

UN Strategic Foresight Newsletter

May 2025



United Nations
Futures Lab
NETWORK

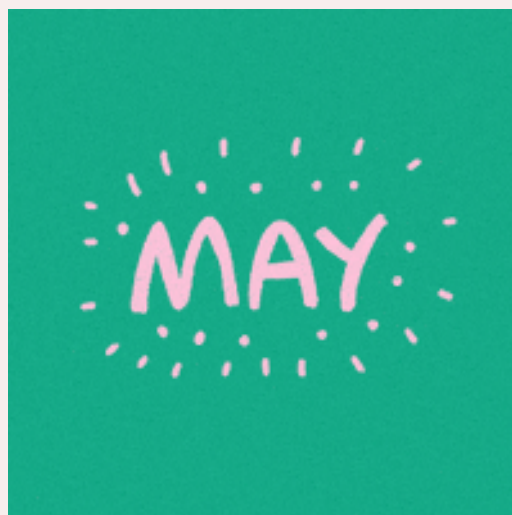


Dear Strategic Foresight Community,

As we count down to [UN 2.0 Week](#), this month's spotlight is on how strategic foresight can deliver impact across the UN, connecting thousands of UN system colleagues and partners to explore bold ideas and breakthrough solutions. The foresight-focused day on Thursday, 12 June will feature a high-level panel, a curated series of side events, and solution expos. A parallel session at the 2nd [UN Virtual Worlds Day](#), hosted by the [World Bank](#) and [UN Futures Lab/Global Hub](#), will explore future skills and work in AI-powered immersive technologies. Finally, [UNIDO](#) is organizing an expert meeting focused on applying foresight to accelerate the transition to a circular economy.

May highlights include a series of collaborative events at the [STI Forum](#) featuring the UN Futures Lab/Global Hub — from the [launch of a joint report](#) with the [International Science Council](#) (ISC) spotlighting foresight use cases from the Global South, to [a side event](#) co-hosted with the [UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs](#) (DESA) exploring digital capabilities for horizon scanning across the UN system. Also featured this month is UNDP's new [Salto Simulation tool](#) and ITU's [Academy's open foresight course](#).

Plenty of inspiration —take a scroll, join an event, and dive into the ideas shaping our collective future!



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

9 - 13 June 2025 | Virtual

UN 2.0 Week 2025



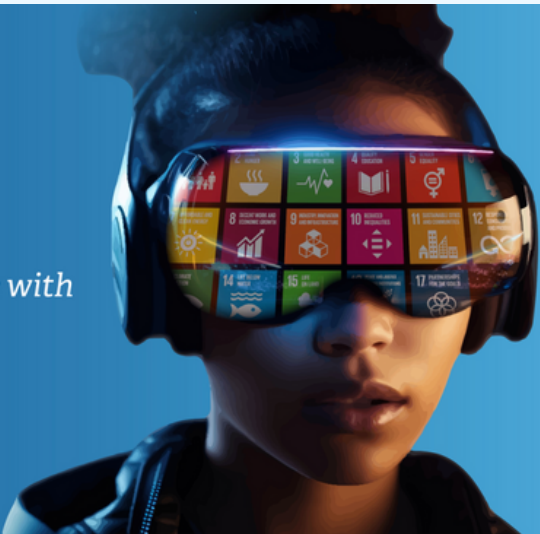
[UN 2.0 Week 2025](#) brings together UN colleagues and partners to explore how the [Quintet of Change](#) — data, digital, innovation, behavioural science, and strategic foresight — can deliver real impact across the UN system. Strategic foresight will take centre stage on Thursday, 12 June with a [high-level opening panel](#) moderated by the [UN Futures Lab/Global Hub](#), [foresight-themed side events](#) led by teams from across the UN, and interactive solution expos with real-world use cases. More events will be added to the UN 2.0 website in the coming days.

