



Frontiers of Politics: Transforming Democracies in the Digital Communication Age

State of the Future 20.0 and **Democracy as a Global Challenge**

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STATE OF THE FUTURE 20.0



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Executive Summary
15 Global Challenges
State of the Future Index 2035
Artificial General Intelligence
Beneficial AGI Competition
Five UN Foresight Elements
World Futures Day
Robots 2050

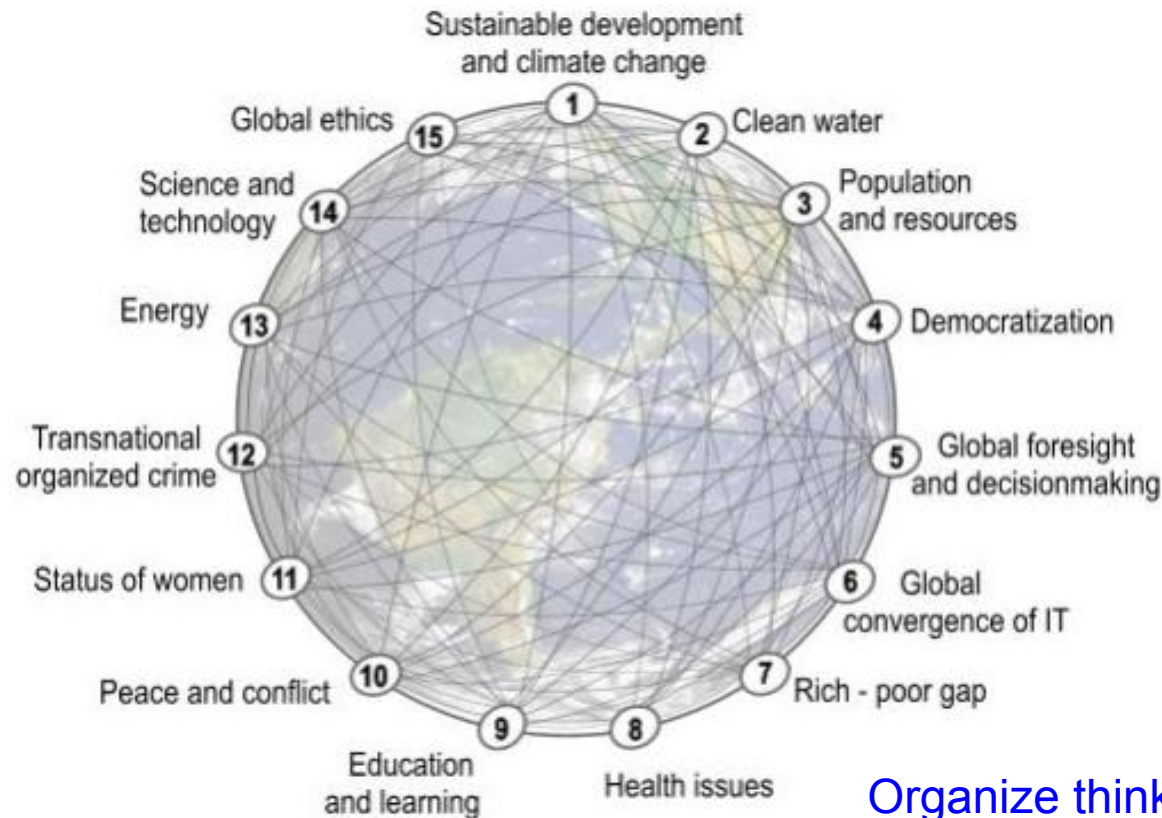
Nodes and Networks



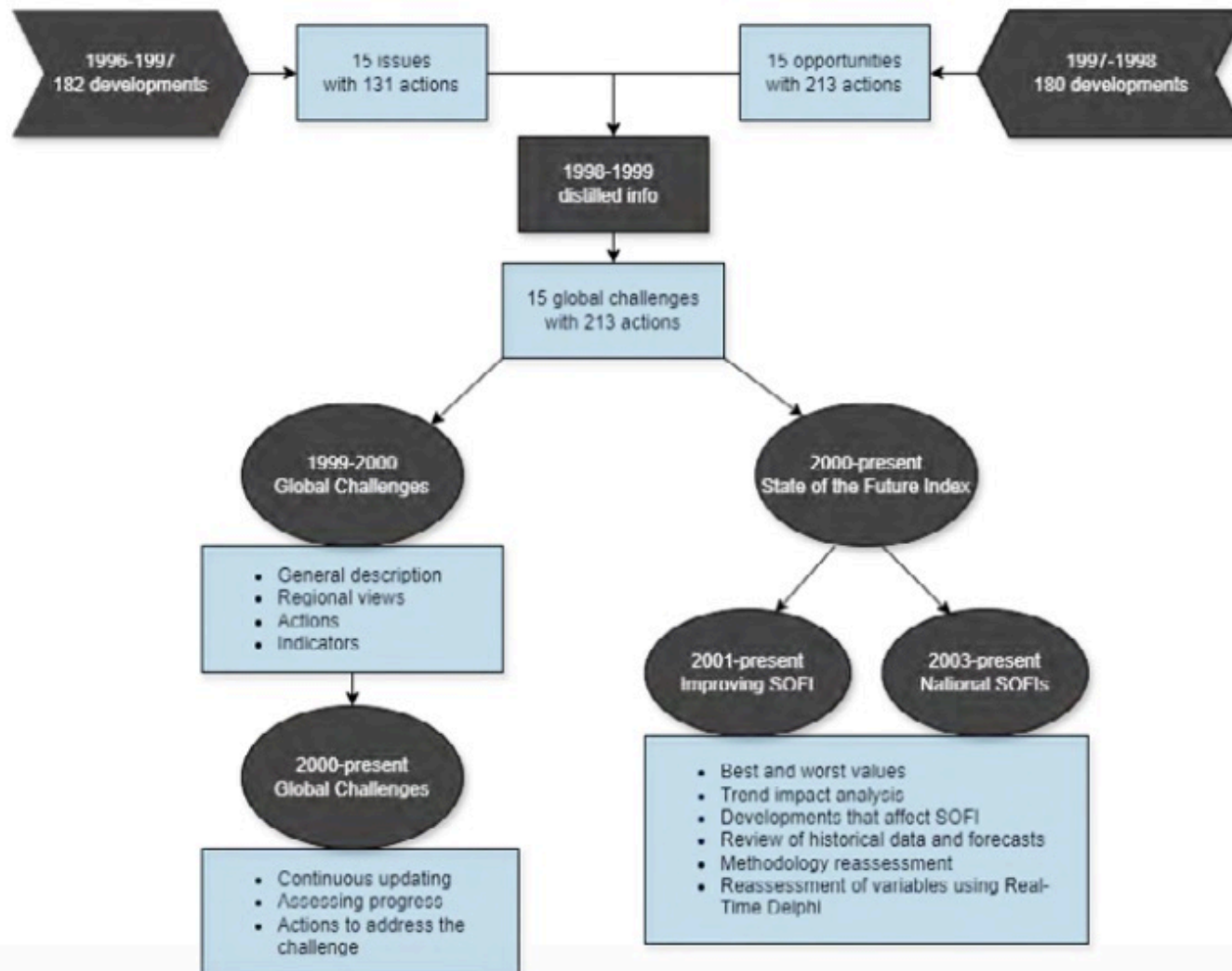
Groups of experts and institutions that connect global and local views



