

UN Strategic Foresight Newsletter

July 2025



United Nations
Futures Lab
N E T W O R K



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UN 2.0
Quintet
of Change

Dear Strategic Foresight Community,

Welcome to the July edition of our Foresight Community newsletter!

This month, our Community of Practice webinar sessions heard from the 15+ UN entities who had presented during [UN 2.0 Week's "Foresight Day"](#) about how futures thinking is being applied in real-world planning, innovation, and decision-making.

We also feature key developments shaping long-term thinking across the system – from Member States reaffirming their commitment to future generations at a [High-Level Political Forum \(HLPF\) 2025 Side Event](#) to the recently published [UN Global Risk Report's](#) four foresight scenarios that challenge us to make deliberate choices for a more equitable, resilient future. These are complemented by resources that spotlight environmental tipping points as well as the practical application of foresight tools, such as the Futures Triangle, to strengthen digital public services in Central Asia.

Whether you're looking to deepen your foresight practice or stay informed on system-wide developments, there's something here for you!



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

3 & 10 July 2025 | 9AM EST – 3PM CET

Community of Practice Webinar #26

Delivering Foresight Impact at UN 2.0 Week



Over two engaging webinars, the UN Strategic Foresight Community of Practice explored [UN 2.0 Week “Foresight Day”](#) and the role of foresight in driving transformation across the system. Showcasing initiatives from over 15 UN entities and partners, Part 1 highlighted how inclusive, feminist, equity-driven futures and applied foresight in complex systems, institutional innovation and programmatic shifts, are being embedded into real-world programming, planning, and decision-making. Part 2 created space for deeper discussion and reflection to unpack the challenges, lessons, and opportunities for scaling foresight across policy and operations, resulting in valuable insights into how foresight is being operationalized in complex contexts.

[Read more about UN 2.0 Week “Foresight Day”](#)

[Watch the webinar recap](#)



14 July 2025 | 1:15AM – 2:30PM EST

High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) 2025 Side Event

Future Generations: Positioning the UN Towards Long-Term Thinking



In 2024 at the [Summit of the Future](#) in New York, Member States adopted the [Declaration on Future Generations](#), laying out commitments for both Member States and the UN to safeguard the interests of generations and to place a long-term vision at the heart of the work of the multilateral system. In support of the Declaration, the Executive Office of the Secretary-General (EOSG) and the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) brought Member States, the UN, and civil society together to share best practices for innovative, long-term governance mechanisms, and contribute to improving long-term planning and SDGs implementation. Featuring insights from the European Commission, Jamaica, the Netherlands, and Nigeria, along with youth representatives from Brazil and Germany, the side event focused on enhanced cooperation to support foresight for future generations and its integration into policymaking.

Watch the recording

NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Executive Office of the Secretary-General (EOSG)

"UN Global Risk Report 2024"



The recently released [UN Global Risk Report 2024](#) identifies which risks are most important and for which risks the multilateral system is least prepared. The report then considers which actions would most help address these Global Vulnerabilities and how to overcome barriers to action. Produced by the [Executive Office of the Secretary-General](#) (EOSG), the report features four foresight scenarios developed by the [UN Futures Lab/Global Hub](#). The scenarios connect perceptions, actions, and possible outcomes to help decision-makers explore how the future may evolve and prepare not for one but multiple possibilities. The four scenarios – Breakdown, Status Quo, Progress, and Breakthrough – illustrate how more or less joint multilateral action could impact each of the Global Vulnerabilities by 2050. The stark differences between these possible futures highlight a critical choice: choose breakdown, maintain the status quo, make incremental progress, or break through to a more prosperous, greener and safer world for current and future generations?

[Download the report](#)

Food and Agriculture Office of the United Nations (FAO)

"Survey: FAO foresight method application mapping"

FAO's Foresight Method Application Mapping

This FAO's survey aims to gather insights on the application, effectiveness, strengths, and challenges of various foresight methods used in different projects and thematic areas. Your responses will help us understand current practices and identify opportunities for innovation in foresight methodologies. Ultimately, they will support capacity development on foresight for FAO and its member countries in the frame of the initiative FutureFood-I Labs of the FAO's Office of Innovation.

[FAO's Office of Innovation](#) (OIN) is developing a foresight capacity development toolkit to support staff and countries in the frame of the FutureFood-I Labs initiative. In this context, a survey has been developed to gather insights on the application, effectiveness, strengths, and challenges of various foresight methods used in different projects and thematic areas. Survey responses will help understand current practices and identify opportunities for innovation in foresight methodologies. Survey deadline: 31 July 2025.

