





















FUTURES CARDS



TO SHAPE INCLUSIVE FORESIGHT























COLLABORATION

You can all work together to come up with opportunities to make the existing or upcoming foresight process more inclusive. Your team can use these cards with partners and communities when designing a project plan or understanding how to best work together.

REFLECTION

The cards can be used to prompt reflection on your own practice and identify areas to improve. The cards can be used to practise facilitating discussions about inclusive and participatory foresight practices and to develop your skills in inclusive and participatory approaches.



Futures Cards is a gamified learning experience designed to help participants develop their knowledge and skills in inclusive and participatory foresight. It consists of cards with recommendations on one side and "what if" prompts on the other side. Players take turns drawing cards and responding to the prompt or question.

WHY USE THESE CARDS?

To learn from each other and to expand our thinking about futures and foresight practices. It is designed to be fun and engaging, while also being educational and informative. The cards are suitable for people of all experience levels.

WHO IS THIS FOR?

INDIVIDUALS

To reflect on your own practice and assess areas to improve.

TEAMS

To facilitate brainstorming with team members, to co-design during workshops, and to understand how inclusive your futures and foresight practices are. It is important to create a safe and supportive space for all to share their ideas.

VISIT

https://linktr.ee/FuturesCardsUNGlobalPulse to learn more about using these cards, how they were created and to share how you are using them now.



UN Common Principles for Future Generations



PRINCIPLE 1

Promote a vision for future generations based on human rights and equity



PRINCIPLE 5

Ensure meaningful representation of future generations and their interests



PRINCIPLE 2

Pursue fairness between present and future generations



PRINCIPLE 6

Foster open science, data and knowledge for the future



PRINCIPLE 3

Recognize and foster an interconnected world



PRINCIPLE 7

Foster a future-oriented organizational culture and capabilities



PRINCIPLE 4

Think, plan and act with future generations in mind



PRINCIPLE 8

Strengthen inclusive partnerships and global cooperation





HOW TO PLAY?

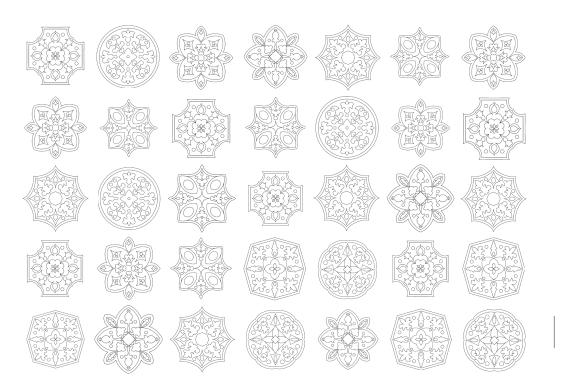
Each card has two sides: a recommendation on inclusive and participatory foresight on one side and a "what if" prompt on the other.

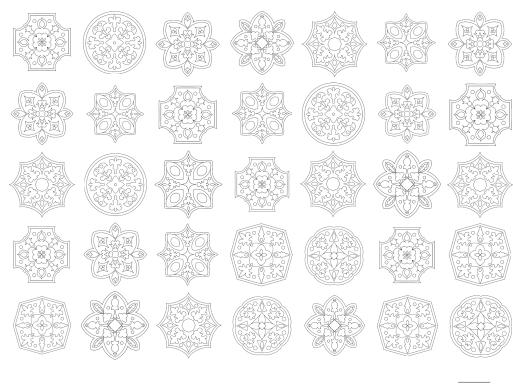
- **1** Shuffle the cards and place them with the recommendations facing up.
- **2** All players agree on the playing order.
- **3** Every player grabs one card and the round begins. The first player reads the recommendation on their card.
- 4 All players take a moment to think about their response to the "what if" prompt on the back of their card.

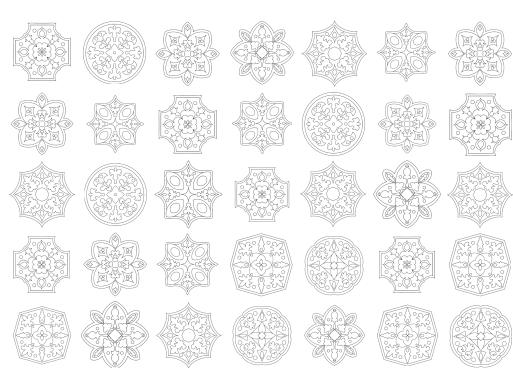
- **5** When ready, all players share their responses with the group.
- **6** The group discusses the prompt and develops new ideas for inclusive foresight.
- **7** The group discusses the answers and complements each other's ideas.

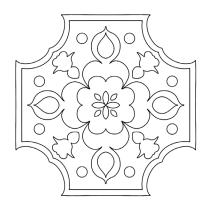
Optional: A player can give one point to each complementary idea. The player with the most points, wins.

PRINT, CUT AND PLAY! This document is A4 size. Set the printer to landscape format, double-sided, and folding on the short edge.

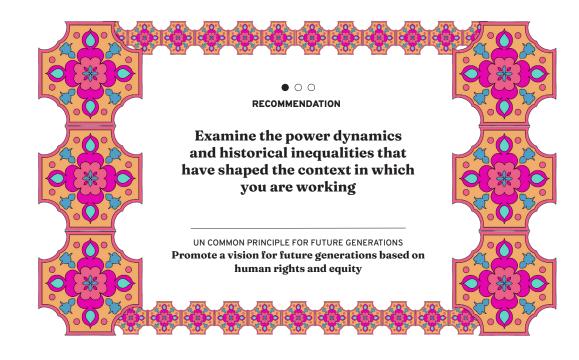


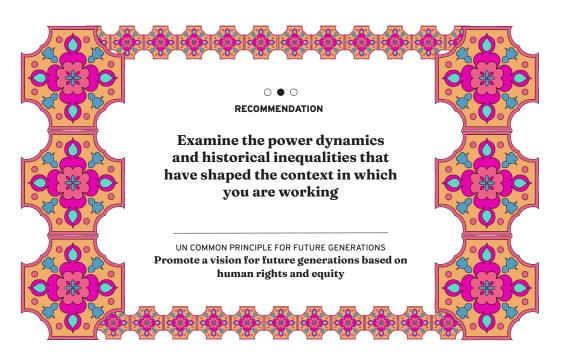


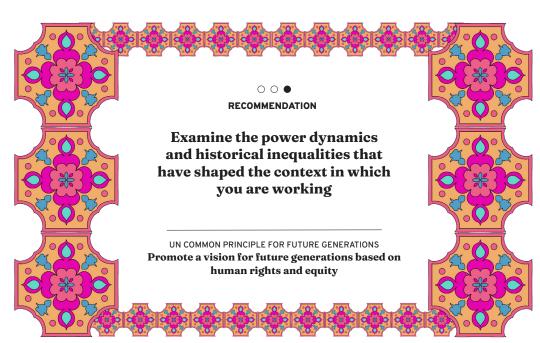




Promote a vision for future generations based on human rights and equity











Promote a vision for future generations based on human rights and equity

What if?



What if you discovered that the foresight process you currently use inadvertently reinforces colonial biases and historical inequalities?

How would you revise and decolonize the process?

RECOMMENDATIONS



Examine the power dynamics and historical inequalities that have shaped the context in which you are working



Incorporate the perspectives and experiences of marginalised communities



Consider different concepts of time, including the perspectives of other cultures, in futures thinking

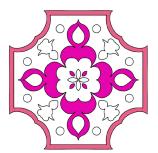








What if?



What if you encountered resistance when integrating decolonial approaches into the foresight process?

How would you navigate these challenges and foster meaningful dialogue that leads to a common understanding?



What if?

What if you decided to put indigenous knowledge systems and perspectives at the heart of your foresight work?

