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Forum Report Calls for Major, Post-Crisis Overhaul of the International System

- Report warns that serious global risks and challenges are accumulating in many areas
- Extensive sets of proposals to strengthen international cooperation and governance
- Global Redesign proposals cap year-long effort of over 50 global task forces
- Download the report here: http://www.weforum.org/pdf/grs2010/GRI_Report_2010.pdf
- The report will be discussed at the Global Redesign Summit opening in Doha, Qatar today <http://www.weforum.org/GlobalRedesign2010>

Doha, Qatar, 30 May 2010 – The World Economic Forum today issued one of the most extensive sets of proposals to strengthen international cooperation and governance ever assembled.

The product of a year-long dialogue and group of task forces involving over 1,500 academic, business, governmental and civil society experts and decision-makers from around the world, the Forum's Global Redesign Initiative report contains 58 specific proposals and nine thematic essays by some of the international community's leading authorities on international economic, environmental and security cooperation.

Entitled *Everybody's Business: Strengthening International Cooperation in a More Interdependent World*, the Forum's report warns that serious global risks and challenges are accumulating in many areas, and international institutions and arrangements are often ill-equipped to provide a proactive response. Reminding the international community that in the midst of the financial crisis in late 2008 and early 2009 it "was seized with the transformational nature of our times," the report calls on it to "hold on to that moment of possibility, consolidate its considerable accomplishment in containing the crisis and renew its earlier commitment to renovate the international system."

Drawing a parallel to the 1944 Dumbarton Oaks and Bretton Woods conferences that designed much of the post-war international security and economic architecture over a year before World War II ended, the report concludes that the time has come for governments, companies and other civil society institutions to "rise above their immediate, parochial interests and consider more seriously their long-term stake in a properly structured and resourced global cooperation system for the 21st century."

Writing in the report's overview chapter, Forum Managing Director Richard Samans, Executive Chairman and Founder Klaus Schwab and Vice-Chairman Lord Malloch-Brown conclude: "Even as governments develop their exit strategies from fiscal and monetary stimulus measures applied during the crisis, they should engage in an effort to absorb the larger meaning of the changes that have transformed the international community during the past generation and rendered much of its cooperative architecture not fully fit for purpose."

The Forum report proposes a "blueprint for renovating international cooperation in an era of increasingly complex interdependence, rendering it both more effective and legitimate" based on the many proposals that have emerged from the Global Redesign process.

In particular, it proposes a **more results-oriented "multidimensional" approach** to international governance and cooperation that encompasses but goes beyond multilateralism. Arguing that the international community's increasing interconnectedness and interdependence creates new modes and means of accelerating progress on many global challenges, it demonstrates how pragmatic strategies that take advantage of these additional tools and capacities can be combined to achieve breakthroughs on such issues as climate change, fisheries depletion, unemployment and poverty, public health, proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and educational access and illiteracy, even when new multilateral agreements appear to be diplomatically beyond reach.

The report calls for the "state-based core of the international system to be adapted to our more complex, bottom-up world in which non-governmental actors have become a more significant force." To this end, it urges governments and international organizations to conceive of themselves more explicitly as constituting part of "a **much wider global cooperation system** that has the potential to overcome the limitations of scale, information and coherence from which they currently suffer by anchoring the preparation and implementation of their decisions more deeply in processes of interaction with interdisciplinary and multistakeholder networks of relevant experts and actors."

In parallel, the report calls for a stronger sense of ownership and responsibility – **a shift in values** – on the part of these non-governmental institutions and their leaders regarding the underlying health of the international system. Criticizing the "severe price the international community has paid for its complacency about systemic financial and

macroeconomic risks that were well publicized but nevertheless allowed to accumulate for too long," it calls on "those who educate and select business, scientific, academic, religious, media as well as political leaders – particularly graduate education programmes and boards of directors and human resources departments – to redesign their curricula and senior talent development and promotion policies to reflect that they are cultivating not only leaders of functional organizations but also stewards of the international system and the contribution of their professional disciplines thereto."

