This session will share knowledge and insights into what the future will bring in terms of demographic trends while also crucially asking what we can do about it. Demography and ageing will map the future of our lives, of the societies we live in, and of the way in which our societies – from Asia to America, from Africa to Europe – live with each other. The session’s title looks simple but the reality behind it is complex and challenging: what can be known and what is unknown about what is “next”? And what will define our “world”, with all its growing inter-dependencies and its risks, surrounding our lengthening and changing lives?

I. INTRODUCTIONS

DEMOGRAPHY IN THE 21ST CENTURY: DYNAMICS BY CONTINENT
Hans Groth, President of the World Demographic & Ageing Forum, St. Gallen, Switzerland
John F. May, PhD, Georgetown University, Washington, DC, USA

GEOPOLITICAL ISSUES ARISING FROM DEMOGRAPHY
Nicholas Eberstadt, Henry Wendt Chair in Political Economy, American Enterprise Institute, Washington, DC, USA

II. PANEL DISCUSSION

Continuous changes and unprecedented innovations will significantly impact societies, economies and governance all over the globe. Therefore, demographic shifts will fundamentally impact our living standards and potential to prosper. The ongoing population dynamics will open up new areas of change. To meet these challenges, globally coordinated measures and actions will need to be initiated. During this session, leading experts from across the globe will be discuss what the pressing topics are for the future competitiveness of nations in the context of these demographic shifts. The areas of focus will be: work life, financial markets, retirement systems, health and ageing, and digital revolution.

What are the points of agreement and certainty?
What could potentially surprise us?
What can and must be done?

III. SUMMARY & CONCLUSION – ASSEMBLING THE JIGSAW
Wolfgang Lutz, Founder of Wittgenstein Centre for Demography & Global Human Capital (IIASA, VID/ÖAW, WU), Vienna, Austria

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