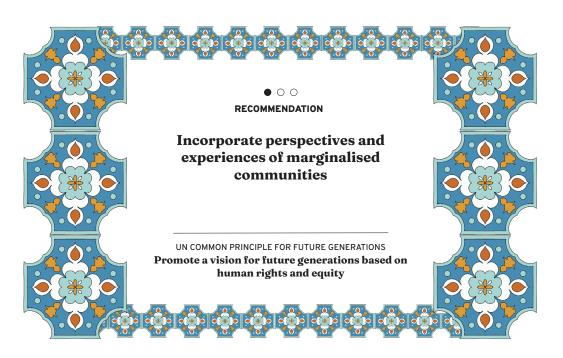
How would this change the methods and approaches you normally use?

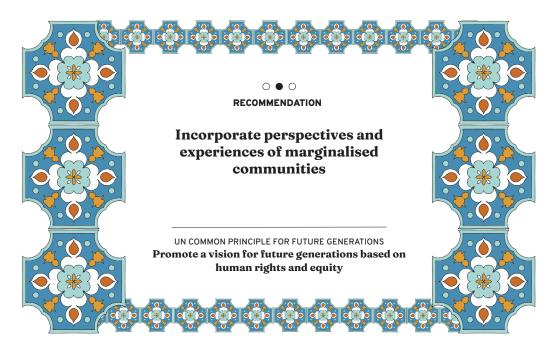


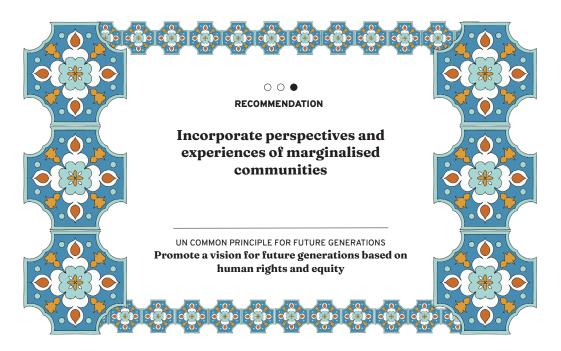


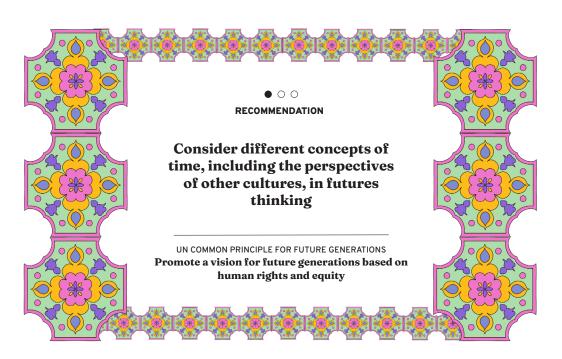










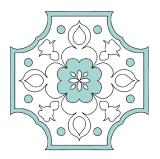






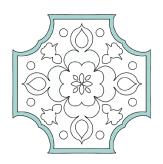






What if we embraced a deep cultural humility and actively tried to learn from marginalised communities, valuing their traditional knowledge and worldviews?

How might this shift in perspective guide our efforts to shape inclusive futures?



What if?

What if we invest in continuous cultural competency training for our team members?

How can we ensure that everyone understands the nuances of different perspectives and engages in respectful dialogue?



















What if we fostered an environment of continuous learning within our team, where we acknowledge mistakes and shortcomings in our engagement with marginalised communities?

How would you ensure that we view these as opportunities for growth rather than setbacks?





What if you challenged the notion of a singular, universal future and instead embraced the idea of multiple futures coexisting simultaneously?

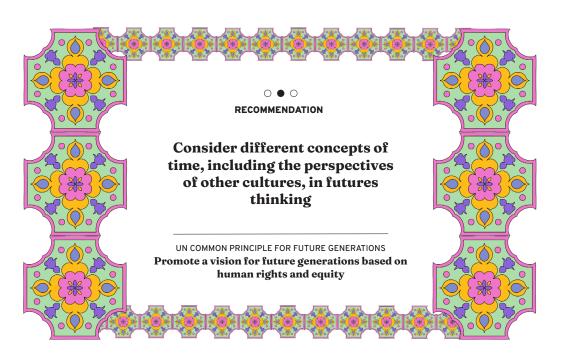
How would this shift in perspective enable you to better appreciate the diversity of human experiences and aspirations?

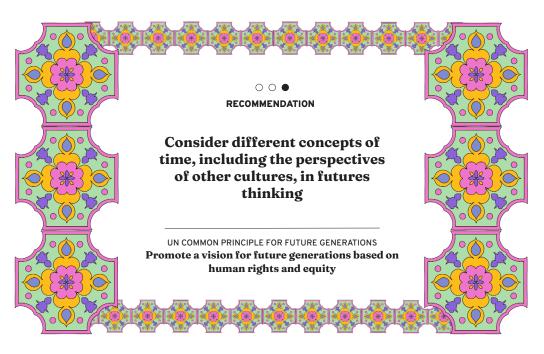


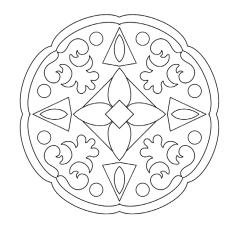




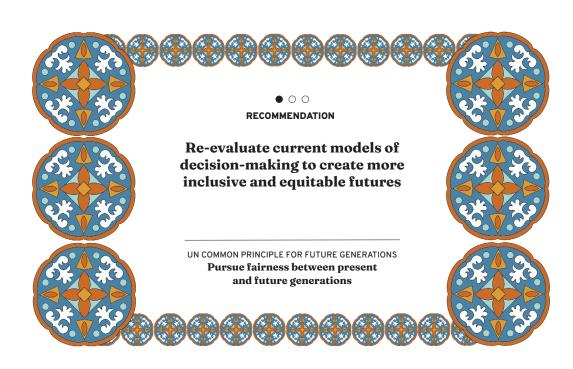








Pursue fairness between present and future generations

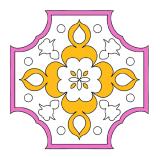












What if you integrated ceremonies or storytelling practices from different cultures into your foresight workshops or processes?

How would this open up new ways of engaging with time and futures?



What if?

What if you engaged in cross-cultural dialogues to explore how different communities perceive the past, present, and future?

How would you navigate the different perceptions and priorities with different groups?















UN COMMON PRINCIPLE FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

Pursue fairness between present and future generations

What if?

What if we critically examined our current foresight practices and identified specific methods that perpetuate inequalities or exclude diverse perspectives?

How would you redesign your foresight practices to ensure that they include a wide variety of perspectives and experiences, and that they benefit all?