In addition to making proposals to strengthen international cooperative structures on problems as diverse as financial stability, international trade, water scarcity, prevention of mass atrocities, Internet security, malnutrition, energy security and many others, the report of the Global Redesign Initiative includes a number of broader proposals for the international community. For example, it:

- Urges the **Group of 20 Leaders'** process to clarify soon its ongoing purpose and relationship with the United Nations and specialized international organizations, making a number of specific proposals in this regard. In addition, it challenges these leaders to reach a package deal on the currently deadlocked UN climate, WTO trade, Millennium Development Goal funding, IMF and World Bank reform, and global macroeconomic rebalancing negotiations, arguing that this kind of systemic leap forward in international cooperation would yield large net benefits for developing, emerging and advanced countries alike and could only be brokered by G20 leaders.
- Presents a vision for achieving major improvement in **global environmental governance** through pragmatic, multidimensional strategies to scale action on different environmental problems, whether or not multilateral treaties can be achieved on them any time soon. The report recommends that the 2012 United Nations Rio+20 process embrace the many practical ideas in the report to build public-private enabling mechanisms, install better information systems, mobilize major coalitions to tackle core problems, strengthen institutional capacities and, where possible, extend international law on challenges as diverse as marine life and coral conservation; energy efficiency; low-carbon technology development; deforestation; safe drinking water and sanitation; investor, corporate and consumer carbon metrics; sustainable consumption; and energy security.

The proposals will be discussed at a special World Economic Forum Global Redesign Summit in Doha, Qatar held 30-31 May 2010 at which more than 400 participants from over 60 countries will be present. The Summit will be an informal working laboratory or marketplace in which many of these policy ideas and partnership opportunities will be explored, refined and taken forward.

"If we do not want to be caught in a continuous vicious cycle of crisis fighting, we have to analyse the fundamental forces changing our world and formulate policies which take into account the manifold structural changes in geopolitics and geo-economics," said Professor Klaus Schwab, Founder and Executive Chairman of the World Economic Forum.

"So many issues have become deadlocked in official government negotiations. The power in this approach is that people from many different backgrounds with shared expertise have been able to find smart solutions that escape the narrow box of conventional intergovernmental arrangements," said Lord Mark Malloch-Brown, Vice-Chairman, World Economic Forum.

The governments of Qatar, Singapore, Switzerland and Tanzania are patrons of the Global Redesign Initiative.

The proposals were developed by the Forum's multistakeholder Global Agenda Councils of leading experts and decision-makers from academia, business, civil society, international organizations and government as well as its Industry Partner communities and Young Global Leader Task Forces.

The proposals were reviewed by the following distinguished rapporteurs, who have written nine thematic summary chapters that set them in broader context and provide additional proposals:

1. **Creating a Values Framework** – *John J. DeGioia, President, Georgetown University, USA*
2. **Building Sustained Economic Growth** – *Robert Z. Lawrence, Albert L. Williams Professor of Trade and Investment, John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University, USA*
3. **Strengthening the International Monetary and Financial System** – *David Daokui Li, Director and Mansfield Freeman Professor of Economics, Center for China in the World Economy (CCWE), Tsinghua University, People's Republic of China; and Suzanne Nora Johnson, Trustee, Carnegie Institution for Science, USA*
4. **Creating Employment, Eradicating Poverty and Improving Social Welfare** – *John McArthur, Chief Executive Officer, Millennium Promise, USA; and Dennis J. Snower, President, Kiel Institute for the World Economy, Germany*
5. **Managing and Mitigating Global Risks** – *Ian Goldin, Director, James Martin 21st Century School, and Professorial Fellow, Balliol College, University of Oxford, United Kingdom*
6. **Ensuring Health for All** – *Peter Piot, Professor and Director, Institute of Global Health, Imperial College London, United Kingdom; David E. Bloom, Clarence James Gamble Professor of Economics and Demography, Harvard School of Public Health, USA; and Peter C. Smith, Professor, Health Policy, Imperial College London, United Kingdom*

7. **Enhancing Global Security** – *Lilia Shevtsova, Senior Associate, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, Carnegie Moscow Center, Russian Federation; and Jean-Marie Guéhenno, Senior Non-resident Fellow, Brookings Institution, USA*
8. **Ensuring Sustainability** – *Ashok Khosla, Chairman, Development Alternatives, India; and Caio Koch-Weser, Vice-Chairman, Deutsche Bank Group, Deutsche Bank, United Kingdom*
9. **Building Effective Institutions in an Empowered Society** – *Ngaire Woods, Professor of International Political Economy, University of Oxford, United Kingdom; and Kishore Mahbubani, Dean, Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, Singapore*

Notes to Editors

For more information about the Global Redesign Summit: <http://www.weforum.org/GlobalRedesign2010>

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