[Access the survey here](#)

👁️ RECENTLY LAUNCHED

United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

"Frontiers 2025: The Weight of Time"



The Frontiers Report spotlights emerging environmental issues before they escalate into global or regional crises. This 2025 edition of the Frontiers report, *The Weight of Time - Facing a new age of challenges for people and ecosystems*, features the following chapters:

1. The frozen Pandora's box: Reactivation of microbes in a warming cryosphere
2. Clearing the path: Barrier removal for river restoration
3. Demographic challenge: Growing old in a changing environment
4. Forgotten but not gone: Remobilization of legacy pollutants by flood events

[Read more](#)

★ PEOPLE HIGHLIGHTS

Meet **Emma Rhule**, Futures Consultant, UNU & WHO



Emma Rhule is a former senior researcher at the [United Nations University's International Institute for Global Health](#) (UNU-IIGH), who now works with teams across the UN and beyond. With a view towards long-term and sustainable change, her work adopts a decolonial feminist lens and explores opportunities to integrate a futures and foresight approach into research agenda setting processes, policy design, and strategy development.

[Read more about Emma](#)

Meet **Navin Haram**, Strategic Planning and Foresight Lead, UN Women



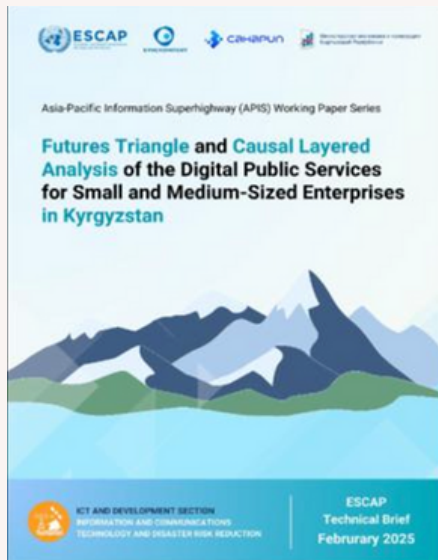
Navin Haram is a Strategic Planning and Foresight Lead at [UN Women](#), based in New York. With over two decades of experience spanning the United Nations and private sector, he focuses on integrating innovation, data intelligence, and futures thinking to shape strategies that are both inclusive and future ready.

[Read more about Navin](#)

USE CASES AND RESOURCES

UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)

“Futures triangle and causal layered analysis of the digital public services for small and medium-sized enterprises in Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan”



These papers present key insights from foresight workshops conducted by the [UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia Pacific \(ESCAP\)](#) in December 2024 and March 2025 on the future of digital public services for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs) in Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan. Using foresight techniques such as the futures triangle, change progression scenario method, and causal layered analysis, the workshops brought together diverse stakeholders to analyze the current state of digital public services and explore future scenarios. Participants defined critical challenges, drivers of change, and potential digital public service delivery models for SMEs. These include identifying historical barriers, current trends, and future aspirations for digital public services.

[Read more about the Kyrgyzstan use case](#)

[Read more about the Uzbekistan use case](#)

FORESIGHT TRAINING

International Training Centre of the International Labour Organization (ITCILO)

“Futures, Foresight and Horizon Scanning - Foresight strategies, tools and techniques to anticipate future scenarios”



This on-demand, two-day training supports participants through a set of qualitative foresight tools and processes applied to areas of interest. Through a series of future-oriented conversations, participants will learn how to make decisions, influence change, and design strategies based on possible, probable, and alternative futures. Interested parties may complete a preliminary needs analysis to inform the design of this tailor-made course. The offer includes online learning materials and tools, as well as a customizable Foresight Toolbox.

[Learn more](#)



JOBS

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Officer,
Institution and
Member States
Relations
Officer**

UNAOC

New York, USA

**1 August
Deadline**

[Apply now](#)

**Industrial
Development
Expert, L4 (For
Roster)**

UNIDO

Vienna, Austria

**1 August
Deadline**

[Apply now](#)

**Consultancy:
Long Term
Agreement
(LTA) for
Individual
Consultant for
Evaluative
Services**

UNICEF

Panama City,
Panama

**18 August
Deadline**

[Apply now](#)

**Programme
Management
Officer
(Strategic
Innovation)**

UNDSS

New York, USA

**20 August
Deadline**

[Apply now](#)

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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