

Sesión 5. El estado del arte en materia de comisiones de futuro parlamentarias en el mundo. Experiencias exitosas.

Presentación 4, Sirkka Heinonen, PhD, Profesora Emérita, Centro de Investigación de Futuro de Finlandia (FFRC), Universidad de Turku:

Ladies and gentlemen, distinguished representatives of the Latin American committees of the future, it is a great pleasure to give you virtual greetings from Finland to this important first regional parliamentary foresight conference in Chile.

Finland is the country of the future. With only a very small population of five and a half million, we have always had to be very vigilant and set our eyes on the future.

For survival, both because of harsh and demanding weather conditions, and on the other hand due to geopolitical constraints and conundrums.

Through our national characteristics, which is a cognitive and psychological element called SISU, we look constantly and systematically to the future. It is our striving to preserve equality, independence, democracy and social welfare as the basic pillars of our country.

My warmest congratulations to Chile for organizing this first regional conference on parliamentary committees of the future in Latin America. It is a great pleasure to be invited to convey my thoughts on the Finnish national foresight ecosystem.

I am currently Professor Emilie Länth in the Future Research Center, which is the academic future studies unit and department at the University of Turku. (presentación en video)

FFRC was established in 1992, and we conduct research, train students in our international master's program as well as doctoral program. In addition, we wish to have a societal impact and support decision makers at all levels in society.

My most recent projects have me concerned with the future of cities, security, crisis management and the transformation of work and work life.

I also bring you greetings from the Finnish Society for Future Studies, which was founded in 1980, in which I have been active since its early years as an ordinary member, secretary general, chairman, member of the board and now as an on-court member.

It has also been most interesting to monitor the development of our entire national foresight ecosystem. In my opinion, the Finnish Committee on the Future has a very special role and importance in the Finnish national foresight ecosystem.

It is usually effective to promote a field if there are enthusiastic, knowledgeable and visionary pioneers.

Professor Petteri Mäskä, the founder, first chairman and honorary chairman of the Finnish Society for Future Studies, is a pioneer in future research. There is a book about his achievements and thinking that is available online for all.

He considered the establishment and operation of the Futures Committee to be groundbreaking. Our Society of the Finnish Future Studies, as a kind of middle-life community, strongly proposed and supported the creation of the Committee on the Future.

Mäskä also later launched the concept of futures policy. It was central, on one hand, to make the knowledge produced by future research available to business makers in both the private and public sectors.

And, on the other hand, the mission of the Committee on the Future of the Parliament to secure and pile the future of our society through parliamentary names.

Pioneers create the future. The establishment of the Committee on the Future was also influenced by other pioneers who worked at the Finnish Society for Future Studies. Such pioneers as Professor Eero Kalohe, Madam Archimandriou, to mention the few most important ones.

In order to create futures awareness, we need passionate pioneers who are dedicated to the cause. They are bearers of the futures champion and path showing torch. So I have even developed a methodology how we follow pioneers and we can learn from them.

For a successful national foresight ecosystem, we also need infrastructure. That means

structures and stages where the drama of the future can be presented. This means a dialogue about what is the best shared vision for a country.

The Futures Committee itself is also a pioneer. We have received concrete proof of this from the First World Summit of the Committees on the Future, organised in Finland, in 2022, followed by the second meeting held in Budapest last year.

Jeroen Glenn, the director of the Illinois Project of the Global Think Tank, who is an honorary member of the Finnish Society for Future Studies as well, has closely followed the development in Finland. I am here also bringing his greetings to this conference. He was very pleased to learn and hear that this is going to be arranged.

Jeroen Glenn sees the role of the Finnish Committee of the Future as a global beacon that shines a light on the governments of other countries and their plans to establish singular bodies to navigate the turbulent seas of world politics.

He specifically trusts the expertise of the Finnish Futures Committee and he wants us to convey these practices. We are, of course, very open and humbled to help anyone who wants to learn and hear about our past experiences and activities in the field of future studies. This applies not only to the parliamentary committee but also to our academic research and education.