15 Global Challenges



Organize thinking about the future



15 Global Challenges Process

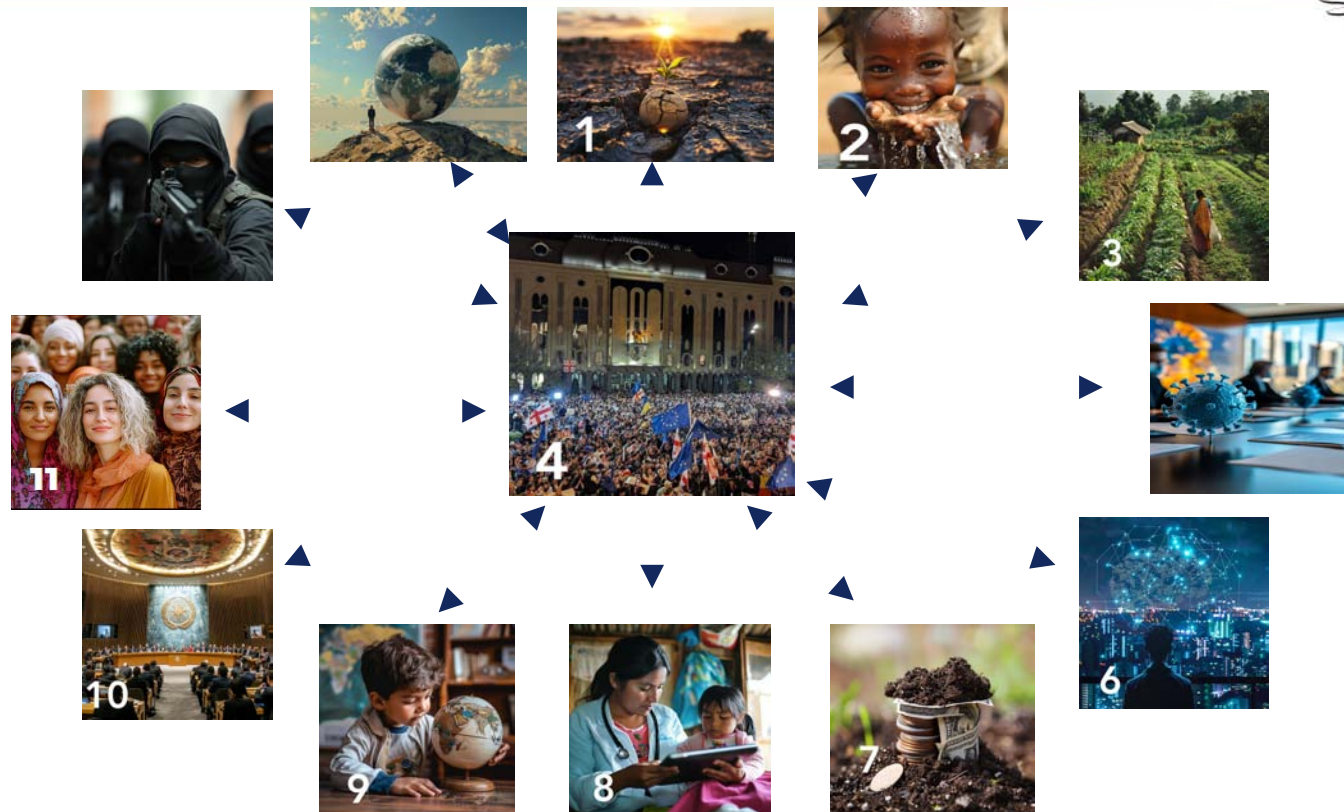
Systemic & Systematic Scanning & Overview

Some Insights



- We are healthier, better educated, living longer, and better connected, but **at the expense** of the environment, increasing global warming, an obscene concentrations of wealth, and **declining democracy**.
- About 85% of the world's over \$400 trillion of liquid assets is managed by financial institutions, while only 15% is held directly by the ultimate owners, mainly nation-states.
- Blogs and self-organizing groups on the Internet are becoming de facto decision-makers or critically influencing it.
- Reliance on digital media & non-checkable information is **decreasing critical thinking**.
- **Convergence of AI and geopolitics:** another type of democracy?

