



[World Leaders Meet at the 2020 WEF in Davos](#)

World leaders in business and government descended on Davos, Switzerland this week for the annual conference hosted by the World Economic Forum. Among other topics, climate change, global financial institutions, and the world economy were discussed. Private executives and leaders of countries addressed the attendees on a range of topics, including multilateralism and the rapid growth of the technology industry. This year's summit has a strong focus on sustainability, and climate change is a key part of the agenda. Activist Greta Thunberg gave remarks to attendees, and corporate executives highlighted how their companies are addressing sustainability in their business practices.

On the first day of the conference, President Trump gave remarks on his ongoing impeachment trial, and talked up the American economy. He praised Chinese leader Xi Jinping and said the two shared an excellent relationship, but sometimes disagreed due to loyalties to their respective countries. The president also dismissed climate change, and warned the audience not to listen to "prophets of doom" that speak of a climate apocalypse. This was a thinly veiled slight toward Greta Thunberg, who preceded the president at the lectern, and told world leaders that the "world is on fire, in case you haven't noticed." President Trump also renewed his criticism of the Federal Reserve for their interest rate policy, and praised the European Central Bank and the Bank of Japan for pursuing policies of negative interest rates.

Bea Perez, a Coca-Cola executive, waded into the climate change debate and defended her company's policy of using plastic bottles. Ms. Perez asserted that the convenience and ease of resealable plastic bottles was of fundamental importance to consumers, and that the company could not walk away from such a successful business strategy. However, Perez also reminded the audience of Coca-Cola's promise to use at least 50% recycled material in its packaging by 2030.

The Prince of Wales, Prince Charles, also gave an address on climate change, and unveiled a ten-point plan he had devised to make the global economy more sustainable. Prince Charles stressed the importance of "green industries and sustainable markets" as a way to reduce carbon emissions. He also asked business leaders to increase their investments in companies and ideas that addressed climate change.

Outside of climate change, the global technology industry was discussed, and the leaders of Japan, South Africa, China, and Germany called for greater oversight and regulation of the industry. Prime Minister Shinzo Abe of Japan said he would use his country's chairmanship of this year's Group of 20 summit to push this agenda. Prime Minister Abe said he would like an expansion of the power of the World Trade Organization to encompass data trade in addition to goods and services.

The summit in Davos is due to conclude on Friday after forums on the progress of a wide variety of topics, including vaccinations, social inequality, terrorism, and multilateralism. Each of these forums will add to the discussions that have already been had on climate change, the world economy, and more.