

UN Strategic Foresight Newsletter

September 2025



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Dear Foresight Community,

Welcome to the September edition of our Foresight Community newsletter!

This month, our Community of Practice came together to share insights on how the [UN Strategic Foresight Guide](#) is being applied in practice and how collective insights can shape its upcoming update, to be launched on World Futures Day, 2 December 2025. We also spotlight key developments from across the system. These include the Security Council's [open debate on the future of peace operations](#), [youth-led foresight dialogues](#) marking the 30th anniversary of the [World Programme of Action for Youth \(WPAY\)](#), and a [new report](#) from the UN Secretary-General urging a shift in global priorities by redirecting military spending toward sustainable development. In addition, we feature survey results from [United Nations Department of Safety and Security \(UNDSS\)](#) on the future of UN security, as well as a report from [United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization \(UNESCO\)](#) on resource-efficient generative AI.

You will also find people highlights from colleagues pioneering foresight, foresight training from [United Nations Institute for Training and Research \(UNITAR\)](#) on future-proofing airport development, as well as job opportunities across the UN system. Whether you're exploring how to apply foresight tools in your own work or staying up to date with system-wide developments, this edition offers perspectives and resources to strengthen long-term thinking across the UN.



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

18 September 2025 | 9AM EST, 3PM CET

Community of Practice Webinar #27

The UN Strategic Foresight Guide in Practice: Your Insights for Greater Impact!



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UN Strategic Foresight Community of Practice

WEBINAR SERIES | #27

The UN Strategic Foresight Guide in Practice: Your Insights for Greater Impact!

On 18 September 2025, the Foresight Community had an interactive session in which participants shared insights and feedback on how the [UN Strategic Foresight Guide](#) can be enriched, based on valuable lessons that have emerged from its practical application. This collaborative effort aims to elicit key inputs that will be reflected in the updated UN Strategic Foresight Guide to be launched on World Futures Day 2025 on 2 December 2025. Launched in 2023 by the [UN Futures Lab/Global Hub](#), the [Guide](#) provides foundational knowledge, practical tools, and expert insights to make foresight accessible and actionable across thematic areas. Since its approval by the UN Secretary-General at the [Senior Management Group Meeting](#) (SMG), the Guide has been downloaded over 1,000 times and continues to support teams across the UN system in diverse contexts.

The UN Futures Lab/Global Hub is now partnering with [UN Women](#) to enrich the Guide with a gender lens to make foresight practices more inclusive and responsive to gender dynamics, and reflective of diverse perspectives and needs.

Watch the webinar recap



EVENTS

9 September 2025 | 10:00AM EST

UN Security Council

The Future of Peace Operations - Security Council, 9991st Meeting



In its capacity as [President of the Security Council for the month of September 2025](#), the Republic of Korea organized a Security Council open debate on the theme “The future of peace operations: key issues, opportunities and challenges in the context of the review on the future of all forms of United Nations peace operations” on 9 September 2025. The open debate was held in connection with the item entitled [“Maintenance of international peace and security”](#). A [concept note](#) was prepared to guide discussions on the topic.

[Watch the recording here](#)

NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

UN Secretary-General

"The Security We Need: Rebalancing Military Spending for a Sustainable and Peaceful Future; Report of the Secretary-General"



Amid an era of geopolitical tension and distrust fueling unprecedented death and destruction around the world, the [UN Secretary-General's report](#), *"The Security We Need: Rebalancing Military Spending for a Sustainable and Peaceful Future"*, urges UN Member States to recalibrate security and development priorities.

Global military spending, which hit \$2.7 trillion last year, is projected to reach \$6.6 trillion by 2035 if current trends persist. The massive diversion of resources poses a serious threat to humanity's future by undermining sustainable peace and development. The report calls for a fundamental recalibration of global security and development strategies, prioritizing diplomacy and international cooperation to reverse the current trend of escalating military spending. It makes a clarion call for investing in sustainable development by outlining how a small fraction of military spending can make a big difference in people's lives, such as on issues of addressing hunger, health, education, job generation, and climate action.

[Read more here](#)

United Nations Department of Safety and Security (UNDSS)

"UNDSS and the Future of Security: Different Perspectives, Shared Priorities"



As the [United Nations Department of Safety and Security](#) (UNDSS) celebrates its 20th anniversary this year, the moment calls for strategic foresight for the next 20 years of the Department and UN security. To mark the occasion, UNDSS launched a survey to gather diverse perspectives of internal UN personnel and external experts across sectors on the future of UN security, focusing on participants' expectations for UNDSS and their visions for how UN security could evolve in the coming years. The responses touch on key areas shaping tomorrow's landscape: from technological innovation and predictive tools, to ethics, training, and cross-sector collaboration.

[Read the article here](#)

👁️ RECENTLY LAUNCHED

UN Youth Office | UNICEF Innocenti | UN Future Lab/Global Hub

"#YouthLead Dialogues Summary"



To celebrate the 30th anniversary of the [World Programme of Action for Youth \(WPAY\)](#), a series of youth consultations culminated in a #YouthLead Dialogue: Foresight Workshop that took place on 4 September 2025. Co-organized by [UNICEF Innocenti – Global Office of Research and Foresight](#), [UN Futures Lab/Global Hub](#) and the [UN Youth Office](#), the [virtual foresight workshop](#) engaged more than 40 youth in a Back Casting exercise to develop recommendations in realizing shared visions and seeds of change. By anchoring visions in concrete milestones while highlighting the need for structural changes across systems and sectors, young people demonstrated a keen understanding of the interconnected nature of their priorities through strategic foresight. These draw on insights from a decentralized youth foresight exercise between July-August 2025, where over 75,000 children and young people from 182 countries engaged in and co-led dialogues, sharing the realities they face today, the futures they want to build, and the actions to get us there.