RECOMMENDATIONS



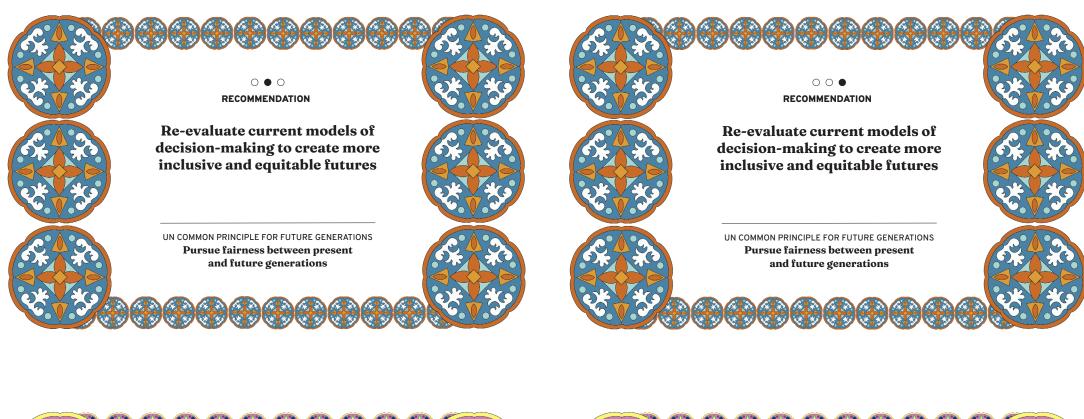
Re-evaluate current models of decisionmaking to create more inclusive and equitable futures

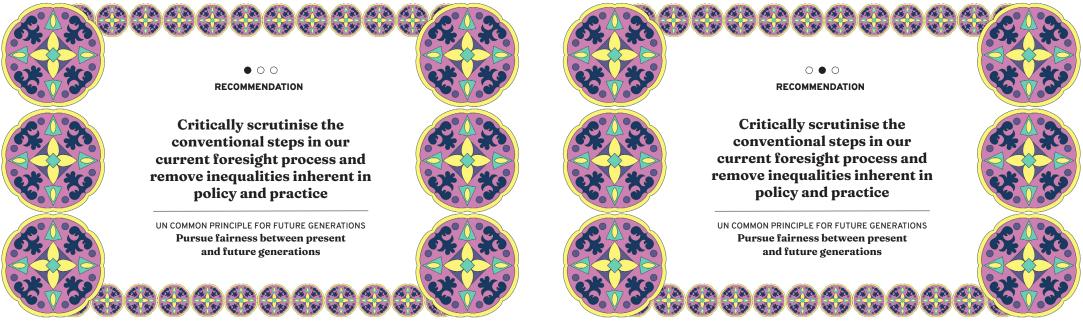


Critically scrutinise the conventional steps in our current foresight process and remove inequalities inherent in policy and practice







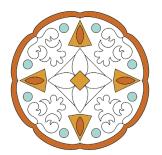












What if I committed to regularly reflecting on my decision-making practices and evaluating whether they align with principles of inclusivity and equity?

How would this personal assessment lead to meaningful changes in the way I influence the future?



What if?

What if we establish a team-level practice of regularly evaluating and challenging our decision-making processes to ensure that diverse voices and perspectives are adequately represented and considered?

What would this new participatory process look like?

















What if?

What if you worked with people who have been historically left out of community projects and created new frameworks and methods that are fair and just?

How would you ensure the new practices are sustainable and can be used by everyone?



What if?

What if we took a close look at every step of the foresight process to see if there are any biases or people who are being left out?

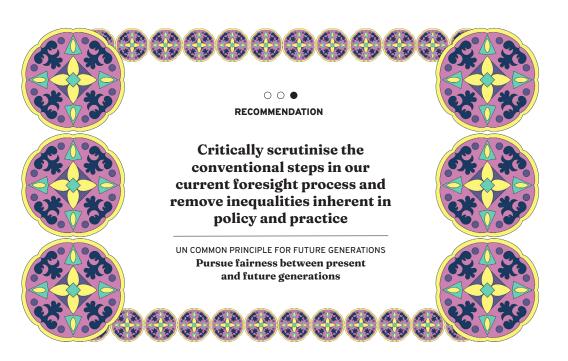
How would you identify and fix any problems that we find?

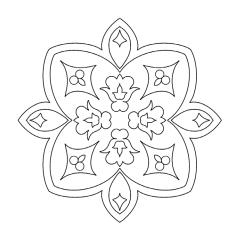




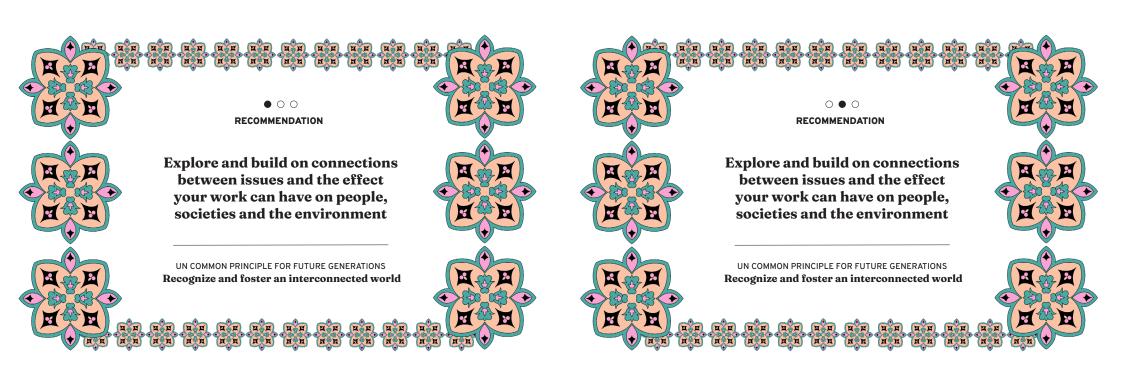








Recognize and foster an interconnected world



Recognize and foster an interconnected world

RECOMMENDATIONS



Explore and build on connections between issues and the effect your work can have on people, societies and the environment



What if?

What if we asked experts in diversity and inclusion to review our foresight practices and give us feedback on how to make them more equitable?

How would you work with the experts to develop a plan to implement and monitor their recommendations as you use them?













What if?

What if we actively sought diverse perspectives and knowledge systems, recognizing the interconnected effects of our actions on different communities, ecosystems, and future generations?

How would your perspective on interconnected issues change? And how would you use these new insights to complement or reshape your work?



What if?

What if – when defining a project's objectives and deliverables – you used a systems map and systems thinking to assess their potential effect on different communities, ecosystems, and future generations?

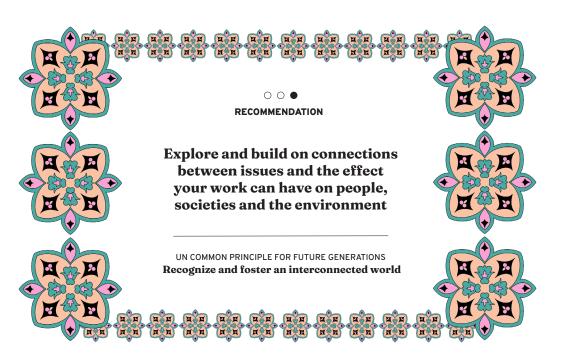
How would that change the scoping and expected outcomes of your project?

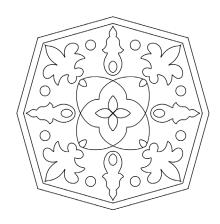




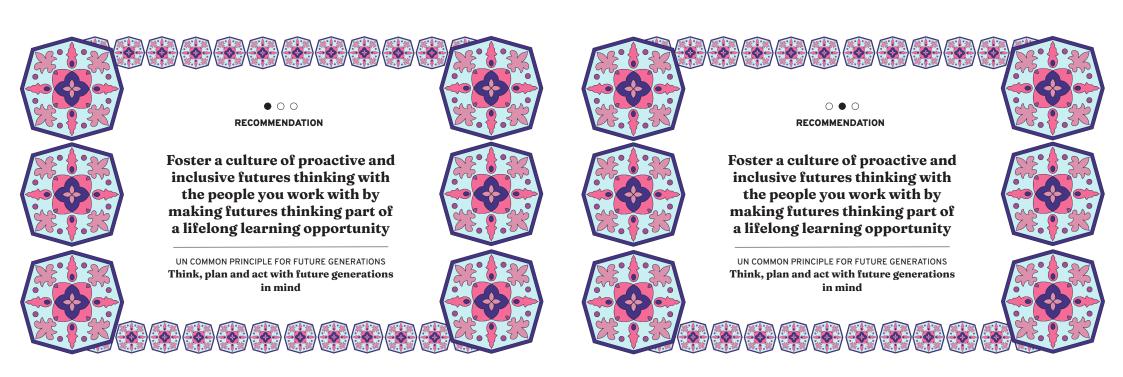








Think, plan and act with future generations in mind





Think, plan and act with future generations in mind

RECOMMENDATIONS



Foster a culture of proactive and inclusive futures thinking with the people you work with by making futures thinking part of a lifelong learning opportunity



Share inclusive and accessible futures methods, resources, tools, and data to foster collaboration



Balance the immediate needs of "the now" with longterm future needs



Create a sense of urgency without paralysing people



What if?