Democracy Interconnectedness

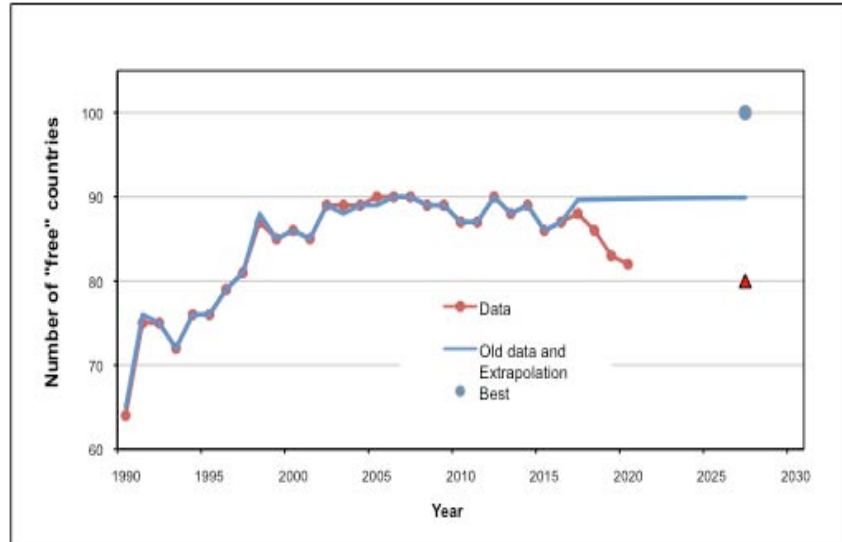


Democracy Trends



How can genuine democracy emerge from authoritarian regimes?

SOFI 2027



SOFI 2035



Data source: <https://freedomhouse.org/>

- 19 years of declining freedom
- World population under authoritarian regimes: from 49% in 2011 to about 70% in 2023.

Information Competition



How can global information, communications technologies, artificial intelligence, big data, and cloud computing work for everyone?



Source: ESA

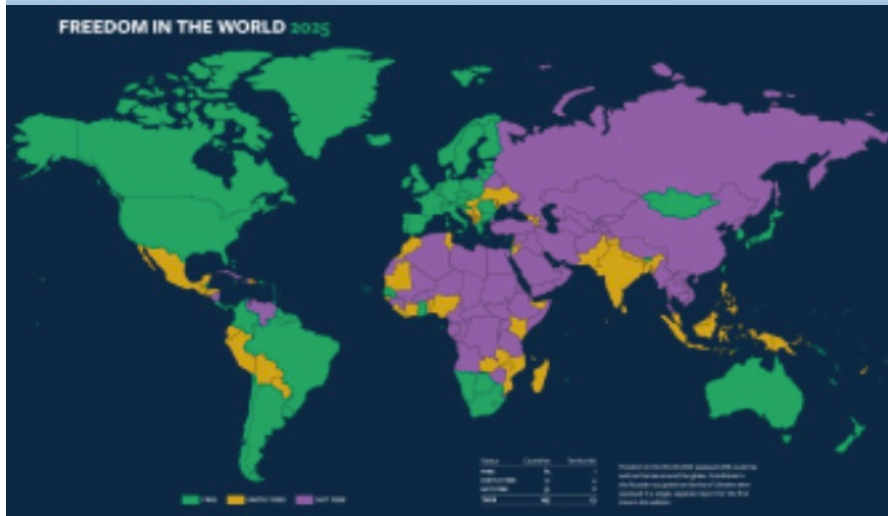
- Elon Musk's Starlink plans for 42,000 microsatellites;
- China plans a similar system with 26,000 satellites;
- Amazon's Project Kuiper plans 3,200 micro-satellites.

Digital environment monopoly
impact on democracy and diplomacy?

Information warfare unleashed – countries experiencing coordinated social media manipulation campaigns: 2017: 28; 2019: 70; today: worldwide (Oxford University)

IT is only a tool.

