined Procedures; 5) Initiative on Medical Supplies; and 6) Deepen Engagement with Stakeholders.
- **Financing for Development:** The High-Level Event on Financing for Development in the Era of COVID-19 and Beyond, held on May 28 and co-convened by Prime Minister Trudeau, Jamaican Prime Minister Holness, and UN Secretary General Guterres, brought together heads of state and international organizations to identify ways in which developing countries could increase access to the financing they need to mitigate the impact of the pandemic and foster more resilient and sustainable economies that can advance the SDGs. At the meeting, it was agreed to establish a follow-up process to explore options to assist developing countries in addressing six issues areas.
- On June 24, you co-convened the soft launch of the follow-up process with his Jamaican counterpart, Minister Johnson-Smith and UN Deputy Secretary-General, Amina Mohammed. The meeting encouraged members of the Group of Friends to be active participants in the follow-up to the May 28th High Level Meeting. Members were urged to name senior level participants for the six working groups. Government officials, representatives of international institutions, experts and think tanks will participate in the working groups moving forward.



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Consulted divisions/departments: POL, PEP, PEC, PVP, TCA, TCW, IOL, IOR, IRZ, MSS, MEF, MSF, MHO, MIO, MNG, MGS, BPS, BBI

Approving ADM: PFM/Golberg

Name and symbol of departmental officer attending/tel.:

Attachments:



Annex A

Co-Chair Biographies

Børge BRENDE, President of the World Economic Forum

- Former Minister of Foreign Affairs of Norway (2013-2017).
- Prior to becoming Norway's Foreign Minister, he was a managing director at the World Economic Forum in Geneva.
- From 2009-2011 he was Secretary General of Red Cross Norway.
- Previously he served as Minister of the Environment (2001-2004); Chairman of the UN Commission on Sustainable Development (2003-2004); Minister of Trade and Industry (2004-2005); Chairman of Mesta, Norway's largest contracting group in the area of road and highway maintenance; and member of the board at Statoil (now Equinor), Norway's state-owned energy company.

Annex B

List of Participants - *TBC*



World Economic Forum – Global Action Group on the Post COVID-19 World

December 8, 2020; 9:00-10:15am (Ottawa time); videoconference

Objectives

- Continue to use this platform to shape debate on principles to guide global cooperation and decision-making on crisis recovery in ways that align with Canada's interests and values.
- Lead discussions on the importance of renewed global cooperation as a necessary precondition to advance economic recovery, sustainable development, and peace and security.
- Reiterate Canada's commitment to effective and accountable multilateralism, including as a core element of our collective efforts to combat COVID-19.

Run of Show

- You have been invited by the World Economic Forum (WEF) to co-chair, along with Taro Kono, Minister of Administrative Reform of Japan; Sigrid Kaag, Minister for Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation of the Netherlands; Tito Mboweni, Minister of Finance of South Africa; Dina Powell McCormick, Partner at Goldman Sachs & Co; and, Kent Walker, Senior Vice-President, Global Affairs at Google, the fourth meeting of the Global Action Group on the Post COVID-19 World.
- This fourth meeting is intended to finalize and agree upon a set of principles for global cooperation created by the WEF and further developed at previous meetings: (1) strengthen global cooperation; (2) re-globalize equitably; (3) rebuild sustainably; (4) deepen public-private partnerships; (5) increase global resilience; (6) promote peace and security; and (7) promote gender equality.
- The WEF plans to present these principles to a wider array of global political and business leaders during the Davos Dialogues on January 25-29, 2021.
- You have been asked to lead the conversation on the first principle: **strengthen global cooperation** (see Key Messages). Your intervention will be approximately 2 to 4 minutes.
- To facilitate discussions of other themes during the planned free-flowing conversation, key messages have been provided regarding the other draft principles.
- The President of the WEF, Børge Brende, will serve as moderator. He will provide introductions, summarize takeaways from previous meetings, and outline the direction for the meeting (5 minutes).
- The group will then discuss the draft shared principles for one hour, after which Mr. Brende, will ask the group if they endorse them as a whole. There will not be a formal vote. The draft principles already reflect Canadian input and they align with Canadian priorities - TBC.]
- The endorsed principles will be presented during the Davos Agenda week in January.
- A wrap-up, outlining next steps for the Global Action Group, will close the meeting.
- 40 people have been invited to join the call, of which 11 are Foreign Ministers or Finance Ministers, while the remainder are government officials, business leaders, or represent international organizations and think tanks (listed in Annex).
- **Departmental Representative:** [TBC]

Key Messages

*** Formal remarks will be provided by L branch, drawing from the key messages below ***

General

- I am pleased to be here for the 4th Global Action Group meeting. Special thanks to Børge Brende for moderating our discussion again today. I welcome the opportunity to explore together how we can collectively move forward in a principled manner.



