



STRATEGIC FORESIGHT IN GEOPOLITICS

European Economic Social Committee – Expert Hearing

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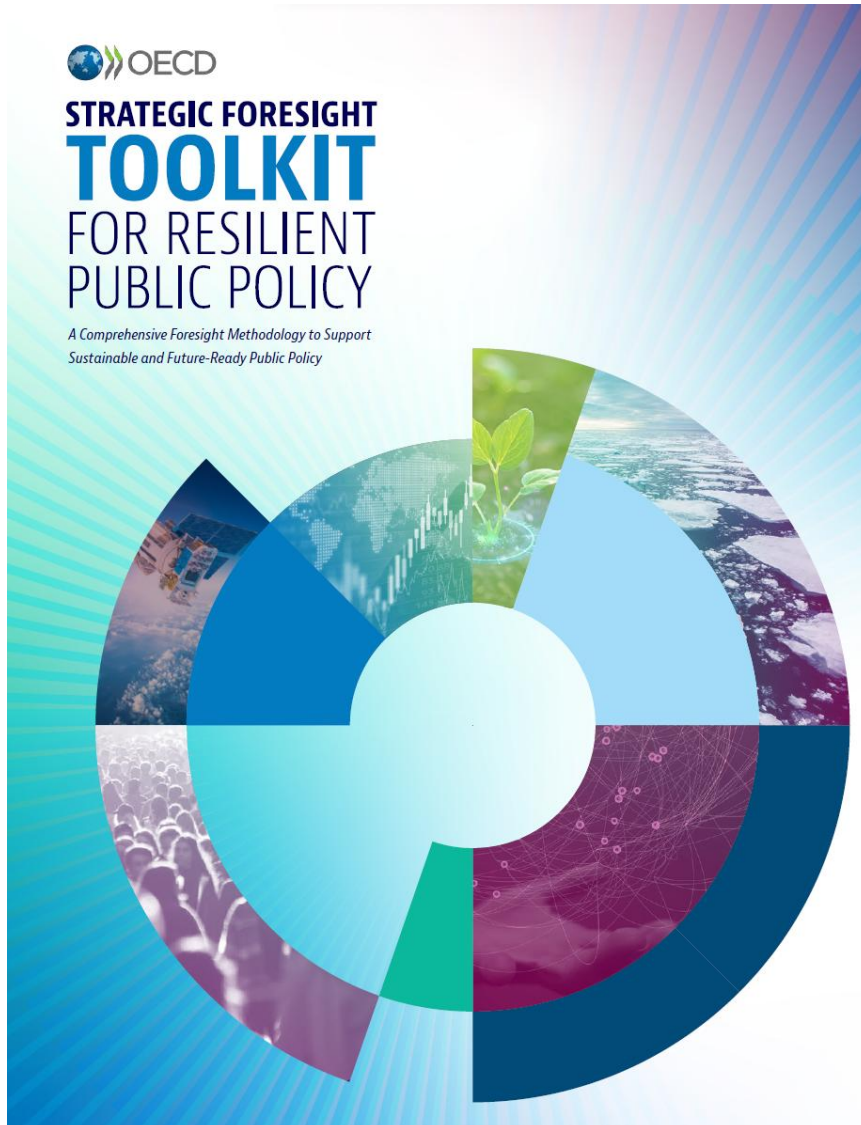


OECD Strategic Foresight Unit

- The Strategic Foresight Unit supports **anticipation and long-term thinking** to enable **more effective and resilient** public policy
- The Unit has three **Programme of Work and Budget** priorities:
 - Strengthen **foresight capacity and practice within the OECD** in order to **improve policy analysis and advice**
 - Support **government foresight capacity**
 - Bring foresight to bear on **OECD priorities and global policy debates**



Strategic Foresight Toolkit for Resilient Public Policy



- ✓ Vital resource for building **sustainable, resilient, and effective** public policies
- ✓ Helps anticipate challenges and opportunities that could reshape the policy landscape between **2030 and 2050**
- ✓ Discusses **potential future disruptions** identified through extensive research, expert consultations, and workshops
- ✓ Features a **five-step foresight process**, guiding users to challenge assumptions, create scenarios, stress-test strategies, and develop actionable plans
- ✓ Includes **facilitation guides and case studies** to support effective implementation



25 possible future disruptions between 2030 and 2050



- ✓ Context
- ✓ Emerging evidence
- ✓ Possible future
- ✓ Policy options **in the future** in the event of each disruption (speculative)
- ✓ Policy options **today** to be better prepared for each possible disruption (grounded in OECD research)



Potential geopolitical disruption: **Tech Titans**



- Private companies displace governments
- Concentration of power through platform dominance
- Geopolitical agency independent of democratic mandate



Potential geopolitical disruption: **Rising Authoritarianism**



- Anti-democratic leaders undermine global cooperation
- State capture and domestic repression intensify
- Attempts to destabilise individual democracies



Foresight process to stress-test public policy





Megatrends & disruptions indicators

Why are they important?

