About Copenhagen Consensus

We create a framework to prioritize solutions, with the goal of achieving the most good for people and the planet. Our analyses take into account not just the economic, but also health, social and environmental benefits.

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Copenhagen Consensus Center (CCC3)

Description:

The Copenhagen Consensus Center is a think tank that researches and publishes the smartest solutions to the world’s biggest problems. Our studies are conducted by more than 300 economists from internationally renowned institutions, including seven Nobel Laureates, to advise policymakers and philanthropists how to achieve the best results with their limited resources.

Stakeholder(s):

Policymakers:
Our research is routinely cited by policymakers and NGOs.

NGOs

Governments:
We provide crucial data and insight into some of the world’s most intractable problems, allowing governments and aid agencies to make smart decisions and achieve more with their limited resources.

Aid Agencies

Philanthropists

Prospect Magazine:
The Center was voted Think Tank of the Year in International Affairs (US) by Prospect Magazine, and...

University of Pennsylvania:
our advocacy for data-driven prioritization has been repeatedly voted one of the top 20 campaigns worldwide in a think tank survey conducted by the University of Pennsylvania.

Vision

The most good is achieved for people and the planet

Mission

To research and publish the smartest solutions to the world’s biggest problems.

Values

Cost-Effectiveness: The Copenhagen Consensus Center focuses on cost-effective solutions to the world’s biggest challenges.

Consensus

Copenhagen Consensus Center Board & Directors

Bjorn Lomborg:
President and Founder

Roland Mathiasson:
Executive Vice President, Secretary, and Assistant Treasurer

Scott Calahan:
Treasurer, Member of Compensation Committee, and Independent Director

Loretta Michaels:
Member of Compensation Committee and Independent Director

Copenhagen Consensus Center Experts:
The Copenhagen Consensus Center works with some of the world’s top economic thinkers to provide analysis of how we can do the most good for the world. [They are listed at https://www.copenhagenconsensus.com/expert.]
1. Projects

1.1. Ghana Priorities

The Ghanaian economy has been growing swiftly, with remarkable GDP growth higher than five per cent for two years running. This robust growth means added pressure from special interest groups who...

Stakeholder(s):
Ghana

1.2. India Consensus

Identify the smartest solutions to some of India's most pressing development challenges.

The India Consensus is a partnership between Tata Trusts and the Copenhagen Consensus Center. The aim is to identify the smartest solutions to some of India's most pressing development challenges...

Stakeholder(s):
India
Tata Trusts

1.3. Andhra Pradesh Priorities

As a new state, Andhra Pradesh faces a bright future, but it is still experiencing many acute social and economic development challenges. It has made great strides in creating a positive environment...

Stakeholder(s):
Andhra Pradesh

1.4. Rajasthan Priorities

Rajasthan is the largest Indian state. It has a diversified economy, with mining, agriculture and tourism. Rajasthan has shown significant progress in improving governance and tackling corruption...

Stakeholder(s):
Rajasthan

1.5. Haiti Priorise

Determine what the top priorities should be for policy makers, international donors, NGOs and businesses.

Haiti faces some of the most acute social and economic development challenges in the world. Despite an influx of aid in the aftermath of the 2010 earthquake, growth and progress continue to be minimal, at best. With so many actors and the wide breadth of challenges, what should the top priorities be for policy makers, international donors, NGOs and businesses?

Stakeholder(s):
Haiti
Policy Makers
International Donors
NGOs
Businesses
1.6. Bangladesh Priorities

Find, analyze, rank and disseminate the best solutions for the country.

What should be the top priorities for policy makers, international donors, NGOs and businesses? With limited resources and time, it is crucial that focus is informed by what will do the most good for each taka spent. The Bangladesh Priorities project works with stakeholders across Bangladesh to find, analyze, rank and disseminate the best solutions for the country.

Stakeholder(s):
Bangladesh

1.7. Post-2015 Consensus

Identify development goals with the greatest benefit-to-cost ratio

In 2015, the UN’s Millennium Development Goals are expiring and the international community will set new goals. The Post-2015 Consensus brings together the world’s top economists, NGOs, international agencies and businesses to identify the goals with the greatest benefit-to-cost ratio for the next development agenda.