What if – when developing scenarios – you explored the interconnected issues surrounding the main topic?

How would you balance priorities and redesign your scenario development framework?













What if you could create a collaborative learning environment within your team by establishing regular forums or platforms for sharing and discussing futures thinking insights, experiences, and case studies?

How would you support moderation of these forums or platforms to ensure that all team members feel comfortable sharing and learning from each other?



What if?

What if we partnered with local futures activists and educational institutions to integrate futures thinking modules into their curriculum to develop an inclusive approach in the next generation?

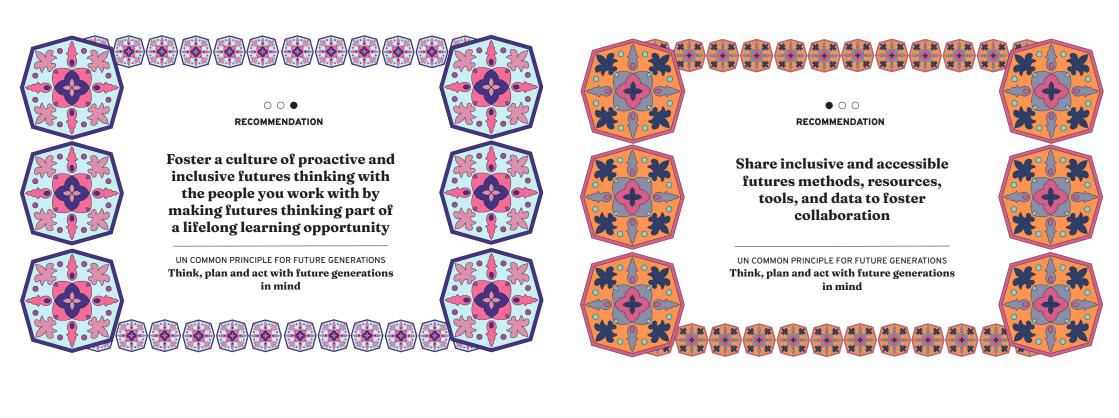
What would your role look like? Could you mentor students or support trainers to develop a proactive and inclusive mindset?

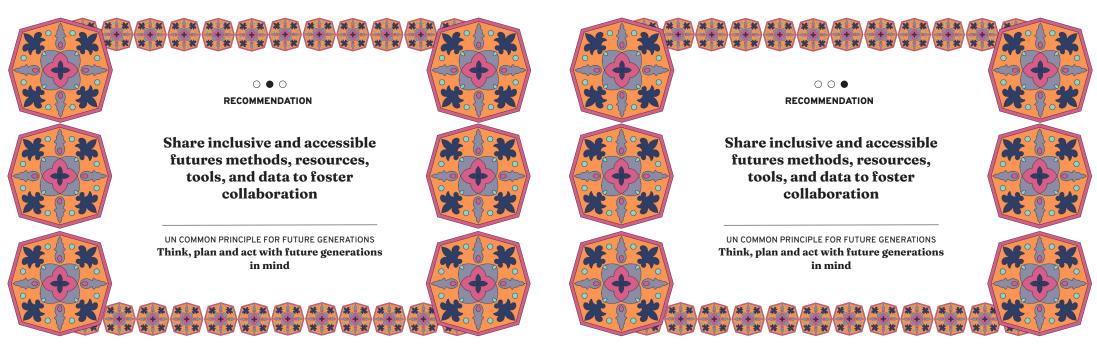






















What if our team's collective knowledge inadvertently overlooks certain cultural or regional perspectives?

How would you actively diversify our sources and engage with local experts to ensure inclusivity?



What if?

What if – when conducting participatory action research – you could foster a culture of critical reflection and lifelong learning on futures thinking skills?

How would you encourage and support the partners you work with to adopt this approach?

















What if?

What if the data we share is collected without proper consent or respect for privacy?

Would you use it anyway? If so, how would you protect the privacy and security of participants' data?

How would you make sure this does not happen again?



What if?

What if you prioritised open access and knowledge-sharing to dismantle barriers to participation and create opportunities for collective learning and collaboration?

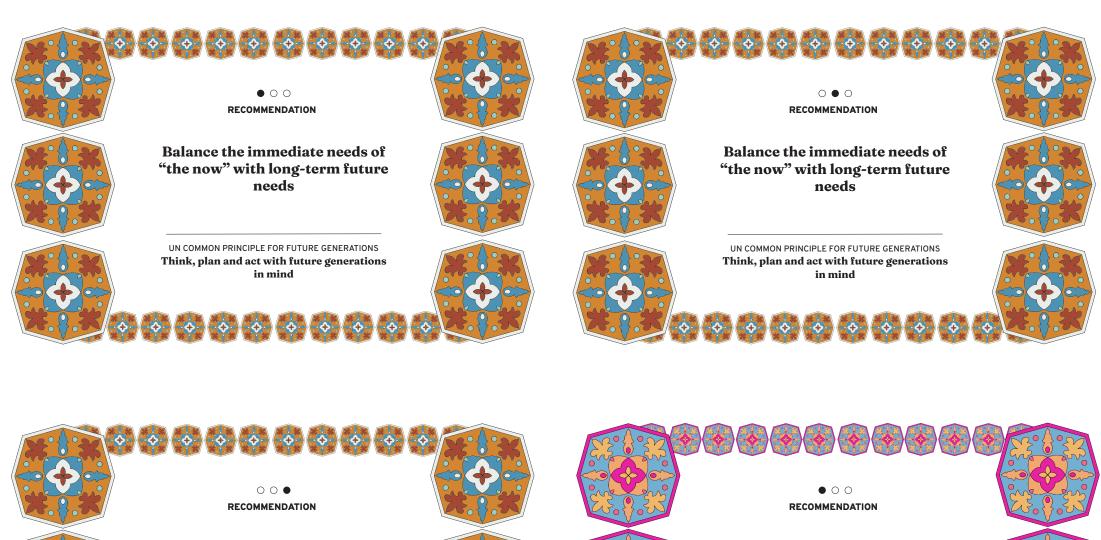
How would you make your futures resources more accessible and inclusive?

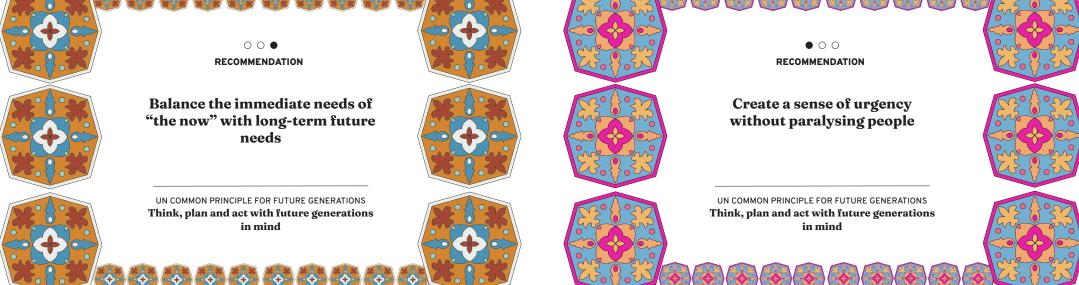














What if?

What if you established a feedback loop that integrates lessons learned from both short-term and long-term perspectives, so that we can make more informed decisions about the future?

