

UN Strategic Foresight Newsletter

October 2025



United Nations
Futures Lab
NETWORK



Welcome to the October 2025 edition of our Foresight Community newsletter!

This month offered space for reflection on how foresight can help us guide both the UN's evolution and the broader efforts across the system. [The 28th session of our Strategic Foresight Community of Practice](#) introduced a new format, the Community Reading Circle, where members explored an essay on designing for futures that no longer exist. The discussion surfaced perspectives on how foresight can reshape our ways of working and strengthen our collective capacity to navigate complexity.

Foresight continues to inform internal dialogue and action on institutional renewal, sustainable development, and anticipatory governance. From reflections at the [Security Council](#) on the future of the United Nations, to [UN High-level Advisory Board on Economic and Social Affairs](#) (HLAB)'s dialogue on shaping the future of sustainable development towards and beyond 2030.

This edition also highlights upcoming and recent foresight-related efforts within the UN, including the upcoming [World Social Summit for Sustainable Development's participatory horizon scanning session](#) co-organized by the [UN Futures Lab/Global Hub](#) and [UN DESA Division for Public Institutions and Digital Government](#); the [UN Economic Commission for Africa](#) (ECA)'s report on Africa's sustainable development; the [Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights](#) (OHCHR)'s publication on development finance and digital risks; the [UNHCR UN Refugee Agency](#) migration forecasting in Ukraine; and [United Nations Development Programme](#) (UNDP)'s paper on economic diversification for landlocked developing countries (LLDCs).

Finally, for those looking to deepen their foresight practice or pursue new opportunities, this month's newsletter features an upcoming training programme by the [UN System Staff College](#) (UNSSC) on political acumen and strategic negotiation, as well as job openings designed to strengthen anticipatory capacities 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

30 October 2025 | 10AM EDT, 3PM CET

Community of Practice Webinar #28

Community Reading Circle: "We are Designing for Futures That No Longer Exist"



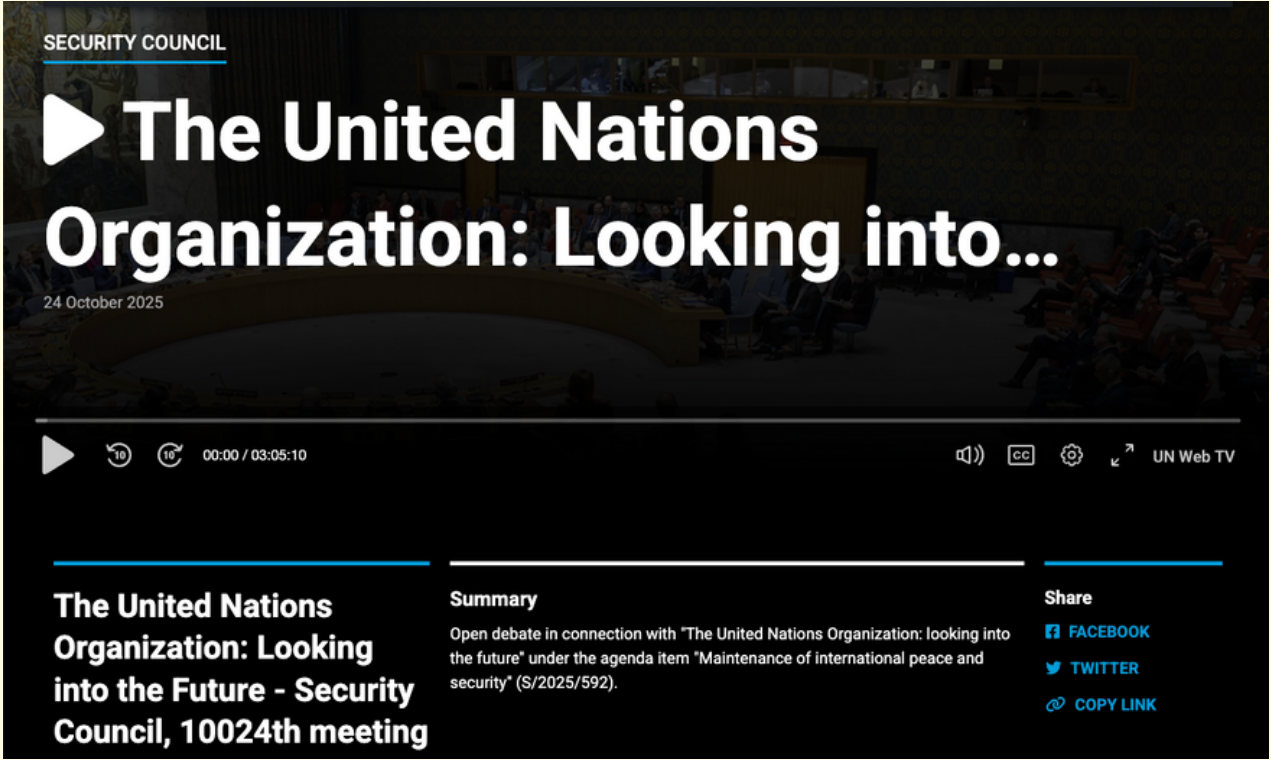
In the spirit of the [UN's 80th anniversary](#), the [28th UN Strategic Foresight Community of Practice webinar](#) held on 30 October 2025 provided the space for a collective reflection on the future of the organization and the role that foresight has in charting this. To spark this reflection, the inaugural Community Reading Circle was held to explore a thought-provoking piece, "[We Are Designing for Futures That No Longer Exist](#)" by Paula Gil Baizán. The article acted as a thought starter, prompting rich perspectives on how foresight can reimagine the UN's work moving forward. Valuable reflections and ideas that were shared will contribute to shaping future collaborations, informing initiatives, and refining how we engage as a community.