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

[Explore the UN 2.0 Week programme](#)

11 - 13 June 2025 | Turin, Italy

UN Virtual Worlds Day



UN Virtual Worlds Day

Delivering the Pact for the Future with AI-Powered Virtual Worlds

11-12 June 2025
Turin, Italy

itu.int/un-virtual-worlds-day/

Co-organized by

United Nations, ITC, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, UNICEF, UNRISD, UN Tourism, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, UN Women, UNECE, UNU, THE WORLD BANK, ECA, UN HABITAT

In partnership with

Ministero delle Imprese e del Made in Italy, ITC

Supported by

ETRI, ASTON, SANDBOX, Mimbus, NEXT G CLOUD, IATA

The 2nd [UN Virtual Worlds Day](#) is a global gathering that brings together leaders, innovators, and stakeholders to explore the transformative potential of AI-powered virtual worlds in addressing global challenges and advancing the delivery of the [Pact for the Future](#) and the [Global Digital Compact](#). On Thursday, 12 June 2025, a session organized by the [World Bank](#) and the [UN Futures Lab/Global Hub](#), *Envisioning the future: Scenario Thinking for AI-Powered Virtual Worlds*, will explore the economic aspects of how AI and virtual technologies can drive sustainable development by reimagining work, jobs, skills, and education of the future. Participants will engage in a hands-on foresight exercise to contribute ideas on capabilities needed to ensure that AI-powered virtual worlds leave no one behind.

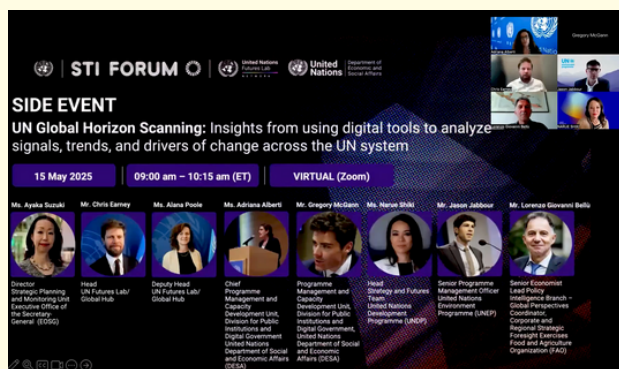
Register for UN Virtual Worlds Day



15 May 2025 | 8AM EST

STI Forum

UN Global Horizon Scanning: Insights from using digital tools to analyze signals, trends, and drivers of change across the UN system



The [UN Futures Lab/Global Hub](#) and [UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs \(DESA\)](#) co-hosted a side event at the [10th Multi-stakeholder Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation for the Sustainable Development Goals \(STI Forum\)](#) exploring how horizon scanning is being applied across the UN system. The session showcased emerging trends, shared lessons on foresight practices, and highlighted the value of collaborative scanning to inform more adaptive, anticipatory governance. A demo of a new horizon scanning tool in development illustrated how shared insights can strengthen futures thinking across sectors.

[Read more about the event](#)

[Read more about the horizon scanning tool and project](#)

5 June 2025 | 9AM EST

Community of Practice Webinar #25

Governance Futures: Key Insights and Policy Implications



This upcoming session will spotlight the [UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs \(DESA\)](#)'s recent Policy Brief, [Governance Futures: Key Insights and Policy Implications](#). The brief is a product of a strategic foresight process exploring Governance Futures as part of a broader foresight initiative of the [UN Economist Network \(UNEN\)](#) to support national efforts in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The session will also explore how foresight can help public institutions reimagine their role in an age of accelerating change. Insights will be shared on what makes governance systems more adaptive, how foresight strengthens institutional learning, and what shifts are needed in practice, mindset, and culture.

[Register here](#)

NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

UNIDO

Expert Group Meeting (EGM) on Technology Foresight for Inclusive and Sustainable Industrial Development – Application to Circular Economy



UNITED NATIONS
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION

Registration form - Expert Group Meeting on Technology Foresight for Inclusive and Sustainable Industrial Development

Date: 18 June 2025

Location: UNIDO Headquarters, Vienna, Austria (Hybrid Format: In-person and Online Participation)

