



2004

President Bill Clinton announces that he will organize a major annual gathering of leaders to address global challenges at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland. President Clinton says attendees will be “asked to participate in very specific decisions...and then [make] commitments to do something about it.” Watch the speech from the World Economic Forum [here](#).

2005

Inaugural meeting of the Clinton Global Initiative – to coincide with the 60th session of the United Nations General Assembly – brings together leaders from the business, academia, government, and nonprofit communities and results in nearly 300 Commitments to Action. Read more about the meeting in the Washington Post [here](#).

2006

More than 1,000 leaders of business, government and non-governmental organizations, and nearly 50 current and former Heads of State attend the **second CGI Annual Meeting**, resulting in 215 commitments. During the opening plenary session, Laura Bush announces the [first commitment](#) of \$16.4 million in joint pledges from USAID, PEPFAR, The Case Foundation and the MCJ Foundation. Mrs. Bush explains that these funds will help bring clean water systems to Sub-Saharan Africa.

2007

President Bill Clinton presents the [Inaugural Clinton Global Citizen Awards](#) at Carnegie Hall, honoring Andre Agassi, founder of the Andre Agassi Foundation; Fazle Hassan Abed, founder of the Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee; John Chambers, CEO of Cisco; and Vicky Colbert, founder of the Escuela Nueva Foundation. The awards are hosted by Al Roker, and include special musical performances by Tony Bennett and the African Children’s Choir.

President Bill Clinton is joined by 1,300 leaders from business, government, and non-governmental organizations, who traveled to New York from six continents, including 50 current and former Heads of State at the [2007 CGI Annual Meeting](#). Participants make 245 Commitments to Action. During a panel, Angelina Jolie gets emotional while sharing the moving experiences of two Syrian refugees: a boy who survives by selling tissues on the street and his friend he cares for. Watch more from the panel [here](#).

CGI, along with MTV, hosts a roundtable discussion at the Apollo Theater regarding the state of affairs of youth activism. At this event, **President Clinton announces the expansion of CGI to college and university campuses through CGI U**, a meeting to inform and motivate a new generation of young people to act on urgent challenges focusing on the following areas: energy & climate change, global health, poverty alleviation, and peace & human rights. The discussion panel includes President Clinton,

Bono, Chris Rock, Alicia Keys, Shakira, and MTV President Christina Norman. Watch the video from the event [here](#).

2008

Nearly 700 college students attend the [inaugural meeting of the Clinton Global Initiative University](#) at Tulane University. President Bill Clinton and Brad Pitt join 600 students from around the world to formally break ground on Pitt's Make it Right project to help clean more than 10 blocks of the Lower 9th Ward.

The 2nd Annual Clinton Global Citizen Awards honors Jennifer and Peter Buffett, co-chairs of the NoVo Foundation; Xiaoyi (Sheri) Liao, founder of the Global Village of Beijing; Julio Frenk, dean of the Harvard School of Public Health; and Nevill Isdell, then-chairman of the Coca-Cola Company. The ceremony is hosted by Maria Bartiromo and UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador Youssou Ndour and his band Le Super Etoile de Dakar perform at the ceremony, as well as singer/songwriter James Taylor.

President Clinton joins over 1,000 leaders from business, government, and non-governmental organizations who traveled to New York from six continents, including nearly 60 current and former Heads of State and five Nobel Peace Prize winners for the **2008 CGI Annual Meeting**. The Haiti Action Network is created in response to recent natural disasters in Haiti. John McCain delivers the opening remarks at the opening plenary session where he called CGI "one of the finest institutions in the United State of America," with a focus on ways to improve the world around us using his five fundamental principles. A conversation between President Clinton and Bill Gates sparks the topic of how our country helps the impoverished, examining development both globally and within our country by looking through the lenses of Bill Gates. Watch more from the event [here](#).

CGI hosts its first international meeting, [CGI Asia](#), in Hong Kong, bringing together current and former Heads of State and the region's leading figures from business and nonprofits to address some of the region's most pressing challenges, including Minister Mentor Lee Kuan Yew.