Principle 1: Strengthen Global Cooperation

- I see the first principle on “strengthening global cooperation” as a unifying theme that facilitates and supports all the other proposed principles.
- Current public health and economic challenges should not push us apart, but serve as an opportunity for the international community to reset global relations and find common purpose.
- Indeed, renewed global cooperation is necessary to advance our common priorities around peace, sustainability and inclusive growth. I am a genuine believer in this principle.
- Global cooperation is facilitated by effective and accountable international institutions that make our cooperative efforts more accessible, legitimate and effective, providing opportunities for dialogue, shared understanding and collective decision-making.
- Maintaining the best of the current rules-based international system, while reforming the components in need of revitalization, will require an increasingly strategic approach, advanced through nimble alliances, new partners and partnerships, and support to the most vital institutions.
- In this regard, I would like to highlight three important features, about the kind of cooperation that is required in the post-pandemic world.
- First, **principles of institutional competency, coherence, transparency and legitimacy** should underpin our collective efforts.
- This requires institutions to cooperate among each other and focus on their primary competencies, contributing to a coherent international effort.
- It also requires improved transparency in how our shared institutions operate and make decisions, which ultimately lead to more legitimacy and stronger support from states and citizens around the world.
- This work is not easy and requires open dialogue. It requires us to actively listen, to challenge our own preconceptions about each other and about the international system. Fundamentally, it requires trust.
- Importantly, it entails reinforcing vital international institutions so that they are resilient to crises, can continue to provide spaces for solutions and are 21st Century ready in terms of supporting innovative practices.
- In the short-term, to increase coherence and legitimacy, this means continuing to work through collaborative platforms, much like we are doing here today, to make our shared institutions more effective, efficient, accountable and transparent, including the UN, its programs and specialized agencies, and international financial institutions.
- Canada is fully supportive of discussions to enhance the accountability and effectiveness of our shared institutions.
- Given our divergences over issues such as protectionism and transparency, we must be prepared to have difficult conversations on the rules-based international system, including which parts need serious reform. The status quo is no longer an option. We also need to be clear about what we are not prepared to lose.
- The healthy divergences of opinion among us are factors which strengthen the case for common standards and rules that even the playing field - rules that are internationally respected, enforced and upheld. Getting there in an increasingly multi-nodal world won't be easy.
- Second, we will need a **greater diversity of partners**, old and new, to enable broader representation and buy-in and even more work through issue-based coalitions.
- In the medium and long-term, we will need to reflect carefully on the current crisis and draw out lessons with a view to revitalize the current system to better serve the interests of all states and their citizens, though there will be significant disagreement over the nature and extent of the changes required.
- The challenge for all of us here is to broaden the tent, to listen, to recognize concerns around the representativeness and legitimacy of shared institutions, while working towards the promotion of our core democratic values. The system must continue to protect and promote these values – respect for



human rights and the rule of law, gender equality, democratic accountability – while adapting to the new global context and incorporating diverse voices.

- Third, and related to this last point, respect for **human rights, gender equality and inclusion** must be at the center of all efforts to contain and combat the spread and recover from this pandemic.
- We know that when all people, regardless of their gender, race, income, ability, ethnicity, age, or migratory status can fully benefit from and participate in economic, political, social, and cultural life, we build safer, more prosperous, equitable and more sustainable communities and countries.
- The response to COVID-19 must not therefore be allowed to reproduce or perpetuate existing social norms that fuel inequalities and social unrest. This applies to the online sphere, notably as technology has come to permeate everyday life at an accelerated pace.
- We must also actively support democracies around the world, fostering democratic cooperation and building support for the effective revitalization of a rules-based system that reflects our democratic values.
- We can and must explore other approaches such as non-monetary partnerships with academia and innovators from the Global South, the private sector and even subnational actors like cities.
- In closing, Canada is committed to double our efforts towards inclusive cooperation to create a post pandemic world that delivers on our priorities around peace, sustainability and inclusive growth.

****Below are supplementary talking points to facilitate discussion and intervention on other principles if time permits****

Principle 2: Re-Globalize Equitably

- Much work remains to be done in supporting an inclusive, climate smart and sustainable global recovery. I've spoken about inclusive cooperation, but let me talk about the digital realm too. We will need a shift from the narrow focus on digital divides towards a broader concept of digital inclusion, which addresses not only the growing digital gender divides but also the intangible elements of connectivity, civic participation free from online harassment, discrimination and violence, and privacy. Without digital inclusion, inequality will continue to be mirrored in online spaces.
- We must also renew our focus to accelerate progress on the Sustainable Development Goals through the Decade of Action, so that no one is left behind. Our goal here should be to seize the opportunity provided to us by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development to "build back better".
- Leaving no one behind must remain central to our efforts to advance an inclusive approach to trade that helps ensure that the benefits and opportunities of trade are more widely shared, including with under-represented groups such as women and Indigenous peoples.
- These groups have been disproportionately affected by the COVID shut down and their economic engagement will be vital to an inclusive and equitable economic and trade recovery. Recognizing the unequal burdens that the pandemic has exposed –such as the double burden of care born by women – and looking for locally appropriate ways to address these burdens will be a necessary step to ensuring an inclusive economic recovery.
- The pandemic and our urgent need for action in support of a global recovery provides us a unique opportunity to unlock the power of innovation to re-globalize equitably. Indeed, innovation is a key development tool that can boost economies.
- We also need to build back greener, by using this moment to advance climate adaptation and mitigation objectives, preservation of environment and biodiversity, including building more resilient supply chains and promoting a green transition.
- We must also be mindful of the unique challenges to liquidity and financial stability that some countries face, including those with deteriorating debt positions lacking the reserve cushion to withstand a temporary, but possibly pronounced, economic impact from COVID-19. They may also have difficulty making the necessary investments to achieve progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals.
- It will be important to support the revitalization of the WTO and encourage open and rules-based trade and investment regimes as a means to advance open trade and supply chains and to combat