

# Scanning the Horizon Annual Meeting

## Strategic Foresight for critical times

**Date:** 18 - 20 June 2025

**Venue:** Nairobi, Kenya

### Background

Since 2016, the International Civil Society Centre has convened Annual Meetings for the Scanning the Horizon Community, the only collaborative trend scouting and analysis platform in the civil society sector.

The Centre's new strategic initiative "**Futures of (I)CSOs**" focuses on supporting organisations in implementing the transformational changes needed to become more agile, respond to emerging realities in our world and carve future-fit roles for themselves. Under this initiative, the Centre will strengthen the capacity of organisations in futures thinking and support proactive approaches for the sector. The offer for the Scanning Community will align to this theme, responding to recent changes in the sector over ODA funding and the overall decrease in traditional funding models. We will also bring together our established community working on power shift and localisation to have more just systems and models that are equitable, inclusive and locally led.

### Using futures thinking for long-term systemic change, beyond crisis response

As the sector grasps with existential challenges, organisations are increasingly faced with fundamental questions about their purpose and the need to re-examine their structures to adapt to rising complex challenges. The 2025 Annual Meeting will explore future thinking methodologies to inform decision-making and help organisations future-proof their mandates and become more resilient. During the event, we will engage members in scenario planning and trends scanning exercises to improve strategy development and strengthen future literacy, providing them with tools and discussion space to improve their readiness for the emerging geopolitical and financial obstacles the sector is facing.

The Annual Meeting will focus on futures of localisation in the sector and future roles of ICSOs. The meeting will begin with a full combined day with the Centre's power shift community, convening for the [Power Shift Lab](#). The Lab is an annual flagship event that brings together senior leaders to learn from best practices and deepen their understanding of inclusive governance mechanisms and transformation pathways. During the first day, the two communities will exchange on possible futures of localisation and jointly take part in an envisioning workshop to develop preferable futures for civil society and the role of ICSOs and local CSOs.

### Objectives

The objectives of the meeting are to provide members with response tools, space for knowledge-sharing and inspiration on anticipatory action.

More specifically, the event will aim to:



- Enable the embedding of foresight processes in strategic development
- Foster collaboration and insight sharing to identify trends and preferable futures
- Highlight tools and practices to translate futures thinking into longer term organisational planning
- Enable learning from diverse and participatory approaches for futures thinking
- Facilitate the exploration and reflection on how to bring learning, approaches and methodologies back to your own organisations

The event will take place over two and a half days, encompassing workshops, peer and joint exchanges and engagements with local foresight experts and local organisations working on futures. In preparation for the event the Centre will engage members of the Scanning Community to shape the sessions and the agenda according to participants' needs.

## Draft Agenda

### Wednesday, 18 June

Time	Item
08:30 – 09:00	<b>Arrival and registration</b>
09:00 – 10:00	Welcome, introduction, agenda setting
10:00 – 11:00	Making room for futures thinking
11:00 - 11:30	<b>Coffee break</b>
11:30 – 13:00	Workshop part I: Envisioning exercise to develop preferable futures for civil society
13:00 – 14:00	<b>Lunch</b>
14:00 – 16:00	Workshop part II: Envisioning exercise to develop preferable futures for civil society
16:00 – 17:00	Summary & next steps
17:00 - 18:30	<b>Tea &amp; Networking</b>
18:30 -	<b>Reception Dinner</b>

### Thursday 19 June

Time	Item
08:30 – 09:00	<b>Welcome coffee</b>
09:00 – 09:30	Welcome and agenda setting
09:30 – 11:00	Trends and signal scanning for decision-making: inputs and mapping
11:00 – 11:30	<b>Coffee break</b>
11:30 – 13:00	Group discussions and reporting of insights



13:00 – 14:00	<b>Lunch</b>
14:00 – 15:30	Anticipate and accelerate new models for civil society organisations
15:30 – 17:00	Peer exchanges: using foresight for strategic planning and engaging leadership in foresight work
17:00 – 17:30	Wrap up and outlook into day 3
17:30 – 18:30	<b>Free for individual activities</b>
18:30 -	<b>Dinner</b>

### Friday, 20 June

Time	Item
08:30 – 09:00	<b>Arrival and welcome coffee</b>
09:00 – 09:30	Welcome and agenda
09:30 – 10:30	Moving forward with futures: practical ways to embed and take forward future thinking approaches
10:30 – 11:00	<b>Coffee break</b>
11:00 – 12:00	Digital technology to respond to challenges: learning from ancestral technology for futures thinking (TBC)
12:00 – 13:00	Takeaways, next steps and conclusions
13:00 – 14:00	<b>Farewell Lunch</b>