How would you create and maintain such a feedback loop and ensure that it is inclusive and accessible to diverse groups?



What if?

What if you regularly evaluated your strategies to ensure they don't compromise the well-being of future generations?

How would you develop and implement a process to evaluate strategies from an intergenerational perspective?



















What if you actively sought out success stories and case studies that highlight the positive impact of inclusive and diverse foresight practices, and used them to build momentum for change?

How would you identify, curate, and share success stories and case studies in a way that is accessible and engages a wide audience?



What if you put perspectives of future generations at the heart of participatory planning so that their needs and aspirations are reflected in our decisions?

How would this intergenerational process look?

How is it different from the process you use now?

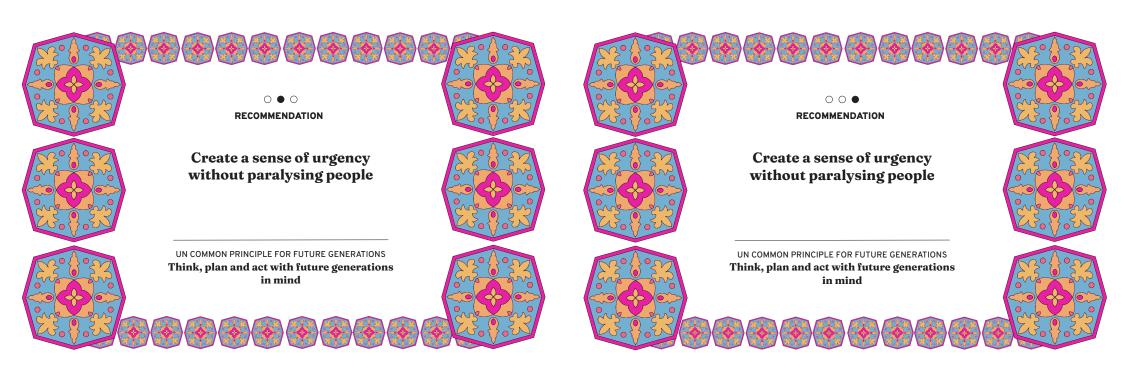


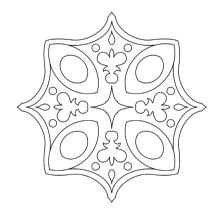




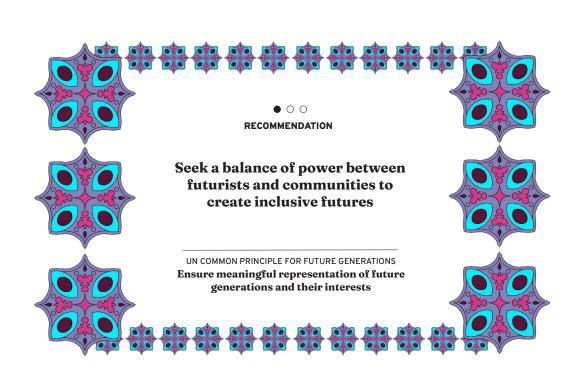






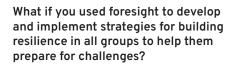


Ensure meaningful representation of future generations and their interests









How would you design foresight-based strategies to build resilience?



What if?

What if – when designing scenarios – you provided clear guidance to individuals and teams on how to take meaningful action?

How would you develop and deliver tools and resources to help people solve their big challenges?







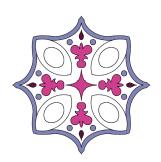




UN COMMON PRINCIPLE FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

Ensure meaningful representation of future generations and their interests

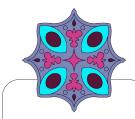
RECOMMENDATIONS



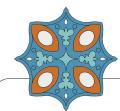
What if?

What if you actively involved community members in the design and implementation of foresight projects, recognizing their expertise and experiences as valuable contributions?

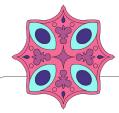
How would you co-design foresight projects with community members to ensure their knowledge is at the centre of the process?



Seek a balance of power between futurists and communities to create inclusive futures



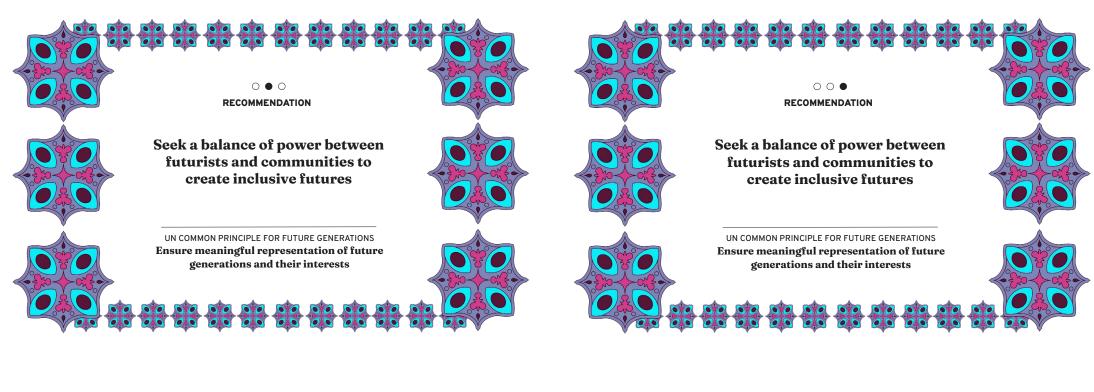
Include people of all ages in futures work and recognize the unique contributions that each generation can make to the process

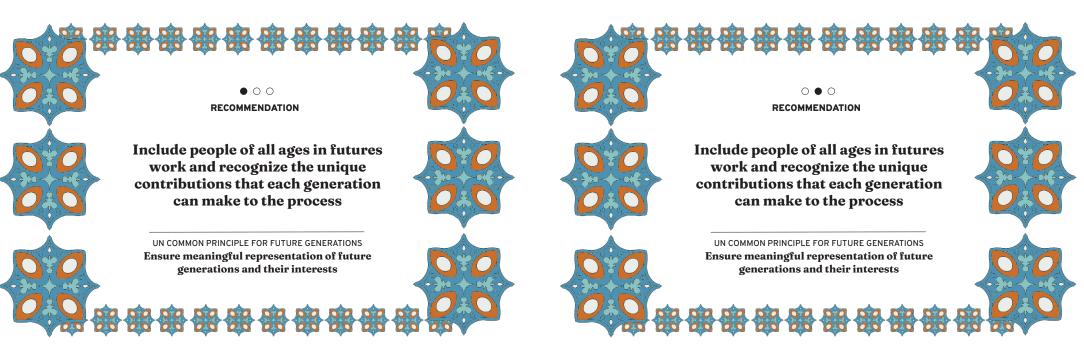


Make sure diverse groups are represented in all aspects of futures thinking and that communities help make decisions on issues that affect them









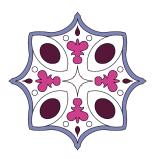












What if you are working with a community that has a strong oral tradition?

How would you incorporate their oral knowledge and storytelling into your foresight project in a way that is respectful and culturally inclusive?



What if?

What if we engaged in participatory processes that recognize and value the knowledge and expertise of community members, including their indigenous and traditional knowledge systems?

How would you adapt your foresight methods to be more culturally inclusive and responsive to the needs of the communities you work with?















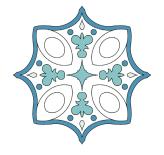




What if?

What if you want to foster learning while working on a foresight project with colleagues?

How would you encourage team members to share their knowledge and insights across generations?



What if?

What if you lead a team that is mostly made up of people from your own generation?