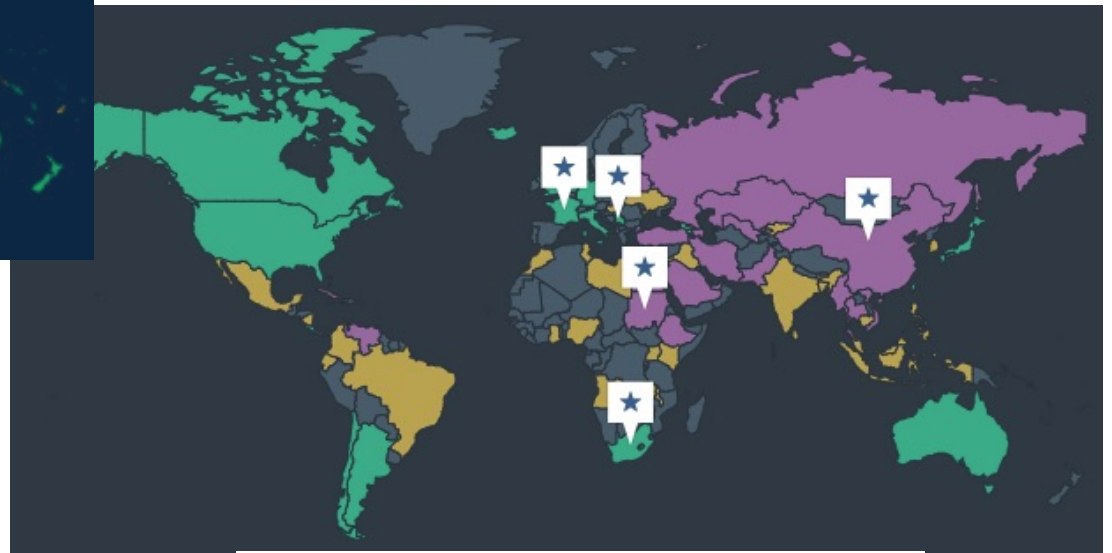
Battlegrounds for New Democracy



Freedom in the World

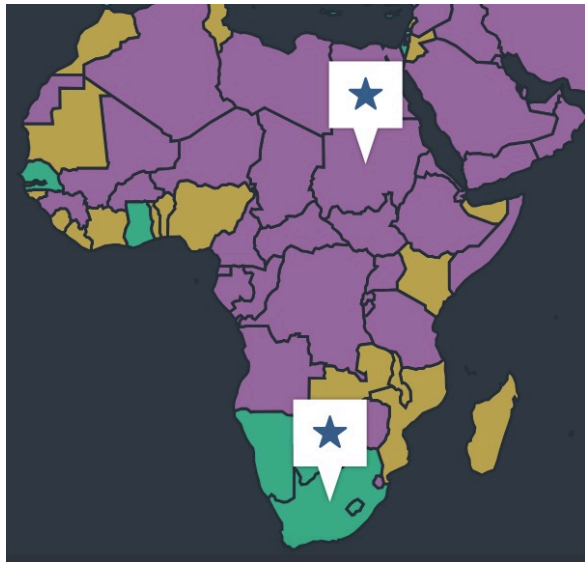
Countries with no independent media:
2005: 13 2024: 34

Freedom on the Net



Source: <https://freedomhouse.org/>

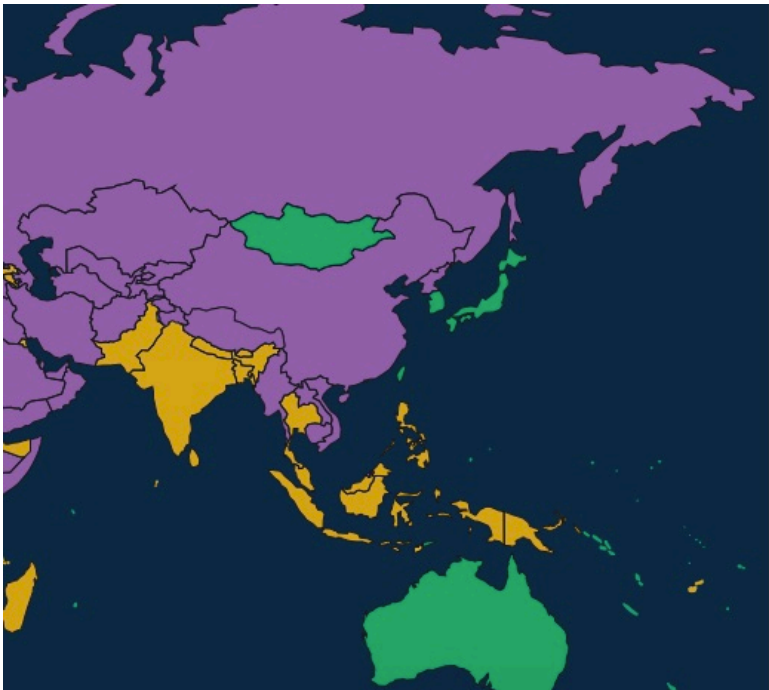
Democracy in Africa



Sub-Saharan African democratic backsliding:

- Vulnerability to military coups
- Increasing authoritarian leadership
- No free media (only 5 countries have “satisfactory”)
- Battleground for Chinese and Starlink internet
- Chinese dependency: long-range planning; credit; infrastructure; export destination
- Microsoft for e-government systems to improve transparency and decision-making

Democracy in Asia and Oceania



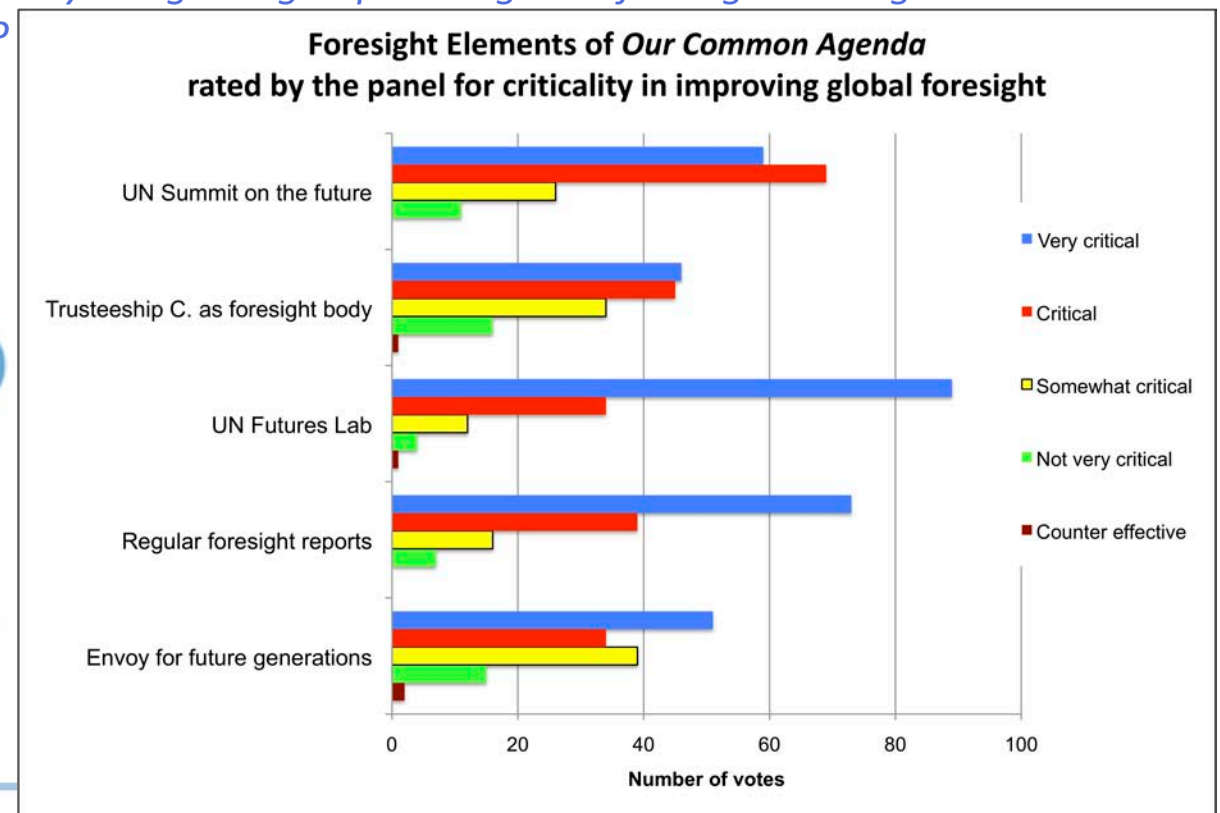
China

- Consolidating its authoritarian regime by using AI management and the Social Credit System
- Exporting its ideology and consolidating its influence through investments, exploitation of resources, credits, etc.
- Increasing information warfare.

