

Top 10 Trends for the World in 2015

By Al Gore

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In the coming year, we face a number of diverse and significant challenges: growing income inequality, heightened geostrategic tensions, the unsustainable use of our planet's natural resources and, of course, the climate crisis.

Every year, the World Economic Forum taps into the knowledge, observations and experiences of its Global Agenda Council members, asking them to identify the issues that they believe will have the biggest impact on the world over the coming 12 to 18 months.

The resulting insights, gathered with the help of the Survey on the Global Agenda, ultimately generate the Top 10 trends – a forecast of the key social, economic and political issues that reside on our collective horizon:

1. Deepening income inequality.
2. Persistent jobless growth.
3. Lack of leadership.
4. Rising geostrategic competition.
5. Weakening of representative democracy.
6. Rising pollution in the developing world.
7. Increasing occurrence of severe weather events.
8. Intensifying nationalism.
9. Increasing water stress.
10. Growing importance of health in the economy.

At the top of this year's list is worsening income inequality. As the world's rich continue to accumulate wealth at record rates, the middle class is struggling.

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Ongoing unemployment concerns, another recurring theme from the previous report, has risen to second place. Our economies may be growing, but the number of available jobs is largely failing to keep pace.

Third on the list, rising security concerns around the world threaten the stability of states and their citizens.

This year, two major themes dominate this list: economic and environmental. These two areas of focus are inextricably linked. Long-term economic prosperity depends on environmental sustainability. Today, we see the consequences of short-term economic thinking and the reckless use of our planet's resources.

About the author: Al Gore is the Chairman and Co-Founder, Generation Investment Management, and former Vice-President of the United States (1993-2001).

Reference:

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