



# STRATEGIC FORESIGHT

 Application Deadline : 13<sup>rd</sup> February 2026

 Starting Date : 16<sup>th</sup> February 2026

 4 Weeks

 CERTIFICATE



ONLINE COURSE

Languages : English - French

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# STRATEGIC FORESIGHT

## CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

### ANNOUNCEMENT IN BRIEF

Type : Short Term Course

Programme Area : Development

Date : 16th February to 13th March 2026

Duration : 4 weeks

Languages : English - French

Location : Web Based E-Learning

Fee : Covered by the UNECA

Application Deadline : 13th Februray 2026



N.B.: IDEP strongly encourages and supports the participation of suitably qualified female civil servants in its capacity-building and training program.

# PROGRAM RATIONALE

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted by UN Member States in 2015, includes 17 Goals, 169 targets, and 231 indicators, and is anchored in human rights. The SDGs represent a shift from the earlier Millennium Development Goals (2000–2015) by being more universal, transformative, inclusive, and comprehensive.

However, the pace of progress is falling short. According to The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2025, fewer than one in five (about 16.7 %) of SDG targets are currently on track globally. In 2025, an estimated 808 million people, roughly 9.9 % of the world population, are living in extreme poverty under the updated threshold of USD 3.00/day (2021 PPP). As far as gender equality is concerned, there is still a lot of work to be done; by 2030 approximately 351 million women and girls will still be living in extreme poverty (UNSD, 2025). Despite gains in education completion rates, 272 million children and youth remain out of school, and learning outcomes are worsening in many places. Conflicts and wars inflict a devastating toll on SDGs as the number of forcibly displaced and stateless people could reach 139.3 million across 136 countries and territories by end-2025 (UNHCR projections).

Global shocks such as COVID-19 pandemic and the conflict between Ukraine and Russia have challenged development goals and led to a common reflection on how member states can deal with current challenges as well as new threats in the future.

The SDGs Summit, held on 18–19 September 2023, marked the launch of a new phase of accelerated action to rescue the 2030 Agenda and put the world back on track towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Building on this momentum, the Summit of the Future, convened on 22–23 September 2024, provided a once-in-a-generation opportunity to strengthen international cooperation, address critical gaps in global governance, and reaffirm commitments to the SDGs and the United Nations Charter. The Summit concluded with the adoption of the Pact for the Future, a landmark outcome document that sets out concrete measures to reinvigorate multilateralism, enhance global solidarity, and ensure that international institutions are better equipped to deliver for people and the planet.

Concerning Africa, it is important to look closely at all the dynamics underpinning its development to achieve a sustained and long-term growth across the continent beyond SDGs timeline.

The foresight analysis provides useful tools to reflect on long term development strategies in an uncertain and complex environment whereby future challenges can emerge. It uses a holistic approach that embeds all actors, analyzes the possible scenarios that may occur based on the present and past events and informs decision makers accordingly.

Considering the above, the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning (IDEPO) has designed a training programme on **“Strategic Foresight”**.

# OBJECTIVES

The course will capacitate learners on the implication of global megatrends for the future of the world and its implication for Africa. They will receive insights into the role of strategic foresight in conceptualizing long-term development strategies for the continent. They will also have a good understanding of key concepts and various analytical stages of the strategic foresight approach.

# CONTENT

The course will cover the following modules:

- Module 1: Challenges and catalysts: Rethinking development planning in Africa
- Module 2: History, development and practices of foresight
- Module 3: The fundamentals of foresight
- Module 4: Foresight approaches and tools
- Module 5: From anticipation to action

## SKILLS TO BE IMPARTED

At the end of the course, participants will be equipped with the essential skills to anticipate and plan effectively. More specifically the following skills will be imparted:

- Ø Environmental Scanning and Trend Analysis: The course should teach participants how to systematically scan the external environment for trends, disruptions, and weak signals. The ability to analyse these trends and understand their implications is crucial for effective foresight work.
- Ø Scenario Planning: Teaching participants how to create and use scenarios to explore different plausible future outcomes, considering a range of variables and uncertainties. Scenario planning helps organizations prepare for various contingencies and develop adaptable strategies.
- Ø Strategic Thinking: Developing the capacity to think strategically, emphasizing long-term goals and objectives while considering the broader context. This includes the ability to assess the implications of decisions on the organization's mission and vision.

## PEDAGOGICAL APPROACH & MODE OF DELIVERY

This self-paced course will be delivered from 16<sup>th</sup> February to 13<sup>th</sup> March 2026.

Virtual sessions are also planned for more interaction between the pedagogical team and the learners. These latter can self-assess their understanding of learning materials through built-in quizzes and exercises.

Additional resources, including suggested readings, bibliographies, Internet links and optional reading are provided for participants who wish to deepen their knowledge on the course topic. The course will be delivered in English and French. The pedagogical team is comprised of a Course Director, and a Tutor who will provide daily on-line assistance to participants at scheduled times. An Internet connection is required for interaction between learners and trainers.

The course will run over a period of four (4) Weeks.

# CERTIFICATE OF COMPLETION

A Certificate of Completion will be issued by IDEP to all participants who successfully complete the course-related self-assessments for each module.

## TARGET AUDIENCE

The course targets:

- national officials involved in national economic management and development planning-related activities,
- United Nations Development Coordination Officers /Economists.
- Members of the ECA-Young Economic Network (YEN) are also encouraged to participate.

## ACCEPTANCE TO THE COURSE

Until the registration deadline, participants are accepted to the course on a rolling basis and subject to availability of slots. Please refer to the paragraph above to see priority target group. Applications must be completed exclusively on IDEP online application platform at: <http://idep-applications.unecea.org/>

## TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS

Internet access is essential for taking part in the course. To follow this online course, you need at least the hardware and software indicated. Please consult your network administrator or IT department manager to ensure that you have the following items:

- System: Windows 10 or higher; Mac OS 9 or Mac OS X; Linux
- Memory 500 MB RAM, 1 GB free space
- Software :
  - Adobe Acrobat Reader
  - Microsoft Office (Windows or Mac) or Open Office
  - Microsoft Edge, Google Chrome, Firefox browsers
- Modem : 56 K
- Please note that JavaScript, cookies and pop-ups must be enabled.

## IMPORTANT DATES

- Deadline for Applications and Nominations: 13rd February 2026
- Course Period: from 16<sup>th</sup> February to 13<sup>th</sup> March 2026

## CONTACT INFORMATION

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N.B.: IDEP strongly encourages and supports the participation of suitably qualified female civil servants in its capacity-building and training program.