What if strategic foresight guaranteed international cooperation success?

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Future-Proof Agreements

Within Reach | **Transitional** | **Visionary**

Strategic foresight strengthens international agreements by embedding scenario planning, anticipating challenges, and developing adaptive responses, increasing the likelihood of successfully achieving shared goals.

UNCERTAINTIES

Systems, Technology

MEGATREND (Most significant)

Future Humanity

TRENDS

Cross-Sectoral Partnerships
Future of Purpose & Work
Government Agility
International Collaboration
Open Data

TECHNOLOGIES

Artificial Intelligence
Quantum Technologies
Real-Time Analytics

SECTORS IMPACTED

All Sectors

KEYWORDS

Climate Change
Complexity
Global Economy
Social Science
Uncertainty

WHY IT MATTERS TODAY

Only

17%

of the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) targets are on track to be achieved by 2030, **and nearly half show moderate to severe deviations.**

Global interdependence is increasing, demanding collective solutions to global challenges. In our interconnected world, actions taken by one nation can have far-reaching consequences for others. The DHL Global Connectedness Index measures the world's depth of globalisation when it comes to trade on a scale ranging from 0% (nothing crosses national borders at all) to 100% (a 'frictionless' world where borders and distance have ceased to matter). The Index rose to a record high of 25% in 2022 and 2023 and currently available data suggest that it maintained a similar level in 2024 despite a series of global shocks.[1114]

Rapid technological advancements are reshaping society faster than ever before. AI, biotechnology and other emerging technologies are developing at an unprecedented pace, bringing both opportunities and risks. Across industries, 75% of organisations are planning to introduce AI over the next five years.[1115] With 22% of jobs expected to change in the next five years, according to the Future of Jobs Report, millions of people will need to move from declining to growing job sectors.[1116] Businesses predict that almost half (39%) of workers' core skills will be disrupted by 2027.[1117]

Progress on existing global goals is lagging behind. Only 17% of the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) targets are on track to be achieved by 2030, and nearly half show moderate to severe deviations.[1118] Partnerships with civil society and local governments are emerging but need further expansion and formalisation to enhance SDG monitoring.[1119]

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THE OPPORTUNITY

Strategic foresight, the ability to anticipate futures and take action, is embedded as a core element within international agreements and cooperation frameworks. Enabling parties strengthen agreements beyond legal protections by anticipating implementation challenges and developing responses to multiple possible scenarios. Through scenario planning, trend analysis and risk assessments, organisations can prepare for emerging situations, shifting mindsets from reactive crisis management to a commitment to proactive resilience building.

Scenario simulations empower decision-makers to anticipate and plan responses to challenges, while cross-border data sharing frameworks provide early-warning capabilities for complex multi-party agreements. Foresight integrated into agreements reshapes how nations and organisations address long-term challenges, strengthening partnerships and reducing the likelihood of implementation failure.

BENEFITS

Higher likelihood of achieving agreement goals; enhanced cooperation; better preparedness for crises; shift from reactive responses to long-term resilience.

RISKS

Disagreement over scenarios; misinterpretation or misuse of foresight to advance unrelated benefits; inability to address unanticipated events; institutional foresight gap.

Foresight can strengthen agreements beyond legal protections **by anticipating implementation challenges and developing responses to multiple possible scenarios**