Global Foresight



How can decisionmaking be enhanced by integrating improved global foresight during unprecedented accelerating change?



UN Frameworks



UN SDGs

<https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/>

17 goals, 169 targets, 231 unique indicators



<https://www.un.org/en/summit-of-the-future/pact-for-the-future>

51 Actions

Setting Priorities

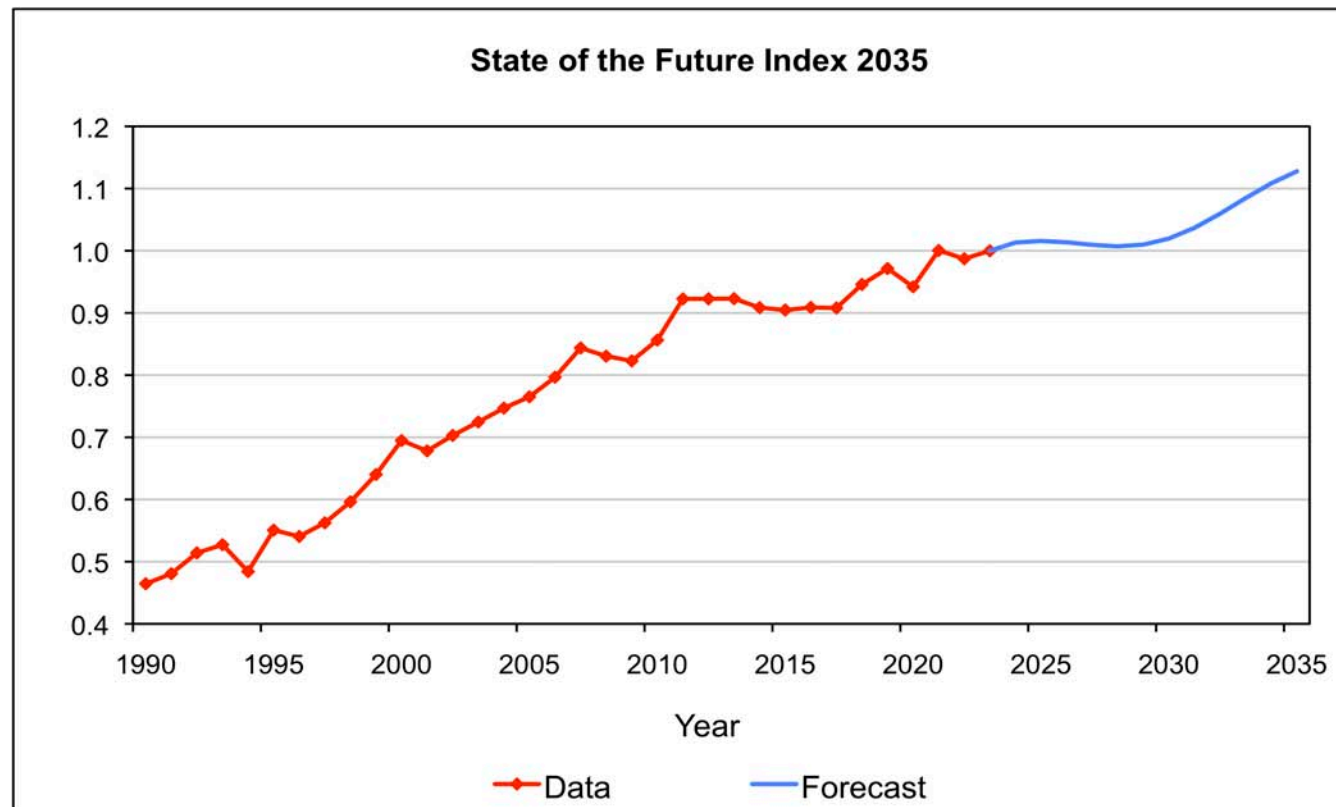


Sense-making



Credit: captured from [AutoGPT website](#)

