A World-Readiness Toolkit for Organizational Foresight

1 Begin
with the World-Readiness Guide
to quickly familiarize yourself with
the tools and resources you’ll need for
making sense of the coming decade.

2 Read
the Map of the Decade, which overviews
the major power shifts that will redefine the
boundaries of the business landscape.

3 Play
the set of 18 Scenario Cards, which present
high-risk possibilities emerging from the extreme
global forces of climate change, automation, and
institutional volatility between now and 2030.
Your tools to respond are six Superpower
Cards, which are levers to build resilience and
find optimistic, transformational responses to the
challenges of the next decade.

Navigating the Age of Distributed Superpowers

We live in the age of distributed superpowers, where global impact is as likely to come from market-leading institutions as it is from individual teenagers. Where every new opportunity is created and monetized more quickly than the last, but every vulnerability is discovered and exploited at an equally frantic pace. Where markets and supply chains are more efficient and interconnected than ever before, cities larger and more diverse, tools cheaper and more capable, but economic disparities are wider and more contested, political institutions rockier and more distrusted, and temperatures hotter and more extreme.

Power can be thought of as the ability to shape consequences. The ten-year horizon promises new capacities to effect change at unprecedented speed and scale, but also with consequences—both intentional and unforeseen—that arrive just as quickly and will continue to reverberate long after we’re gone.

Though no one can predict the future, these strategic foresight tools have been designed to empower you and your organization to anticipate emerging challenges and identify new opportunities in the volatile future landscape. The true benefit of these tools is World-Readiness, which has been a part of IFTF’s mission for over fifty years.
IMMERSE YOURSELF IN THE CHANGING LANDSCAPE

The Map of the Decade details the power shifts that will redefine the boundaries of the business landscape across food, health, technology, identity, cities, climate, and assets. This 30,000 foot view will help you to gain your bearings in this volatile landscape, and align your business strategies and risk models with a world that is becoming more complex and more interconnected than ever before.

PREPARE FOR A RANGE OF HIGH-ImpACT, PLAUSIBLE SCENARIos

Among the many factors influencing the next decade, three extreme forces stand out as particularly impactful: climate change, automation, and institutional volatility. This World Readiness Toolkit is designed to help prepare you for plausible, high-risk scenarios of the next decade by putting them on your radar before you’re suddenly confronted with them. Each of the 18 scenarios in this toolkit represents a plausible high-impact possibility from the next decade catalyzed by one of these three extreme forces.

FIND THE TRANSFORMATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

This toolkit features six superpowers, distributed to a wide range of new and old actors, that will largely determine the shape of the future we find ourselves in ten years from now. These superpowers are levers to build resilience and find optimistic, transformational responses to the challenges of the next decade.

INSTITUTE FOR THE FUTURE

IFTF is the world’s leading futures thinking organization. For over 50 years, businesses, governments, and social impact organizations have depended upon IFTF global forecasts, custom research, and foresight training to navigate complex change and develop world-ready strategies. IFTF methodologies and toolsets yield coherent views of transformative possibilities across all sectors that together support a more sustainable future. Institute for the Future is a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization based in Palo Alto, California.

FUTURE 50

IFTF’s Future 50 partnership provides strategic foresight and unique visions of transformative possibilities to future-smart organizations. It offers research-based perspectives, global expertise, signals of change, and specialized data to help organizations transform urgent foresight into actionable insight. IFTF’s Future 50 partners invest in critical research, enlightened facilitation, and strategic experimentation to share the future of a world in flux.