

UN Strategic Foresight Newsletter

March 2025



United Nations
Futures Lab
NETWORK



Dear Foresight Community,

This March, we are spotlighting forthcoming initiatives and recently published foresight activities! Learn more about the Foresight Webinar Series with [UN DESA](#) and [UN Futures Lab/Global Hub](#) and catch up on the Foresight Webinar, "Taking Action as a Community!" Check out the latest UN Report on "[Technology Foresight and Technology Assessment for Sustainable Development](#)", as well as resources on [Kenya's Futures Workshop on the Future of Peacebuilding Architecture](#), and the [Global Urban Monitoring Framework for inclusive cities of the future](#).

Looking ahead, check out upcoming events on using [Foresight for Culture and Creative Economy](#) by the [UN Conference on Trade and Development](#), take part in the [UN Innovation Scaling Group](#) webinar session on [exploring foresight approaches for scaling innovation](#) on 9 April 2025. But wait, there's more! [UNU-FLORES](#) is hosting the [Dresden Nexus Conference](#) from 8-10 April 2025, and look out for the [International Forum on Migration Statistics](#) taking place from 16-18 June 2025. Finally, be sure to sign up to the [Strategic Foresight Springboard Programme](#) to skill up on foresight tools.



Subscribe to join the UN Strategic Foresight Community of Practice

Colleagues from Agencies, Funds and Programmes may need to subscribe to be able to access all the links in this newsletter. Allow a couple of hours to be added. Should you still have access issues, please email foresight.community@un.org.

Some links in this newsletter may lead to platforms or resources that are only accessible to UN colleagues. If you are not part of the UN system, these links may not work for you.

🌟 IN THE SPOTLIGHT

UN Futures Lab and the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs

Foresight Webinar Series on Governance Futures



The [UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs](#) (DESA), in collaboration with the [UN Futures Lab/Global Hub](#), organized a Foresight Webinar Series on Governance Futures as part of the [United Nations Economist Network](#) (UNEN) initiative on foresight. The series of webinars from November – December 2024 used strategic foresight to enhance understandings of governance systems and to chart pathways toward desirable governance futures. Colleagues from 26 organizations across the UN system were engaged through a survey and dialogue to look at drivers of change, unpack their interlinkages, and discuss implications. These served as the basis to explore scenarios and identify actions for adaptive, inclusive, and resilient governance futures. Stay tuned for the outcome policy brief, coming soon!

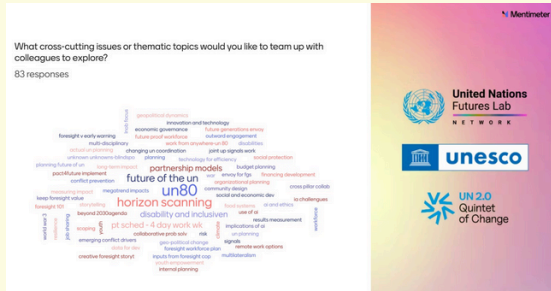
[Learn more](#)



26 March 2025 | 9AM NY, 3PM GVA

Community of Practice Webinar #24

[Recap] Foresight: Taking Action as a Community



On 26 March 2025, over 100 colleagues joined the 24th Foresight Community of Practice webinar on Foresight: Taking Action as a Community. Building upon the previous dialogue focused on what happens when foresight does not work out the way we envisioned, this interactive session took the lessons learned and looked ahead to the future of the Community. Colleagues explored what foresight initiative they would lead over the next year, which cross-cutting themes they would like to collaborate on, and the role they envision playing in the next phase of the Community. Key ideas included applying foresight not only outwardly but also internally across areas of strategic planning and corporate risk. We also explored how to leverage the Community's knowledge and develop UN-wide horizon scanning, and to rethink disability and inclusion within foresight and ensure foresight processes are inclusive by design.

Check out the recap

23-35 April 2025

UNCTAD

Using Foresight for Culture and Creative Economy!



