



Strategic Foresight for the Post-2015 Development Agenda

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Mandate

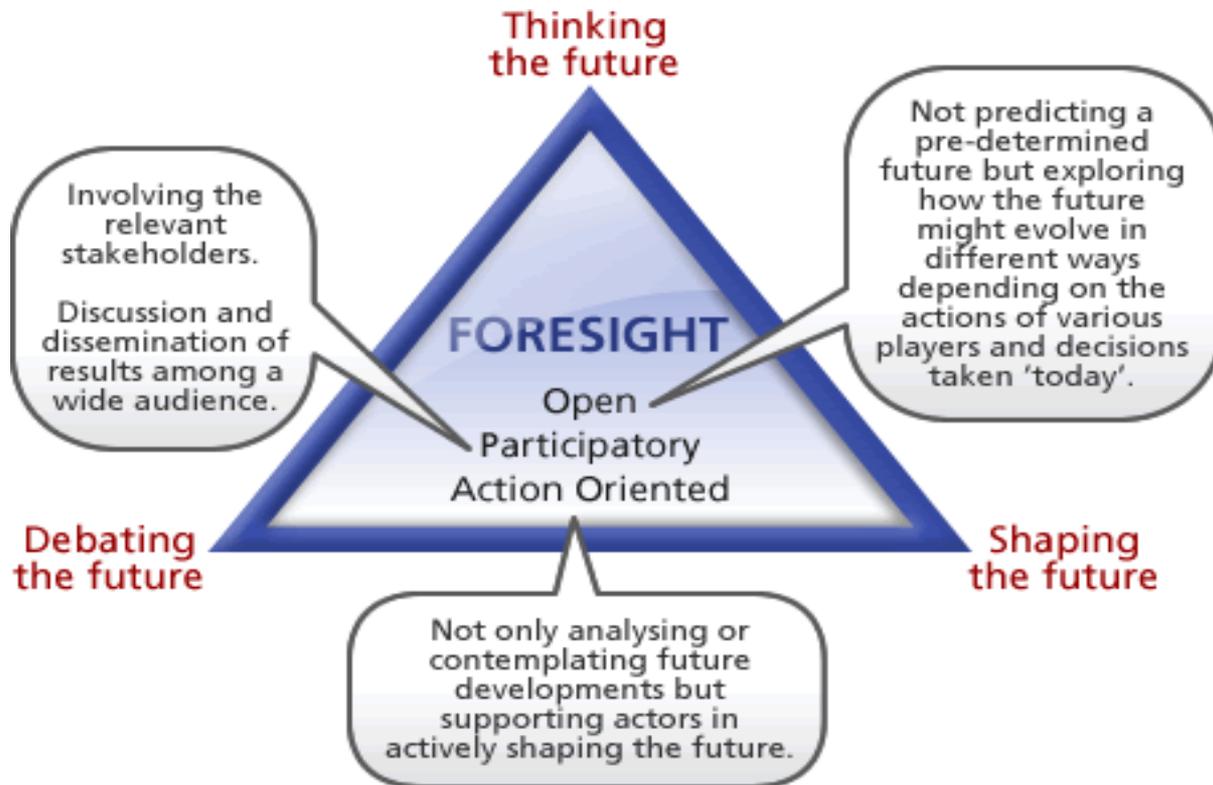
ECOSOC Resolution 2014/28 on STI for development:

(b) The Commission is encouraged:

(ii) To help to articulate the important role of information and communications technologies and science, technology, innovation and engineering in the post-2015 development agenda by **acting as a forum for horizon scanning and strategic planning, providing foresight about critical trends in science, technology and innovation** in areas such as food security, the management of water and other natural resources, urbanization, advanced manufacturing and related education and vocational needs, and **drawing attention to emerging and disruptive technologies that can potentially affect the achievement of that agenda;**

Definition of strategic foresight

- "The systematic assessment of the long-term future of STI and their potential impacts on society."
- A participative process that provides a number of **tools** to help participants **develop visions of the future and pathways** towards these visions.



Foresight in world regions



Europe: Increasingly institutionalised forms of foresight (European Foresight Platform and the International Foresight Academy)



Latin America: Creative use of limited resources, which has sometimes resulted in effective innovations in practices and tools.



North America: Lots of industry sector technology roadmapping exercises.



Asia: APEC Technology Foresight Centre set up in the late 1990s to conduct region-wide studies and to develop capabilities in member countries.