Stakeholder(s):
UN

1.8. A Scorecard for Humanity

Evaluate the state of the world.

A Scorecard for Humanity fits into the ongoing conversation between optimists and pessimists for the last half century. The central question has been: what is the state of the world? The results of our study have been published by Cambridge University Press under the book title How Much Have Global Problems Cost the World? A Scorecard from 1900 to 2050.

Stakeholder(s):
Optimists Cambridg University Press
Pessimists

1.9. Copenhagen Consensus III

Shape overseas development spending and philanthropic decisions.

In 2004 and 2008, the Copenhagen Consensus Center held two major projects that helped to shape overseas development spending and philanthropic decisions for years to come. The third Copenhagen Consensus was the latest iteration of our ongoing work to prioritize the best solutions.
1.10. Rethink HIV

*Identify the most effective ways to tackle the pandemic across sub-Saharan Africa.*

The Rethink HIV project is a joint venture between the Rush Foundation and the Copenhagen Consensus Center. Rush asked the Copenhagen Consensus Center to commission a group of leading health academics to analyze policy choices and to identify the most effective ways to tackle the pandemic across sub-Saharan Africa. RethinkHIV identifies effective interventions in the fight against HIV/AIDS.

**Stakeholder(s):**
- Rush Foundation
- Health Academics
- Sub-Saharan Africa

1.11. Guide to Giving

*Provide guidance on how to make personal donations in line with Copenhagen Consensus findings.*

Even the wealthiest government, business, or individual has limited resources. A dollar spent in one place cannot be spent elsewhere. We are often asked by individuals: how can I make personal donations in line with Copenhagen Consensus findings? This Guide provides an answer.

**Stakeholder(s):**
- Governments
- Individuals
- Businesses

1.12. Copenhagen Consensus on Climate

*Take good actions on climate change.*

Global warming is real; it is caused by man-made CO2 emissions, and we need to do something about it. But we don’t need action that makes us feel good. We need action that actually does good.

1.13. Denmark Consensus 2009

What are Denmark’s biggest challenges? What areas concern Danes the most, and where do they want Danish politicians to focus first? What are the best solutions to their concerns, and where can we do the most good?

**Stakeholder(s):**
- Denmark

1.14. Copenhagen Consensus II

*Recommend how best to tackle ten of the world’s most pressing issues.*

The second Copenhagen Consensus took place 25-30 May in Copenhagen. Once again, our Expert Panel tackled the question, Imagine you had $75 billion to donate to worthwhile causes. What would you do, and where should we start? The Panel released a prioritized list recommending how best to tackle ten of the world’s most pressing issues.
1.15. Copenhagen Consensus for Latin America

Copenhagen Consensus for Latin America and the Caribbean took place in San José, Costa Rica, 22-25 October 2007 at the INCAE Business School, Alajuela, in cooperation with the Inter-American Development Bank.

Stakeholder(s):
Latin America
INCAE Business School
Inter-American Development Bank

1.16. Bill Gates for a Day

If you were the richest man of the world how would you solve the world's problem? Participate in the event and give your prioritization....

Stakeholder(s):
Bill Gates

1.17. Copenhagen Consensus UNICEF

Prioritize the use of limited resources in the global effort to mitigate the negative consequences of ten global challenges such as HIV/AIDS, malaria, hunger and climate change.

The Copenhagen Consensus UNICEF meeting brought together a number of UN ambassadors and set focus on the issue of prioritizing the use of limited resources in the global effort to mitigate the negative consequences of ten global challenges such as HIV/AIDS, malaria, hunger and climate change.

Stakeholder(s):
UNICEF
UN Ambassadors

1.18. Copenhagen Consensus Georgetown

Copenhagen Consensus 2006 followed a similar procedure to the first Copenhagen Consensus, drawing on the earlier exercise. Representatives had available to them the materials from the previous meeting, and over two days heard new presentations from acknowledged economists and UN experts for each of the ten challenge areas.

