



### **World Economic Forum's Annual Meeting (*January 15-19, 2024*)**

The [World Economic Forum's \(WEF\) Annual Meeting](#), held in Davos, Switzerland, is a premier international conference that brings together leaders from various sectors to discuss and address the most pressing global challenges. The upcoming conference marks the 54th Annual Meeting of the World Economic Forum, and it will primarily focus on exploring the opportunities enabled by new technologies and their implications on decision-making and global partnerships.

As in previous years, this meeting will serve as the leading platform to drive public-private cooperation at the highest level, convening over 100 governments, major international organizations, the 1,000 most important global companies, relevant civil society and academic institutions, as well as the global media.

### **Who Attends Davos?**

The conference attracts a diverse array of attendees, including heads of state, business leaders, academics, and representatives from civil society. The multi-stakeholder approach encourages dialogue between different sectors, fostering a holistic perspective on global issues.

Over 2,000 delegates from global business, government, civil society, media and academia will convene in Davos to participate in sessions designed to foster meaningful discussions on pressing global issues and drive impactful outcomes. Additionally, approximately 1,000 corporations affiliated with the WEF will send key delegates.

The 2022 meeting included notable figures such as Al Gore, former Vice President of the United States; John Kerry, former Secretary of State; Christine Lagarde, President of the European Central Bank; Jens Stoltenberg, Secretary-General of NATO; Ursula von der Leyen, President of the European Commission, among others. The 2023 meeting set a record with over 2,500 delegates, including the participation of Olaf Scholz, Chancellor of Germany and other prominent individuals.

### **What to Expect for Davos 2024**

The overarching theme of Davos 2024 is "From Lab to Life: Science in Action." The diverse range of sessions will deep-dive into different areas of science, such as biodiversity, the Arctic, cybersecurity, trust in science, gender equity in medicine and air pollution. The conference is organized into plenary sessions, workshops, and private meetings, providing participants with a number of opportunities to engage in meaningful discussions.

The upcoming meeting will be taking place at a moment of 'polycrisis,' a term used to describe multiple ongoing crises, such as the climate and biodiversity crises, the COVID-19 pandemic,



the war in Ukraine, and concerns over the cost of living. The Annual Meeting will provide a platform to engage in constructive, forward-looking dialogues and help find solutions through public-private cooperation.

While notable speakers for the 2024 conference have not been disclosed, [past speakers](#) have included national prime ministers and heads of state, activists, and thought leaders in global development.

### **Impact & Influence of Davos**

The annual Davos conference aims to tackle global issues through collaboration and sustainable solutions. From 2022 to 2023, the Forum launched and supported [25 high-impact initiatives](#) to promote ongoing collaboration and shared new insights on trade and investment; climate action, the energy transition, and nature protection; emerging technologies, innovation, and entrepreneurship; and the future of jobs, skills, health and equity. The 2023 Davos conference launched several impact initiatives that spanned worldwide. For example, the [Forum's Logistics Emergency Team \(LET\)](#) collaborated with the United Nations to deliver lifesaving supplies to Ukraine amidst a humanitarian crisis. Numerous other [initiatives](#) are discussed and kickstarted throughout the Davos conference, allowing for open dialogue among global leaders and representatives.

An important aspect of Davos to note is the opportunity for informal networking. The event facilitates connections among individuals who might not typically interact, fostering cross-sectoral collaboration and innovative partnerships.