2009

The University of Texas at Austin hosts the [2nd Annual CGI U Meeting](#), convening nearly 1,000 college students and nearly 100 university presidents, as well as leading nonprofit organizations, social entrepreneurs, and youth leaders.

The **2009 CGI Annual Meeting** opening plenary has special remarks from President Barack Obama, who says "CGI is an idea whose time has come." Watch more from the opening session [here](#). The Annual Meeting convenes cross-sector leaders who make 284 new commitments projected to improve the lives of more than 200 million people. On a panel, Brad Pitt's organization, Make It Right, [makes a commitment](#) to expand his efforts for the redevelopment and construction of affordable living in New Orleans. Zainab Salbi, founder and CEO of Women for Women International, participates in a session titled, "Investing in Girls and Women." Click [here](#) to read more about the session and event.

The **3rd Annual Clinton Global Citizen Awards** honor His Excellency Paul Kagame, President of the Republic of Rwanda; Asha Hagi Elmi Amin, Chairperson, Save Somali Women and Children; Peter Bakker, Chief Executive Officer, TNT; Dr. Rola Dashti, Parliament Member, State of Kuwait; Ruchira Gupta, President, Apne Aap Women Worldwide; and Quincy Jones, Founder, Quincy Jones Foundation. The night is emceed by Ben Stiller, and includes musical performances by Alicia Keys, co-founder of Keep a Child Alive, and Juanes, founder of the Mi Sangre Foundation and of Paz Sin Fronteras.

2010

The **3rd Annual CGI U Meeting** at the University of Miami brings together more than 1,300 students representing 318 schools, 83 countries, and all 50 states, along with presidents and administrators from 80 universities and 79 leaders of national youth organizations.

President Clinton recognizes the winners of the **4th Annual Clinton Global Citizen Awards**, including His Excellency Dr. Leonel Fernandez, President of the Dominican Republic; Mohamed Ibrahim, Chairman, Mo Ibrahim Foundation; Andrea Jung, Chairman & CEO, Avon Products, Inc.; Suraya Pakzad, Executive Director, Voice of Women Organization; and Dr. Jean Pape, Executive Director, GHESKIO. Ben Stiller emcees for the second consecutive year. Jean-Max Bellerive, prime minister of the Republic of Haiti, Festus Mogae, former president of the Republic of Botswana, Maria Bartiromo, Tom Golisano, Maggie Gyllenhaal, Salma Hayek Pinault, and Kevin Spacey also participate.

The **6th CGI Annual Meeting** focuses on finding effective, sustainable solutions to some of the world's most pressing challenges in the areas of education, economic empowerment, energy, the environment, and global health. Following President Clinton and President Obama's remarks, First Lady Michelle Obama concludes the closing plenary where she asks CGI members "How can you, as President Clinton put it earlier this week, get people involved in our common endeavors?" You can read their remarks [here](#).

2011

The **4th CGI U Meeting** at the University of California, San Diego brings together more than 1,000 students from 349 schools, 90 countries, and all 50 states. At the end of the meeting, students participate in a service project at the San Diego Food Bank. President Clinton announces the launch of the inaugural CGI U Commitment Challenge, a competition of ideas from college and university students in the form of a "bracket." Learn more about the meeting [here](#).

The **Inaugural CGI America Meeting** in Chicago focuses on creating jobs and driving economic growth in the U.S. At the meeting, cross-sector leaders launch more than 50 new commitments. The AFL-CIO commits to encourage the investment of \$10 billion in workers' capital and skilled labor to catalyze the large-scale reconstruction of America's built environment.

President Clinton honors recipients of the **5th Annual Clinton Global Citizen Awards**, including Mhammed Abbad Andaloussi, Chairman and CEO, Injaz Morocco; Philippe Douste-Blazy, Chairman, UNITAID; Dr. Denis Mukwege, Founder and Medical Director, The Panzi Hospital; Güler Sabanci;

Chairman and Managing Director, Sabanci Holding; and Trudie Styler and Sting, Founders, Rainforest Fund.