This process is part of the UN Youth Compass – a flagship initiative of the [UN Youth Office](#) designed not only to equip young people to navigate and shape policymaking and decision-making, but also to strengthen institutions to accelerate meaningful youth participation. Outcomes from this process are captured in [a report](#) to inform the [High-Level Meeting celebrating WPAY30](#) and other key moments during the United Nations General Assembly high-level week, ensuring youth perspectives guide policies and programmes at every level.

[Read the summary report](#)

★ PEOPLE HIGHLIGHTS

Meet **Adriana Alberti**, Chief - Programme Management and Capacity Development Unit, Division for Public Institutions and Digital Government, United Nations Department of Social and Economic Affairs (UN DESA)



Adriana Alberti is Chief of the Programme Management and Capacity Development Unit in the Division for Public Institutions and Digital Government, [United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs](#) (UN DESA), where she pioneers embedding strategic foresight into governance through several joint initiatives across the UN, publications, and capacity building support to Member States.

[Read more about Adriana](#)

Meet **Ghitu-I Mundunge**, Senior Economist at the Sub-Regional Office for Central Africa of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA)



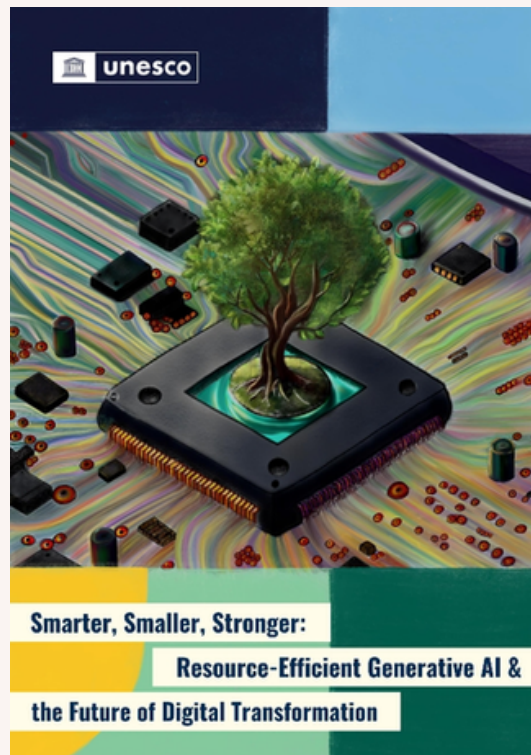
Ghitu I Mundunge is an Economist with the [UN Economic Commission for Africa](#) (UNECA), Sub-Regional Office for Central Africa (SRO-CA). He previously served as an Economist in the UN Resident Coordinator's Office in Côte d'Ivoire where he applied strategic foresight in the formulation of the UNSDCF 2026–2030 and the Common Country Analysis.

[Read more about Ghitu](#)

USE CASES AND RESOURCES

UNESCO

“Smarter, Smaller, Stronger: Resource-Efficient Generative AI & the Future of Digital Transformation”



This [new report](#) calls on governments and industry to invest in sustainable AI research and development, as well as AI literacy, to empower users to better understand the environmental impact of their AI use and make more informed decisions. It provides recommendations on accessible and effective solutions to reduce the environmental impact of AI. Small changes to how Large Language Models are built and used can dramatically reduce energy consumption without compromising performance. The report advocates for a pivot away from resource-heavy AI models in favour of more compact models. These measures can reduce energy consumption by up to 90%.

[Download the report](#)

Future-Proofing Airport Development - Leveraging Technological Innovations, Artificial Intelligence, and Cybersecurity



Workshop

Deadline: 20 Oct 2025

Future-Proofing Airport Development - Leveraging Technological Innovations, Artificial Intelligence, and Cybersecurity - Singapore

 Location Singapore, Singapore	 Date 22 Oct 2025 - 23 Oct 2025	 Duration 2 Days	 Programme Area Special event
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Website https://unitar.org/	Price \$0.00 A limited number of fee reductions or waivers is available for this event. Click here for more information.	Event Focal Point Email miguel.hamdi@unitar.org
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Registration Open-registration event	Mode of Delivery Face-to-Face	Language(s) English	Pillar People
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Partnership
Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport (HJIA) (4517), Georgia Tech Institute of Technology (GTech), Government of the Republic of El Salvador, CIFAL Atlanta (1632), CIFAL Singapore, Civil Aviation Authority of Singapore, Nanyang Technological University (4604)

This initiative by the [United Nations Institute for Training and Research](#) (UNITAR) aims to address the underutilization of resources and infrastructure, foster global collaboration and knowledge exchange among airport sector stakeholders, and facilitate Airport-to-Airport (A2A) partnerships for knowledge exchange. It aims to empower stakeholders in the airport sector by: (i) equipping airport executives and authorities with strategies for economic growth; and (ii) providing cutting-edge strategies in critical areas: competitiveness, cargo logistics, revenue strategies, safety, and sustainability.

[Learn more](#)



JOBS

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

Head, Climate Information, CRI Section

WMO

Geneva, Switzerland

5 October Deadline

[Apply now](#)

Roster – Strategic Foresight Consultant

ITU

Home-based

31 December 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