[Watch the webinar recap](#)

24 October 2025 | 10AM EDT, 3PM CET

UN Security Council

The United Nations Organization: Looking into the Future



SECURITY COUNCIL

▶ The United Nations Organization: Looking into...

24 October 2025

00:00 / 03:05:10

UN Web TV

The United Nations Organization: Looking into the Future - Security Council, 10024th meeting

Summary

Open debate in connection with "The United Nations Organization: looking into the future" under the agenda item "Maintenance of international peace and security" (S/2025/592).

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In its capacity as [President of the Security Council for the month of October 2025](#), the Russian Federation organized a Security Council open debate on the theme [“The United Nations Organization: Looking into the Future”](#) on 24 October 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. UN Secretary-General António Guterres provided a briefing and reflections to set the scene for the session, where Member States recognized the UN’s increasing mandate, as well as the resources and reforms required to deliver on these. Support to preventive diplomacy, early warning mechanisms, and horizon scanning initiatives were affirmed as tools that could strengthen existing instruments for peace.

[Watch the recording \(Part 1\)](#)

[Watch the recording \(Part 2\)](#)

24 October 2025 | 10:30AM EDT, 3:30PM CET

UN DESA

Charting New Directions: Shaping the Future of Sustainable Development

 **DESA**

 **Global Policy
Dialogue Series**

 **Building
Our Future
Together**

Charting New Directions Shaping the Future of Sustainable Development

A UN DESA Global Policy Dialogue with the High-level Advisory Board for Economic and Social Affairs

Friday, 24 October 2025
10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. EDT

In person: Conference Room 6
UN Headquarters, New York
Register at bit.ly/inperson24oct

Online: Register at bit.ly/online24oct



This dialogue is made possible by the UN Peace and Development Trust Fund.

The [UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs](#) (UN DESA) convened a Global Policy Dialogue, "Charting New Directions: Shaping the Future of Sustainable Development". Members of the [UN High-level Advisory Board on Economic and Social Affairs](#) (HLAB) explored different avenues for achieving and maintaining inclusive, sustainable, and forward-looking development towards and beyond 2030. Expert insights were shared in reimagining economics to foster social inclusion, emerging trends, and the future of sustainable development amid global transformations.

Watch the recording

NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

16:45 – 18:00 GMT+3 | 08:45am – 10:00am EST

UN Futures Lab/Global Hub | UN DESA

World Social Summit 2025 Side Event: UN Global Horizon Scanning for Governance and Social Development



**UN GLOBAL HORIZON
SCANNING FOR GOVERNANCE
AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT**

Second World Summit for
Social Development Solutions
Sessions

WEDNESDAY 5 NOVEMBER 2025
4:45 PM - 6:00 PM (GMT + 3)
08:45 AM - 10:00 AM (EST)
VIRTUAL (VIA ZOOM)

 **SECOND
WORLD SUMMIT
FOR SOCIAL
DEVELOPMENT
DOHA 2025**

 **United Nations
Futures Lab
NETWORK**

 **United
Nations**

 **Department of
Economic and
Social Affairs**

SOLUTIONS SESSION

The [Second World Summit for Social Development](#) (WSSD) will take place in Doha, Qatar, from 4 to 6 November 2025. Thirty years after the landmark [1995 Copenhagen Summit](#), the Summit will provide a unique opportunity to assess progress, address gaps, and renew global commitments to the three interrelated pillars of social development: (i) poverty eradication, (ii) full employment, and (iii) social integration.

Within the Summit's framework, [UN Futures Lab/Global Hub](#) and [UN DESA Division for Public Institutions and Digital Government](#) are co-organizing a Solutions Session, “[UN Global Horizon Scanning for Governance and Social Development](#)” on 5 November 2025. Building on the [2025 STI Forum side event](#), this participatory foresight session will feature insights on emerging signals, trends, and drivers related to the Summit's three pillars and cross-cutting issues.