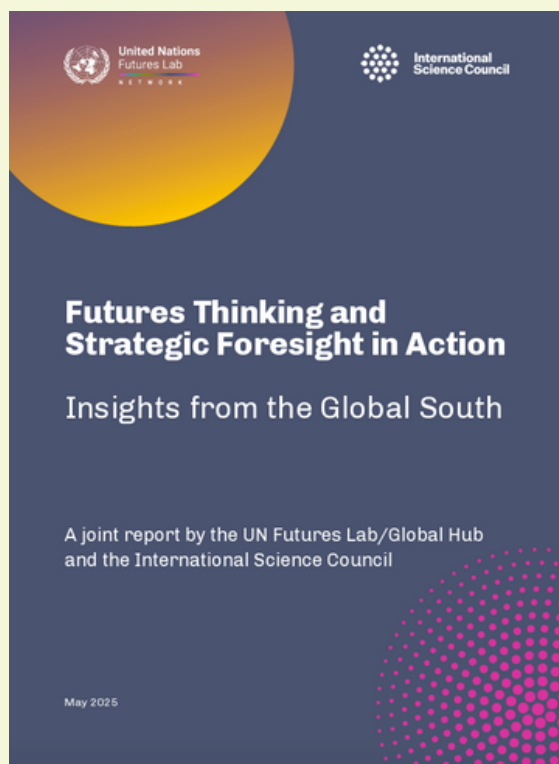
The [United Nations Industrial Development Organization](#) (UNIDO) invites experts to participate in a one-day hybrid Expert Group Meeting (EGM) focused on Strategic Technology Foresight for policymaking. The meeting will explore lessons learned, best practices, and emerging trends in the application of technology foresight to support sustainable development and transitions towards a Circular Economy.

[Register here](#)

👁️ RECENTLY LAUNCHED

UN FUTURES LAB/GLOBAL HUB | ISC
6 MAY 2025

“Futures Thinking and Strategic Foresight in Action: Insights from the Global South”



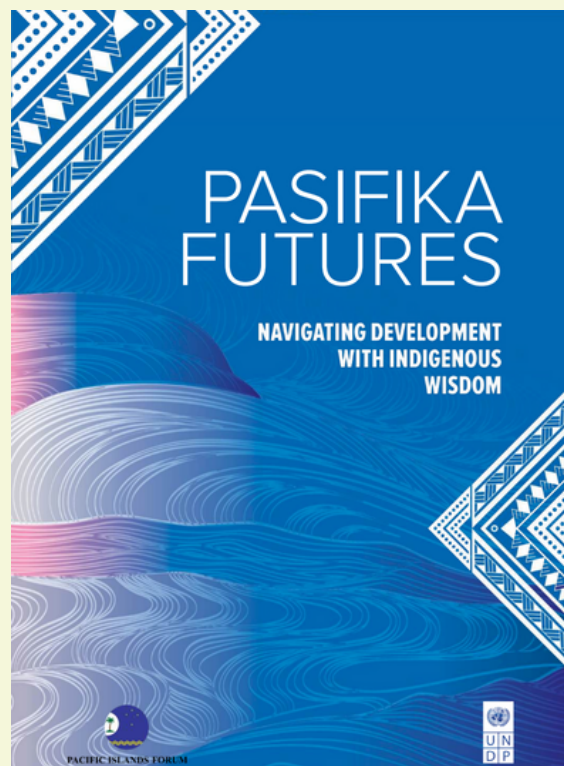
The joint report emerged from a shared dedication between the [UN Futures Lab/Global Hub](#) and the [International Science Council](#) (ISC) to amplify voices and experiences of the Global South in the global foresight landscape. On 6 May 2025, the publication was launched at the [STI Forum](#). The report features 14 unique use cases that integrate futures thinking and strategic foresight with other practices, such as indigenous wisdom, speculative design, and systems mapping to reimagine long-term planning and innovation in addressing contemporary challenges.

[Read more about the launch event](#)

[Download the report](#)

UNDP | 12 MAY 2025

“Pasifika Futures Report: Navigating Development with Indigenous Wisdom”



The Pasifika Futures Report is a forward-looking, Pacific-led blueprint that outlines pathways for achieving the ambitions of the [2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent](#). The report builds on the significant work by Pacific institutions and communities, offering a unifying framework for action that is as visionary as it is practical. It is both a reflection of Pacific resilience and a call to chart a new course — together.