This April, the [UN Conference on Trade and Development](#) (CTAD) will be hosting a three-day workshop in Turin on the use of foresight in creative industries, aiming to prepare the sector to navigate future challenges posed by technological advancements, globalization, and sustainability. The event seeks to equip policymakers, industry professionals, and other stakeholders with the tools to anticipate and shape the future of the creative economy through strategic foresight methodologies. Participants will engage in scenario planning and strategic dialogues, ensuring a comprehensive approach to shaping the future of the creative economy. It will include but not be limited to, architecture, performing arts, and the mode industry.

Learn more

3 March 2025

UNESCAP

[Recap] Foresight on Digital Public Services for SMEs



On 3 March 2024, the [UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific](#) (ESCAP) conducted a workshop in Tashkent introducing foresight methodologies for Uzbekistan's Ministry of Higher Education, Science, and Innovation. The session focused on integrating foresight tools such as the Causal Layered Analysis and the futures triangle into public policy, namely for providing digital public services to small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). The interactive foresight methodologies encouraged in-depth discussions on the challenges and opportunities for digital transformation in Uzbekistan. Moving forward, the insights gained from this round table will serve as a foundation for further policy development and strategic planning.

Check it out

27 February 2025

UNDESA

[Recap] Exploring Africa's trade future: Insights from a Development Policy Seminar



In a rapidly evolving global trade landscape, Africa's integration and trade prospects face significant challenges and much uncertainty. This was the topic of discussion at a Development Policy Seminar on 27 February 2025, hosted by [UN Department of Social and Economic Affairs](#) (DESA). One of the main insights was that competing global interests, especially in recent years, have created a difficult trade environment that is detrimental to Africa's development. Speakers addressed some of the most pressing issues such as facilitating the implementation of tariff-free trade within the continent, renewing commercial partnerships with major economies that provide essential goods, and mandating the United Nations to conduct capacity-building aimed on supporting Africa's trade agenda.

Learn more

NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

9 April 2025

UN Innovation Scaling Group x UN Global Pulse

Exploring Foresight Approaches for Scaling Innovation



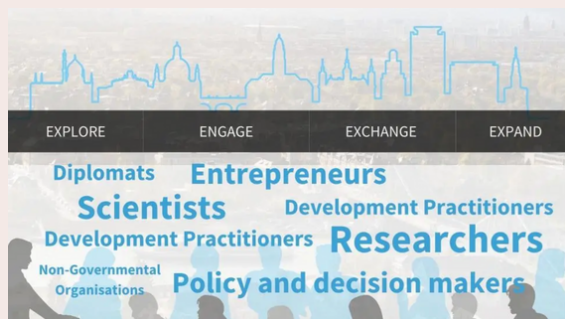
The Innovation Scaling Group under the [UN Innovation Network](#) is hosting an online session on exploring strategic foresight approaches for scaling innovations on 9 April 2025. Join this 90-minute interactive session to gain practical tools and insights to navigate future change, disruptors, and opportunities that shape an innovation's scaling journey using strategic foresight. The session will include a brief introduction to foresight, an overview of entry points for integrating foresight into the innovation process, and an applied live-case exercise that will allow participants to use foresight techniques in real time to tackle a current innovation challenge. Participants are welcome to join for the first hour to gain insights or stay for the full 90 minutes for interactive application!

[Sign up now](#)

8 - 10 April 2025

UN University - FLORES

The Future of Resources: Dresden Nexus Conference



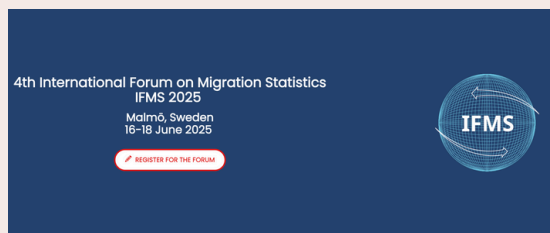
Register until March 30 to the Dresden Nexus Conference, taking place 8-10 April 2025 at the [UN University Institute for Integrated Management of Material Fluxes and of Resources \(FLORES\)](#), focusing on the future of sustainable natural resource management. The event includes keynote sessions, panel discussions, and scientific sessions covering the effect of natural resource extraction on ecosystems, climate change, and sustainability. Join global thought leaders in exploring the future of the resource nexus and elaborating strategies that address resource-related conflicts, such as the promotion of fair trade and sustainable supply chains.

