

SOIF

**Practitioners in planning,
strategy and policy for
future generations.**

Systems are cracking.
We're excited.

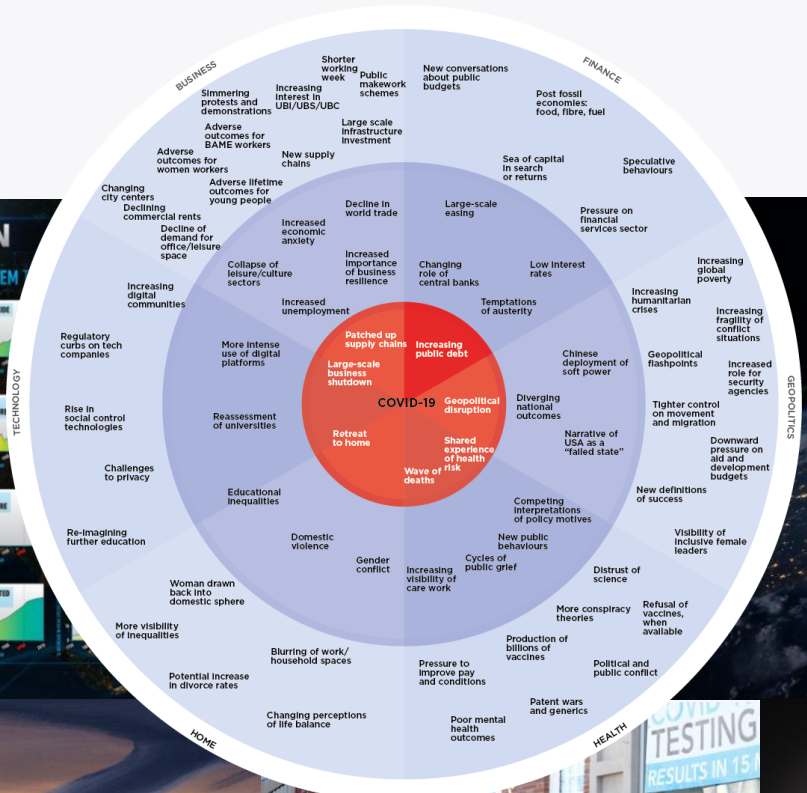


**“He who doesn't
look ahead gets left
behind”**

Venezuelan Proverb



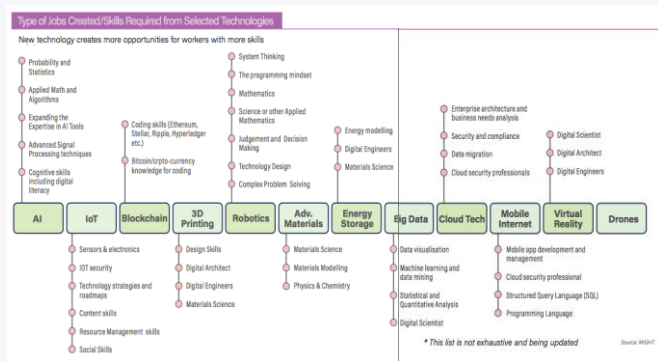
The scale of the disruption



“Strategic foresight: an organised and systematic process to engage with uncertainty regarding the future”

Maree Conway, 2014

Drivers of change



Systems thinking



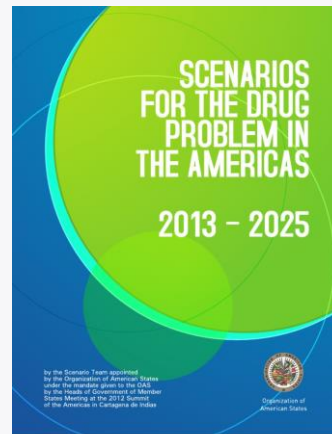
Alternative Futures



End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture

Strategic foresight helps leaders better manage under conditions of uncertainty

1. Make strategic choices to shape the future you want (**build vision**)
2. Build preparedness for alternative possible futures (**manage risk**)
3. Create future-ready and alert organisations that can adapt as the future evolves (**anticipation, awareness and agility**)





How prepared is your government for the future?

Please write your answer in the chat box.