[Read more](#)

★ PEOPLE HIGHLIGHTS

Meet **Shai Naides**, Chief of Youth Engagement and Strategy, UNICEF Innocenti



Shai Naides is a multidisciplinary strategist with over 15 years of global experience across the United Nations and civil society. He currently serves as Chief of Youth Engagement and Strategy at UNICEF Innocenti – Global Office of Research and Foresight, where he leads the Youth Engagement and Strategy team and portfolio. In this role, he drives UNICEF’s youth-centered approaches to research, foresight, and convening—developing participatory methods, strategic initiatives, and global platforms that position young people as equal partners in shaping evidence, foresight insights, and policy agendas.

[Read more about Shai](#)

USE CASES AND RESOURCES

UNDP

"Salto - Simulation for Uncertainty"

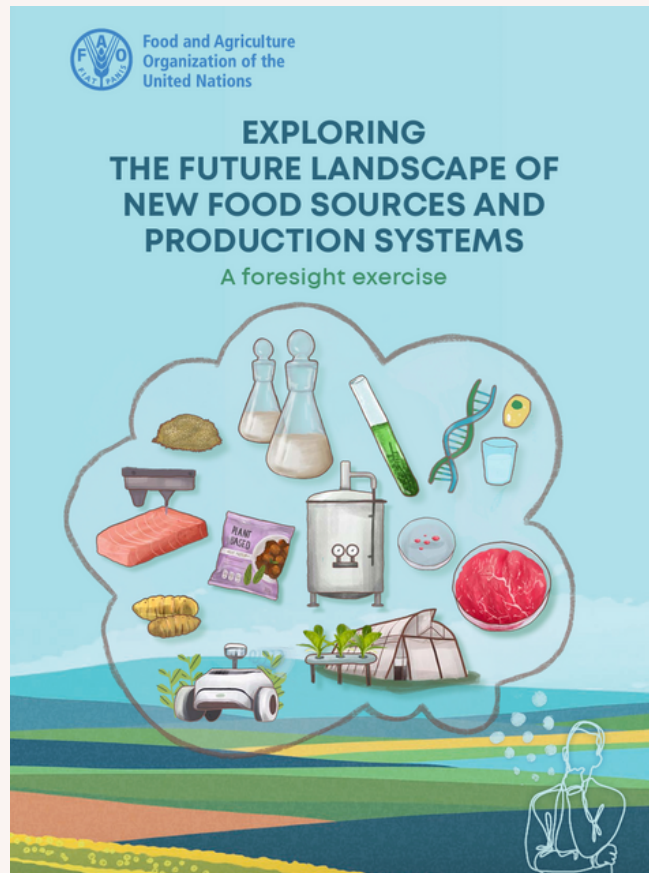


How can teams make better decisions when the context keeps changing? Salto is a strategic intelligence simulation developed by [United Nations Development Programme](#) (UNDP)'s Strategic Innovation Unit and the Regional Innovation & Digital Asia Pacific team to help decision-makers navigate complexity by rehearsing critical decisions in dynamic, uncertain contexts. Inspired from programming challenges on the ground, Salto enables participants to test their strategies against evolving scenarios and disruption triggers, with learning as the consequences. Through guided play, Salto surfaces hidden assumptions, uncovers interdependencies, and fosters collaborative, adaptive thinking across sectors. Salto has already been used to strengthen cross-team coordination, build resilience into portfolios, and rethink how decisions are made at both HQ and field levels.

[Learn more](#)

