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Diversifying inequalities



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**Increasing
significance of migration**

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Diversifying inequalities

Although global inequality between countries and the absolute number of people living in extreme poverty has been declining as poorer countries catch up with richer ones, the gaps between the wealthiest and poorest segments of the population are widening. Addressing income disparities, gender inequalities, access to education, healthcare and technology, and their compounded effects will continue to represent the most important social, economic and political challenges for the foreseeable future.



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03

Increasing significance of migration

While the share of international migrants in the world population has not grown significantly over the past decades, the significance of migration as a social and political concern has intensified significantly. Even though migration tends to have a positive impact on the economic and social development, there seem to be a growing fear that current levels and structure of migration are unsustainable in many parts of the world. Concerns about migration can result in public anxiety, political disputes and increasing security measures, with effects on civil liberties and freedom of movement.



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Climate change and environmental degradation



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Growing consumerism

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Climate change and environmental degradation

Even if all emissions from human activities would suddenly stop, the climate would continue to change. However, continued unabated, anthropogenic pollution and greenhouse gas emissions are increasing global warming, ocean acidification, desertification and changing climate patterns. Further aggravated by pollution, overexploitation of natural resources and environmental degradation, these will lead to severe, pervasive and irreversible changes for people, assets, economies and ecosystems around the world.



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Growing consumerism

By 2030, the consumer class is expected to reach 5 billion people. This means 2 billion more people with increased purchasing power than today. Most of this growth will be in Asia: by 2030, China and India together will represent 66% of the global middle-class population and 59% of middle-class consumption. While the expanding middle-class could be a driver for economic development, changes in consumer behaviour and consumption patterns are expected to increase demand for food, water and energy by approximately 35%, 40% and 50% respectively.

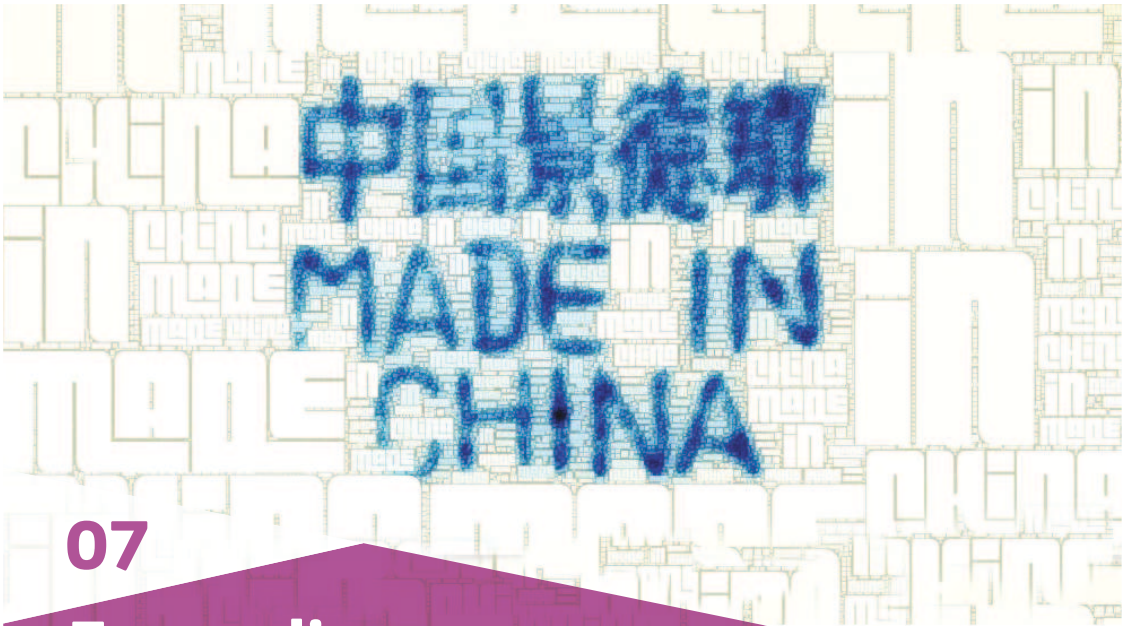


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Aggravating resource scarcity



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**Expanding
influence of east and south**

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Aggravating resource scarcity

Global demand for materials has increased ten-fold during the 20th century and is set to double again by 2030, compared to 2010. Demand for water, food, energy, land and minerals will continue to rise substantially, given the increasing purchasing power of a growing population. Bottlenecks in supply could be further aggravated by climate change, making natural resources increasingly scarce and more expensive to source.