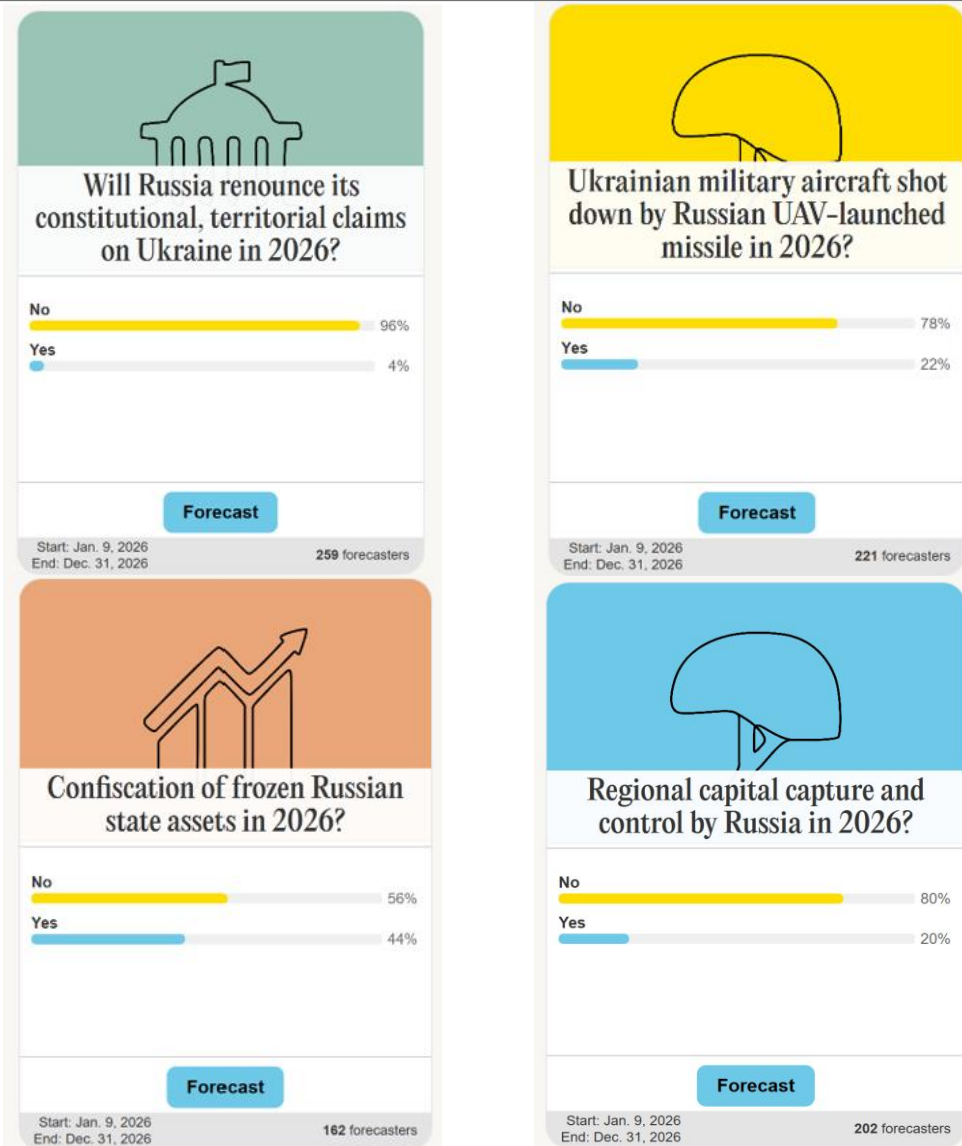
- ✓ Key forces impacting the development of economies and societies over time
- ✓ Help generate informed perspectives on plausible futures
- ✓ Support the design of resilient public policies through foresight processes

How are they used?