1
Completely
unprepared

2
Behind where
it should be

3
Starting to get
prepared

4
Making steady
progress

5
Completely
prepared

Some examples of how strategic foresight and planning are used

National Vision, South Africa



- Mont Fleur scenario exercise 1991-2
- South Africans and global observers asked whether the abolition of apartheid would engender civil war, economic populism, or a new beginning.
- 10-year-out scenarios and glide paths
- A cross-party stakeholder group shared desired vision of the “flight of the flamingo” with wider society

National/SDG Planning, Finland



- National vision and strategic planning led by the PM
- internalises the SDGs as a national strategy matter, rather than an issue for developing countries.
- Sustainable development seen as way to engage the whole of society. Annual public discussion forum for measuring and taking stock of progress in implementing the 2030 Agenda.
- Parliament involved through the Committee on the Future

Urban, Mexico City



- Laboratorio para la Ciudad 2013-2018
- Mayoral support for Gabriella Gómez Mont to develop an urban experimental lab to include diverse perspectives and apply them to real city problems
- Harnessed the energy of citizens
- Lab model facilitates input from different perspectives, sectors and disciplines

Sectoral, Agriculture



- Facing significant disruption - the implications of different technology drivers and governance responses on food security will create new solutions, new actors, new policy challenges around redistribution, access and regulation
- Potential to address SDG2 (Zero hunger).
- The WEF Food scenarios help actors in the food space (whether local, national or business) understand the upcoming disruptions and associated risks and opportunities.

How can governments embed strategic foresight in their strategic planning for the SDGs?

What our experience shows...

You can gain immediate insights and impact from simple application of strategic foresight approaches

Incentives (demand) and capability (trained people to supply the insights) are essential in developing long-term thinking.

COVID-19 is driving an increased awareness of intergenerational concerns.

Considering foresight as an “ecosystem” is critical to ensure lasting integration into policy making.

How governments can apply this...

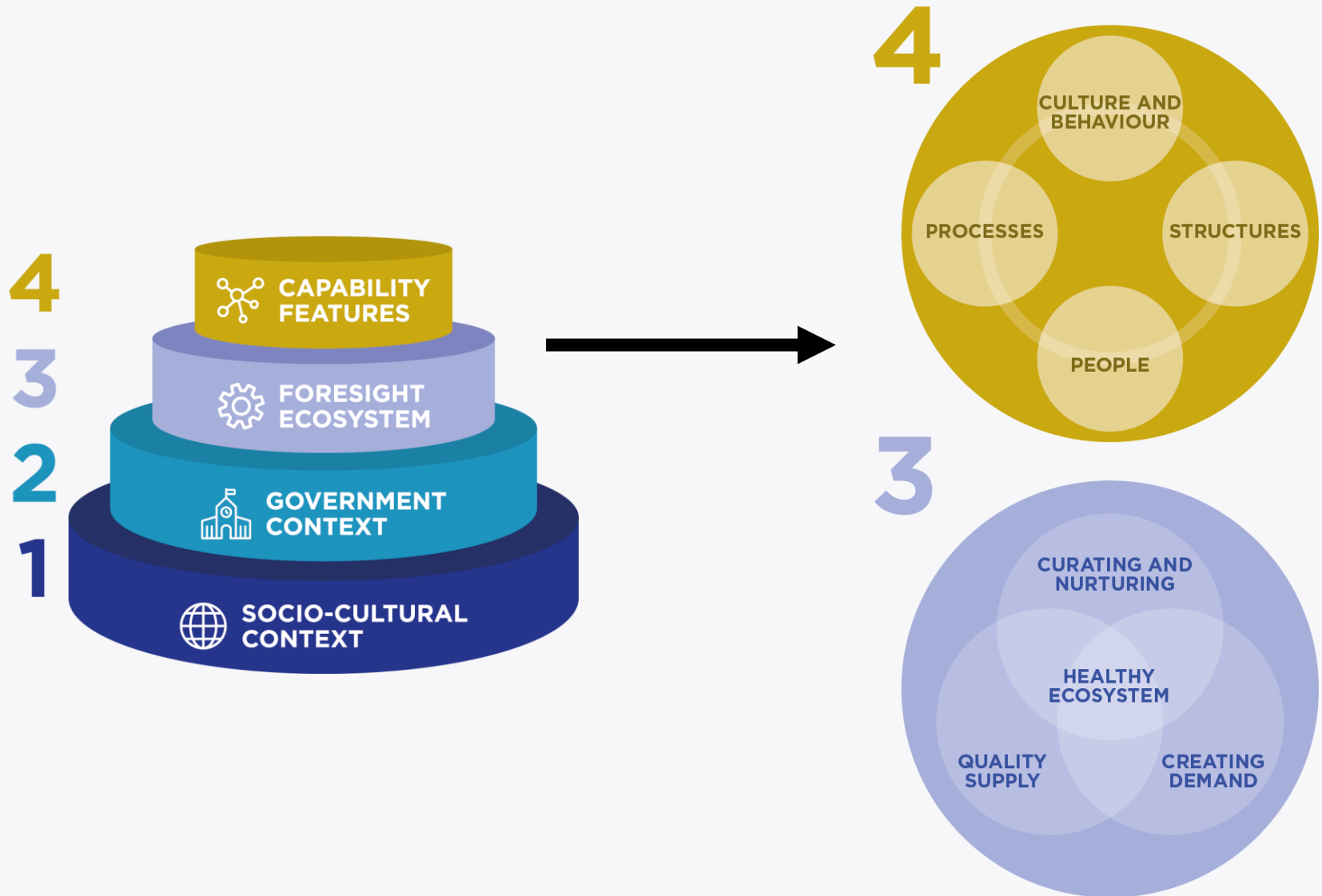
Choose a deep dive on a policy topic, ministry strategy, windtunnelling your programme, or in a national planning process

