

# UN Strategic Foresight Newsletter

August 2025



**United Nations**  
**Futures Lab**  
NETWORK



Dear Strategic Foresight Community,

Welcome to the August edition of our Foresight Community newsletter! This month's edition showcases the breadth and depth of foresight work across the UN system. From youth-led dialogues marking the 30th anniversary of the World Programme of Action for Youth (WPAY) to mayors shaping urban futures at the UN Forum of Mayors - we're seeing foresight in action at every level. Newly launched publications unpack futures in different contexts, from exploring regional visions to researching ageing society, and promoting anticipatory governance. We also feature opportunities to participate and contribute to foresight initiatives across the system. This diverse mix of voices and entry points reflects a growing movement: one that's collaborative, inclusive, and future-focused.



**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](mailto: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 Youth Office | UNICEF | UN Futures Lab/Global Hub

### Youth Foresight initiatives for International Youth Day 2025



The year 2025 marks the 30th anniversary of the [World Programme of Action for Youth \(WPAY\)](#) — a comprehensive framework adopted by the UN General Assembly in 1995 to advance youth development globally. In line with this, the [UN Youth Office](#) mobilized partners and allies to organize [#YouthLead Dialogues](#) between July and August 2025. Through parallel virtual consultation processes, [UNICEF U-Report Poll](#), [#YouthLead Dialogues on the UNDP Sparkblue Platform](#), and [#YouthLead Dialogues survey](#), perspectives from over 75,000 young people and key stakeholders were gathered. As part of this series, a participatory workshop, [#YouthLead Dialogue: Foresight Workshop](#), is being organized by [UNICEF Innocenti – Global Office of Research and Foresight](#) and the [UN Futures Lab/Global Hub](#) in September 2025 to integrate strategic foresight into the youth-led discussions. Outcomes from this process will feed into a report ahead of the [high-level plenary meeting](#) that is being convened by the President of the UN General Assembly at UN Headquarters on 25 September 2025, which will provide a global platform to identify ongoing challenges and propose actionable, intergenerational solutions. Watch this space for updates!

[Check out the results from U-Report](#)

[Read emerging insights from Sparkblue](#)



## EVENTS

6 - 7 October 2025 | 10:00AM – 06:00PM CET

**5th Meeting of the UN Forum of Mayors**

**Cities Shaping the Future**



FORUM OF  
MAYORS 2025

The [5th meeting of the UN Forum of Mayors, “Cities Shaping the Future”](#), will be held in-person at the Palais des Nations, in Geneva, on 6-7 October 2025. Mayors from around the world will come together to exchange good practice and to collaboratively draft a set of recommendations, emphasizing the critical role of cities and local actors in shaping a sustainable future. The meeting will align with the [2025 session of the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development](#) (New York, 14-23 July 2025), addressing themes such as good health and well-being (SDG 3), gender equality (SDG 5), and decent work and economic growth (SDG 8). It will also focus on climate finance mechanisms and Voluntary Local Reviews (VLRs), and housing challenges.

[Learn more about the event here](#)

## NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) | United Nations University –  
Centre for Policy Research (UNU-CPR)

