


UN DESA is taking concrete steps to embed the principles of UN 2.0 and the Quintet of Change into its intergovernmental support, analysis, and capacity-development work. These efforts ensure that the Department is agile, data-driven, and people-centred to support sustainable development towards 2030 and beyond.

## DATA

 Building modern data skills and culture is integral to our mission. It means enhancing our capabilities to gather, process, and use data from diverse sources. It is about transforming raw data into valuable insights that drive smarter decisions and impact.

### Fifth UN World Data Forum


UN DESA delivered the Fifth UN World Data Forum in November 2024 in Medellín, Colombia. The forum produced the Medellín Framework for Action on Data for Sustainable Development, marking a pivotal moment for global data-driven development (see Chapter 4 for more).



### United Nations Network of Economic Statisticians and the Data Science Leaders Network

UN DESA organized webinars and a symposium to strengthen the capabilities of national statistical offices to harness AI and data science for economic statistics. This includes automating business processes and developing indicators for emerging issues (see Chapter 4 for more).


## BEHAVIOURAL SCIENCE

 Nurturing behavioural science skills and promoting a culture of behavioural insight goes beyond understanding human actions. It is about applying knowledge of human behaviour to design evidence-based strategies and interventions that encourage positive change.

### Mindset change of public service delivery for the SDGs

UN DESA promoted mindset transformation as a key driver of governance innovation for the SDGs. Capacity development workshops in Africa and the Caribbean engaged officials in re-thinking leadership, agility, and citizen-centred service delivery.

## DIGITAL

 Developing digital skills and culture means embracing technological advancements and integrating them seamlessly into our work processes. It is about leveraging digital tools and platforms to enhance efficiency, foster collaboration, and amplify results.

### ECOSOC special meeting on Artificial Intelligence


UN DESA supported the President of ECOSOC in delivering a 2025 Special Meeting on Artificial Intelligence. The meeting addressed the urgent need to bridge the digital divide, establish robust governance systems, and address ethical considerations in AI development (see Chapter 1 for more).

### Digital Learning Centre (DLC)

UN DESA is scaling digital learning and foresight to strengthen institutional capacity for the SDGs. Through its Digital Learning Centre (DLC), over 9,450 participants from 185 countries have accessed flexible, high-impact training to drive sustainable, future-ready development (see Chapter 7 for more).

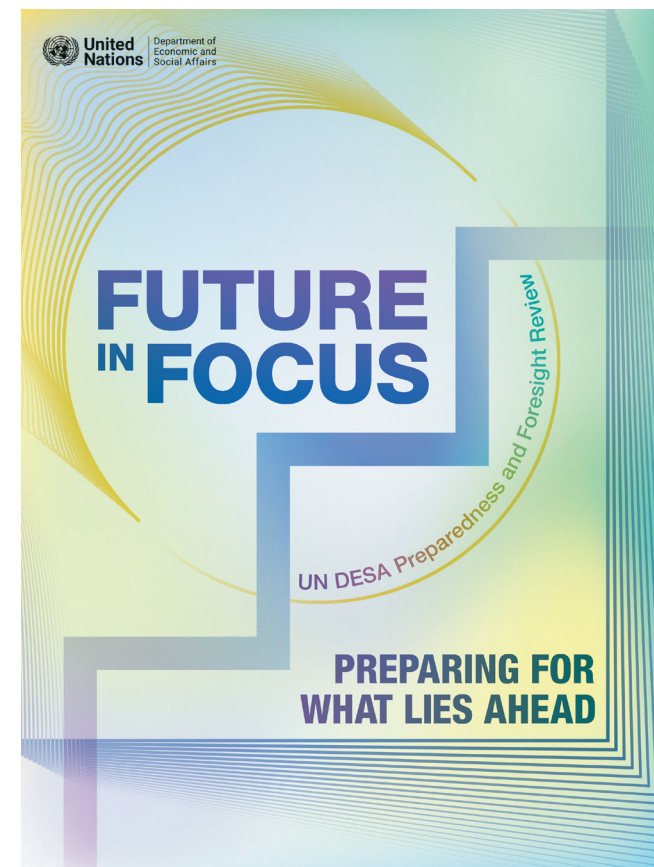


## FORESIGHT

 Instilling a culture of foresight means equipping ourselves with the capacities to discern emerging trends, anticipate potential shifts, and respond proactively. It signifies a commitment to long-term thinking, strategic planning, and readiness for a spectrum of possible futures.

### Future in Focus review

UN DESA's Future in Focus review highlights how economic and demographic forecasts, capacity-building, and just transition efforts support strategic, long-term decision-making for a more inclusive and resilient future (see Chapter 7 for more).



### The United Nations Economist Network (UNEN)

Convened by UN DESA, the United Nations Economist Network (UNEN) produced strategic foresight briefs on the future of work, digital transformation, climate, and governance—offering actionable options to inform anticipatory policymaking (see Chapter 7 for more).


### UN global horizon scanning tool

UN DESA and the UN Futures Lab/Global Hub unveiled an AI-powered foresight tool at the 2025 STI Forum, consolidating horizon



scanning insights from across the UN system. It marks a breakthrough in institutional learning, collaboration, and reinforcement learning for future-ready governance (see Chapter 7 for more).

## INNOVATION

 Cultivating innovation skills and culture is about fostering environments that encourage creativity, risk-taking, and continuous learning. It goes beyond simple problem-solving—it's about viewing challenges as opportunities for groundbreaking ideas and solutions.

### 10th annual STI Forum and STI Action Day

UN DESA, with IATT and global partners, led the 10th STI Forum and inaugural STI Action Day; positioning science, technology, and innovation as key drivers of SDG progress (see Chapter 1 for more).

### SDG Chatbot

UN DESA piloted SDG Chat, an AI-powered tool offering instant access to SDG insights from its reports and platforms (see Chapter 7 for more).