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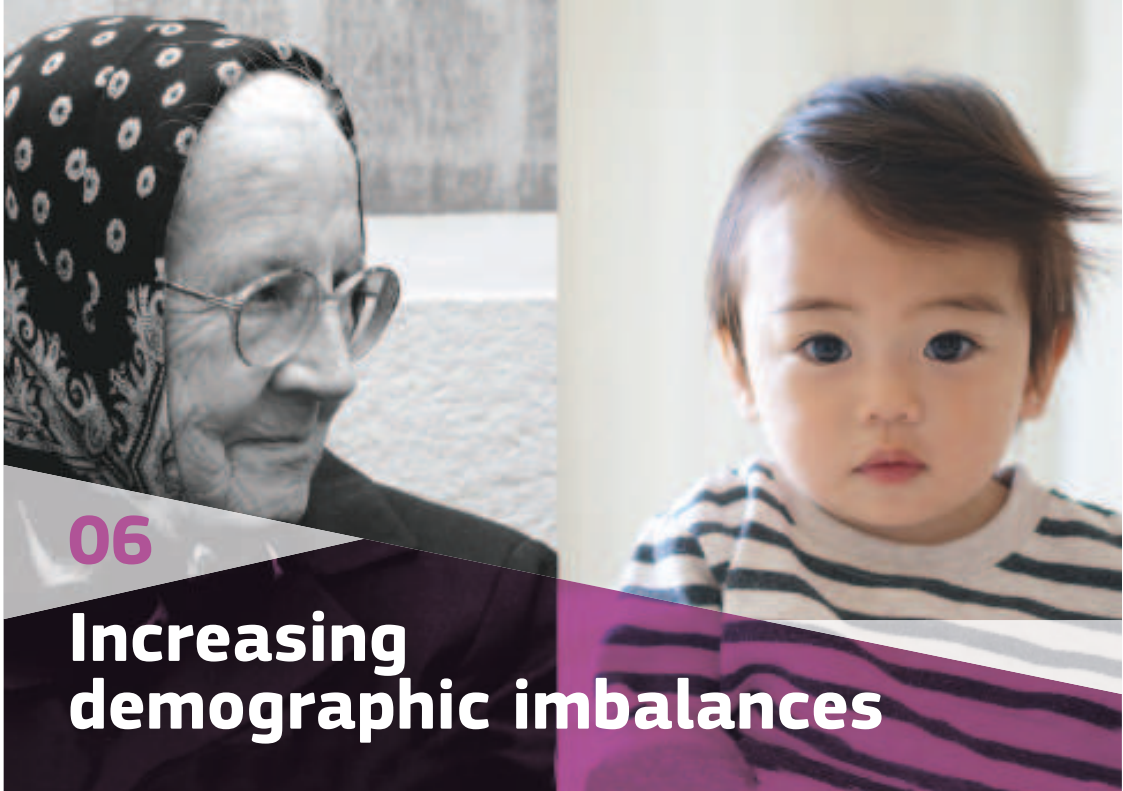
Expanding influence of east and south

The shift of global economic power from the established advanced economies in North America, Western Europe and Japan towards the emerging economies in the East and South is set to continue. China has already overtaken the USA in 2014 becoming the largest economy in purchasing power parity (PPP) terms. If present trends continue, by 2050, the economic and political influence of the G7 will steadily shift to the E7.

[G7: US, UK, France, Germany, Japan, Canada and Italy; E7: China, India, Indonesia, Brazil, Russia, Mexico and Turkey]



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Increasing demographic imbalances



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Accelerating technological change and hyperconnectivity

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Increasing demographic imbalances

By 2030, the world's population is estimated to reach 8.5 billion, mostly getting older and more urban than today. Change will be uneven across regions, with rapid population growth in many still-developing economies, while stalled — or even shrinking — in many developed countries.



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Accelerating technological change and hyperconnectivity

Advancements in genetics, nanotechnology, robotics and artificial intelligence, photonics, quantum and other emerging technologies and the synergies among them are accelerating. They are changing the nature and speed of new scientific discoveries and are challenging our understanding of what is possible. Hyperconnectivity, the IoT, augmented reality and collective intelligence systems, combined with falling costs of implementation of new technologies are transforming entire systems of production, management, and governance.



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Changing nature of work



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Shifting health challenges

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Changing nature of work

By 2030, tech-savvy, hyper-connected millennials will represent 75% of the workforce. Digitalisation, new generations entering the workforce and older generations working longer are changing the forms of employment, career models, and organisational structures. Advancements in technology and automation have the potential to substitute both routine and cognitive tasks, while increasing the need for new skills and creating unprecedented opportunities.



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Shifting health challenges

Global health concerns are shifting. Advancements of science and better living standards have increased the opportunity to longer and healthier lives and reduced the incidence of infectious diseases. However, obesity, malnutrition, antimicrobial resistance, and non-communicable diseases are increasingly becoming the health burden of our century. Cardiovascular and chronic respiratory diseases, diabetes, cancer, depression and anxiety are only some of the symptoms of unhealthy lifestyles, growing pollution and other anthropogenic causes, combined with reactive rather than preventive medicine.



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Diversifying education and learning



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Continuing urbanisation

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Diversifying education and learning

New generations and hyperconnectivity are rapidly changing both educational needs and modes of delivery. Advancements in cognitive sciences, availability of information, new pedagogical approaches and an emphasis on lifelong learning are diversifying interests and the ways of learning, as well as access to education. "I don't know" becomes increasingly obsolete. The historical link between education and school-based learning could weaken in the future, with informal learning gaining more recognition. This could have both revolutionary as well as disruptive effects on the global education landscape and the intelligence of future generations.



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Continuing urbanisation

Over half of the world's population lives in cities. By 2030, urban population share is expected to reach 60% - some 4.9 billion people. Much of the growth in the urban population is expected to take place in Asia and Africa. Cities are increasingly functioning as autonomous entities, setting social and economic standards. Urban identity will grow in importance compared to national identity.



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Changing security paradigm



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**Increasing influence
of new governing systems**

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Changing security paradigm

The nature, scope and spectrum of conflicts and security are changing. The emerging security paradigm is framed by new asymmetrical warfare, increasingly easy access to increasingly powerful weapons, violent extremism, conflicting motivations, and a relatively chaotic organisation of the parties involved. The diversification of threats and actors is generating new challenges to the defence and security communities, as well as to society as a whole.



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Increasing influence of new governing systems

Governing systems are multiplying and diversifying. The expanding influence of non-state actors, the emergence of a global conscientiousness, the prominence of social media platforms and internationalisation of decision-making are forming new, multi-layered governing systems over traditional decision-making structures.



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