The **2011 CGI Annual Meeting** includes more than 50 Heads of State, 500 business leaders, and 450 leaders from NGOs and philanthropic organizations to make Commitments to Action to address some of the world's most pressing issues. During an exceptional moment at the meeting, **Bishop Tutu and Aung San Suu Kyi** bring key insights to human rights initiatives, and prove to the audience that they are arguably the most visionary peace builders of our time. Watch the session [here](#).

2012

The **5th Annual CGI U** at George Washington University brings together more than 1,000 students representing all 50 states, 82 countries, and more than 300 universities. President Clinton and Jon Stewart close the meeting with a candid discussion, addressing questions directly from CGI U students on topics ranging from the state of Afghanistan, gay marriage, domestic violence, energy policy, foreign aid in developing countries, unemployment, and the role of civic engagement among today's youth. At the opening plenary session, Usher participates and answers his questions in song. View the video [here](#).

The **2nd Annual CGI America** Meeting convenes nearly 1,000 leaders representing Fortune 500 companies, nonprofits, foundations, and government to forge collaborative solutions and generate commitments to address the United States' most pressing economic challenges. More than 50 new commitments are launched at the meeting.

The **6th Annual Clinton Global Citizen Awards** honors The Right Reverend Christopher Senyonjo, executive director, St. Paul's Reconciliation and Equality Centre; Pepe Julian Onziema, programme director and advocacy officer, Sexual Minorities Uganda; Katie Stagliano, founder and chief executive gardener, Katie's Krops; Carlos Slim Helú, founder, Fundación Carlos Slim; Denis O'Brien, chairman and founder, Digicel Group; and Luis A. Moreno, president, Inter-American Development Bank. Actress Bebe Neuwirth emcees the show, with performances from Grammy Award-winning singer Seal, slam poet Joshua Bennett, Grammy Award-winning Beninise recording artist Angélique Kidjo, and Somali-Canadian rapper K'NAAN. Haiti Prime Minister Laurent Lamothe, Lt. Governor of California Gavin Newsom, Matt Damon, Rosario Dawson, Donna Karan, Eva Longoria, and June Sarpong also make appearances in honor of the recipients.

An array of heads of state, CEOs, nonprofit leaders, and other global luminaries make over 150 new commitments, expected to impact nearly 22 million lives at the **2012 CGI Annual Meeting**. Gov. Mitt Romney says, "There are a number of things that impress me about the Global Initiative and one of them is that, as I've seen it from afar, I've been impressed by the extraordinary power that you've derived by harnessing together people of different backgrounds, institutions of different backgrounds and persuasions. You've been able to fashion partnerships, if you will, across the traditional boundaries." He spoke broadly about the general concept of foreign aid and his idea to create partnerships between the federal government and small/medium sized businesses. Watch more of his speech [here](#).

2013

The **6th Annual CGI U Meeting** at Washington University in St. Louis brings together more than 1,000 college students with innovators, thought leaders, and civically engaged celebrities to make Commitments to Action to address the most pressing challenges facing their campuses and communities in areas such as education, environment and climate change, human rights, poverty alleviation, and public health. In the closing session of the meeting, President Clinton – with assistance from Stephen Colbert – launches his Twitter account @prezbillyjeff. Colbert also tours the Commitment Exchange Fair with Chelsea Clinton and President Clinton where students showcase their work, and Colbert launches his own “CGI,” the **Colbert Galactic Initiative**. Watch a clip [here](#).

The **3rd CGI America Meeting** in Chicago brings together nearly 1,000 business, government, and civil society leaders dedicated to boosting economic recovery and long-term competitiveness of the United States. Attendees develop 72 new commitments, which aim to positively impact the lives of more than 2 million people in the United States. New Jersey Governor Chris Christie closes the meeting with a discussion on leadership, cooperation, and collaboration.

