

N100 Expert Panel - April - Agenda, Discussion Priorities & Questions

Agenda for the 1st Expert Panel (approx. 2 hours):

1. Short introduction
 2. A reminder of the discussion priorities (see page 2)
 3. Open floor for discussion
 4. Answering the questions (see page 2)
 5. Closing
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The 2022 N100 symposium will convene experts from across academic disciplines and public and private sectors to assess the role of big data and AI as they relate to trends analysis in the following strands:

1. **“Taming Volatility”** -- Global inflation; food and energy prices; scarcity and its social, political and geopolitical impact
2. **“Digitally Challenged”** – The great digital divide; digital multilateralism; digital governance
3. **“Globally Unchained”** – Global value and supply chains; Global "de-coupling" or “de-globalization”
4. **“Keeping the Lights On”** – Energy and energy transitions; resources and rare Earth materials
5. **“New Polarity”** – Geopolitics in the 21st Century; space, cyber, AI and defence; the Arctic; warfare & weapons

Prior to the symposium, two **expert panels** will prepare position papers that will serve as the basis of the discussion for panellists and participants at N100. The **first panel** will consist of multi-disciplinary experts from across the social sciences, economy, government and business representatives who will come together to answer a series of guiding questions about trends in their area of focus. This group will meet in April 2022.

The **second panel**, which will meet in June 2022, will consist of experts specializing in new technologies: data, foresight, general methodology, Artificial Intelligence, Natural Language Processing, robotics and informatics. The second Panel’s directive will be to process the results and deliberations of the first working group and assess the possibilities of resolving the issues that came out through technological means. It will also determine the variety of opportunities that different technologies offer to each of the sub-themes discussed.

A **final meeting of both expert panels** will take place at the start of September to merge the ideas of both the social science, and the technology and foresight experts to bridge the divide and create a new space for truly interdisciplinary dialogue.

The responses to these questions, and the outcomes of all the meetings, will then inform the programme of the Next 100 Symposium, setting the stage for robust, interdisciplinary discussions generating and mobilizing new forms of knowledge and thought-leadership.



Discussion Priorities

1. Assess the status and future of the rules-based international order (that emerged after the Second World War)
2. Explore the potential of big data and artificial intelligence for trends forecasting across a wide spectrum of issues affecting international affairs as well as the other 5 N100 strands (see above)

Questions

1. What is the most likely development for the next 30 years in your particular issue area?
 - a. What were the key developments in your area in the past that have shaped the issue areas?
 - b. What are the underlying assumptions for your view?
2. What is the ideal outcome for your issue area 30 years from now?
 - a. How does the world get there? What are the obstacles? What will happen if we do not succeed?
 - b. What are the first practical and realistic steps towards this goal?
3. What are the most authoritative sources/papers/networks that help shape your (expert's) opinion?

4. What do you (your sector) need to know about the future and don't?

5. If you could come up with a wish list to leverage big data and AI to inform trends analysis in area "x", what would you wish for? What would you want to know? What patterns would you like big data and AI to reveal?
6. How confident would you be in the results of big data/AI trends forecasting in your issue area?
7. What qualitative or subject matter expertise is required to make sense of quantitative trends forecasting? (For example, how much knowledge of value networks is needed in order to understand supply chain issues?)