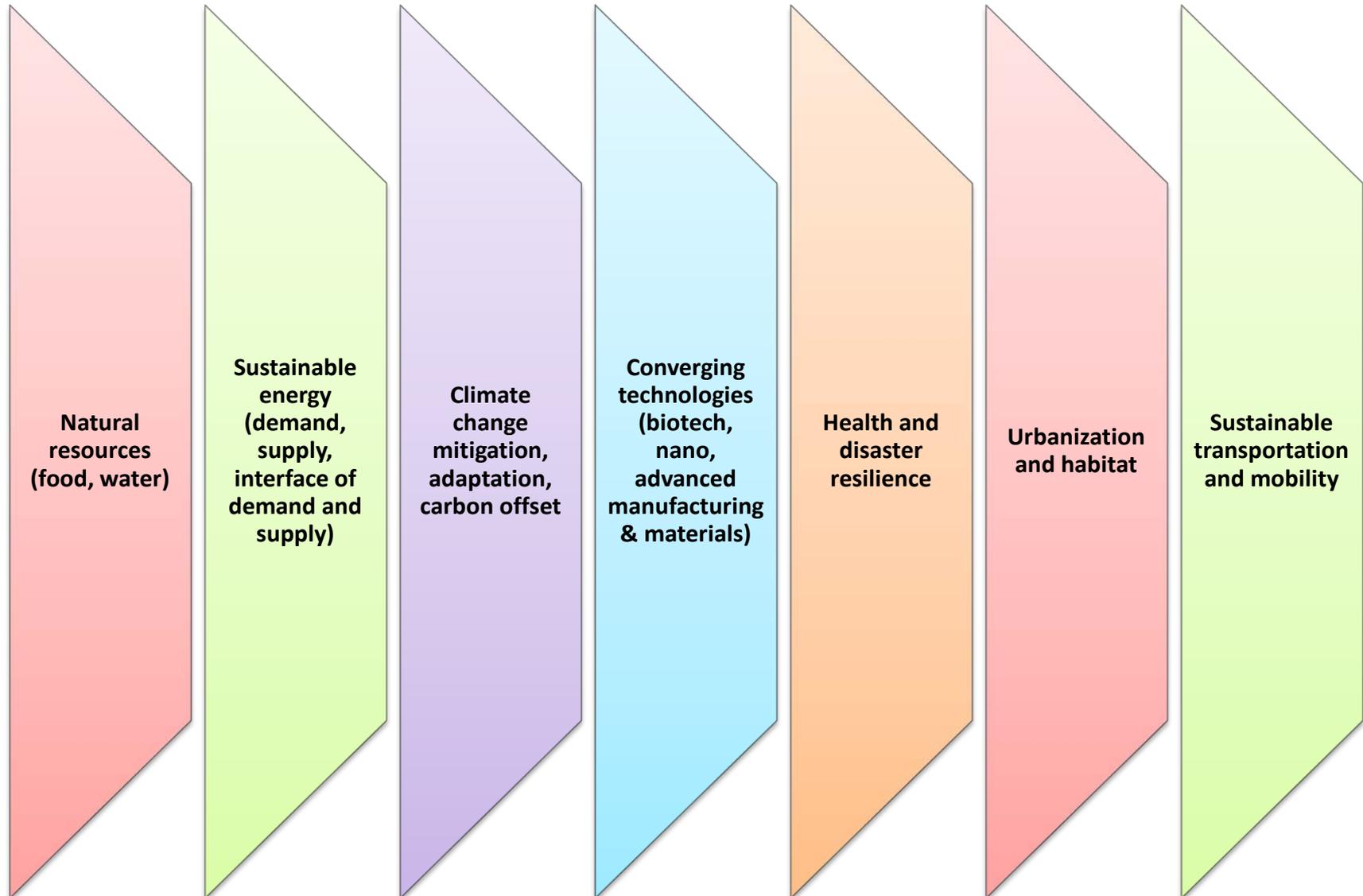


Africa: Mostly sponsored/conducted by international organizations, mainly covering Africa as a whole.

CSTD horizon scanning

- Global horizon scanning exercise:
 - A critical meta-analysis of relevant technology foresight studies to identify key trends in STI and development in the Post-2015 context
 - Inputs from experts who are members of the International Foresight Academy (IFA) and the European Commission
- Procedure followed:
 - Horizon scanning of emerging technologies to collate and compile the most relevant information that can be used to derive policy lessons
 - Analysis of game-changers
 - Assessment of potential socio-economic and developmental impacts
- Issues Paper makes policy recommendations for consideration by national governments and other relevant stakeholders.

Seven key STI trends identified for Post-2015





Policy implications of technology foresight

- The horizon scanning exercise and foresight research on the Issues Paper identified a broad and vibrant range of new technologies.
- Lessons on technology foresight and the SDGs:
 - Importance of technology convergence (ICTs are key drivers).
 - No automatic benefits (for instance, need to prevent new inequalities)
 - Strong relationship between future STI trends and SDGs
- Sharing of experiences through international STI cooperation

Recommendations / Suggestions

- Using technology foresight as an input to sustainability monitoring. (Help policymakers better understand unsustainable trends)
- Technology trends should be analyzed in the context of wider socio-economic trends. (Societal impact is key)
- Technology foresight can help anticipate future innovation policy and private sector investment needs. (Link with infrastructure development)
- CSTD member states could consider undertaking strategic foresight initiatives on global and regional challenges at regular intervals.
- CSTD member states could cooperate towards a mapping system to share technology foresight outcomes.



Thank you, and we count
on you at the CSTD
Foresight Café this
afternoon!

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