[Learn more](#)

16 - 18 June 2025

OECD x IOM x UNDESA

4th International Forum on Migration Statistics 2025



Co-organized by the [OECD](#), the [International Organisation for Migration \(IOM\)](#) and the [UN Department of Social and Economic Affairs \(DESA\)](#), the [International Forum on Migration Statistics 2025](#) will take place in Malmö, Sweden, from 16 - 18 June 2025. The Forum will bring together producers, analysts and users of data and statistics on international migration and migrants. Participants will share their knowledge and experiences in measuring migration and evaluating its impacts across all its dimensions, with a particular focus on progress made since the last IFMS 2022 in Chile. As transversal themes, specific attention will be given to the gender dimension as well as to innovative data tools, notably in relation to Big Data and Artificial Intelligence.

[Learn more](#)

👁️ RECENTLY LAUNCHED

UN Economic and Social Council | January 2025

“UN Report Explores Tech Foresight, Assessment in Sustainable Development”



STORY HIGHLIGHTS

- According to the report, technology assessment “involves the systematic evaluation of the consequences of technological development and adoption”.
- It focuses on immediate social, economic, and environmental impacts and is aimed at enhancing capacity for informed decision making in using scientific and technological advances for sustainable development.
- The report defines technology foresight as “a forward-looking methodology for systematically exploring emerging technologies, potential applications and long-term societal impacts”.

The UN Secretary-General, Antonio Guterres, has issued a report titled “*Technology Foresight and Technology Assessment for Sustainable Development*” exploring the role of technology foresight in guiding sustainable development policies, and will be discussed at the UN Economic and Social Council between 7-11 April 2025. Technology foresight is defined as “a forward-looking methodology for systematically exploring emerging technologies, potential applications and long-term societal impacts”. As the report outlines, foresight and assessment in the field of technology evolution helps member states strengthen anticipatory governance capacities and proactively adjust technological trajectories.

[Learn more](#)

★ PEOPLE HIGHLIGHTS

Meet **Sébastien Vauzelle**,
Head of the Secretariat of
the Local2030 Coalition



Sébastien Vauzelle is the Head of the Secretariat of the [Local2030 Coalition](#), the UN System-wide platform and network for supporting and accelerating the localization of the 2030 Agenda. The Coalition ensures that the UN System has the right tools and mechanisms to engage systematically with local and subnational governments and their associations, national governments, businesses, community-based organizations, and other local stakeholders to foster collaboration, incubate innovation, share solutions, and implement strategies to accelerate the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that leaves no one and no place behind.

[Read more about Sébastien](#)

Meet **Daouia Chalali**,
Project Lead on Future
Generations at the United
Nations University Centre for
Policy Research



Daouia Chalali is a Foresight Practitioner and Project Lead dedicated to advancing the representation of future generations within global governance frameworks. Since 2023, she has coordinated a project to promote long-term governance in the context of the Summit of the Future, specifically through the Declaration on Future Generations. Her work focuses on tools and strategies to implement long-term governance and build multistakeholder coalitions. Daouia also hosts a blogseries on Future Generations.