The **2013 Clinton Global Citizen Awards** honor Michael R. Bloomberg, Mayor, City of New York; Malala Yousafzai, Campaigner for Girls’ Rights, The Malala Fund; Elias Taban, National Bishop, Evangelical Presbyterian Church of South Sudan and Uganda; Bunker Roy, Founder, The Barefoot College; Jessamyn W. Rodriguez, Founder and CEO, Hot Bread Kitchen; Adam Lowry, Co-Founder and Chief Greenskeeper; and Eric Ryan, Co-Founder, Method Products PBC. In addition to Vice President Joe Biden, appearances include Her Majesty Queen Rania Al Abdullah of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan; Mary Robinson, former president of Ireland and president, Mary Robinson Foundation for Climate Justice; Nicholas Kristof, columnist, The New York Times; M. Sanjayan, lead scientist, The Nature Conservancy; and Diana Taylor, managing director, Wolfensohn Fund Management. The awards feature performances by Elvis Costello, Malian musician Fatoumata Diawara, and The Roots with Randy Jackson who also served as musical producer for the show.

The **9th CGI Annual Meeting** emphasizes optimism and mobilizing for action to address the most pressing global challenges. CGI members make over 160 new Commitments to Action, expected to impact nearly 22.2 million lives. Chelsea Clinton, along with Rosita the Muppet from Sesame Street, announces a Commitment to Action. Watch the video [here](#) of the announcement. The Esperanza Azteca National Youth Orchestra performs at the closing plenary session. Watch more from the performance [here](#).

CGI Latin America is held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, where leaders from across Latin America and around the world explore how to carry Latin America’s social and economic progress into the future. Government leaders, top CEOs, and executives from leading NGOs focus on developing human capacity, designing for green growth, and harnessing innovation and technology in the region. Chelsea Clinton leads a Day of Action to give back to the local community by transforming a community day care center in the Morro do Vigidal neighborhood of Rio de Janeiro.

2014

More than 1,000 college student leaders come together for [CGI U 2014](#) at Arizona State University. Students gather in downtown Phoenix for the 9th Day of Action to transform previously vacant lots in the city into vibrant and sustainable public spaces. Young people have the opportunity to participate in a codeathon to spur innovation in the technology space and increase the scope, reach, and impact of CGI U commitments. Jimmy Kimmel hosted the closing session and managed to take a viral selfie backstage with the Clintons and CGI U students. View the selfie [here](#).

The **4th CGI America Meeting** convenes nearly 1,000 leaders from business, foundation, NGO, and government sectors in Denver to make more than 100 new commitments to impact more than 300,000 people in the United States. Chelsea Clinton leads Day of Action to revitalize facilities and complete projects at six nonprofit organizations in the Denver metro area.

Seth Meyers hosts the **8th Annual Clinton Global Citizen Awards** to honor Leonardo DiCaprio, Founder, Leonardo DiCaprio Foundation; Atifete Jahjaga, President of the Republic of Kosovo; Hayat Sindi, Founder and CEO, i2 Institute; and Greg Asbed and Lucas Benitez, Co-founders, Coalition of Immokalee Workers; with appearances by Madeleine Albright, Eva Longoria, Randy Jackson and musical performances by Aloe Blacc, Natalie Merchant, Jason Mraz with special guests Raining Jane, and The Roots. Read more from the [Hollywood Reporter](#) and [Vogue](#).

Direct Relief and several U.S. aid organizations make a Commitment to Action to airlift 100 tons of medical supplies to West Africa to combat the Ebola outbreak in the region. The **Ebola relief airlift**, the largest single emergency shipment from the U.S. to West Africa to date, contains personal protective equipment and medical supplies valued at \$6 million wholesale. Read more about it [here](#).

At the **10th CGI Annual Meeting**, members make 188 new Commitments to Action, expected to impact nearly 4.9 million people when fully funded and implemented. CGI announces the completion of an analysis on Commitments to Action made since 2005 by members of the CGI community in order to help commitment-makers be more effective and efficient in their work. President Clinton speaks with astronauts on the International Space Station via satellite. Watch more from the event [here](#).