A visionary society, a future-oriented society, is still only a work in progress for the time being. Or perhaps it will always be a continuous dynamic learning process. It has to be built on a future orientation that penetrates all levels and factors of society.

The awareness of the future has been one of the basic elements of the Finnish Society for Future Studies from the beginning, close to the heart of this process.

The aim of the Finnish Society for Future Studies was to unite the two pillars of society in the society's whole activities. Scientific society on one hand and government, parliamentary and civil society organizations on the other hand.

And the blue is this future story awareness. It means systematically thinking about the future and to put that kind of future thinking into action.

The decisions and choices we make at the present moment influence and shape the future. Being aware of the future means, first of all, a strong belief in the future that we will go and manage together and not leave anyone behind.

Secondly, future's awareness is recognizing alternatives and choosing bold pathways to make sustainable changes.

Thirdly, future's awareness is citing outrace also to cover future's resilience.

Future's literacy, as we know it by Real Millery in Moscow, helps us to recognize the potential of futures hidden in the present.

However, I encourage the future's committees to pay attention to future's literacy, especially as it expands the future's resilience.

Prices are the new normal and all committees of the future, and I presume this objective might be very appropriate for Latin American committees of the future, committees should aim for future's resilience and how they could develop that in their own country and region.

However, the prices should not be allowed to discourage us or anyone in society.

Preparing for them and surviving them can be learned and practiced, as we have done in research projects in our future's clinics where we immerse ourselves in future crisis situations.

For example, two years ago we conducted a futures clinic where the event of a total power outage had happened, or a dramatic heat wave had happened, or an enemy attacked Finland, or a mental health bomb exploded.

So we visualized different prices through future's resilience, then we started thinking what are means and instruments how we can survive them.

Future's awareness creates the basis for creating and strengthening future's resilience.

The interaction between the Finnish Society for Future Studies, the Finland Future Research Centre, and the Finnish Committee of the Future,

this interaction has been frictionless and it continues from the beginning.

So the committee invited and almost invites diverse experts from multiple backgrounds and

multiple institutes to hear about the most diverse topics.

This creates fertile soil for continuous and multifaceted dialogue that the Committee of the Future can provide.

Now that the Finnish Committee of the Future as an institute is already 13 years old, it should be looking into the future for the next 13 years.

In fact, I proposed to the Finnish Committee of the Future, and now I have the pleasure of proposing to Latin American communities of the future, two enduring topics in the field of future research, one is work and the other is comprehensive security.

Would Latin American committees of the future be interested in pursuing these topics?

Now we are at a completely new threshold in terms of both these things, both from the perspective of world politics, the welfare gap, the escalation of geopolitical conflicts, and this hybrid age when these concepts are apt to change very quickly emerge and confuse and re-politicise.

In terms of social cohesion, the main focus should be on providing meaningful activities for citizens, for everyone.

The focus of security also changes over time and with the world around us.

Examples include cyber security, food security, water security, phone security, gene security, etc. border security and even space security.

This June, just a week ago, the Finland Food Search Research Centre organised our international conference in tour of Finland.

We conducted in cooperation with Aalto University and the Finnish Society for the Future Studies a special millennium project session.

We used various future studies methods as illustrations how we can address complex issues.

Such future clinics might be illustrative for Latin American committees of the future too.

This year we also tackled the futures of work through paradox work.

It is a new method which means that we address the topics of work through paradoxes to deconstruct the topic and start deeper conversations.

Señoras y señores, once again thank you very much for the invitation to do the talk to do with this conference.

We have both the challenging and rewarding future ahead of us far into the horizon to help make the better world.

It all starts from local and regional level with deeply futures-oriented mindset and we just have to bear in mind that collaboration is needed critically.

Above all, continuous dialogue is the key to successful foresight endeavors. Thank you very much for your attention.

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