[Register for the event](#)

2025 Africa Sustainable Development Development Report



The [2025 Africa Sustainable Development Report](#) (ASDR): *Advancing sustainable, inclusive, science and evidence-based solutions for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals for leaving no one behind, and the African Union's Agenda 2063* was jointly prepared by [African Union](#) (AU), [UN Economic Commission for Africa](#) (ECA), [African Development Bank](#) (AfDB), and [United Nations Development Programme](#) (UNDP). The report reviews the status of the implementation of five selected SDGs and their related Agenda 2063 targets, in line with the SDGs under the purview of the [High-Level Political Forum](#) (HLPF). Using Current Status Index and Anticipated Progress Index Analysis, it measures the progress made in Africa and offers policy recommendations to facilitate their attainment. The report findings highlight key recommendations, which require a holistic approach and mutually reinforcing initiatives.

[Download the report](#)

👁️ RECENTLY LAUNCHED

OHCHR

"Development Finance Institutions and Digital Risks"



The Office of the [United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights](#) (OHCHR) partnered with [Brunel University of London](#) to develop an innovative agent-based modelling prototype to forecast potential returns under five different hypothetical scenarios. [The publication](#) provides key insights into a range of factors that will likely influence future return trends and subsequent recovery needs in different oblasts across Ukraine, in accordance with five plausible future scenarios. The prototype can produce simulations relating to five different, defined scenarios, simulating variations in expected return trends.

[Read the publication](#)

★ PEOPLE HIGHLIGHTS

Meet **Preride Kaleagasi Blind**,
Chief - Country Business
Strategies Section,
Development Coordination
Office (DCO)



Peride Kaleagasi Blind is Chief of the Country Business Strategies Section in the [UN Development Cooperation Office](#) (UNDCO)'s Business Management Branch. She brings two decades of experience in the UN Secretariat and a passion for eclectic research methods, such as predictive analytics and foresight for efficiencies in business operations strategies, with linkages to the Sustainable Development Goals.

[Read more about Peride](#)

Meet **Nahjae Nunes**, Senior
Fellow, UNICEF Innocenti



Nahjae Nunes is a Senior Foresight Fellow with [UNICEF Innocenti](#), where he co-designs foresight workshops, contributed to UNICEF's State of the World's Children report and collaborates with peers from diverse regions to envision a brighter, more equitable future for children everywhere.

[Read more about Nahjae](#)

USE CASES AND RESOURCES

UNHCR

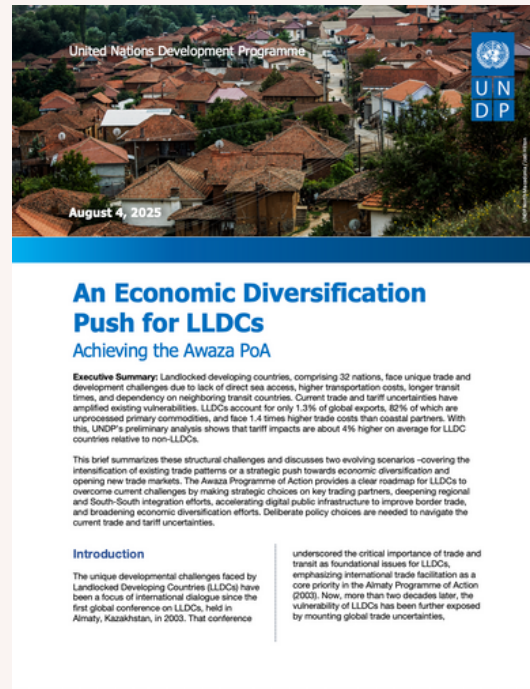
Policy Brief: "Forecasting Refugee Return to Ukraine Amid Ongoing War and Uncertainty"



This new [policy brief](#) 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%.

Raed the Policy Brief

"An Economic Diversification Push for Landlocked Developing Countries: Achieving the Awaza Programme of Action"



This paper explores the persistent trade and development challenges faced by landlocked developing countries (LLDCs), who face a risk of deeper marginalization as global trade dynamics shift. *The Economic Diversification Push for Landlocked Developing Countries: Achieving the Awaza Programme of Action* paper outlines two potential futures: one that reinforces existing trade patterns, and another that embraces economic diversification to expand export markets and build resilience. Broad policy directions are presented, emphasizing the strategic choices and right support needed for LLDCs to reposition themselves within a changing global trade system.

Raed the paper



UNSSC

Navigating Complexity: Political Acumen and Strategic Negotiation for Sustainable Development



This course by the [UN System Staff College](#) (UNSSC) is designed to help senior UN leaders navigate today's rapidly evolving global environment. Spread over 4 weeks in February 2026, 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.

[Learn more](#)



View all Foresight Jobs on the UN Strategic Foresight Knowledge Hub

**Director,
Programme
Management,
Chief Scientist
and Director of
the Office of
Science**

UNEP

Nairobi, Kenya

5 November

Deadline

[Apply now](#)

**Regional
Thematic
Specialist,
Humanitarian
Response and
Recovery**

IOM

Bangkok, Thailand

5 November

Deadline

[Apply now](#)

**Regional Data
Analyst**

IOM

Cairo, Egypt

6 November

Deadline

[Apply now](#)

**Political Affairs
Officer**

DPPA-DPO

New York, USA

9 November

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