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SHS-2022/PI/1



2 DECEMBER 2022 | 14:00 - 18:00 | UNESCO HQ

WORLD FUTURES DAY

Inclusive and Resilient Futures
Provisional Programme

JOURNÉE MONDIALE DES FUTURES

Les Futurs inclusifs et résilients
Programme Provisoire

2 DÉCEMBRE 2022 | 14:00 - 18:00 | UNESCO HQ



OVERVIEW

UNESCO Social and Human Sciences Sector leads on Futures Literacy and Foresight with Member States and communities around the world. In November 2021, led by the United Arab Emirates, the UNESCO General Conference unanimously adopted 2 December as “World Futures Day” (WFD).

In 2022, the world faced even greater pressure on economic, social and environmental systems. Accordingly, on WFD 2022, the world will focus on improving long-term resilience through futures and anticipatory approaches, including strategic foresight.

These approaches improve the global capacity to design policies and systems that not only respond more effectively to shocks, but can adapt, transform and innovate. For example, the UN Common Agenda highlights the importance of these approaches to resilience, enabling analysis of megatrends and catastrophic risks, and assessing major policies and programmes from a futures perspective. Futures and anticipatory approaches are also central to ongoing reflections on the responsibilities of current generations towards future generations.

WFD 2022, hosted at UNESCO Headquarters, will spotlight efforts from the UN system and its Member States, on new visions for multilateralism and how futures approaches inform inclusive and resilient policy design. Taking an interdisciplinary, intergenerational and complex systems approach, themes for WFD 2022 include:

- **Socioeconomic Transformation and Inclusive Societies** – how futures and anticipatory approaches can contribute to a more inclusive and equitable world;
- **Our Common Future** – how and why the UN Common Agenda is focused on futures and anticipatory approaches;
- **Future Generations** – the importance of actively engaging with futures and anticipatory approaches for the resilience of future generations and intergenerational equity;
- **Planetary Resilience** – how futures and anticipatory approaches can enable greater planetary resilience.

AGENDA

14:00 - 14:30

Room XI

Opening Remarks

14:30 - 16:00

Room XI

How can Futures and Foresight inform social transformations for better futures?

16:00 - 16:15

Room XI

Coffee Break

16:15 - 17:30

Parallel Session

Futures, Youth and Sustainability

Room IX

Parallel Session

Priority Africa: Imagining Africa's Future

Room XI

17:30 - 18:00

Room XI

Closing Remarks

18:00 - 19:30

Salles des Pas Perdus + Hall Ségur

Cocktail Reception

PLENARY SESSION

14:00 - 14:30

Room XI

Opening Remarks

Opening Remarks

Ms Gabriela Ramos, Assistant Director-General for Social and Human Sciences, UNESCO

Welcoming Remarks

H.E. Sheikh Salem Khalid Al Qassimi, Ambassador, Permanent Delegate of the United Arab Emirates to UNESCO

Welcoming Remarks (pre-recorded video)

H.E. Ms. Ohood Khalfan Al Roumi

Minister of State for Government Development and the Future in the United Arab Emirates

14:30 - 16:00

Room XI

How can Futures and Foresight inform social transformations for better futures?

Keynote

Mr Patrick Noack, Director, Dubai Future Foundation, United Arab Emirates

Ms Geci Karuri-Sebina, Visiting Professor, University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa

Plenary Panel

As we continue to grapple with a post-COVID world, we require a better understanding of the role of the future in what we see and do, and to integrate uncertainty into our preparation and planning. The need for connecting knowledge to inclusive policy design and decision-making using research, evidence and innovation is more important than ever.

This session will be an opportunity to discuss futures and foresight as a powerful tool that can allow us to search for novelty in the present, to innovate, and to enable creative leadership for developing sustainable conditions for peace. The session will also invite the audience to think of how we can strengthen dialogue across the UN ecosystem, Member States, academia and civil society to forge stronger links between research and policy, and to design forward-looking policies and programmes.

