

28

What if long-term uncertainty became the greatest investment opportunity?

A Catalyst for Common Good

UNCERTAINTIES

Collaboration, Systems

MEGATREND (Most significant)

Future Humanity

TRENDS

Community-Based Solutions Cross-Sectoral Partnerships ESG & Beyond GDP International Collaboration Mobilising Innovation

TECHNOLOGIES

Decentralised
Autonomous Organisations
Fintech

SECTORS IMPACTED

Agriculture & Food
Communication Technologies & Systems
Cyber & Information Security
Digital Goods & Services
Education
Energy, Oil & Gas, & Renewables
Financial Services & Investment
Health & Healthcare
Infrastructure & Construction
Utilities

KEYWORDS

Equity Investment
Food-Energy-Water Nexus
Multinational Development Banks
Public Goods
Sustainable Development

Within Reach

Transitional

Visionary

A global equity fund tackles humanity's greatest long-term challenges by combining decentralised governance for transparency with multilateral development bank capital to scale breakthrough innovations for climate, energy, food and water security.



0

WHY IT MATTERS TODAY

There is a gap in our ability to face global challenges. Meeting these challenges will require significant funding, with an estimated \$2.5 trillion annual gap for energy transitions, climate resilience, and development in low- and middle-income countries. This translates into a gap of between \$100 trillion and \$300 trillion between now and 2050. While annual public spending has increased by \$700 billion each year since 2019, international public finance (from sources such as multilateral development banks) still falls short, providing only 57% of the required amount. Despite previous progress, over 700 million people still live in extreme poverty and the external debt of middle-income countries reached \$8.8 trillion in 2023 with key data gaps.

Taking the long view of global challenges matters. Global challenges, such as climate stability and food, water and energy, require sustained investments. Addressing these interconnected long-term crises is essential for global resilience. The Paris Agreement⁹⁵² the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs),⁹⁵³ and the UN Pact for the Future (which incorporates the UN Declaration on Future Generations and the UN Global Digital Compact)⁹⁵⁴ are all designed to adopt a long-term lens.

Despite challenges, public goods are impactful. The notion of public goods is not new, 955 yet demand for them is increasing. 956 They are essential but their availability remains limited because of various challenges, including a lack of enforceable mechanisms 957 and difficulties balancing long-term benefit with short-term cost. 958 Public goods represent 30% of global GDP, with government spending per citizen rising from \$2,500 to \$5,000 between 1980 and 2022 (using purchasing power parity), driving 20% of poverty reduction. 959 As a step towards data sharing and transparency, the Digital Public Goods Alliance includes a registry, linked to the SDGs, of 177 digital public goods (e.g. Al systems, content, data and software) that meet its standards. 960

Public goods represent

30%

of global GDP, with government spending per citizen rising from \$2,500 to \$5,000 between 1980 and 2022 (using purchasing power parity), driving

20%

of poverty reduction.









THE OPPORTUNITY



BENEFITS

Move towards addressing critical long-term uncertainties; mobilisation of global innovation; evolution of MDBs; 964 alignment with global goals and commitments.



RISKS

Perpetuating existing risks faced by public goods; complexities in managing the DAO; fund sustainability and continuity; challenges managing global investments and innovations. A global public equity fund designed to channel capital into innovations that address long-term uncertainties – often overlooked by traditional investors – focusing on climate and the nexus of energy, food and water while advancing public goods. The fund ensures that its investments meet commonly agreed criteria for public goods^{961, 962} and by acquiring and managing relevant patents, the fund develops innovative licensing models to share critical technologies.

The fund is structured as a decentralised autonomous organisation (DAO) to ensure transparency, consistency and community oversight. Seeded by multilateral development banks (MDBs) seeking to diversify and grow their impact and outcomes, 963 the fund prioritises scalable solutions that advance public goods and solutions to long-term uncertainties.



There is an estimated

\$2.5 trillion

annual funding gap for energy transitions, climate resilience, and development in low- and middle-income countries