FAO

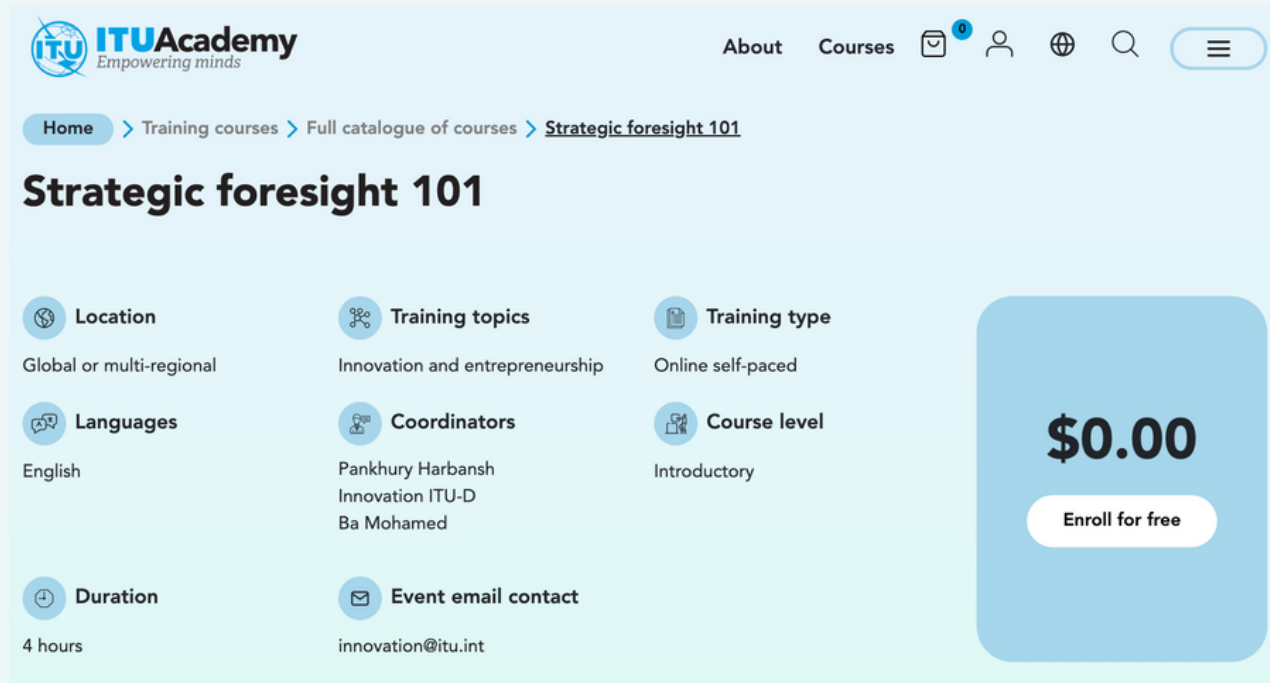
"Exploring the future landscape of new food sources and production systems"



Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO)'s [Food Safety Foresight Programme](#) conducted a global foresight exercise to assess the food safety implications of emerging innovations in agrifood systems. The report identifies 44 innovations across nine clusters that could transform food systems by 2050. It outlines key challenges and opportunities, and emphasizes the need for proactive safety measures, cross-sector collaboration, and ongoing monitoring to ensure safe and sustainable integration of new food sources into global food systems.

[Download the report](#)

Strategic Foresight 101



The screenshot shows the ITU Academy website interface. At the top, the ITU Academy logo is on the left, and navigation links for 'About', 'Courses', a notification bell, a user profile, a globe, a search icon, and a menu icon are on the right. Below the navigation bar is a breadcrumb trail: 'Home > Training courses > Full catalogue of courses > Strategic foresight 101'. The main heading 'Strategic foresight 101' is prominently displayed. Below this, course details are organized into three columns: Location (Global or multi-regional), Languages (English), and Duration (4 hours) on the left; Training topics (Innovation and entrepreneurship), Coordinators (Pankhury Harbansh, Innovation ITU-D, Ba Mohamed), and Event email contact (innovation@itu.int) in the middle; and Training type (Online self-paced), Course level (Introductory), and a large price tag (\$0.00 with an 'Enroll for free' button) on the right.

Location	Training topics	Training type
Global or multi-regional	Innovation and entrepreneurship	Online self-paced

Languages	Coordinators	Course level
English	Pankhury Harbansh Innovation ITU-D Ba Mohamed	Introductory

Duration	Event email contact
4 hours	innovation@itu.int

\$0.00

Enroll for free

The [International Telecommunication Union \(ITU\) Academy](#)'s Strategic foresight 101 self-paced training course offers an introductory exploration of strategic foresight tailored to individuals engaged in fostering digital innovation for sustainable development. Through seven modules, participants delve into essential concepts, tools, and terminology while honing practical skills in futures thinking. The course equips learners with the competencies to integrate strategic foresight into their specific domains, fostering strategic thinking and innovation in digital development initiatives.

[Sign up now](#)



JOBS

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

Institutional Analyst, Organizational Transformation and Culture, Innovation and Transformation Branch (ITB), Office of the Executive Director

UNFPA

New York

5 June 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 [\[EMAIL US\]](#)
7. Feature foresight job openings [\[EMAIL US\]](#)

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