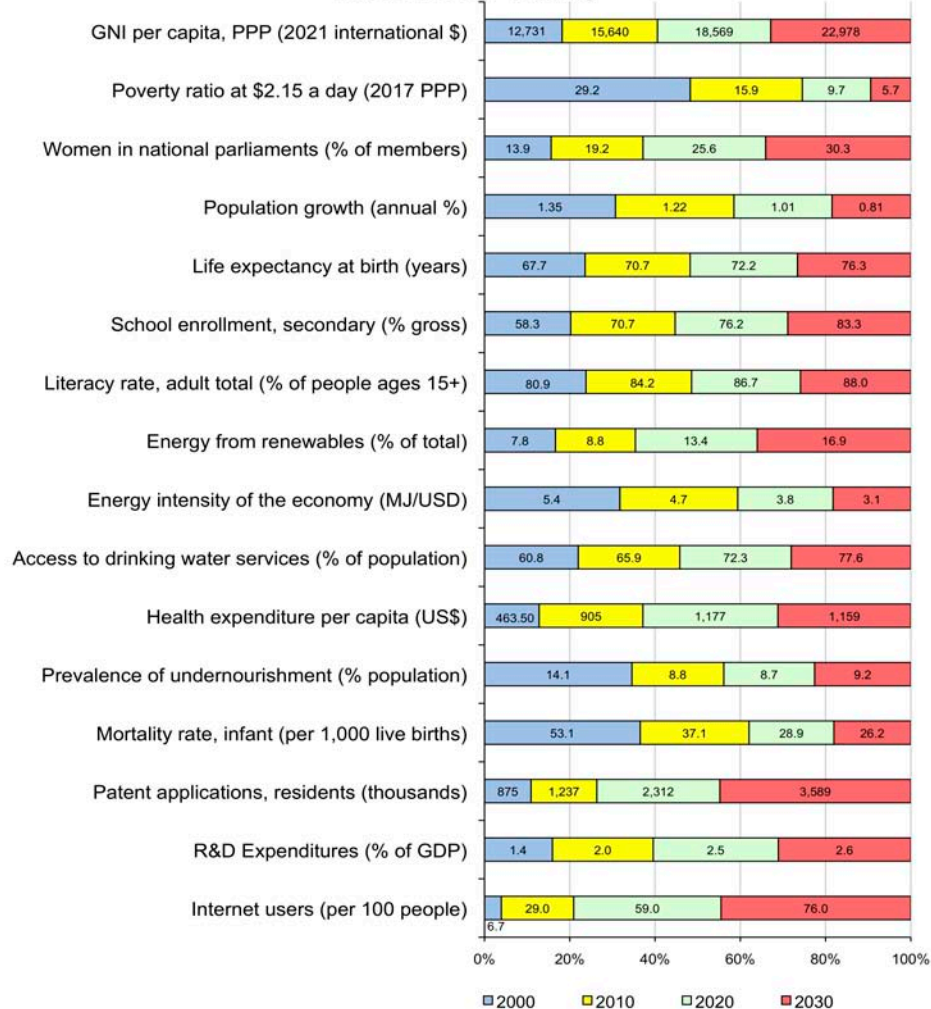
State Of the Future Index (SOFI)



