

UN Strategic Foresight Newsletter

April 2025



United Nations
Futures Lab
NETWORK



Dear Foresight Community,

As April comes to a close, we're highlighting recent foresight-driven events, launches, and resources from across the UN system - alongside exciting initiatives on the horizon. From youth-led action at the [ECOSOC Youth Forum 2025](#) to strategic foresight sessions at [Behavioural Science Week 2025](#), this month showcased how futures thinking continues to shape systems change.

Looking ahead, foresight will feature at the upcoming [STI Forum 2025](#) through two side events focused on [spotlighting applications of futures thinking from the Global South](#) and [consolidating insights of horizon scanning initiatives across the UN](#). New reports from [UNDSS](#), [UNCTAD](#), and [UNEN](#) explore the future of security, inclusive AI, and governance. Plus, the [2025 UNICEF Youth Foresight Fellowship](#) is now underway - and [UNDP Libya](#) offers a fresh perspective on economic transformation through the Three Horizons Framework. Finally, a reminder that you can still sign up to the [UNSSC 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

6 – 8 May 2025 | New York

Strategic Foresight at the STI Forum 2025



The [2025 Science, Technology, and Innovation \(STI\) Forum](#) will be held on 7 - 8 May at UN Headquarters in New York and broadcasted virtually, kicked off by an [STI Action Day](#) on 6 May. Sessions will explore the [Global Digital Compact](#), artificial intelligence, gender equality in STEM, ocean conservation, STI capacity building and financing, and more. A dynamic lineup of [in-person](#), [off-site](#), and [virtual](#) side events will offer opportunities for engagement, networking, and collaboration on innovative solutions for sustainable development.

This year, strategic foresight will contribute to the broader goals of the STI Forum, by highlighting its value in advancing science, technology, and innovation for sustainable development. During the Action Day on 6 May, the [UN Futures Lab/Global Hub](#) and the [International Science Council](#) (ISC) will co-host a side event to [launch a joint report that spotlights applications of futures thinking from the Global South](#) ([Register here](#)). On 7 May a [side event, co-hosted by the UN Futures Lab/Global Hub and UN DESA](#), will feature a discussion and live demonstration of how digital capabilities are being used to consolidate and analyze insights from horizon scanning initiatives across the UN system.

[Register for the Foresight High-Level Opening Panel](#)

[Explore the UN 2.0 Week programme](#)

EVENTS

17 April 2025 | 8.45 AM EST

ECOSOC Youth Forum

Turning Youth Insights into Sustainable Action for Future Generations



At the [ECOSOC Youth Forum 2025](#), the [UN Futures Lab/Global Hub](#) and the Executive Office of the Secretary-General (EOSG) hosted a dynamic side event focused on translating youth vision into long-term impact. Guided by the theme “*Youth at the Forefront: Leveraging Science and Social Inclusion for Sustainable Development*,” the session brought together young changemakers, policymakers, and UN leaders for an interactive foresight exercise. Through the “Headlines of Tomorrow” method, participants co-created actionable recommendations across key SDGs, inputs which will contribute to the [High-Level Political Forum 2025](#).

[Learn more about the event](#)

11 April 2025 | 7AM EST

Behavioural Science Week 2025

Behavioural Science for Systemic Change: Local to Global Impact



A session on Behavioural Science for Systemic Change at [UN Behavioural Science Week 2025](#) explored the role of foresight as a key enabler for future-ready systems. Speakers from across the UN system and partner organizations reflected on how foresight complements behavioural science in translating global agendas into locally relevant, culturally grounded action. The discussion showcased tools and initiatives such as the [UN Strategic Foresight Guide](#) and the UN Strategic Foresight Community of Practice, which are supporting adaptation, contextualization, and scenario building across the UN system.

[Check out the event recording](#)

NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

United Nations Department of
Safety and Security

The Future of UNDSS and UN security



As the [United Nations Department of Safety and Security](#) (UNDSS) marks its 20th anniversary, it is taking the opportunity to reflect on the past in order to look forward. Informed by strategic foresight, UNDSS is exploring how it must evolve to address emerging security challenges over the next two decades. To help shape this future, UNDSS is seeking input from colleagues and partners through a brief survey focused on the department's future role, the impact of technology and innovation, and opportunities for collaboration. Take part below in shaping the future of UN security.

