

Abstract

‘Infusing Foresight and Risk Assessment into the Decision Making Processes in the Executive Office of the President: A Formal U.S. Proposal’

For nearly six years, the Vision Working Group of the Project on National Security Reform in the United States has been exploring improved methods that the U.S. government should develop and use in its decision-making processes in the Executive Office of the President. Currently, there are no mechanisms to use foresight or risk assessment for whole of government planning, though these tools are used in pockets within the Agencies and Departments.

This paper will discuss how decision support tools and capabilities such as forecasting, economic and political risk assessments and scenario-based planning should ideally be organized and formally used across the board in the Executive Office of the President of the United States. The Vision Working Group’s efforts to trial some of the processes will be discussed along with the findings of our years of study including the outcomes of the development of nine scenarios representing a fifty year period that were used to stress test the overall findings of the Project on National Security Reform that were presented to the Congress and the President of the United States.