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.org.za**

What is the issue?

In our increasingly uncertain and networked world, existing governance systems face unprecedented challenges. In order to manage the globalized economy, technology revolutions and volatile resource pressures of a growing global middle-class, governments must re-envisage their current command-and-control role as one of 'system-steward' 1 or platform within a wider network.

Governments need to become enablers: facilitating and guiding other actors, rather than directly providing or directing. To transition into this new structure, governments must take longer-term perspectives into account, and build the institutional and behavioural capability of strategic foresight to do so.

Strategic foresight is a critical tool for creating effective government civil services and executive bodies.

– *Global Centre For Public Service Excellence*





Participatory futures

The core characteristics of classical public administration are rationality, predictability and hierarchy. Many of its structures, procedures and outputs are based on these principles. Complexity, uncertainty and a demand for meaningful citizen engagement are profound challenges. 'Foresight', with its proven track record and fit in bureaucratic structures, is emerging as an essential addition to conventional planning and policy tools.

– Foresight for Africa | GPCSE

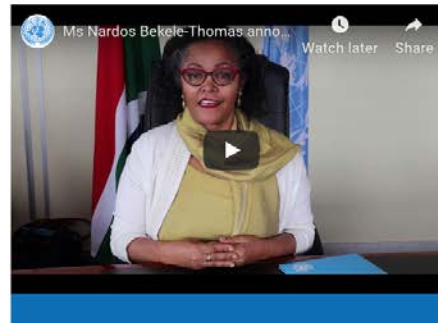
FORESIGHT SOUTH AFRICA

Ms Nardos Bekele-Thomas, Resident Coordinator, UN in South Africa, announces the launch of Foresight South Africa portal

The UNCT will be embarking on a consultative process with the Government to develop the next planning framework of the UN, known as the Strategic Cooperation Framework in South Africa.

The UN is engaging with the Government to ensure that its next Strategic Cooperation Framework (SCF) is fully aligned to the Government's next National Development Plan: 5 year implementation plan.

Foresight techniques are important for development planning and responsiveness – these techniques allow policy makers to be





Background

Foresight South Africa is a United Nations South Africa initiative aimed at assisting government and stakeholders in planning, mid to long-term, for the unpredictable future. Whereas the future was once methodically planned according to trends and predictable outcomes, governments around the world today need to have the tools and the provision to plan for different possible futures, whilst empowering civil society with the skills to navigate and thrive at the pace of the changing times.

Thus, in 2015 the United Nations South Africa's Development Programme, in partnership with Centre for Public Sector Innovation (CPSI), initiated a conversation on foresighting as a tool to support long-term planning. With growing volatility around the world economy, trade laws and employment sustainability due to the rapid development of technologies, the South African government needs to be at the forefront of optimising the usage of foresighting.

The Purpose

In partnership with the Centre for Public Service Innovation (CPSI), the United Nations South Africa aims to build a sustainable culture around foresighting, imagined futures and innovation in policy and decision-making.

In order to achieve the stated aim, the Foresight South Africa portal will become a hub to be used by multiple stakeholders who will contribute in the development and dissemination of a body of knowledge on foresighting techniques, learnings and best cases to better respond to South Africa's governance, education, health, environment and socio-economic environment.

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February 6th, 2019



The Foresight South Africa portal was developed to encourage participation of a broad range of stakeholders in the growth of knowledge base of alternative futures for the enhancement of public policy planning and development. A member of the Community of Practice (COP) is anyone who has an interest in this subject.

COP includes the following stakeholders:

- Government – national, provincial, district and local
- Policy makers
- Planners
- Researchers
- Labour
- Private sector
- Civil society
- Academia
- Futurists
- UN agencies
- The Node
- Other

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Welcome to Foresight South Africa's Community of Practice page.

There is a growing number of practitioners engaging or interested in Strategic Foresight in the public and private sectors. Some are in pursuit of new tools to better plan in an environment of growing uncertainty and complexity, whilst others are frustrated with existing (linear) approaches. Either way, all have something to learn and share.

Whatever your interest, this United Nations South Africa portal provides an online community platform where practitioners will engage, learn, share experiences and insights and also have robust discussions on what works and what does not work in our unique environment. The portal provides an opportunity for us to share our experiences and solutions with the world.





































When joining this community, after following the simple registration process, you will have the opportunity to join one or more specific groups (for example those interested in the [academic](#) side of Foresight, or [government planners](#)), can share your thoughts, ask questions, tell members about what you are doing, or collaborate remotely.

Interested? Read our T&Cs and join by clicking on the link below.



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BraWilly ✓

4 MONTHS AGO

Here is a great article that was brought to my attention by Bhut Bongani Matomela.

Andile Sangqu: SA Is On Track To A Grim Economic Future. Here's How We Can Change That

South Africa could be on course for a grim 2030 economic future, looking at findings from the Indlulamithi South Africa Scenarios 2030 project. Indlulamithi – a Nguni noun for giraffe – is based on the intention to "look above the trees". In 2018, Indlulamithi challenged South Africans from all walks of life to collectively imagine three probable futures, or scenarios, for South Africa, addressing the question: What does a socially cohesive South Africa look like? And is it attainable by 2030?

[HTTPS://M.FIN24.COM/OPINION/ANDILE-SANGQU-SA-IS-ON-TRACK-TO-A-GRIM-ECONOMIC-FUTURE-HERES-HOW-WE-CAN-CHANGE-THAT-20190801-2](https://m.fin24.com/opinion/andile-sangqu-sa-is-on-track-to-a-grim-economic-future-heres-how-we-can-change-that-20190801-2)

ENitiater ✓ posted in the group **Civil Society**

4 MONTHS AGO

Happy to be part of this group.



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