[Learn more and take the survey](#)

UN Economist Network | UN
Department of Economic and Social
Affairs

“Governance Futures: Key Insights and Policy Implications”



Governance systems around the world are under increasing strain as they confront a landscape marked by volatility, uncertainty, and rising public expectations. The latest [United Nations Economist Network](#) (UNEN)'s Policy Brief explores how existing systems may be falling short - and how strategic foresight can help reimagine governance models that are more adaptive, inclusive, and fit for the future. By examining key drivers of change across political, economic, social, technological, and environmental dimensions, the brief offers insights into how governance could evolve by 2040 and outlines potential pathways for transformational change.

[Read the policy brief](#)

“Under pressure: Uncertainty reshapes global economic prospects”



A new [UN Trade and Development](#) (UNCTAD) foresight report explores how rising uncertainty is reshaping the global trade landscape. From climate and geopolitical tensions to technological disruption and debt stress, the report examines six major forces shaping the future of development. Using foresight to anticipate potential disruptions, it offers scenarios and insights to help policymakers navigate volatility and build more resilient, inclusive trade systems.

[Read the report](#)

👁️ RECENTLY LAUNCHED

UNICEF Innocenti | 28 March 2025

Youth Foresight Fellowship



The [2025 UNICEF Innocenti Youth Foresight Fellowship](#) has officially launched—marking the third cohort of this growing initiative that puts youth at the centre of anticipatory research, advocacy, and global dialogue. Building on a strong foundation, this year’s [Youth Foresight Fellows](#) from across Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America, and North America will explore the futures of education. Previous cohorts have co-developed [Our Future Pledge: An Agenda for Futures by Youth](#), the [Meaningful Youth Engagement Principles](#), and the [Child Rights Youth Foresight Report](#), advancing youth-driven foresight at both global and national levels. Bringing expertise in digital literacy, STEM, gender equality, teaching, advocacy, peacebuilding, and more, they will lead participatory foresight research in their countries over the next eight months. Their work will contribute to key initiatives such as flagship reports and the [Leading Minds Conference](#) on the Future of Education in Africa.

[Read more](#)

United Nations Department of Safety and Security

“Strategic Foresight Brief on Non-State Armed Groups (NSAGs)”



The [United Nations Department of Safety and Security](#) (UNDSS)’s Strategic Planning Unit has released a new [Strategic Foresight Brief](#) examining the evolving threat of Non-State Armed Groups (NSAGs). It explores current dynamics and future trajectories, including how NSAGs control humanitarian access, use hybrid warfare, and adopt technologies like 3D printing. The brief also highlights their use of the dark web for recruitment, propaganda, and cybercrime. Drawing from these insights, the brief outlines the potential implications for global security as well as security for the United Nations and proposes forward-looking strategies for how UNDSS can proactively prepare for and respond to these emerging challenges.

[Read the foresight brief](#)

★ PEOPLE HIGHLIGHTS

Meet **Jimena Califa**, Foresight Consultant at the Strategic Planning Unit in the Strategy, Planning, Resources and Effectiveness Division of UN Women