### Youth Foresight initiatives for International Youth Day 2025



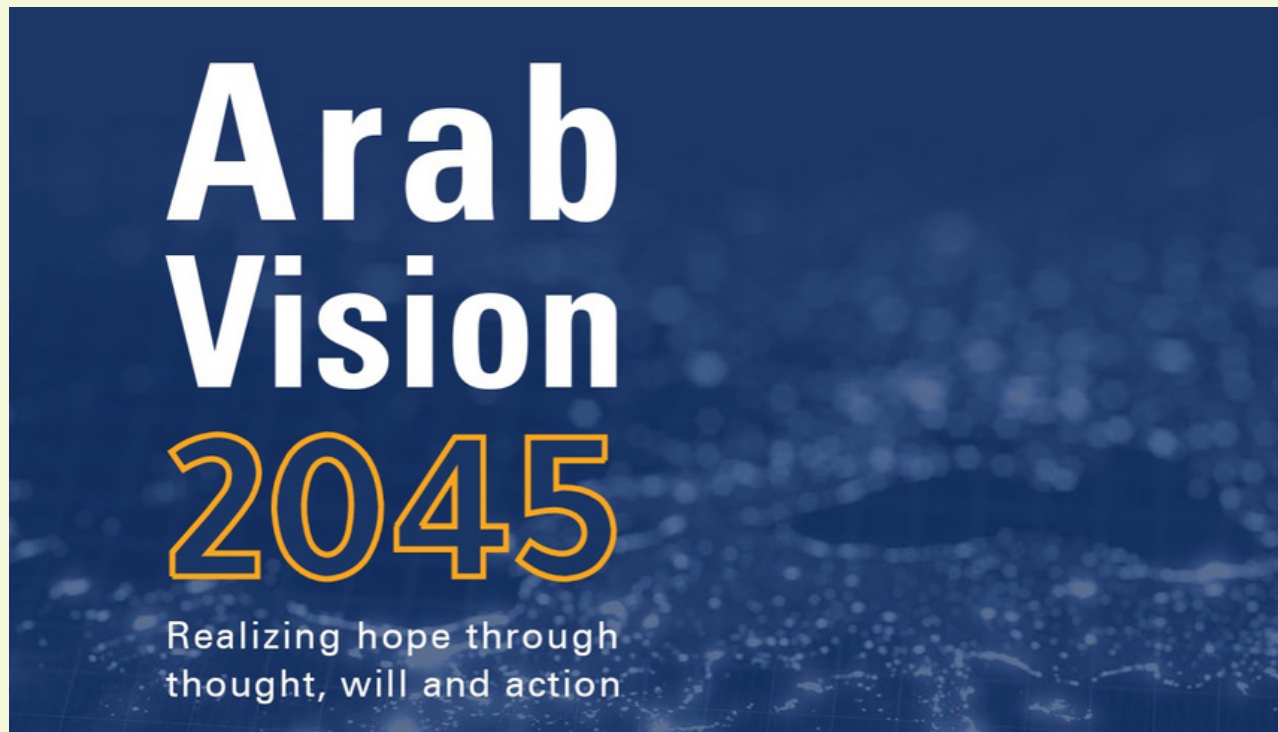
The [United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction](#) (UNDRR), in collaboration with [UNU-CPR](#), is hosting a [Resilience Investment Foresight Sprint](#) over the coming months. Participants will collaboratively develop national foresight scenarios that guide strategic investments in resilience and reduce the risk of disaster. The Foresight Sprint aims to provide the space where insights and expertise can shape scenarios and help design actionable pathways that address key challenges and opportunities in resilience investment. The session will cater to diverse participants with a background in disaster risk management, foresight, risk communication, development, architecture, civil engineering, agriculture, education, and health. Interested university teams are encouraged to apply by 31 August 2025.

[Access the call here](#)

## 👁️ RECENTLY LAUNCHED

UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) | United Nations University – Centre for Policy Research (UNU-CPR)

**"Arab Vision 2045: Realizing hope through thought, will, and action"**



The *Arab Vision 2045* is the result of collective efforts led by the [United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia \(ESCWA\)](#) and the [League of Arab States](#). It addresses the urgent need for a roadmap for the Arab region that balances ambition with realism and is driven by actionable regional initiatives. This vision is anchored in six interlinked pillars: (i) security and safety; (ii) justice and equity; (iii) innovation and creativity; (iv) prosperity and balanced development; (v) diversity and dynamism; and (vi) cultural and intellectual renewal. These pillars reflect the region's most pressing priorities to address the profound global transformations reshaping the contemporary world. The objective is to direct these transformations towards beneficial outcomes while mitigating their potential adverse impacts over the coming decades.

[Download the publication](#)

## "UN DESA Policy Brief No. 180: Anticipating the extent and pace of population ageing in SIDS can help build a more sustainable future in these vulnerable states"



United Nations

Department of  
Economic and  
Social Affairs



FUTURE  
OF THE  
WORLD

POLICY BRIEF NO180

# ANTICIPATING THE EXTENT AND PACE OF POPULATION AGEING IN SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES CAN HELP BUILD A MORE SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

## SIDS FACE UNIQUE SOCIAL, ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL VULNERABILITIES

SIDS<sup>1</sup> are a heterogeneous group of islands and coastal states with significant differences in population size and density, geographical dispersion, natural resources and development progress (United Nations, 2023a). Yet, SIDS face both common and specific challenges arising from their geographical conditions, such as heightened exposure to natural hazards and increased susceptibility to climate change and sea-level rise, among other intersecting features. Their small population size, narrow resource base and limited land area preclude economies of scale and diversification, making them more vulnerable to external shocks and stressors. Many small island economies are heavily dependent on remittances from overseas workers. Moreover, the share of informal employment and other precarious forms of work is high in many SIDS, contributing to gaps in social protection systems and exacerbating social exclusion. In addition, the rising prevalence of noncommunicable diseases (NCDs) and associated risk factors is

