

PORTRAIT: GOVERNMENTS

How does the chief executive of a country address political, economic and cultural change? Opting to shape the future with national strategies is one way to guarantee sustainable development.

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If we sum up visions of how the world will look in the future and put them in the context of individual regions and countries around the globe, trends become tangible.

Global trends influence national policy

Globalisation continues! Countries and regions are becoming increasingly interdependent and fiercely competitive as locations for business. As production sites migrate to up-and-coming regions, capital, labour and jobs shift right along with them, creating new economic areas. Problems arise with the integration in the new economic regions of employees, who tend to show only a slight willingness to participate in political and social life.

Internal political dialogue strengthens the state and the economy.

The demographic change shows a natural contraction of the population accompanied by relatively pronounced ageing, especially in industrialised countries. Other global regions are experiencing just the opposite trend. In either case, renowned politicians recommend that countries address demographic change with active family policies. The future development of the labour market will be shaped in large measure by the departure or arrival of labour, associated with the loss or gain of knowledge, respectively.

Environmental protection issues are also suddenly on the political agenda of governments. Concern about nature has become a crucial factor with respect to growth plans. Reliable supplies of raw materials and energy are closely associated with this concern. Environmental ministers consider themselves to be in a key role as they push for national environmental policies and define environmental protection in these times of economic crisis as an engine for economic innovation rather than an obstacle.

The Paris-based European Union Institute for Security Studies (EUISS) predicts there will be several global players in the economic sphere in the future. The next 20 years will see the rise of a multipolar world in which economies will be closely intermeshed and the various poles will fiercely compete. But the world is unlikely to drift into a state of permanent war as envisioned by



George Orwell in his novel “1984”. All countries will remain economically connected within a single system.

The strong state

A state fortified by internal political dialogue can meet the challenges of global developments in the 21st century with firm determination. This response will lead to a sense of social security and clear structures for governmental powers, and ultimately inspire citizens to trust their own state. Attention will be focused on everything from information for the economy and citizens all the way to political negotiation strategies as central national and economic factors. Security precautions have to be taken to protect this information. ■

Sources:

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