Stakeholder(s):
Economists
UN Experts

1.19. Copenhagen Consensus

Improve prioritization of the numerous problems the world faces.

The Copenhagen Consensus was our first project. The basic idea was to improve prioritization of the numerous problems the world faces, by gathering some of the world's greatest economists to a meeting where some of the biggest challenges in the world would be assessed.
1.20. Australia Consensus Centre

Policy and prioritization research institute, sister organisation of Copenhagen Consensus.

Stakeholder(s):
Australia Consensus Centre
2. Research

2.1. Climate Change & Energy
Climate change is real and man-made. It will come as a big surprise that climate change from 1900 to 2025 has mostly been a net benefit, rising to increase welfare about 1.5% GDP per year.

2.2. Conflicts & Terrorism
War has a heavy economic and human cost. Not a single low-income country afflicted by violence has achieved even one of the eight Millennium Development goals.

2.3. Education
Over the past 50 years, remarkable progress has been made ensuring that children receive basic education. More than sixty percent of adults in low-income countries can read and write, whereas in 1962, just one-third were literate.

2.4. Environment
Environmental issues remain at the forefront of our research. Air pollution affects millions, especially in the developing world. And preserving biodiversity carries many economic benefits itself.

2.5. Finance & Economy
Financial instability can have significant effects on economic growth. It afflicts primarily countries in the process of economic development, which are vulnerable to instability and unable to cope with the consequences as smoothly as more economically advanced economies.

2.6. Gender
Investing in women’s issues can yield strong value-for-money, often outperforming other sectors in both immediate and long-term impacts. The diversity of programming in this arena means that we can now afford to think more critically around the quality of empowerment that programs are able to cultivate within their participants and more broadly, within entire communities.
2.7. Governance

Today, more countries than ever boast democratic constitutions, functioning bureaucracies and professional judiciaries. However, operation is patchy. Some institutions in some countries are at least as good as those in wealthier states; others are plagued by corruption and waste.

2.8. Health

Humans have made great strides in healthcare. Advances are so rapid that for every month you live, medical science adds a week to your life expectancy. However, eighty percent of global deaths from heart disease, stroke, cancer, and other chronic diseases occur in low-income and middle-income countries.

2.9. Hunger & Malnutrition

The planet creates more than enough food to meet everyone's needs. But there are still about 925 million hungry people in the world, and nearly 180 million preschool-age children do not get vital nutrients.

2.10. Inequality

Over the past three decades gender issues have increasingly gained prominence on the development agenda. More attention is being given to the plight of poor and disadvantaged women in developing countries, and to the unfinished gender agenda in more developed countries.

2.11. Infrastructure

Access to basic infrastructure services – roads, ports, electricity, water and sanitation – still remains a key challenge in the fight against poverty and the search for sustainable growth in many regions.

2.12. Natural Disasters

Even the most wealthy and well prepared countries can experience large-scale damage and destruction when natural disasters strike. The situation is much worse in low-income countries since they often do not have the financial means to protect their population and economy against catastrophes.

2.13. Population Growth

Current ‘high fertility’ countries account currently for about 38% of the 78 million persons that are added annually to the world population, despite composing only 18% of the current population. After 2060, world population is projected to grow exclusively as a result of growth in current high fertility countries.
2.14. Technology & Data

Technology underpins modern society. Rich countries spend considerable amounts on R&D and this enables a flow of innovation and greater productivity. However, low-income countries, not surprisingly, spend very little and developing countries even less, creating a discrepancy in access to technologies, innovation and productivity. The collection of data on the other hand, has often been an afterthought in regard to development programs and policies. Although well intentioned, policies need to also be well aimed and this includes the measurement of monitoring of such policies.

2.15. Trade & Migration

For most of human history, migration has been constrained by physical barriers and transport difficulties rather than government action. More recently, sharply different rates of growth across the world have combined to make many workers from poorer countries eager to move to countries where wages are higher.

2.16. Water & Sanitation

An astonishing one-third of the world population, 2.5 billion people, lack access to basic sanitation, and over one billion people defecate out in the open. Water and sanitation issues still cause 6–7% of deaths in developing countries.