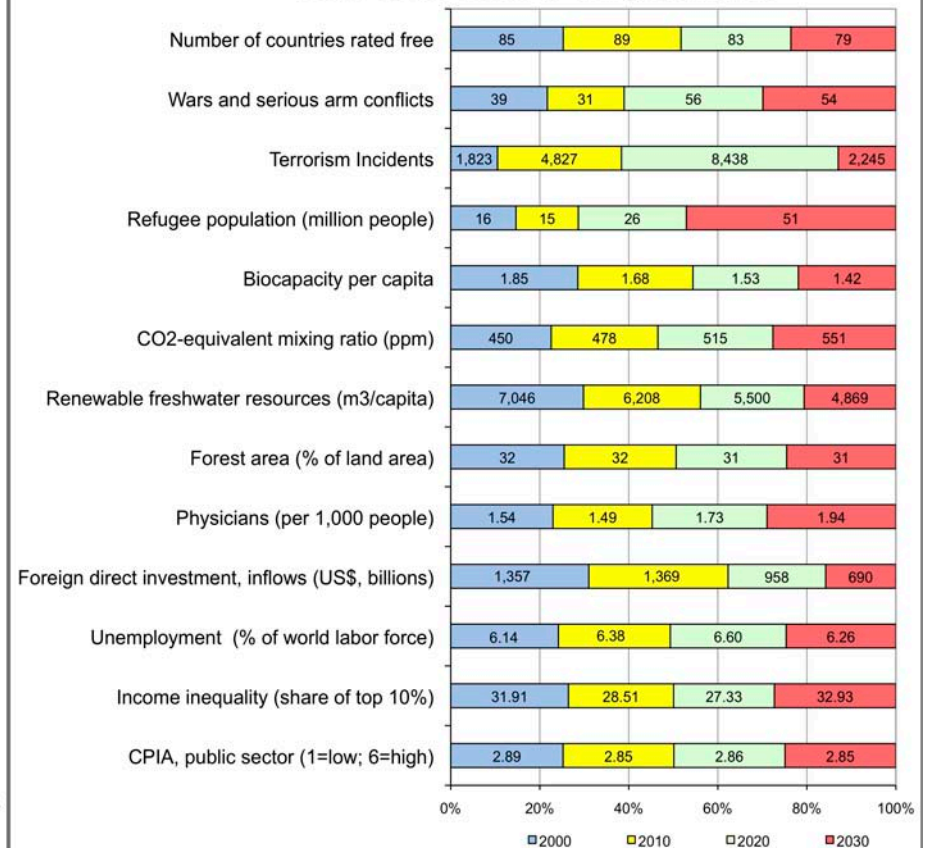
Report card



Where we are winning

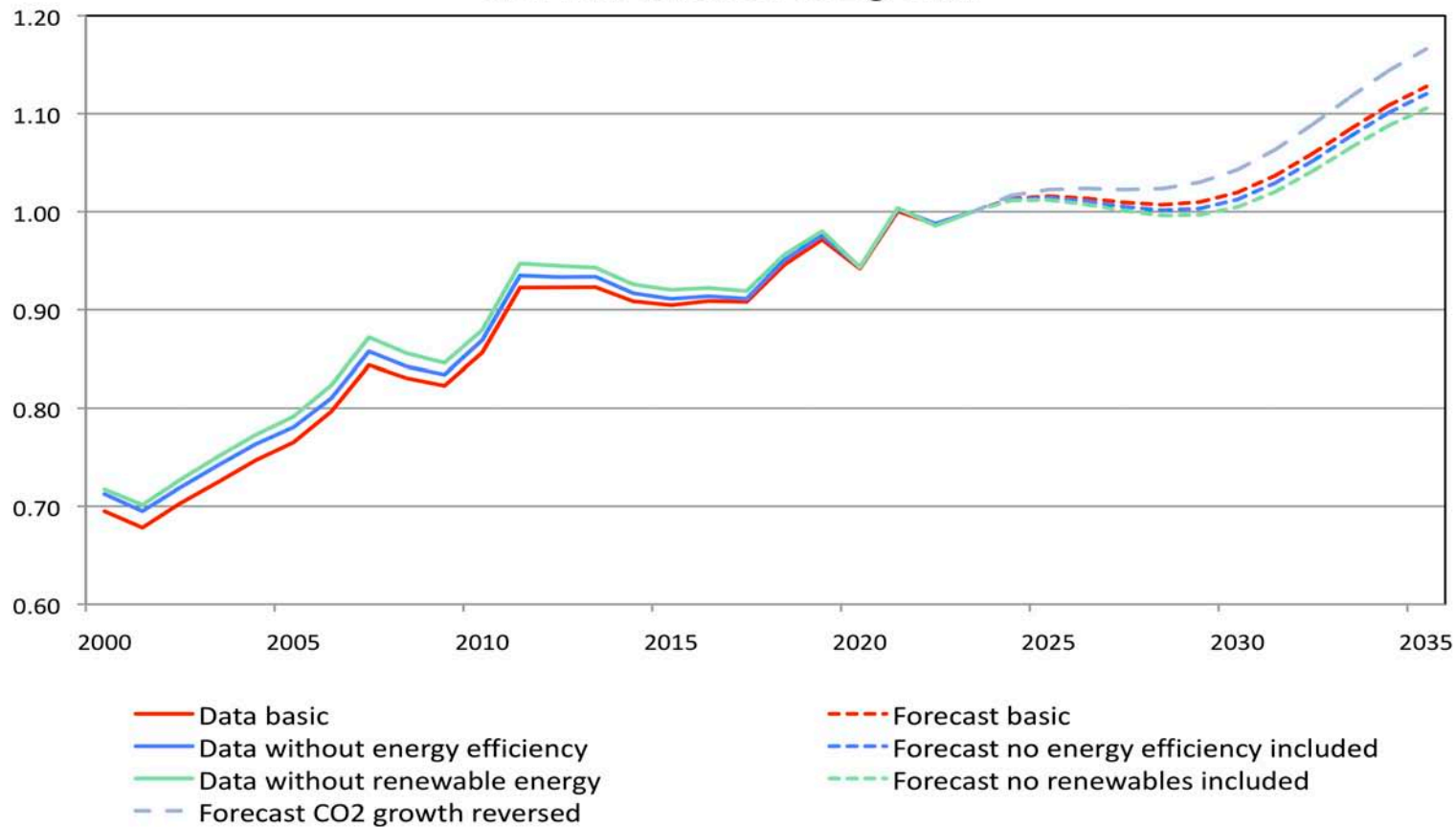


Where we are losing or change is unclear

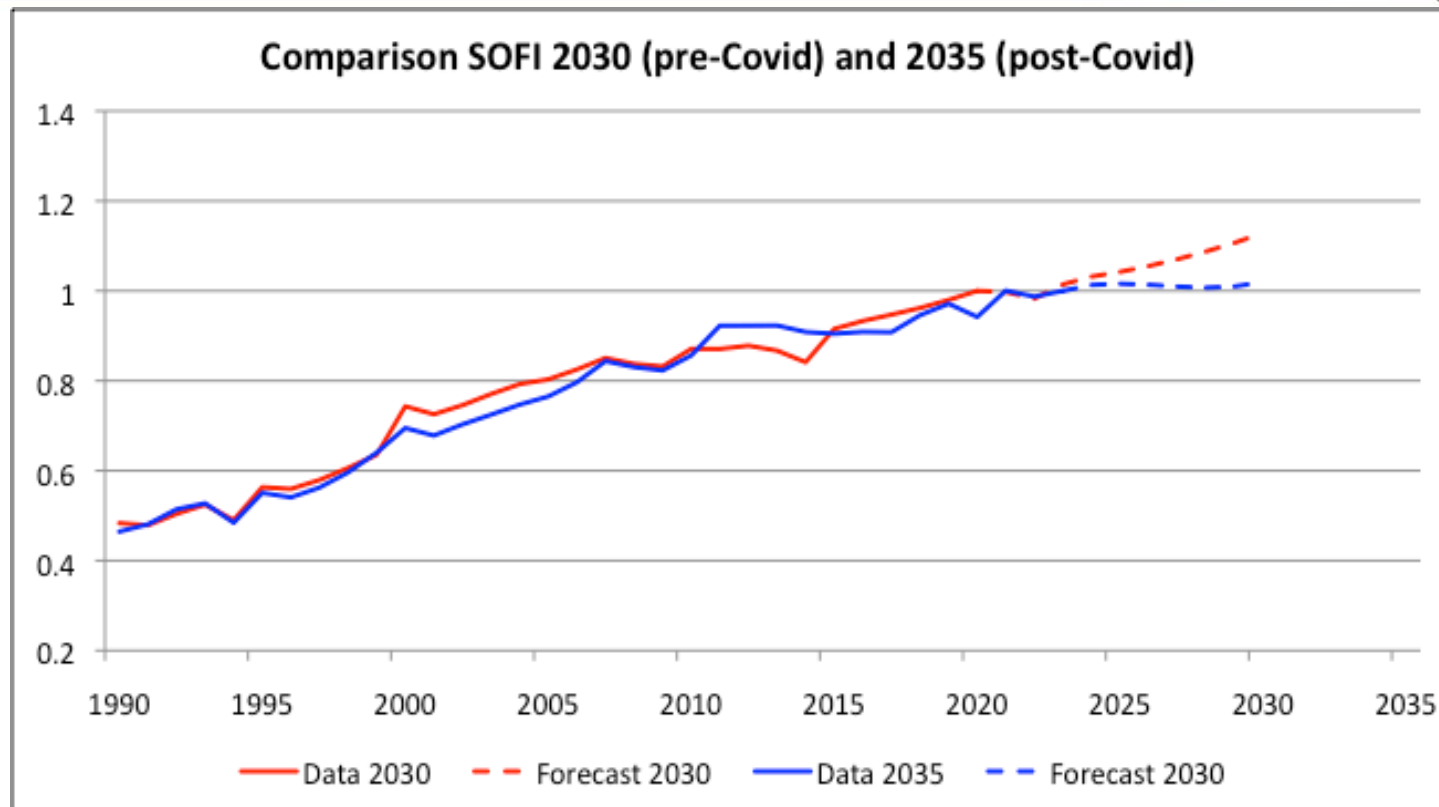


SOFI 2035 with sensitivity analysis

Basic, without Energy efficiency and Renewable energy indicators,
and with reversed CO2 growth



SOFI – Surprise Events



With AI power...

