

OXFORD MARTIN COMMISSION FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

Securing the long term in national and global decision making



A flagship policy initiative of the Oxford Martin School

Chaired by Pascal Lamy, former Director-General of the World Trade Organization

The Oxford Martin School established a high-level international Commission, chaired by Mr Pascal Lamy, former Director-General of the World Trade Organization, to confront the growing absence of long-range thinking within governments, businesses and global institutions. Given the complexity and gravity of today's economic, social and environmental challenges, improving decision-making to consider the implications for the coming decades must be a priority. Whether on issues of population, finance and economic reform, energy supply, climate change, food security or technological change, the scale of these challenges means that countries and organisations with the capacity to think and plan over the longer term hold a strategic advantage. Embedding the long term into today's increasingly pressured decision structures will allow societies and business to harvest the extraordinary potential and mitigate the systemic risks and vulnerabilities associated with future developments.

The **Oxford Martin Commission for Future Generations** has considered how countries and global institutions may overcome the pressures of short-term crisis management to meet urgent national and global challenges, providing guidance on how decision makers at all levels can focus on the vitally important longer term challenges, while dealing with the urgent considerations which crowd their daily agenda. It has drawn on a highly distinguished group of Commissioners and the latest analysis of best practice, as well as the wide-ranging expertise of the over 350 scholars associated with the Oxford Martin School. The Commission has examined the growing interdependency and complexity of global management challenges, aiming to rebalance debate and action, to ensure policy makers grapple with these major long-term issues of today.

The final report will be launched in London on 16 October 2013, with subsequent events planned in New York City, Washington DC, Singapore and elsewhere.

Visit www.oxfordmartin.ox.ac.uk/commission for more information.

The final report of the Oxford Martin Commission for Future Generations comprises three parts:

- **Part A: Possible Futures** gives a synopsis of global megatrends and introduces the key challenges on which action is essential. These challenges are introduced within five broad categories: society, resources, health, geopolitics and governance. This is by no means an exclusive or comprehensive list, but the categories are used to illustrate key challenges that need to be grappled with, the links between them, and how they might be addressed.
- **Part B: Responsible Futures** seeks to diagnose why gridlock and a lack of political will for change persist on many challenges where action is imperative. It draws lessons from examples where impediments to action have been overcome, and also considers why certain efforts have failed or stalled. Shaping factors are identified that impact on the ability of today's leaders to get things done.
- **Part C: Practical Futures** builds from the possible futures suggested in Part A and offers practical, overarching recommendations to overcome the gridlock of modern politics and shift mindsets towards the long term. Some recommendations are directed at immediate policy debates and offer pragmatic ways forward. Others seek to address deeper political and cultural dynamics obstructing the shift to a longer-term focus.



Membership of the Commission:

Chair: Pascal Lamy, former Director-General, World Trade Organization

- Michelle Bachelet, former President of Chile; former Executive Director, UN Women
- Lionel Barber, Editor, The Financial Times
- Roland Berger, Chairman, Roland Berger Strategy Consultants
- Arianna Huffington, President and Editor-in-Chief, Huffington Post Media Group
- Mo Ibrahim, Chair of the Board, Mo Ibrahim Foundation
- Luiz Felipe Lampreia, former Minister of Foreign Affairs, Brazil
- Liu He, Minister, Vice Director of the National Development and Reform Commission, the People's Republic of China
- Kishore Mahbubani, Dean and Professor in the Practice of Public Policy, Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, National University of Singapore
- Trevor Manuel, Minister and Chair of the National Planning Commission, South Africa
- Julia Marton-Lefèvre, Director-General, International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)
- Nandan Nilekani, Chairman, Unique Identification Authority of India; former CEO, Infosys
- Chris Patten (Lord Patten of Barnes), Chancellor, University of Oxford; Chairman, BBC Trust
- Baron Peter Piot, Director, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine; former Executive Director, UNAIDS
- Martin Rees (Lord Rees of Ludlow), former President, the Royal Society; Fellow of Trinity College, University of Cambridge
- Amartya Sen, Nobel Laureate and Professor of Economics and Philosophy, Harvard University
- Nicholas Stern (Lord Stern of Brentford), President, British Academy; IG Patel Professor of Economics, London School of Economics
- Jean-Claude Trichet, former President, European Central Bank
- Ian Goldin, Director, Oxford Martin School; Professor of Globalisation and Development, University of Oxford (Deputy-Chair of the Commission)

The Commissioners are acting in a personal capacity.

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