- ✓ Provide quantitative evidence for the creation of robust scenarios
- ✓ Help uncover surprising changes at the intersection of several policy areas



Innovative forecasting methods – crowd forecasting

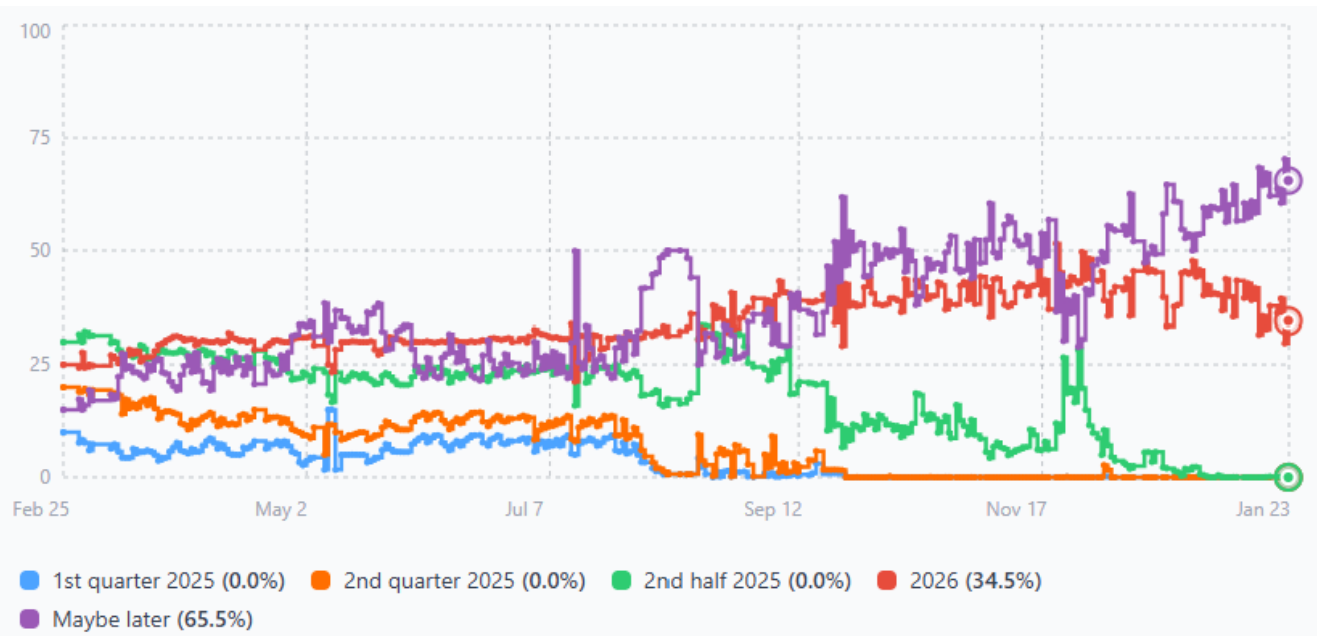


- **Collective intelligence** of many people making forecasts on the probability of certain events occurring
- **Glimt** – Open platform to support Ukraine's fight for its freedom