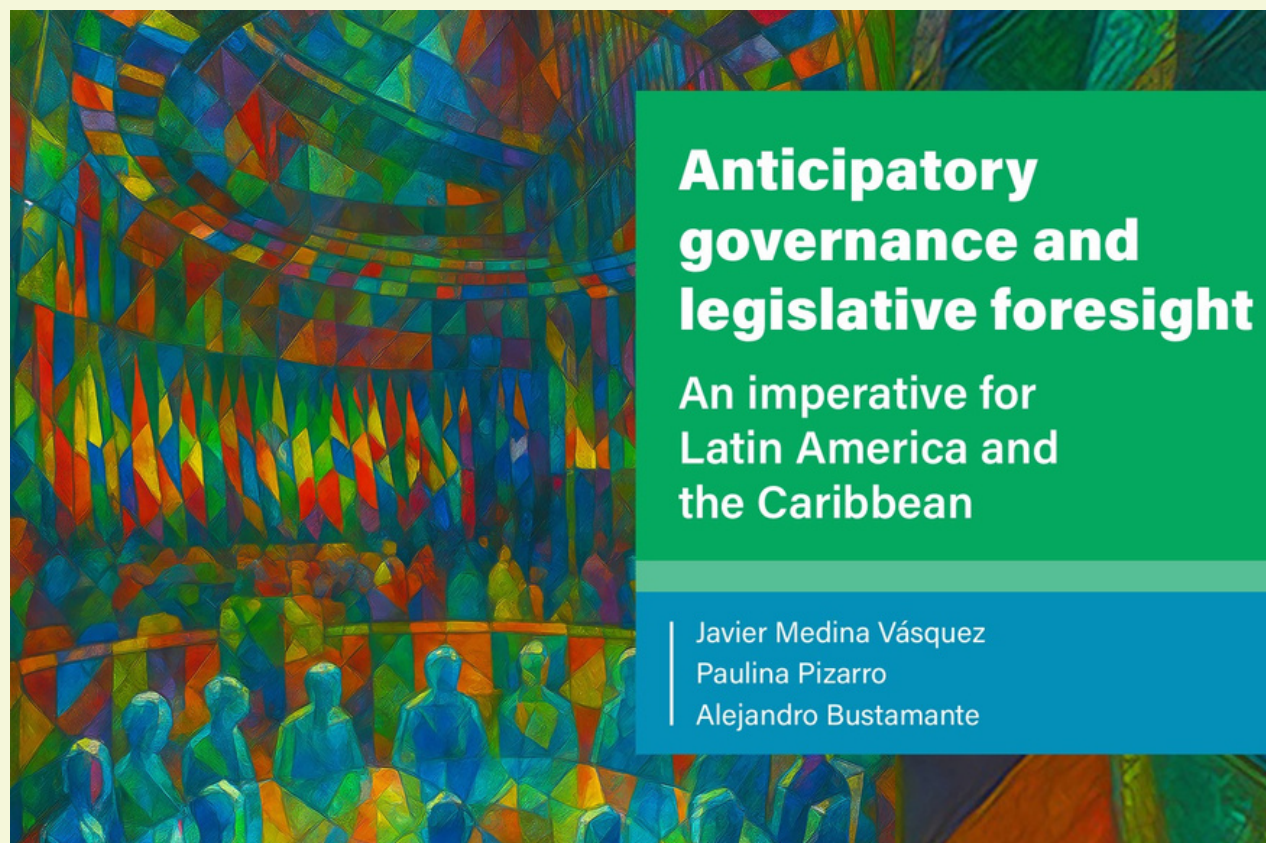
### Key Messages

- » Over the next decades, most small island developing States (SIDS) are projected to experience a rapid increase in both the share and the number of people aged 65 years or over. In half of the SIDS, the size of the older population will double between now and 2055.
- » All SIDS, even those with youthful populations today, should embrace forward-looking strategies to capitalize on the opportunities that population ageing will bring, while also addressing the context-specific challenges it may pose.
- » SIDS may wish to adopt a multifaceted, life-course approach, encompassing policies to meet the specific healthcare, food security, social protection, skills development, job creation, and investment needs of an ageing society.
- » Building the so-called "silver economy" and seizing opportunities for a "silver dividend" could not only improve the quality of life of older persons but also contribute to economic diversification, leading to a more resilient and sustainable future for SIDS.

