



The Global Foundation
Together, we strive for the global common good


The London Roundtable
19 June 2019


The Paris Roundtable
21 June 2019



A fracturing world needs our help and leadership

17 June 2019

This week, in London and Paris, the Global Foundation is convening its two most important global Roundtable meetings for 2019, the biggest week in our calendar.

More than 100 invited participants from across the globe will converge in the City of London on Wednesday 19 June and at the Banque de France in Paris on Friday 21 June, to meet in roundtable format under the Global Foundation banner.

They are meeting because they realise that a fracturing world needs our help and leadership, urgently.

Turning the tide of populism and the clash of civilisations

What can we do, as citizens, to turn around a world that is turning in on itself, as a tide of community anxiety and political selfishness is displacing the more open and engaged global order that has brought benefits to so many and is now under serious threat?

How can we avoid the clash of civilisations between, for example, East and West - between China and the US, in particular - as the spiralling trade and tech war runs the risk of getting out of control, of creating a new Iron Curtain?

These will be the topics under discussion in London and Paris this week.

Leaders from diverse backgrounds, from business, institutions, faiths, academia and civil society, will come together with serious purpose, to review progress they have made separately and collectively over the past year. They are also willing to learn from practical examples of success stories that show that, in spite of the headlines, great progress is being made on complex issues in many parts of the world.



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Our approach involves personal commitment and practical action, not just talk

Beyond high level talk, there will be showcasing of practical steps that are being taken by affiliated organisations, that have emerged in tandem and been nurtured by the Foundation's collegiate approach.

The progress of a new initiative to benchmark the sustainability performance of the largest global corporations will be one highlight; another will be the evolution of the Paris Peace Forum as a major annual platform to champion better global governance and hundreds of associated actions.

The London and Paris Roundtable meetings are a continuation of the cumulative tradition of the Global Foundation, that has for many years brought together a movement of unlikely allies, across cultures and usual boundaries, in search of the global common good.

We eschew the large, showy Davos-style conferences that appear to be a long way from community reality, in favour of personal exchange, commitment and action to back up talk. And, as we say of ourselves, 'we are not the story', preferring to encourage and catalyse others, who are capable of much greater and systemic impact.

'Co-operative globalisation' is the key; laissez-faire is dead

The Foundation headlines its goal as 'co-operative globalisation', that is, we insist upon an open and unified global economy that is transformative, inclusive, fair and prosperous. The old model, of laissez-faire globalisation, of winner take all, no longer works. Rather, this new approach is about carefully managed and shared purpose for 'win-win', for the enduring benefit of peoples as well as for nations and corporations.

Pope Francis and other faith leaders endorse our efforts

Along with global Roundtable meetings it has convened in Sydney, Melbourne, the Pacific Islands and Kuala Lumpur in recent years, three centrepiece global meetings of the Foundation since 2016 have been conducted in Rome, with the personal participation of Pope Francis and other Vatican leaders, along with leaders of other faiths. They have lent concrete endorsement to the Foundation's goal and have urged us to aim higher and work faster.

This engagement with senior faith leaders sits comfortably alongside the Foundation's commitment to promoting an ethical and moral basis to business and to society. Those businesses, institutions and individuals who demonstrate such a genuine leadership commitment in society are those invited to participate in its ongoing Roundtable series.

Future Rome, possible Beijing and New York

The Global Foundation is a non-profit entity sustained by a diverse membership base of companies, universities, individuals and from time to time, as with the London and Paris Roundtables, it also enjoys the hospitality of distinguished institutions and governments.

Subject to sufficient commitments of support, the Foundation hopes to conduct a further Rome Roundtable in 2020. A Beijing Roundtable is also under evaluation and a New York Roundtable is under consideration.

For further information:

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