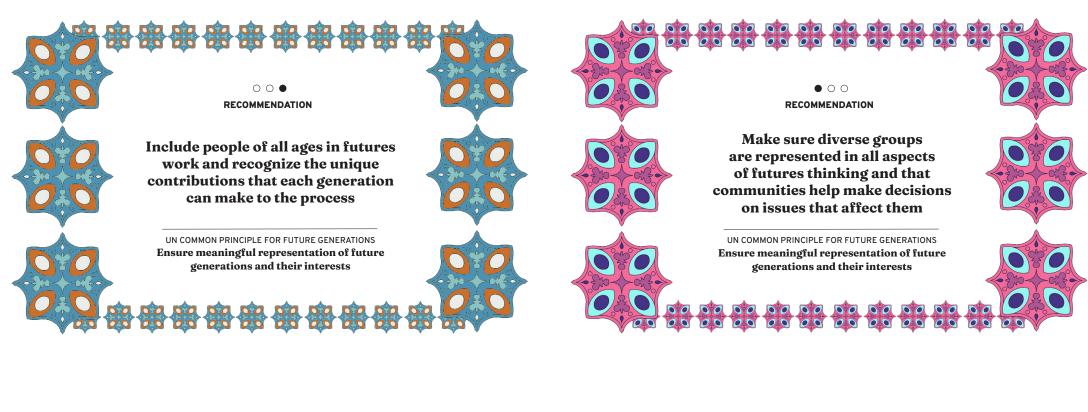
How would you make sure to incorporate views of older and younger people?

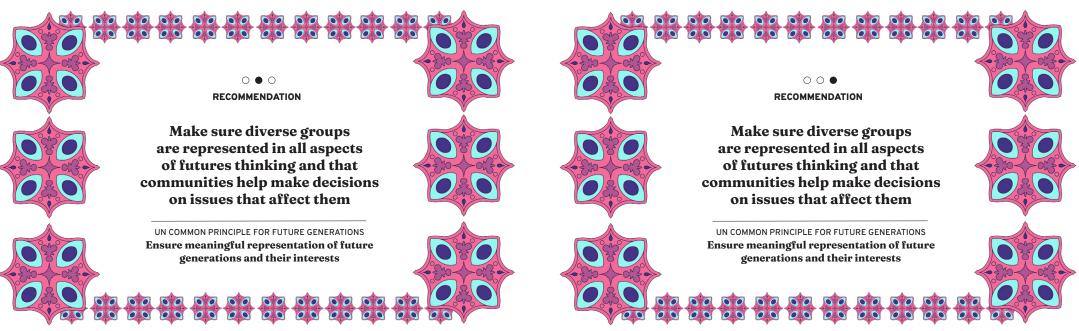












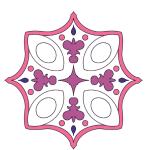






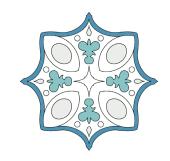






What if you are working with a team of experts to develop a new vision for the future of a city? The city faces many challenges, including population growth, climate change, and economic inequality.

How would you develop a process and vision for the city's future that is inclusive and equitable for all residents, regardless of their race, ethnicity, gender, socioeconomic status, or other factors?



What if?

What if I actively tried to learn from younger people to improve my foresight practices on emerging trends and technologies?

How would this "reverse mentoring" work?

Where should I start?









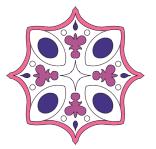












What if you identified the key decisionmaking points in the foresight process where communities are often excluded?

How would you rectify these shortcomings?



What if?

What if we implemented measures to address any biases or exclusions that may exist in our futures thinking processes?

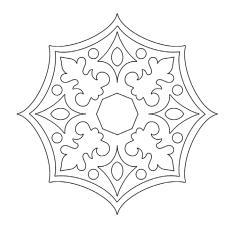
How would you first identify and assess the biases that may exist in your futures thinking processes?



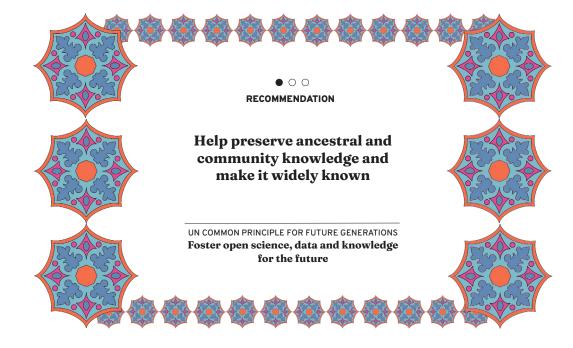


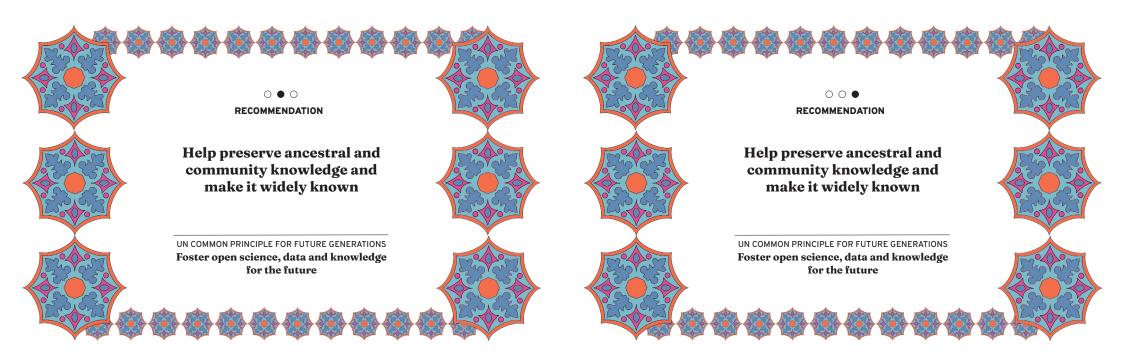






Foster open science, data and knowledge for the future







Foster open science, data and knowledge for the future

RECOMMENDATIONS

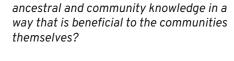


Help preserve ancestral and community knowledge and make it widely known



Respect cultural norms and values; identify ethical implications of using culturally sensitive knowledge





How would you support preservation of

What if we integrated ancestral and community knowledge into our futures thinking practices to ensure a more holistic and culturally sensitive

What if?

What if?

approach?



What if we actively engaged with communities to co-create futures that honour and draw upon their unique cultural heritage and traditional wisdom?

How would you identify and engage with community elders and knowledge keepers to ensure that their perspectives and insights are central to the futures thinking process?

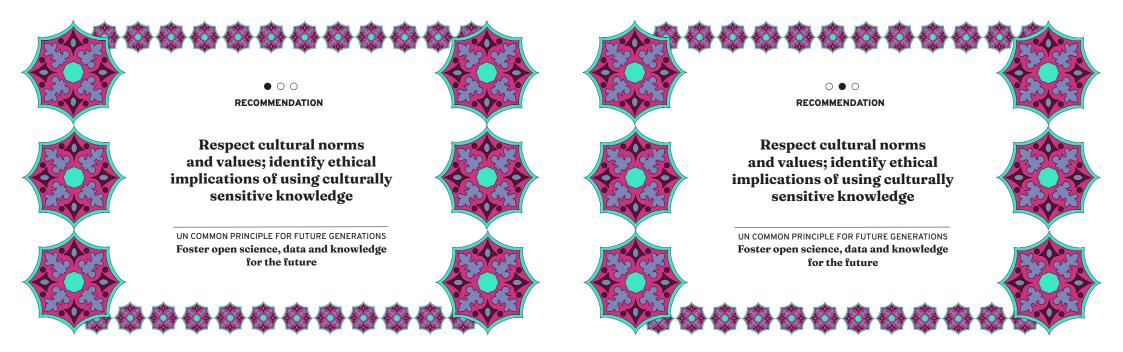


What if?

