

Scanning the Horizon: Annual Meetings 2020, Part II

13 - 15 October 2020 online (3 x 2-hour sessions)

“Exploring Complex Potential Futures – Part II: Strategic Decision-making in a Whirly World”



Meeting concept

2 September 2020

In 2020, the Annual Meeting of the international civil society futures platform [Scanning the Horizon](#) is taking place in two split meeting formats between May (online) and October (online).

Our [first meeting in May](#) explored the ‘necessary but messy’ process of interconnected trends analysis, and challenges, assets and opportunities for increasing diversity and collaboration in this kind of integrated thinking, both within and beyond our sector. It provided space for mutual exchange and sharing of insights between ICSSOs

and other sectors – private, public, academia, philanthropy – on supporting and strengthening intersectional analysis for better organisational strategic decision-making.

This second online convening will pick up from these conversations, include new perspectives which reflect on recent developments over the past few months, resulting in ‘compound complexity’ for and also driving change in our sector, especially the COVID-19 pandemic and anti-racism conversations within and beyond our sector. Many organisations are now actively working on the implications of these factors, and their intersections, for their future strategic thinking.

The event will also be an important milestone to inform the Centre's development of a new sector guide to support ‘strategic decision-making in times of compound complexity and uncertainty’ which will be written – with further input from members of this community – over the winter for publication in early 2021.

Aims of the meeting

1. Reflect on and discuss the new developments which have emerged and interacted over the past six months in terms of major drivers, signals or implications for future change in our sector – COVID-19 and anti-racism in particular.
2. Share and discuss the outcomes from the ‘COVID-19-related complexity’ multi-organisation online discussion groups which have been active since the May meeting.
3. Develop practical recommendations and ideas for creative solutions for how organisations can engage strategically with navigating or shaping these future changes. These will be further developed into a [sector guide](#) strategic reference document after the meeting.
4. Outline initial high-level proposals for community membership, new ways of working and content for 2021.

If you need any further information, please email Vicky Tongue, Programme Manager – Futures and Innovation, at vtongue@icscentre.org.



Draft Agenda: October online sessions

Tuesday, 13 October – Session 1: New perspectives on compound complexity from the past six months

All online sessions from 15:00-17:00 CEST. Please adjust timings according to your time zone. The main content for this session will be released online 7-10 days before the event to registered participants.

00-10'	Welcome / Introductions / Agenda	Vicky Tongue and Wolfgang Jamann International Civil Society Centre
10-20'	Strategic summaries: Perspectives on 'compound complexity' from the past six months and strategic implications and ways forward Short inputs from the two main contributors <i>Please note that participants are strongly advised to engage with the in-depth content interviews released ahead of the meeting to maximise time for interactive discussion.</i>	Tanja Hichert , Futures & Foresight Practitioner, lecturer at Stellenbosch University's Centre for Complex Systems in Transition Degan Ali , Executive Director, Adeso Africa
20-30'	Contributor reactions to strategic summaries: Short reactions and responses	Tanja and Degan
30-90'	Community reactions to strategic summaries: Q&A and discussion between the contributors and audience members from the Scanning the Horizon community <i>Please note you will have the opportunity to submit questions in advance of the meeting, after engaging with the advance content</i>	Moderated by Vicky
90-120'	Zoom breakout group discussions: Small group discussions (and documentation via shared Google slides) of what these ideas might mean for strategic thinking/process Agenda for tomorrow and close	Multiple facilitators from the Scanning the Horizon community Vicky



Wednesday, 14 October – Session 2: COVID-19 complexity strategic insights from our sector

All online sessions from 15:00-17:00 CEST. Please adjust timings according to your time zone. The main content for this session will be released online 7-10 days before the event to registered participants.

00-05'	Welcome / Agenda	Vicky
05-30'	Strategic summaries: Perspectives on 'compound complexity' from the past six months and strategic implications Short inputs: 1. COVID-19 and shifting vulnerability and inequality 2. COVID-19 and climate action/people power 3. COVID-19 and shifting civic space 4. COVID-19 and shifting development co-operation <i>Please note that participants are strongly advised to engage with the in-depth content interviews released ahead of the meeting to maximise time for interactive discussion.</i>	Sue Birchmore , Strategy Technical Director, World Vision International Muthoni Muriu , Independent Samantha Albery , Senior Strategy and Learning Adviser, Mercy Corps William Garrod , Head of Global Strategic Planning and Performance, WaterAid
	Reactions to strategic summaries:	
30-90'	Introduction to the virtual 'fishbowl' format Short reactions from discussion group leads Responses and questions from audience members from the Scanning the Horizon community: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>What are the main strands – common and different – from these group conversations over the past months?</i>• <i>What do you find most surprising and interesting?</i>• <i>What are some of the emerging areas which organisations should think about more carefully in their current and future strategy processes?</i>	Moderated by Vicky Sue, Muthoni, Samantha and William



90-120'	Zoom breakout group discussions: Small group discussions (and documentation) of what these ideas might mean for strategic thinking/process (NB. Same groups as Day 1)	Multiple facilitators from the Scanning the Horizon community
	Agenda for tomorrow and close	Vicky

Thursday, 15 October – Session 3: Leading strategy in a ‘whirly’ world
All online sessions from 15:00-17:00 CEST. Please adjust timings according to your time zone.

00-05'	Welcome / Introductions	Vicky
05-70'	Strategic summaries: Reflections and recommendations on strategic decision-making from the past six months Re-introduction to the virtual ‘fishbowl’ format Short inputs from the four contributors, followed by audience responses and reactions on the following questions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><i>In relation to complexity and uncertainty over the past 6 months, what have you done (differently) in terms of strategy or foresight (process/decisions/tools/etc.)?</i><i>What have been the main risks/opportunities of the above?</i><i>As a ‘good ancestor’ to future strategists/foresighters living through similarly complex and uncertain times, what would be your main recommendations/lessons to share?</i>	Ismayil Tahmazov , Global Strategy Manager, Islamic Relief Worldwide Pierre-Olivier Bigo Policy Analyst, Global Foresight and Analysis Open Society Foundations Two other ICSO global strategists (TBC.) Moderated by Vicky
70-100'	Zoom breakout group discussions: Small group discussions (and documentation via shared Google slides) of key strategic recommendations as a collective of ‘good ancestors’ (NB. Same groups as Days 1-2)	Multiple facilitators from the Scanning the Horizon community
100-120'	Next steps	Vicky Tongue, ICS Centre
	Closing remarks	Wolfgang Jamann, ICS Centre