

## INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE

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[Swissfuture](#)/6.06.25

### Workshop: Assessing UN reform proposals through prospective analysis

**Date and time:** Thursday 19 June 2025, 12.00–13.30 CEST

**Language and format:** in English, online with Zoom and Miro Board

**Registration link:** <https://forms.gle/7RQDz1S2Na4m8hBJ7>

#### Why this workshop?

In recent weeks and months, the UN system has been under intense pressure due to significant donors' cuts and an unprecedented liquidity crisis.

In response, various reform proposals have emerged – whether by the UN Secretary (internal memo from 25 April 2025), UN agencies, host cities or countries, NGOs, or research institutions.

These proposals are already generating anxiety and uncertainty across the international system, with staff concerned about the future of their missions, roles, and programs.

In light of these developments, this workshop session aims to give a voice to staff members of international organisations, NGOs and other organisations, as well as specialists and interested stakeholders – to analyse and respond to these proposals.

We believe that professionals and experts hold experience-based insights into what has and hasn't worked in efforts to reform the UN system. For this reason, we invite you to share your views on current reform proposals, drawing from your expertise in the UN and the broader international ecosystem.

This interactive session aims to collectively assess the restructuring and relocation suggestions under discussion. What might be their long-term costs and benefits? Are they feasible, and within what timeline? In a spirit of collaborative dialogue, participants are also encouraged to bring forward additional reform proposals beyond those already identified.

#### What will we do?

In this interactive session, we will:

- **Identify and analyse** selected UN reform proposals
- **Explore potential impacts** with the Futures Wheel, a hands-on foresight tool
- **Share ideas and build collective intelligence** across institutional boundaries

The session will use the Chatham House Rule, allowing open discussion without attribution.

#### Who is it for?

This session is for professionals and experts across the international system, including UN and NGO staff, specialists and researchers, civil society advocates, and anyone with expertise or stakeholder interest in the UN system.

## Why participate?

- **Collective learning and systematic exploration** of long-term implications
- **Build skills in futures thinking**, supporting your ability to navigate complex change
- **Opportunities to connect** with peers and initiate collaborations and follow-ups

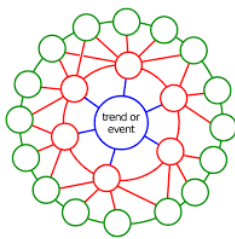
## About the Method: The Futures Wheel

We believe that everyone can learn more about the costs and benefits of the different reform proposals through collective exchange. Here the Futures Wheel, a foresight method, can help.

Developed by futurist Jerome C. Glenn in 1971, the **Futures Wheel** helps map the consequences of an initial change through time by identifying first-, second-, and third-order effects.

By visualising ripple effects and scenarios, the method enables us to:

- Explore **multiple perspectives**
- Make space for both **alignment and disagreement**
- Systematically assess **possible futures**, not predict a single one



## Who is organising?

This session is offered by [Swissfuture](https://www.swissfuture.ch), the Swiss Society for Futures Studies. As a professional association, Swissfuture has been promoting the systematic examination of the future through studies, conferences and publications for over 50 years.

Please register for the workshop using the registration link:

<https://forms.gle/7RQDz1S2Na4m8hBJ7>

Depending on outcomes of this session, future discussions and follow-up may explore alternative, plausible or desirable scenarios for the evolution of the UN system whether at the regional, national, or agency level. Participants wishing to discuss potential follow-ups are invited to stay another 10 min at the end of this session.

The session is co-developed and moderated by Isabelle Vuong and Fanny Bauer.

Fanny Bauer is a specialist in International Cooperation.

Isabelle Vuong is a foresight specialist and a board member of Swissfuture.