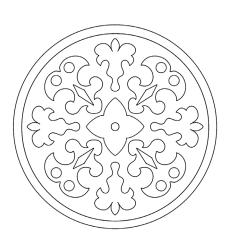
What if – when working with community members to develop a vision for the future of their community – they are concerned about losing their traditional knowledge and culture?

How would you develop a decolonial foresight process that honors their traditional knowledge and values?

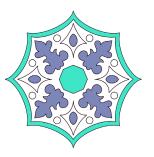
How do you help community members create a vision for a sustainable future grounded in their culture?





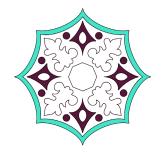


Foster a future-oriented organizational culture and capabilities



What if we continuously reflected on our own biases and assumptions to ensure that our use of culturally sensitive knowledge is respectful and responsible?

How would we assess our own biases?



What if?

What if you are co-designing a foresight project to develop a new policy with different communities?

How would you continuously monitor and evaluate the ethical implications of your work?

UN COMMON PRINCIPLE FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

Foster a future-oriented organizational culture and capabilities

RECOMMENDATIONS



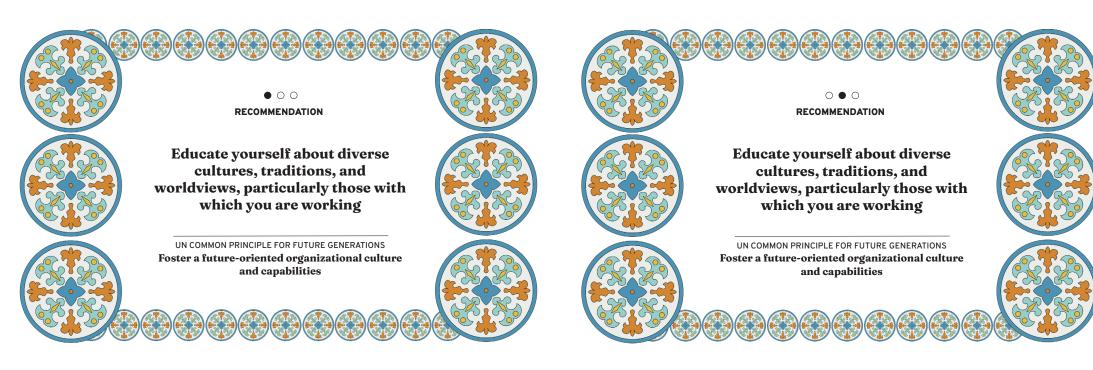
Educate yourself about diverse cultures, traditions, and worldviews, particularly those with which you are working

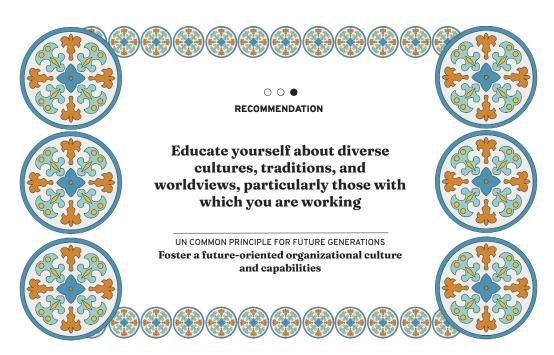


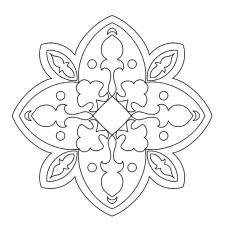
What if?

What if we explored the potential benefits and risks of using ancestral and community knowledge in development of new technologies?

How would you mitigate any potential risks associated with the use of ancestral and community knowledge in the development of new technologies?







Strengthen inclusive partnerships and global cooperation











What if you are working with a country or community with a long history of colonialism and exploitation?

How would you learn more about the intricacies of the setting you are working in? How would this change your project design?



What if?

What if we incorporated cross-cultural understanding and sensitivity into our futures thinking practice?

How would you guard against cultural appropriation when developing new practices?











UN COMMON PRINCIPLE FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

Strengthen inclusive partnerships and global cooperation

RECOMMENDATIONS



Foster meaningful relationships with local communities and stakeholders



Include storytellers, writers, musicians and other performers in foresight activities to bring cultural perspectives and creativity to the process



Use thinking about the future to give more power to communities that have usually been left out



Be open to measuring the effects and value of foresight in different ways – for example, applying standards from around the world



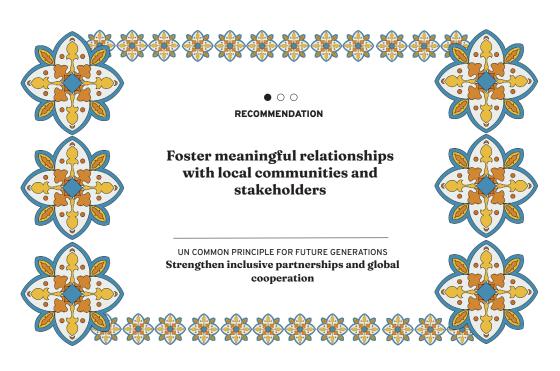
What if?

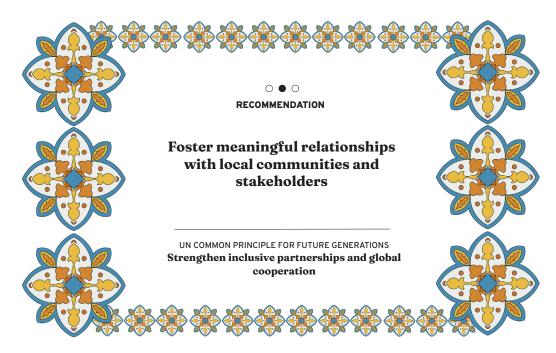
What if we committed to continuous learning and education about diverse cultures, traditions, and worldviews to foster cultural competence?

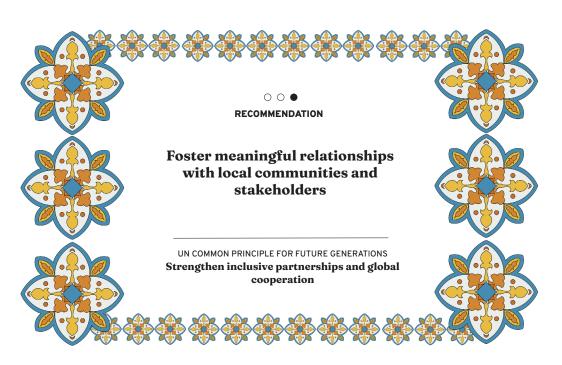
How would that change the way you work as a team?













What if you integrated artistic and storytelling narrative techniques into our futures thinking practices in order to appeal to emotions and imagination and change behaviour?

How would you embed this into your existing foresight work?

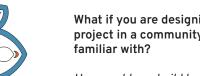












What if you are designing a foresight project in a community that you are not

How would you build trust and ensure wide participation by the community?



What if?

What if you took the first step and held informal gatherings to hear local communities' stories and concerns?

How would you create a safe and supportive space for people to share their stories and concerns? How would this information shape your work?

















Include storytellers, writers, musicians and other performers in foresight activities to bring cultural perspectives and creativity to the process

UN COMMON PRINCIPLE FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS Strengthen inclusive partnerships and global cooperation



What if?

