



The Geo-Economics Initiative

The global economy is entering a new and more volatile era shaped by a series of compounding dilemmas: the intensification of geopolitical competition, the escalation of the climate crisis, and the development of groundbreaking technologies, all happening within the backdrop of rising inequality, continued impacts from the COVID-19 pandemic, and other disruptive forces. The interlocking nature of these transformations is making contemporary problems harder to resolve and future crises more difficult to predict.

The initial stages of this transition have upended patterns of trade and investment, roiled energy markets, destabilized communities, and overwhelmed outdated economic paradigms and public sector delivery mechanisms. The complexity of these issues requires new ideas, institutions, and partnerships to both meet the moment and shape new opportunities.

Mission

The Geo-Economics Initiative is uniquely positioned to help business, government, philanthropy, and community leaders navigate global transformations. The Initiative leverages the Milken Institute's expertise, global reach, and networks of private investors and community partners to create proactive strategies for the new era of disruptions. The Initiative works with resilience-minded leaders to develop the insights, tools, and mechanisms required to make sound investment and policy decisions. It helps governments unlock private sector capital, investors navigate the emerging landscape, and communities attract investment to advance sustainable solutions.

The Geo-Economics Initiative's focus areas include:

Innovating the Future

Global prosperity is increasing through technology and globalization, but many communities have been left behind while some civic institutions have weakened. Emerging technologies like AI could either be a key tool to unlock societal advancement and individual opportunity, or they could accelerate inequality and polarization. The Initiative is focused on necessary innovation for future growth and competitiveness to help usher in a new era of human development that leads to breakthroughs in tailored education, public sector technological advances, and civic engagement.

Bolstering Climate Resilience

The race to decarbonize the global economy depends on the success of efforts to unlock and mobilize trillions of dollars to finance climate mitigation and adaptation, especially for the countries and populations most vulnerable to the effects of climate change. The Initiative is partnering with stakeholders at the local, national, and global levels to build innovative mechanisms to accelerate public, private, and philanthropic climate investment at scale.

Rewiring Trade and Supply Chains

Geopolitics, technology, and climate change are among the forces rewiring globalization across regions and industries. These dynamics are disrupting established relationships and creating new opportunities for integration. The Initiative works with public and private sector leaders to understand these trends, build resilience and competitiveness in critical sectors, and advance reforms to the international economic system to meet contemporary challenges.

Leadership Network

The Initiative's work is further informed by the MI Finance Geo-Economics Leadership Network, which is composed of global business and policy leaders with expertise at the intersection of international economics, foreign affairs, and community-led innovation.

Initiative Team Leaders

Karen Kornbluh is a senior advisor to the Milken Institute. She has served in senior economic policy positions in government, including as US ambassador to the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development, and was executive vice president at global data company Nielsen. Ambassador Kornbluh testifies before Congress, and her writing is widely published.

Dan Carol leads the Milken Institute's climate finance practice and public finance program. Carol works with the Institute's \$32 trillion network of institutional investors, public sector leaders, and cross-sectoral stakeholders to scale up climate resilient deployment partnerships and capital deployment.

Rachel Fox Smothermon is a senior associate at the Milken Institute and a member of the Geo-Economics Initiative. She previously worked on international human rights at the Department of State and has held multiple roles in public policy research. She earned an MPhil in international development studies from the University of Cambridge.

Additional Milken Institute Experts

Matthew Aleshire, Director

Caitlin MacLean, Senior Director

Simon Radford, Director

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