

Solutions Sessions - Second World Summit for Social Development

UN Global Horizon Scanning for Governance and Social Development

Wednesday 5 November 2025

08:45am - 10:00am (EST) online

4:45pm – 6:00pm GMT+3

Zoom link: <https://zoom.us/meeting/register/kLyAsdYdTsGIWt5YjJyDQ>

Overview

A Solutions Session on “**UN Global Horizon Scanning for Governance and Social Development**” will be organized by the UN Futures Lab and the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA), through its Division for Public Institutions and Digital Government (DPIDG), within the framework of the Second World Summit for Social Development to be held in Doha, Qatar, from 4 to 6 November 2025. The session will take place on 5 November 2025 from 4:45 pm to 6:00 pm (Doha) / 8:45 am to 10:00 am (New York).

In a world shaped by accelerating change, the ability to anticipate emerging risks and opportunities is critical for decision-makers across the UN system. Horizon scanning brings together the perspectives and collective intelligence of different stakeholders to map possible changes. These present a wealth of information on signals, trends, and drivers of change that can be harnessed to inform decision-making, planning, and programming.

To this end, the [UN Futures Lab](#)/Global Hub and the [UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs](#) (UN DESA) are collaborating on the [UN Global Horizon Scanning](#) initiative to develop an AI tool that can efficiently harness, consolidate, and analyze insights of horizon scanning initiatives from across the UN system. This joint project aims to help users to draw on existing



intelligence to deepen analysis, bridge synergies, facilitate cross-fertilization, and motivate collaboration in advancing their work. Building on the enthusiasm generated during a panel discussion and live demonstration of the AI tool at the [2025 STI Forum side event](#), improvements have been introduced based on feedback from participants representing UN entities, government, non-government organizations, private sector, and academe/think tanks. This is part of an iterative process to ensure that the initiative can meaningfully support the UN's delivery of its mandates to its stakeholders. The UN Global Horizon Scanning AI Tool will be launched in December 2025 and will be made accessible to the entire UN system; by drawing on strategic foresight methodologies and processes, the tool will thus support more forward-looking and anticipatory planning, programming, and decision-making across the UN's work.

Objectives

The Solutions Session on “UN Global Horizon Scanning for Governance and Social Development”, aims to contribute to the Second World Social Summit 2025 by engaging a diverse range of stakeholders to collaborate in:

- Understanding the evolving and complex development landscape through key governance interlinkages from a social lens
- Advancing the discourse on emerging solutions and challenges in shaping development futures through signals, trends, and drivers of change
- Promoting lived experiences and diverse voices to Leave No One Behind through a facilitated participatory foresight process

The outcomes of the session will feed into the learning and scaling process of the UN Horizon Scanning initiative ahead of the official launch of the UN Global Horizon Scanning AI Tool in December 2025.

Format

This virtual Solutions Session will feature a brief introduction to the UN Global Horizon Scanning initiative, including a short live demo of the UN Global Horizon Scanning AI Tool. This will be followed by a presentation of emerging insights generated by the tool, with a specific focus on the Summit's thematic priorities and the [Draft Doha Political Declaration](#):

Emerging signals, trends, and drivers of change related to the Summit's three pillars: (i) Poverty eradication, (ii) full employment, and (iii) social integration and their interlinkages with governance

Key interlinkages, convergences, and divergences among cross-cutting issues: (i) Governance; (ii) food security and nutrition, (iii) physical and mental health, (iv) digital transformation, (v) education, (vi) climate action, (vii) disaster reduction, (viii) gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, (ix) combatting racism, racial



discrimination, xenophobia, and related intolerance, (x) housing, water, and sanitation, (xi) ensuring safe, orderly, and regular migration pathways, and (xii) financing sustainable development

Participants will then engage in an interactive dialogue using virtual tools to allow for exchange and joint reflection, and a multistakeholder panel will unpack the implications of these insights on broader issues of governance, security, and human rights, with a specific focus on linking insights with decision-making.

Expected Outputs

- A summary capturing key messages and recommendations emerging from the session.
- Dissemination of findings and key takeaways through knowledge platforms.

Participants

The session will bring together:

- Government representatives and policymakers
- Civil society organizations
- Academia and research institutions
- International organizations and development partners

