"The opportunity to raise the quality of life is the biggest business opportunity going on"
- Anand Mahindra, Chairman and Managing Director, Mahindra & Mahindra

The 2017 Global Economic Forum, addressed four long-term Global Risks - and their cascading effects if left unaddressed: (1) Nuclear Weapons Proliferation; (2) Climate Change; (3) the Rise of Political Populism; and, (4) Unpredictability of Oil Prices. Working in teams, students advocated on behalf of one of these global issues in a simulated World Bank competition, centered on a fictitious $2 billion Global Risk Fund.

An independent panel of judges, comprising Philadelphia's business, civic and government leaders, “awarded” funding to the global risk group that presented the most compelling argument—in the form of a PowerPoint presentation—as to why their assigned issue, if properly redressed, would have the greatest impact on long-term economic security.

Participating schools registered up to two teams of 4-6 students. Furthermore, each team was required to nominate one candidate to serve in a leadership position. Each team was assigned an advocacy position on behalf of one Global Risk Group (Nuclear Proliferation, Climate Change, Political Populism, Unpredictability in Oil Prices) from the perspective of an assigned Economic Bloc (Advanced, Developing or Least-Developed).

Each team prepared a presentation to be delivered at the outset of the Forum’s morning breakout sessions, which addressed the following questions: (1) What impact, if any, does this issue have on your assigned countries and/or economic bloc? (2) What are two strategies and/or policy recommendations that could effectively address this issue? (3) Why will this issue, if successfully redressed, have the greatest impact on global economic security?

For additional information or questions about this past program, please view program resources and/or contact the Council’s Education department.