[Read more about Daouia](#)

USE CASES AND RESOURCES

UNPDT x UNRCO x UNDP x UNOPS x UN Futures Lab | Case Study

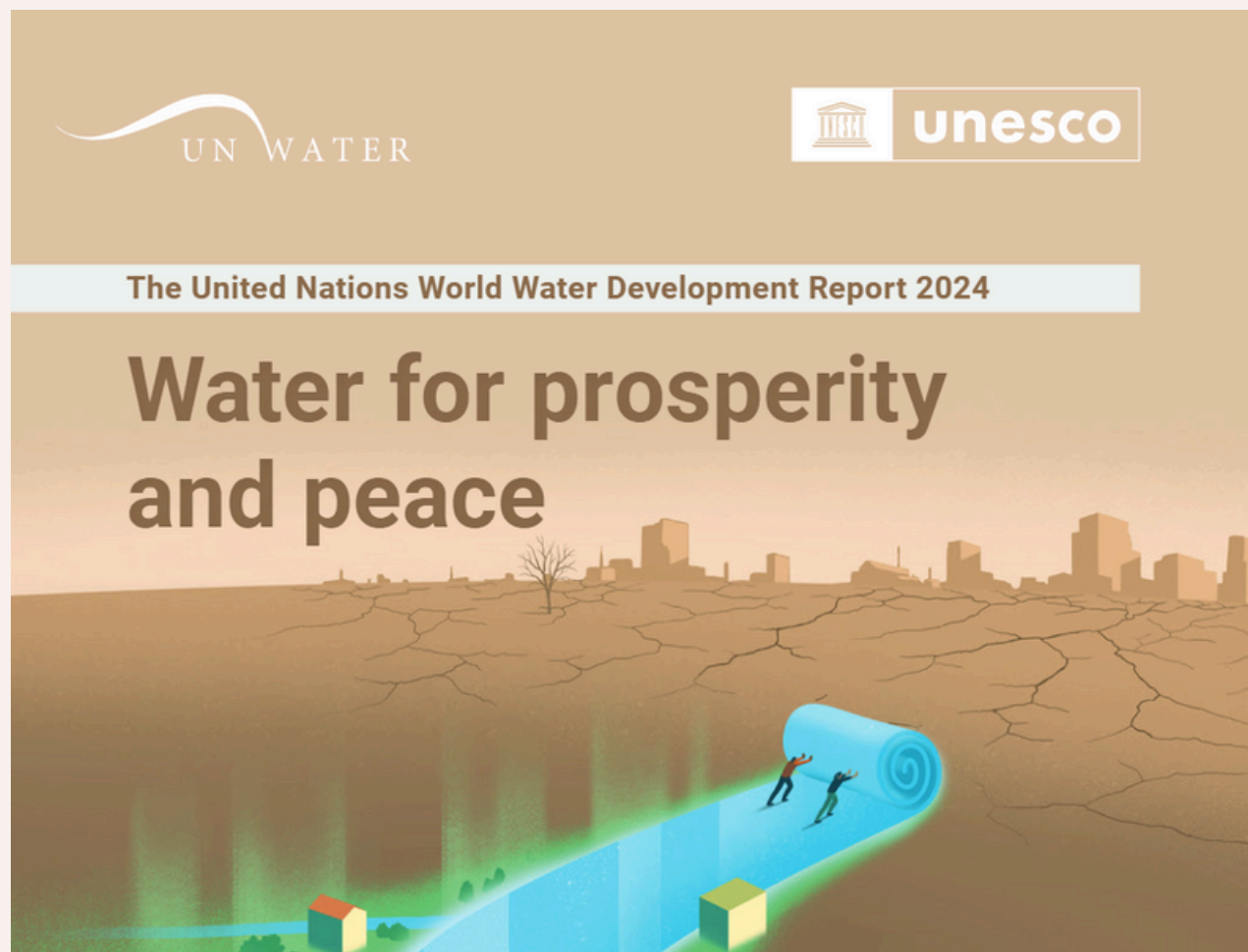
The Future of Kenya's Peacebuilding Architecture



In March 2023, the Kenyan Ministry of Interior conducted a national review of the country's peacebuilding architecture. Coordinated UN support was lead by the UN Peace and Development Team (PDT). The process also benefitted from foresight reflections explored in Futures Workshops via collaboration between the [UN Resident Coordinator's Office](#), [UN Development Programme](#) (UNDP), [UNOPS](#) and the [UN Futures Lab/Global Hub](#). The Kenya's Futures Workshop 2023 brought together policymakers, researchers, and industry leaders to explore long-term strategies for Kenya's development through a foresight-driven approach. Using foresight methodologies such as the 2x2 Matrix and the Three Horizons Framework, this workshop focused on identifying emerging trends, potential disruptions, and innovative solutions to shape a resilient and sustainable future for Kenya. Through interactive discussions and scenario-building exercises, participants examined how Kenya can navigate economic, environmental, and technological changes in the coming decades.