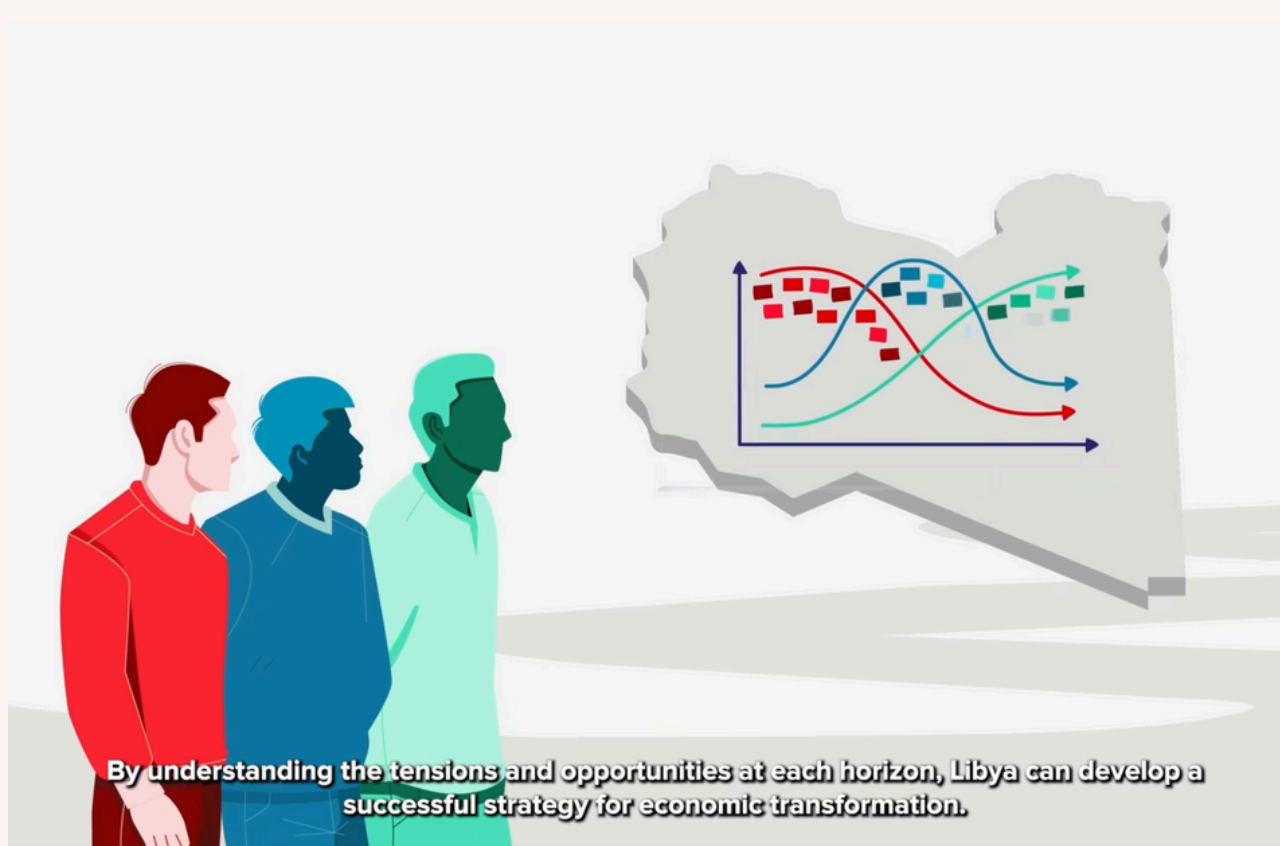
Jimena Califa is a Foresight Consultant at the Strategic Planning Unit in the Strategy, Planning, Resources and Effectiveness Division of UN Women. She is dedicated to institutionalizing foresight in the UN Women as part of a major UN 2.0 implementation strategy. She leads a co-design process to integrate and contextualize gender-informed foresight to UN Women processes (at Country, Regional, and HQ levels) through capacity development, field pilots, and guidelines.

[Read more about Jimena](#)

USE CASES AND RESOURCES

UNDP Libya

"Six Opportunities Through Three Horizons"



How can foresight help shape a more inclusive and resilient economy in Libya? In a new blog, [UNDP Libya](#) explores six opportunities that can shape Libya's future prosperity—using the Three Horizons Framework—a strategic foresight tool that helps identify immediate actions, transitional pathways, and long-term visions. Grounded in national dialogue and local expertise, the piece highlights how futures thinking can support economic recovery and transformation in complex settings.

[Read the blog post](#)

FORESIGHT TRAINING

UN System Staff College

Sign up for the Strategic Foresight Springboard Programme!

A blue banner with white text and buttons. It features the title 'UN System Strategic Foresight Springboard Programme' in large, bold letters. Above the title, it says 'ONLINE' and '06 OCT 2025 - 30 NOV 2025'. Below the title, there are four buttons: 'CAREER ADVANCEMENT', 'MANAGEMENT', 'UN 2.0', and 'INNOVATION'. At the bottom left, there is a 'Sign up' button.

ONLINE

06 OCT 2025 - 30 NOV 2025

UN System Strategic Foresight Springboard Programme

CAREER ADVANCEMENT MANAGEMENT UN 2.0 INNOVATION

Sign up

With intensifying climate challenges, rapid technological advancements, and evolving social dynamics, how might we effectively navigate the uncertainty of a constantly changing world? Designed exclusively for UN personnel, this eight-week online programme identifies tools, techniques and mindsets from across the system to make sense of change, imagine futures, and identify the action needed to make those futures possible.

[Sign up now](#)



JOBS

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

Partnerships and Convening Consultant - Global Office of Research and Foresight

UNICEF

Florence, Italy

2 May deadline

[Apply now](#)

Roster - Strategic Foresight Consultant

International Telecommunication Union
(ITU)

Remote

30 June deadline

[Apply now](#)

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6. Share training ideas [\[EMAIL US\]](#)
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Members of the UN Strategic Foresight Community of Practice receive this newsletter. If you are a UN colleague and do not wish to receive updates on events, trainings, or jobs, you can **unsubscribe** here.

For external enquiries, please contact us at futureslab@un.org