

## STRATEGIC FORESIGHT WORKSHOP

### Future-ready Philanthropy

16 March 2020, 15:00 to 16:30 (CET)

OECD netFWD and the OECD Strategic Foresight Unit look forward to welcoming you to a closed-door workshop on building a future-ready philanthropic sector. By widening perspectives beyond immediate challenges, this workshop will provide an opportunity to anticipate possible disruptions, manage threats and seize game-changing opportunities to deliver social impact. In this interactive workshop, participants will use OECD scenarios to deepen their understanding of how strategic foresight can improve the effectiveness of philanthropic interventions.

The workshop will involve a brief presentation of three global scenarios for 2035, and their potential implications for education, health, and gender equality. In breakout sessions, participants will explore possible developments under each scenario and strategic actions the philanthropic sector could take today to prepare for the unexpected. The session will close with a discussion with the OECD's Counsellor for Strategic Foresight on how philanthropic organisation can incorporate foresight into their work.

In advance of the workshop, participants are invited to familiarise themselves with the brief scenario descriptions below (*Multitrack World*, *Virtual Worlds* and *Vulnerable World*) and reflect up on the discussion questions in the agenda.

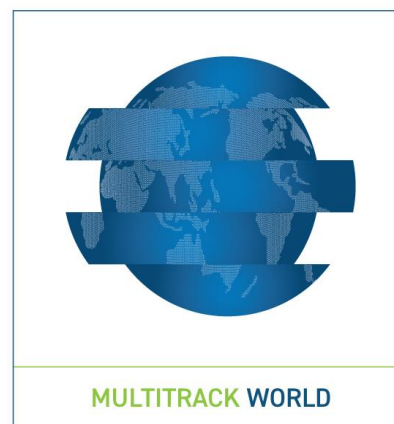
Agenda Item	Discussion Questions	Time
1. Session opening and presentation of global scenarios	Are there uncertainties or disruptions you see that are currently "under the radar" or not being adequately considered or prepared for by the philanthropic community? [answers input via chat]	25 minutes
2. Exploration of global scenarios and implications for philanthropy  In breakout groups, participants will discuss one of the three scenarios.	Identify some of the main differences between the scenario described and the world today. What kind of changes could the scenario lead to in areas such as education, health, and gender equality?  What considerations does this scenario raise for your organisation and the sector more broadly? Describe challenges and opportunities you could see in the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Purpose</li> <li>• Values</li> <li>• Relationships</li> <li>• Operations</li> </ul>	30 minutes
BREAK		5 minutes
3. Reflection and recommendations	What is one step that your organisation or the philanthropic community needs to begin taking now to better prepare for these (and other) potential future scenarios, and ongoing future uncertainty?	30 minutes

## OECD Global Scenarios 2035

The following are some alternative plausible scenarios for how the international system of the future could be different from today. They are not prescriptions or predictions, nor are they exhaustive or mutually exclusive. Rather, they highlight possible future changes that could create significant strategic considerations for global collaboration on a variety of public policy issues.

### Multitrack World

In 2035, alternative systems and standards in different parts of the world have solidified, creating separate, parallel clusters of states. Attitudes towards key determinants of well-being such as inequality, freedom of expression, and surveillance are highly divergent between clusters. Clusters rely on their own dominant currencies and largely equivalent corporate actors, which have adapted to unique regulatory and cultural standards. Few firms or civil society organisations are able to operate successfully in multiple clusters. Large-scale movement away from globalisation and distrust between clusters has led to diminished interest in and incentive for international cooperation. This is a world of diversity rather than universality, where ideas of what constitutes better policies, best practices, and how to measure both vary significantly based on clusters' separate value systems.



### Virtual Worlds



Welcome to the metaverse of 2035, an interconnected virtual platform where the majority of all human interaction, for business or leisure, now takes place. Technology companies provide the hardware and software, competing to provide customers with new features and experiences such as different virtual worlds to explore. States control what hardware and creative freedoms are made available to their citizens within the virtual universe through regulatory measures, balancing state security requirements with the desire to be on the cutting edge of technology. In this scenario, diplomacy is more important and complex than ever before. Relationships between states, platform companies, and users (as customers and creators) need to be delicately managed.

### Vulnerable World

The year is 2035, and humanity is at a precipice. Technological innovation has progressed faster than expected, bringing a multitude of benefits while simultaneously generating existential risks that require urgent global collaboration. Major breakthroughs have enabled dramatic reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, but have not prevented dangerous levels of environmental degradation in other areas. Artificial intelligence, synthetic biology and space development have advanced rapidly, creating tremendous productivity benefits but also vulnerabilities that could prove catastrophic for civilization. Automated production has created enough goods and services to meet basic material needs, but has led to extreme inequality and



concentrations of power that are eroding the foundations of democracy. In this context, multilateral institutions face fundamental questions about their role in safeguarding humanity against the unprecedented power it has to destroy its own potential.

### Scenarios comparison table

The table below summarizes and provides additional details on the three scenarios, including the main change pathways that led to the scenarios and the common assumptions each is designed to challenge.

	MULTITRACK WORLD	VIRTUAL WORLDS	VULNERABLE WORLD
Description	The world has formed into five separate digital ecosystems/economic clusters with distinct systems and standards	Life has gone virtual on a global, interoperable digital platform run by tech companies and managed with state intervention	Humanity faces new existential risks following rapid, technology-driven progress on reducing emissions
How it Happened	Digital decoupling led to proliferation of competing ecosystems that solidified as country clusters	Citizens demanded global connection and interoperability in virtual space	An innovation boom and government inaction resulted in the private sector leading the energy transition
Assumptions challenged	That globalisation will continue, or the world will become bipolar, with OECD countries in the same digital ecosystem and trade block	That growth of virtual life will be modest and marginal, and platform companies will remain subsidiary actors in the multilateral system	That future global challenges will be similar to those of the past, and the world can muddle through with limited global co-operation



**Get in touch!** Learn more about the Strategic Foresight Unit on our [website](#), or contact us at [foresight@oecd.org](mailto:foresight@oecd.org).

Other examples of recent OECD foresight work include:

- [Strategic Foresight for the Covid-19 Crisis](#)
- [Making Migration and Integration Policies Future Ready](#)
- [Government Foresight Community Annual Meeting Report 2020](#)
- [Strategic Foresight for Better Policies](#)
- [Digital Transformation and the Futures of Civic Space to 2030](#)
- [Back to the Futures of Education: Four scenarios for schooling](#)
- [Anticipatory Innovation Governance](#)