



FROM THE PUBLISHER

LESSONS FROM DAVOS 2026

Davos 2026 highlighted a shift toward action-oriented, small-coalition partnerships to tackle complex, local, and global risks. Some of the Key lessons included prioritizing human-centered AI for productivity, building "perpetually adaptive" enterprises, and redesigning supply chains for resilience over cost. The focus has moved from broad, abstract discussions to concrete, technology-driven solutions for climate change and economic instability. The major take away from Davos 2026 include among others the recognition of AI as essential infrastructure not just a tool but akin to energy or road that requires integration at every level of operations. Human Centered AI strategy whose focus is shifting towards decision ecosystems where AI handles data curation and humans provide critical judgement and ethics. Davos highlighted focus from Globalization to Fragmentation which is about building resilient, localized or regionalized supply chains with companies accepting higher costs for greater reliability. Emphasis on Action Oriented Partnership which will give room to large scale top-down agreements are giving way to small, specialized coalitions designed to solve specific, tangible problems. Another take is about Energy and Sustainability which can make AI's high energy consumption as a major focus with the technology itself being used to optimize energy, infrastructure and systems. There is a renewed emphasis on rebuilding trust in institutions and addressing, societal, divides to ensure long-term stability and this will foster Corporate Citizens and Trust. Instead of just reacting, organizations are focusing on becoming perpetually Adaptive Enterprises by embedding constant, re-skilling and learning into their cultures. Countries and organizations are focusing on strategic, autonomy, rather than relying on a single, global, system and this is giving rise of the Mid-Power Moment. What stood out at Davos was a shift away from broad declarations toward smaller, execution-focused coalitions designed to solve...

The USA is the economic engine on the planet. And when America booms, the entire world booms. It's been the history." Still in Davos, the other major development was the Board of Peace, set up by President Trump to implement his 20-point plan to end Israel's war in Gaza, a three-tier governing structure with representatives from around the world. The White House had invited countries and figures around the world to sit on the board which would be chaired by Trump himself. The invitees came majorly from the US, Europe, Asia and the Middle East. Even the Pope was invited. From Africa, only Egypt and Morocco! In November 2025, the United Nations had backed the plan, granting it international legitimacy. But when the signing ceremony was held on the sidelines of the WEF in Davos, fewer than 20 countries signed up. Trump had been saying the Board could "replace the United Nations". He would be Chairman of the Board indefinitely. Members will serve for three years after which they must pay one billion dollars for a permanent seat. The focus will no longer be the rebuilding of Gaza, but to tackle conflicts all over the world. Many countries declined: Britain (concerns about having to sit in the same room with Putin when peace is the subject), France and Norway (concerns about the UN), China (acknowledged the invitation but did not commit), Ukraine (said Russia is an enemy and Belarus is Russia's friend), Italy, Ireland and others raised concerns about governance and transparency. On the whole, there are key lessons to be learnt from the 56th edition of the WEF. The best way to check a bully is to stand up and resist the bully's tactics. Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney, France, and the United Kingdom resisted US President Trump by being clear and firm about where they stand in the order of things. Solidarity is also important. By bonding together, the European countries were able to show strength, not the weakness that Trump had associated with them. Dialogue is important in resolving tensions. When Europe spoke with one voice, Trump was compelled to listen. The world is for the powerful, not the weak. For Africa to get a front seat at the table, our leaders must learn to be more strategic. They must learn to make power moves, and pay less attention to the tourism value of international engagements and the estacodes that come with such outings. Having one strong ally is not enough. The landscape of global power politics is changing. Africa must cultivate new friends, to strengthen connections in an emerging new international order with a different set of rules.

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