Moderator

Ms Gabriela Ramos, Assistant Director-General for Social and Human Sciences, UNESCO

Panellists

- **Mr Hisham Abdulmalik Alsheikh**, Vice Governor of Shared Services at the Digital Government Authority (DGA)
- **Ms Tiina Neuvonen**, Strategic Foresight Lead, UN Global Pulse
- **Mr John A. Sweeney**, UNESCO Chair in Futures Studies for Anticipatory Governance and Sustainable Policymaking, Westminster International University, Uzbekistan
- **Ms Asra Memon**, Youth Foresight Fellow UNICEF – UN Global Pulse
- **Ms Zazie Schafer**, Deputy Director, Nordic Office, UN Development Programme
- **Mr Chris Earney**, UN Futures Lab

16:00 - 16:15

Coffee Break

Room XI

PARALLEL SESSIONS

16:15 - 17:30

Futures, Youth and Sustainability

Room IX

In face of today's multiple crises and challenges, Member States, organisations and communities around the world have recognised the importance of anticipatory, future-oriented and inclusive policy design in support of sustainability and resilience. Young people, as creative agents of change and bearers of the future generations, play a central role in our efforts to build sustainable, inclusive and resilient futures. The discussion will spotlight how futures work engaging youth can inform policymaking and enable social transformation in support of Our Common Agenda.

Moderator

Ms Souria Saad-Zoi, Chief of Youth Section, Social and Human Sciences, UNESCO

Panellists

- **Mr Davies Muunga**, Director of Youth in the Ministry of Youth, Sports and Arts, Zambia
- **Ms Roumiana Gotseva**, Founder and Managing Director, Center for Strategic Foresight, Bulgaria
- **Mr Daniel Mahadzir**, Youth UNESCO Climate Action Network (YoUCAN), ad hoc Steering Committee Member, Singapore
- **Mr Alexandre Caldas**, Chief Country Outreach, Technology, Innovation and Big Data, UNEP, HLCP Foresight Network
- **Mr Ted Fuller**, UNESCO Chair on Responsible Foresight for Sustainable Development, Lincoln University, United Kingdom



16:15 - 17:30

Priority Africa
Imagining Africa's Future

Room XI

The OCP Foundation, Mohammed VI Polytechnic University (UM6P) and UNESCO share the ambition to promote and exchange ideas, knowledge and information, and to design projects in sustainable development across education, science, culture and communication. This has brought about an innovative and significant initiative designed for youth across Africa to develop foresight and futures literacy capacity in the region through the exploration of innovative ways to foster this joint ambition. Futures literacy and foresight are transversal capacities that can be used for different reasons, in different ways, and in different contexts. The panel discussion will uncover how the Imagining Africa's Futures project seeks to address challenges, opportunities and priority areas identified in the region to transform how the future is perceived, conceived and used in Africa by its youth.

Keynote

Ms Rika Preiser, UNESCO Chair in Complexity and Transformative African Futures, Stellenbosch University, South Africa

Moderator

Ms Guila Clara Kessous, UNESCO Artist for Peace, Harvard University Scholar, France

Panellists

- **Mr Khalid Chegraoui**, Vice-Dean, Political Science and International Relations, Faculty of Governance, Economic and Social Sciences, UM6P, Morocco
- **Ms Mariagrazia Squicciarini**, Director of Partnerships and Chief of Executive Office, SHS, UNESCO
- **Ms Manal Mouhsine**, IAF Project Coordinator, Faculty of Governance, Economic and Social Sciences, UM6P, Morocco
- **Mr Abdoulaye Ibrahim**, Chief of the Contextual Analysis and Foresight Unit for UNESCO's Priority Africa, co-responsible of the IAF Project
- **Mr Sylvestre Kouamé Kouassi**, UNESCO Chair in Anticipation, Foresight and Sustainable Territories, Alassane Ouattara University, Ivory Coast (tbc)

Closing of the panel: Film from UM6P students offering testimonials on the Futures Literacy Laboratory conducted in October 2022, on the theme of professional integration in Morocco.

PLENARY SESSION

17:30 - 18:00

Room XI

Closing Remarks

Feedback from Moderators of Parallel Sessions

Ms Souria Saad-Zoi and **Ms Guila Clara Kessous**

Closing Remarks

Ms Christin Pfeiffer, Head of Futures Literacy and Foresight, Social and Human Sciences, UNESCO

18:00 - 19:30

Salles des Pas Perdus + Hall Ségur

Cocktail Reception