Over the next decades, most Small Island Developing States (SIDS) are projected to experience a rapid increase in both the share and the number of people aged 65 years or over. In half of the SIDS, the size of the older population will double between now and 2055. This [policy brief](#) by the [United Nations for Economic and Social Affairs \(DESA\)](#) outlines the distinct challenges and opportunities that an ageing population poses in SIDS. Policy recommendations include: (i) social protection systems; (ii) food security and healthy diets; (iii) life-long learning and digital literacy; and (iv) participation and engagement in climate justice, disaster prevention, and management.

Download the policy brief

## "Anticipatory governance and legislative foresight: An imperative for Latin America and the Caribbean"



The Latin America and the Caribbean region is facing three development traps: (i) Low capacity for growth; (ii) high inequality, low social mobility, and weak social cohesion; and (iii) low institutional capacity and ineffective governance. This [publication](#) by the [UN Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean](#) (ECLAC) highlights the urgent need to implement anticipatory governance to overcome these challenges by promoting the establishment of parliamentary committees of the future, which seek to anticipate risks and opportunities through tools such as strategic foresight, long-term planning and multi-stakeholder participation. The document concludes with a call to action, whereby the network of Parliamentary Committees of the Future fulfil a key role in advancing sustainable and inclusive development in the region.

[Download the publication](#)

## ★ PEOPLE HIGHLIGHTS

Meet **Blanca Espinosa**, Data Management and Results Monitoring & Reporting Officer, RCO Mexico



**Blanca Espinosa** is the Data Management and Results Monitoring & Reporting Officer at the [Resident Coordinator Office in Mexico](#) (RCO Mexico), where she has worked with different stakeholders in the design, formulation, and implementation of the 4 Cooperation Frameworks in Mexico, including the integration of strategic foresight in these processes.

[Read more about Blanca](#)

Meet **Sangmin Nam**, Director, Environment and Development Division, UNESCAP



**Dr. Sangmin Nam** currently works as the Director, Environment and Development Division, at [UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific](#) (UNESCAP). He also serves as Coordinator for Strategic Foresight and Behavioural Science, where he supports the integration of foresight into UNESCAP's work.

[Read more about Sangmin](#)

## USE CASES AND RESOURCES

UN Food Systems Coordination Hub

**“Using foresight for food systems transformation: A guide for policy makers, practitioners, and researchers”**

### Using foresight for food systems transformation: A guide for policy makers, practitioners, and researchers



This new [practical guide](#) developed jointly by the [UN Food Systems Coordination Hub](#) and [Foresight4Food](#) aims to help policymakers, practitioners, and researchers apply strategic foresight approaches to national food systems transformation. Grounded in real-world experiences across diverse country contexts, the guide introduces key concepts, participatory tools, and a four-phase framework to support evidence-informed decision-making, inclusive stakeholder engagement, and the development of resilient, equitable, and sustainable food system pathways. This guide is a resource to inspire long-term thinking, build collective vision, and strengthen national capacities for systemic change. Released as a living document, the authors welcome feedback on this Version 1.0 to inform its continued improvement and relevance over time.

[Download the guide](#)

# FORESIGHT TRAINING

UN System Staff College (UNSSC)

## Navigating Complexity: Political Acumen and Strategic Negotiation for Sustainable Development



**ONLINE**

04 NOV 2025 - 26 NOV 2025

**Navigating Complexity:  
Political Acumen and  
Strategic Negotiation for  
Sustainable Development**

**LEADERSHIP** **MANAGEMENT**

**SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND THE SDGS**

This learning experience by the [UN System Staff College](#) (UNSSC) is designed to help senior UN leaders navigate today's rapidly evolving global environment. It aims to equip participants with the political insight and negotiation strategies needed to lead effectively in complex, multi-stakeholder settings. This includes applying strategic foresight for sustainable development to identify leverage points, anticipate unintended consequences, and design strategies that drive holistic, long-term solutions for sustainable development. The course employs a blend of interactive online sessions, case studies, and practical exercises. It comprises 8 interactive 90-minute sessions spread over 4 weeks, from 4 - 26 November 2025.

[Learn more](#)



## JOBS

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

### **Strategic Planning, Outreach and Partnerships Consultant (CTC)**

UNU Paris, France

**3 September Deadline**

[Apply now](#)

### **Roster – Strategic Foresight Consultant**

ITU Home-based

**31 December Deadline**

[Apply now](#)

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