

# The Aspirational Component of Foresight: The SDGs

**DC, USA**

**22 July 2016**

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SDGs deeply relevant to our practice as government foresighters

- The SDGs may feel far away – other countries, different types of challenges, different scale...
- But can help us: lots in common, cross-country learning and the gift of optimism and inspiration
- SDGs framework as a huge global strategic foresight exercise – transformational and cash-strapped!

Post-2015 agenda has led to interest in SF & thus new practice in effective governance

- International Consultations and national-led experimentation
- Core to the role of government and governance. SDG16: “effective, accountable and inclusive institutions”
- Foresight innovation in five dimensions
- Finland, Israel, Costa Rica - Innovations goes in all directions!

Impact on us: at the political centre, personal practice and in scale

- Governance ecosystem/cycle: vision, foresight, policy, data, accountability, oversight
- Our Seven Principles of Foresight for Impact
- Frugal foresight – Empowered Futures Initiative

“near-total failure of our political institutions to invest for the future”

SEARCH The New York Times 3 of 10 articles read SUBSCRIBE NOW

<p>State of the Art Peter Thiel's Embrace of Trump Has Silicon Valley Squirming</p> 	<p>F.C.C. Backs Swedish Company to Run American Phone Routing System</p>	<p>Edward Snowden to Help Develop a Safer Phone for Journalists</p> 	<p><b>PAID POST: PHILIPS</b> How Do You Mend a Broken Heart, Without Breaking Budgets?</p> 
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SAVE THE SAFETY SPECTRUM!
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TECHNOLOGY

## Why We Need to Pick Up Alvin Toffler's Torch

 **Farhad Manjoo**  
STATE OF THE ART JULY 6, 2018



In "Future Shock," Alvin Toffler used the term to describe a real psychological malady stemming from tropic change. [Illustration](#)

More than 40 years ago, Alvin Toffler, a writer who had fashioned himself into one of the first futurists, warned that the accelerating pace of technological change would soon make us all sick. He called the sickness "future shock," which he described in his totemic book of the same name, published in 1970.

In Mr. Toffler's coinage, future shock wasn't simply a metaphor for our

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*OUR VISION: "Strategic foresight is a recognised, global competence for the 21st century; enabling better plans and decisions, and achieving real-world impact."*

OUR ACTIVITY:

- ADVISE
- BUILD CAPABILITY
- CONVENE COALITIONS FOR FUTURE CHANGE
- ADVOCATE



*OUR MISSION: Building the capacity of policy-makers, business leaders, international organisations and civil society to use and gain value from strategic foresight*



TRANSFORMING OUR  
WORLD:  
THE 2030 AGENDA FOR  
SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT



1 NO  
POVERTY



2 ZERO  
HUNGER



3 GOOD HEALTH  
AND WELL-BEING



4 QUALITY  
EDUCATION



5 GENDER  
EQUALITY



6 CLEAN WATER  
AND SANITATION



7 AFFORDABLE AND  
CLEAN ENERGY



8 DECENT WORK AND  
ECONOMIC GROWTH



9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION  
AND INFRASTRUCTURE



10 REDUCED  
INEQUALITIES



11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES  
AND COMMUNITIES



12 RESPONSIBLE  
CONSUMPTION  
AND PRODUCTION



13 CLIMATE  
ACTION



14 LIFE  
BELOW WATER



15 LIFE  
ON LAND

16 PEACE, JUSTICE  
AND STRONG

17 PARTNERSHIPS  
FOR THE GOALS

16 PEACE, JUSTICE  
AND STRONG  
INSTITUTIONS



*“Effective, Accountable  
and Inclusive  
Institutions”*

*“The Post-2015 national consultations  
have shown the potential of **participative  
dialogues** about the **futures** as a powerful  
tool. An inspiring **narrative and a vision**  
for all”*



**THE  
WORLD  
WE WANT**

- **Opportunities** – scale  
*it's an international endeavour – all countries and a global mission of transformation.*  
*Alliances – e.g. ILO country dialogues*
- **Participants**  
*“no one left behind” – focus on voiceless, powerless*
- **Areas of focus and concern:**  
*regional conversation on water (SDG6); focus on fragile states (e.g. G7plus); comprehensively across foreign and domestic national policy “national strategic narrative”*
- **Methods**  
*“frugal foresight” – under different conditions, culturally sensitive and capability aware*
- **Institutions, actors and processes**  
*Government; Judiciary and Audit; others*



 **Effective Institutions Platform**



Now for the Long Term

The Report of the  
Oxford Martin Commission  
for Future Generations



*“We need to build the effectiveness of countries, companies and international institutions on **longer term** issues” Oxford Martin Commission for Future Generations*

Society's Commitment to Sustainable Development

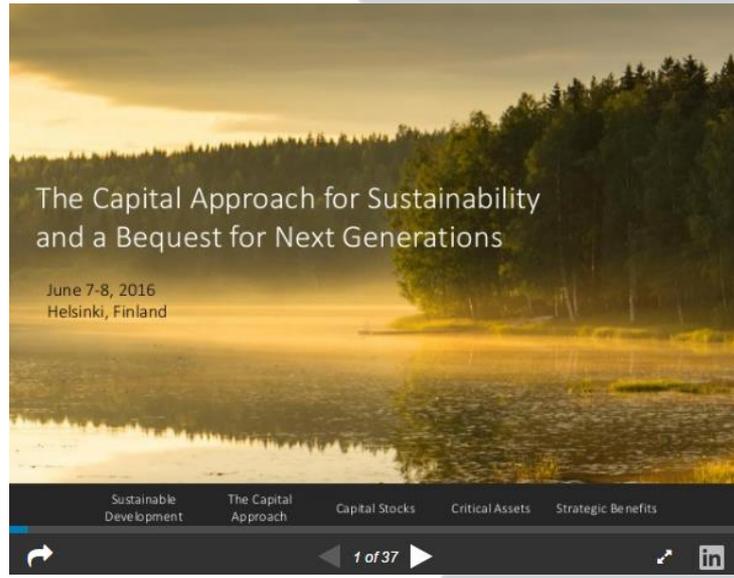
## Members of the National Commission on SD

**MISSION:** to root sustainable development into Finnish policies, measures, budgets and action

**Chair:** Prime Minister, Mr. Juha Sipilä

**Coordination Desk & operational hub:** Prime Minister's Office

**Inter-Ministerial Coordination Network** preparing the work and supporting the Prime Minister's Office



Israeli Ministry of Environmental Protection calls for a new role for governments as stewards of capital assets

Finland: new policies and institutions

## Decálogo de sinergias para gestionar el PND en concordancia con los ODS



Costa Rica's cross-ministerial indicators and contracting, outreach and engagement

*These principles reflect our belief in foresight as a holistic approach to empower people to create a better world for this and future generations.*

1. Engaging with the future is valuable and important for all communities
2. Foresight must be designed for transformation with decision-makers, while being open & participative
3. Foresight is an art and a science, making a craft
4. Foresight impact comes from following a four stage journey from scoping to integration
5. Tools are important, but secondary to PURPOSE
6. Both left and right-brain approaches build our personal practice and future-alert organisations
7. We are part of a wider community of interest and advocacy





*THANKS*

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