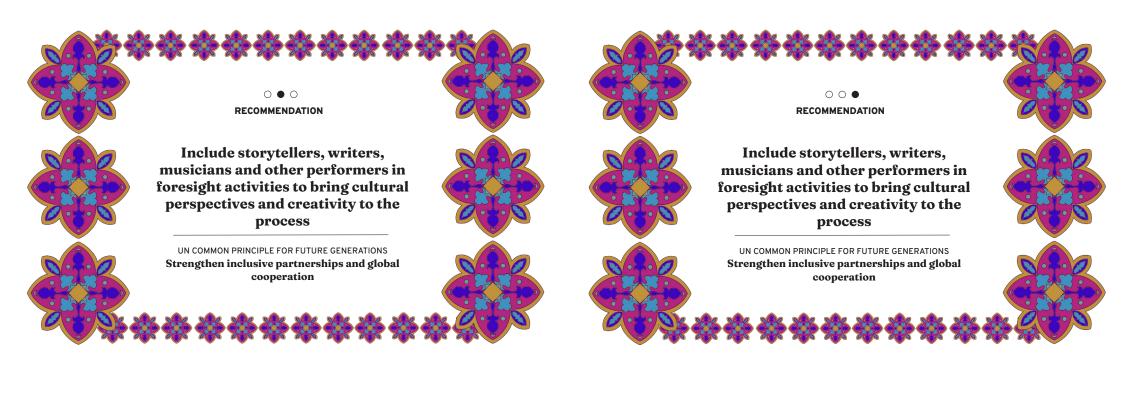
What if you inadvertently make only a symbolic effort to include marginalised groups but do not actually give them a voice in shaping their own future?

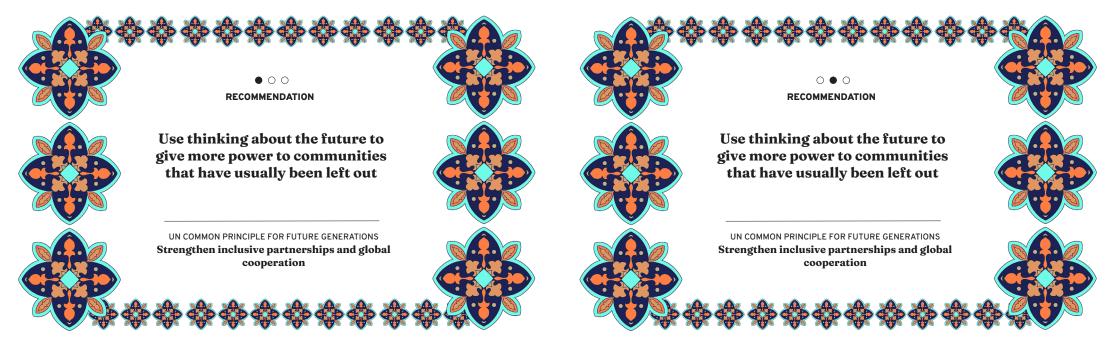
How would you rectify your mistake?

Would you start the process again? Or take a different approach to amplifying overlooked voices in your findings and recommendations?













What if you involved cultural practitioners to help you find metaphors and symbols to translate abstract foresight concepts into culturally-appropriate visual representations?

How would you develop visual representations of abstract foresight concepts?

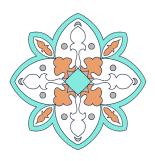


What if?

What if you needed to convince your peers or team members that culture and creativity are important for shaping alternative futures and challenging dominant narratives?

How would you raise awareness of the importance of culture and creativity in shaping the future?





What if we provided resources and guidance for community members to develop their own futures-driven initiatives?

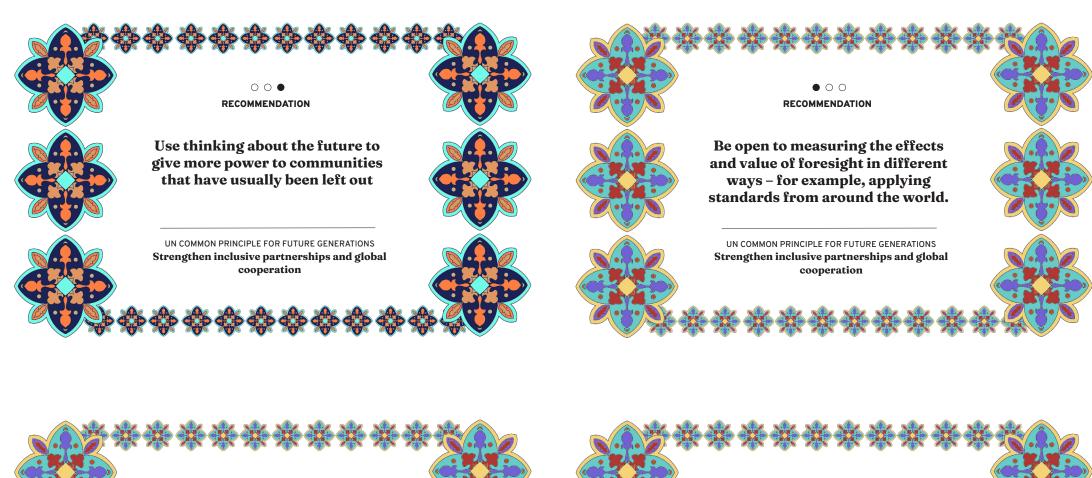
How would you begin developing toolkits and resources that support community members?

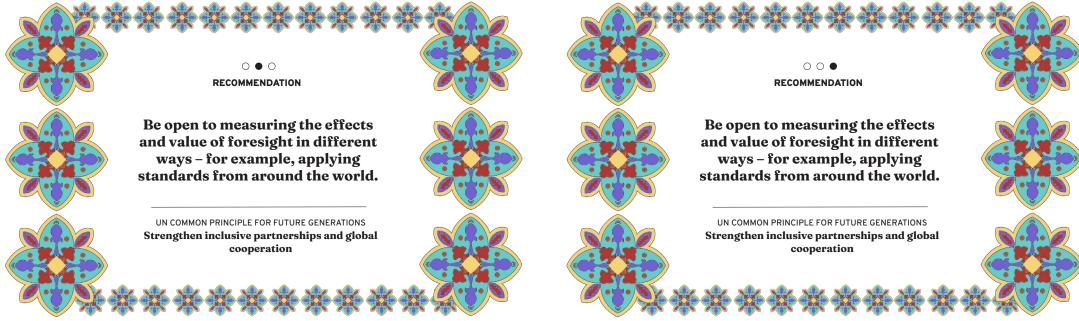


What if?

What if – when designing strategies – we based actions on individuals and communities?

How would you advocate for policies and programs that support community-led futures thinking and planning?









What if we could identify the ways our work has transformed individuals and communities?

How would you use the findings to improve our foresight work and make it more effective?

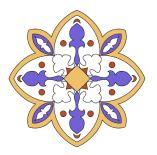


What if?

What if you advocated for participatory futures thinking to be integrated into government policy and decision-making?

How would you embark on this advocacy journey and who would join you?





What if you used foresight and futures thinking tools to develop indicators for measuring the progress of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)?

How would you use the existing indicators and complement them with community participation to overcome blindspots?



What if?

What if you tailored your project evaluation to the needs of local communities and let them define which outcomes matter most to them?

How would you engage stakeholders in the design of a decentralised and participatory framework?



ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We acknowledge the foresight experts and futurists, including Indigenous practitioners, who have supported the creation of these cards by inspiring us with their work or by directly contributing their insights on the design of these recommendations and what if prompts.

We hope that many foresight practitioners and curious minds can derive value from these cards in their efforts to create a more just and sustainable world in their foresight and futures practices.

We wish to honour all voices, thoughts, and ideas, and hope that the words and intended use of these cards celebrate the knowledge shared by practitioners, as well as ancestral knowledge and wisdom. We are also grateful for the *UN Common Principles for Future Generations*, which affirm that future generations have the right to inherit a healthy, sustainable, and peaceful planet.

Finally, while we acknowledge that there are systemic changes that need to be addressed first in the field of foresight, we thank you for committing to a decolonial and ethical practice in your work.

The UN Global Pulse team

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