[Learn more](#)

The United Nations World Water Development Report 2024



Published by [UNESCO](#) on behalf of [UN Water](#), the “*World Water Development Report 2024*” addresses the critical challenges of water scarcity and resource management in a world increasingly shaped by climate change, conflict, and systemic risk. With droughts affecting nearly 1.5 billion people between 2003 and 2021, the report underscores the urgent need for equitable and resilient solutions, highlighting transboundary cooperation as a cornerstone for fair water distribution in regions most vulnerable to climate-induced stress. Anchored in the 2030 Agenda, particularly Sustainable Development Goal 6 (clean water and sanitation), the report provides both a snapshot of global progress and remaining gaps. The report adopts a foresight-oriented approach, encouraging long-term thinking, risk anticipation, and systems-based planning to support sustainable water governance. By advocating for inclusive, adaptive, and forward-looking water policies, the report contributes to building more robust socio-economic and political systems for the future.

[Check it out](#)

Inclusive Cities of Tomorrow: Measuring Progress with the Global Urban Monitoring Framework



Monitoring Smart Inclusive Transitions for an Equitable Urban Future, Using Global Urban Monitoring Framework


The UN Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT) has launched a report, *"Monitoring Smart Inclusive Transitions for an Equitable Urban Future"*, exploring how cities can embrace a future that is not only technologically advanced but also socially inclusive and resilient. Using the Global Urban Monitoring Framework, the paper provides a forward-looking methodology for assessing urban transformation, ensuring that smart city innovations are accessible to all. It emphasizes a people-centred approach, where digital tools, sustainability strategies, and equitable policies converge to shape thriving urban environments. Targeted at policymakers, urban planners, and researchers, this publication highlights how “smart cities” can proactively navigate future challenges while fostering inclusive and sustainable growth.

[Read the report](#)

FORESIGHT TRAINING

UN System Staff College

Sign up for the Strategic Foresight Springboard Programme!

A blue banner with white and yellow text. It features a 'Sign up' button and a list of topics: Career Advancement, Management, UN 2.0, and Innovation. The dates 06 OCT 2025 - 30 NOV 2025 are also displayed.

ONLINE

06 OCT 2025 - 30 NOV 2025

UN System Strategic Foresight Springboard Programme

CAREER ADVANCEMENT MANAGEMENT UN 2.0 INNOVATION

Sign up

Elevate your conflict prevention strategies with the [UN System Staff College \(UNSSC\)](#)'s "Strategic Foresight for Prevention" course. This four-week online programme, running from 2 April to 7 May 2025, combines self-paced modules with live weekly webinars, offering a collaborative learning environment. You'll master essential foresight tools and methodologies such as horizon scanning, futures wheel, and scenario building, empowering you to anticipate and mitigate emerging peace and security threats effectively. Designed for UN staff and partners engaged in political analysis, mediation, and conflict-sensitive programming, this course equips you to navigate uncertainty and contribute to sustained global peace. Enroll by 26 March 2025 to secure your spot!

Sign up now

JOBS

[View all Foresight Jobs on the UN Strategic Foresight Knowledge Hub](#)

Disaster Risk Management Analyst

UN Development
Programme (UNDP)

Harare, Zimbabwe

1 April deadline

[Apply now](#)

Deputy Executive Secretary for Strategy, Innovation, and Partnerships

UN Economic and Social
Commission for Western
Asia (ESCWA)

Beirut, Lebanon

17 April deadline

[Apply now](#)

Development Coordination Officer, Economist

UN Resident Coordinator
System (RCO)

Harare (Zimbabwe)

23 April deadline

[Apply now](#)

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