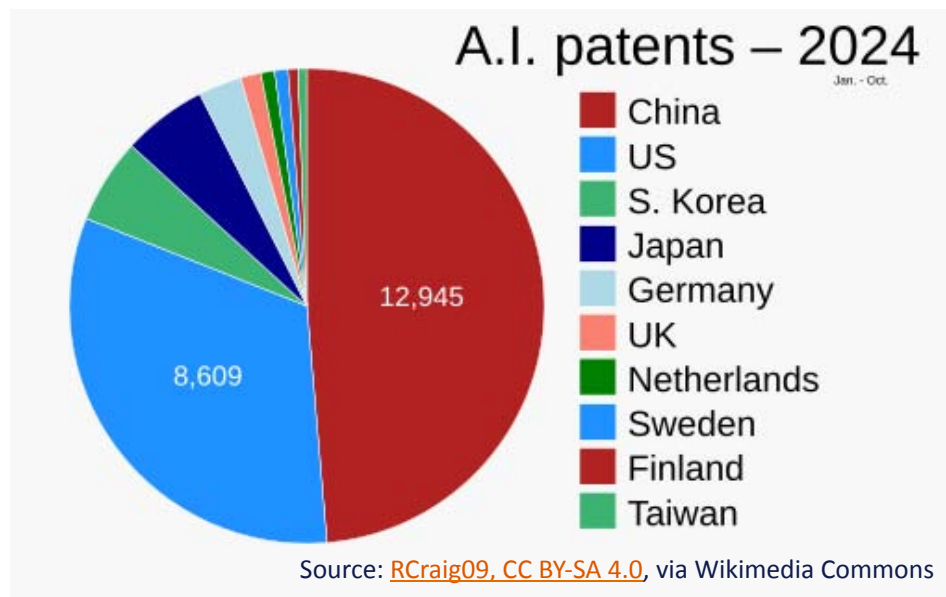


Captured from [AutoGPT website](#)

AI Race



“Whoever leads in AI rules the world”



AI AGI ASI

- Views of 55 leading AGI experts from North America, China, UK, Russia, and the EU by 22 key questions about transition to AGI.
- International assessment by 299 futurists and related experts on 40 potential regulations and related issues and 5 global governance models.

INTERNATIONAL GOVERNANCE
ISSUES OF THE TRANSITION
FROM ARTIFICIAL NARROW
INTELLIGENCE TO ARTIFICIAL
GENERAL INTELLIGENCE

Future of Life Institute, Beneficial AGI



- Governance for safe AGI in the interest of humanity;
- IEEE and ISO define the standards and metrics for AGI audits;
- AGI finds novel solutions to avoid conflicts and to protect democracy and human rights;
- AGI helps address the important challenges facing humanity and the planet;
- AGI tests new applications before implementation.

AGI in 2045 Questions



1. AGI has existed for years, but the world is not dystopian and humans are still alive! Given the risks of very high-powered AI systems, how has your world ensured that AGI has at least so far remained safe and controlled?
2. The dynamics of an AI-filled world may depend a lot on how AI capability is distributed. In your world, is there one AI system that is substantially more powerful than all others, or a few such systems, or are there many top-tier AI systems of comparable capability? Or something else?
3. How has your world avoided major arms races and wars, regarding AI / AGI or otherwise?
4. In the USA, the EU, and China, how and where is national decision-making power held, and how has the advent of advanced AI changed that, if at all?
5. Is the global distribution of wealth (as measured say by national or international Gini coefficients) more, or less unequal than 2022's, and by how much? How did it get that way?
6. What is a major problem that AI has solved in your world, and how did it do so?
7. What is a new social institution that has played an important role in the development of your world?
8. What is a new non-AI technology that has played an important role in the development of your world?
9. What changes to the way countries govern the development and/ or deployment and/ or use of emerging technologies (including AI), if any, played an important role in the development of your world?
10. Pick a sector of your choice (education, transport, energy, communication, finance, healthcare, tourism, aerospace, materials etc.) and describe how that sector was transformed with AI in your world?
11. What is the life expectancy of the most wealthy 1% and of the least wealthy 20% of your world; how and why has this changed since 2022?
12. In the USA, considering the human rights enumerated in the UN declaration, which rights are better respected and which rights are worse respected in your world than in 2022? Why? How?
13. What's been a notable trend in the way that people are finding fulfillment?

Robots 2050



Robots supporting the evolution to the conscious-technology civilization and the self-actualization economy

Robots in daily life

Robots in bed

Robots for immortality

Robots in and on the ocean

Robots in space

Global governance for AGI/Robotics

World Futures Day – March 1st



Snapshot of some of the ideas discussed:

- Explore space-based living solutions;
- Focus on critical areas such as energy from space, observation technologies, geoengineering, etc.;
- Support and develop strategies and treaties for managing space resources and debris;
- Initiate discussions on robot rights;
- Consider establishing roles like a Cyber Minister to manage the integration and balance between humans and NT;
- Use futures and foresight to establish a leadership agenda that addresses global challenges;
- Identify existential risks due to wars, AI, global warming and develop strategies for anticipation and prevention.



Happy Futures!