Innovative forecasting methods – AI forecasting

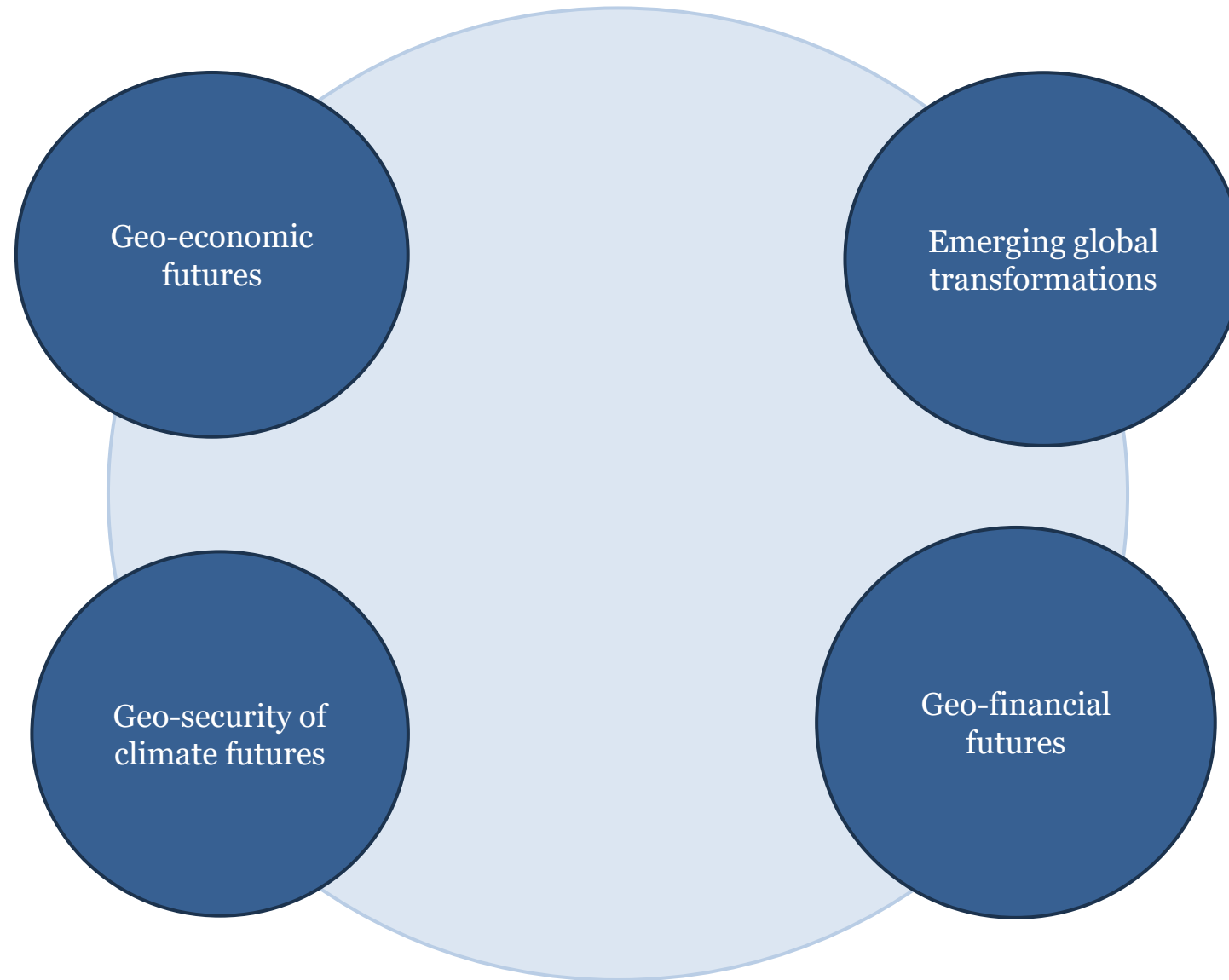
When will Russia cease active military hostilities against Ukraine?



- Predictive analytics at unparalleled speed and scale using generative AI models and real-time information
- Absolute probability levels and their change for signal detection
- **The Forecasting Machine** (Hypermind) – Paywalled platform