2015

More than 1,000 student leaders representing more than 300 schools and over 75 countries join together for **CGI U 2015** at the University of Miami to make 700 new Commitments to Action including efforts to increase girls and women's inclusion in STEM fields; improve access to clean water in developing nations; provide rural communities with affordable sources of renewable energy; and increase nutritional options in food deserts. Learn more about the meeting [here](#).

CGI Middle East & Africa is held in Marrakech, where regional and global leaders from business, government, philanthropy, and NGOs highlight regional successes and address pressing challenges by creating Commitments to Action, including initiatives focused on investing in youth; securing access to

energy, food, and water; and expanding infrastructure for communities throughout the Middle East and Africa.

The **5th CGI America Meeting** brings together nearly 1,000 leaders from business, foundation, NGO, and government sectors to advance solutions that encourage economic growth, support long-term competitiveness, and increase social mobility in the United States. Attendees make 79 new Commitments to Action that, when fully funded and implemented, will positively impact the lives of more than 1.6 million people in the United States.

The **9th Annual Clinton Global Citizen Awards** honor Her Excellency Sheikha Lubna Bint Khalid Al Qasimi, Minister for International Cooperation and Development, United Arab Emirates; Aliko Dangote, President & CEO, Dangote Group; Syeda Ghulam Fatima, General Secretary, Bonded Labour Liberation Front Pakistan; Alan Knight, Corporate Responsibility, General Manager, ArcelorMittal; and Raj Panjabi, Chief Executive Officer, Last Mile Health, with special performances and appearances by Tony Bennett; Ben Harper; Janelle Monáe; The Roots; Trudie Styler; Founder, The Rainforest Fund; Rainn Wilson, co-founder the Lidè program; Mo Ibrahim, Chairman, Mo Ibrahim Foundation; and musical producer, Randy Jackson.

President Clinton announces the premier of a groundbreaking virtual reality film, **“Inside Impact: East Africa,”** an eight-minute film that allows people anywhere to join him and Chelsea Clinton on their trip to see first-hand how Commitments to Action made by CGI members are changing lives and empowering communities.

CGI celebrates its 10th anniversary by bringing together more than 1,000 leaders from across sectors to make 123 new commitments, expected to impact more than 15 million lives around the world when fully funded and implemented. Neil deGrasse Tyson introduces Pepper the Robot. Watch the session [here](#).

2016

More than 1,200 college and university students attend the **9th CGI U** at University of California, Berkeley to discuss and advance solutions on a wide range of global challenges, including the refugee crisis, securing human rights through data and new technology, food insecurity, and combating mental health stigma globally. The closing session of CGI U included a conversation between Conan O’Brien and President Clinton, where a student asked the President “What advice would you give to your 20 year old self?” A [video of President Clinton’s response](#) went viral, with more than 1.5 million views on Facebook. Learn more about the event in the Berkeley News [here](#), and about President Clinton’s visionary remarks to students from VentureBeat [here](#).

Nearly 1,000 leaders from business, foundation, nonprofit, and government sectors convene in Atlanta for the **6th and final CGI America Meeting** to advance solutions that encourage economic growth, support long-term competitiveness, and increase social mobility in the United States. Attendees announce more than 50 new commitments to improve more than 477,000 lives around the country.

Jimmy Carter and President Clinton join together in a session discussing the future of quality jobs. Watch the conversation [here](#).

The **10th Annual Clinton Global Citizen Awards** honor Jon Bon Jovi, Founder, Chairman, JBJ Soul Foundation, President Juan Manuel Santos of Colombia, Dr. Hawa Abdi, and Adi Godrej, with special appearances by Andrea Bocelli with the Voices of Haiti Choir, Sister Mary Scullion, and Randy Jackson. Read more about the event [here](#).

The **12th and final CGI Annual Meeting** brings together leaders across philanthropy, business, government, and civil society to discuss pressing global issues—including relief response for refugees and displaced populations, the containment of communicable diseases like Zika and Ebola, methods for combating the often devastating effects of climate change, and programs for increasing access for girls' education and women's economic opportunity—and celebrates how CGI and its members have improved the lives of millions around the world.