As well as building capability, its essential to ensure visible, senior sponsorship, as well as clear links with spending/resources and risk decisions

Include younger generations in participative processes to capture voices of youth and future generations

Effort might be spearheaded by a central strategic foresight unit, but the ecosystem needs to include other executive units, legislature and other parts of the governance system, including links to universities

An ecosystems approach to foresight



Capability features of an effective foresight system



Culture and behaviour

- focus on creating commitment
- bring policymakers into foresight
- meet policy makers where they are
- support short term work with long term perspective
- generate shared ownership and buy-in



Structures

- have central units sitting in or near the heart of government
- build and foster capacity in departments and agencies
- work to have courts, elected officials and audit officials involved
- put in place coordinating and sharing groups



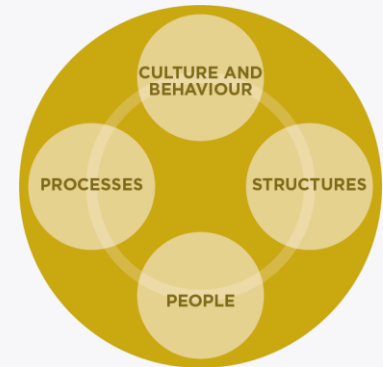
People

- make sure that there are in-house skills and capacity
- invest in the development of the next generation
- have visible consistent champions
- support and nurture people working in strategic foresight
- build local and international experts



Processes

- work across all of government and use all government levers
- deliver a small number of set piece activities
- develop their own work
- draw on diverse methods and disciplines
- invest in ongoing research and innovation around strategic foresight





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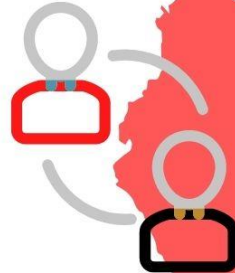
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Next steps

**Connect to
practioners and
colleagues**



**Reach out to UN
team**



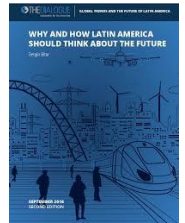
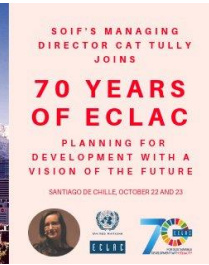
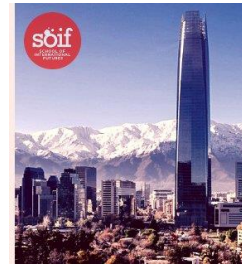
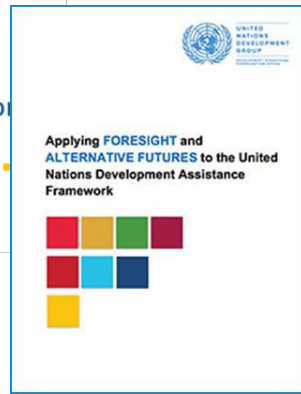
**Raise awareness
of future trends
with senior
leaders**



**Discuss the future
of key sectors
with external
stakeholders**



Networks and resources



United Nations

- UNESCO's Futures Literacy programme
- The UNICEF Child in 2030
- UNDCO Applying foresight and alternative futures to the United Nations Development Assistance Framework.
- The UNDP Global Accelerator Labs network
- ECLAC Foresight & Planning

Elsewhere

- Inter-American Dialogue
- OECD Strategic Foresight Unit and the Observatory of Public Sector Innovation
- Public Sector Foresight Network
- The Millennium Project
- Association of Professional Futurists
- School of International Futures

“A community collaboratively imagining their futures is an act of profound political empowerment”

Cat Tully, 2017

For more resources: toolkits, foresight primer, articles, info on the Next Generation Foresight Practitioners Sensing Network, and a capability self-assessment survey, visit:

soif.org.uk/s/UNDESA

And contact: Cat Tully cat@soif.org.uk