Multi-disciplinary dimensions of geopolitical futures



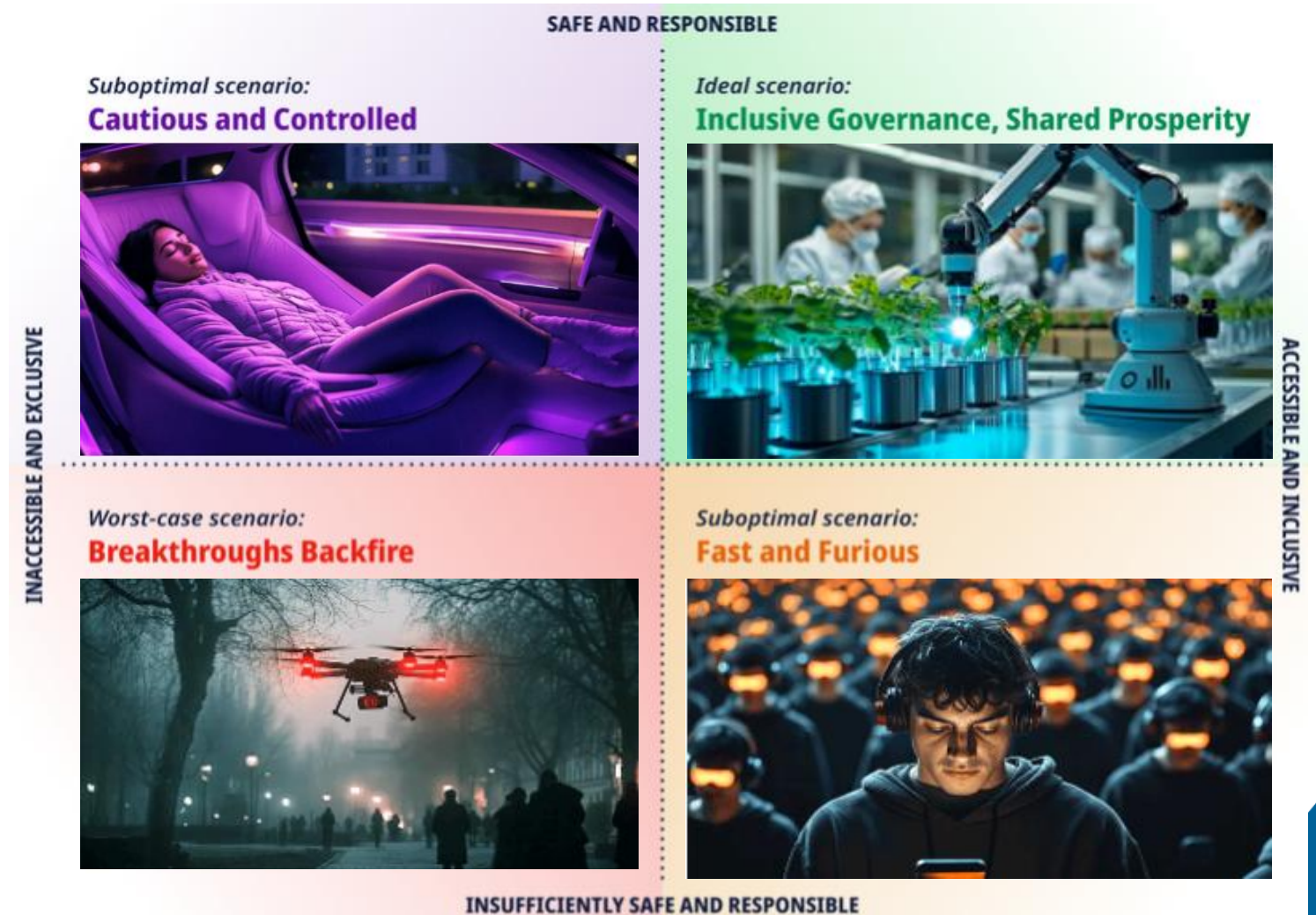


Geo-economic futures

- Scenarios for 2023 Global Strategy Group meeting *Redesigning Public Policies for the Evolving Geopolitical Realities: Implications for Public Finances and the Role of the OECD*
- Two thematic policy areas considered:
 - Bolstering trade and supply-chain resilience and financing the green transition
 - Addressing demographic challenges and strengthening relationships with developing and emerging economies



Emerging global transformations





Geo-security of climate futures

- Programme *Exploring Climate Cooling* of the UK's Advanced Research + Invention Agency (ARIA)
- *Strategic Foresight on Climate and Geopolitics: Toward governance of earth cooling approaches*
- Expected deliverables in 2026:
 - Extensive scientific literature review (OECD)
 - Review of existing governance frameworks (OECD)
 - Scenarios (Centre for Future Generations)
 - Crisis simulations (University of Leeds)



Geo-financial futures

- **Futures of Gold:** Work supported by Switzerland and the United Kingdom
- Multi-faceted features of gold:
 - Critical mineral
 - Hedge against uncertainty
 - Sanction evasion and illicit trade
 - Financial innovation (gold-backed stablecoins)
 - New digital currencies (prototype BRICS “Unit” with 40% of gold)



Capacity building



- ✓ **Training programme** for public officials designed to strengthen the use of strategic foresight in policymaking and governance
- ✓ **Highly customised**, year-long learning focused on addressing concrete policy challenges within institutional contexts
- ✓ Practical experience by **applying strategic foresight** across thematic policy dimensions, stages of the policy cycle, and organisational functions
- ✓ **Sustained engagement** with OECD foresight experts and a peer cohort for exchange, reflection, and learning throughout The Academy and beyond



THANK YOU!

Contact us: foresight@oecd.org

<https://www.oecd.org/en/about/programmes/strategic-foresight.html>