



کنفرانس ملی آینده نگاری فناوری و نوآوری و نقش آن در حکمرانی



Iran Technology & Innovation Foresight & Governance Conference (ITIFGC)

پنل اول

آینده نگاری فناوری و نوآوری و نقش آن در حکمرانی



رضا حافظی

عضو هیئت علمی مؤسسه تحقیقات سیاست علمی کشور





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Behind the STI Governance

پشت پرده حکمرانی علم، فناوری و نوآوری

رضا حافظی
عضو هیئت علمی گروه مطالعات آینده علم و فناوری
مؤسسه تحقیقات سیاست علمی کشور





Problem Formulation



Why do developing nations invest billions in STI but still face persistent gaps?

- Global South invests heavily in STI, yet persistent **implementation gaps** remain.
- Traditional explanations:
 - Weak institutions
 - Resource limits
 - Bureaucratic fragmentation
- But a deeper factor is often overlooked.





The Realist–Liberal (network) Spectrum



- Here you can see the two approaches we used to differentiate different systems in our research:
- **Realist**-leaning governments tend to adopt centralized, top-down approaches, prioritizing strategic autonomy, protectionism, and limited international engagement
- **Liberal/network**-oriented systems typically embrace open knowledge exchanges, multilateral collaborations, and participatory governance, emphasizing transparency and institutional accountability as central principles

Please note that some of the analyses in this presentation are based on available online data, which may have led to minor misunderstandings. However, the results remain valid.

I don't see any advantage for either approach, and each may be more efficient than the other under specific conditions.



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The Realist–Liberal Spectrum: dimensions of governance



Dimension	Realist Orientation	Liberal Orientation
Cooperation Openness	Bilateral, strategic alliances only; minimal external input	Multilateral participation; openness to external expertise
IP & Knowledge Sharing	Strong national IP protectionism; limited tech diffusion	Open IP policies; tech licensing and public knowledge access
Multilateral Engagement	Low or transactional engagement with global STI institutions	Active integration with international STI frameworks
Stakeholder Breadth	Centralized control by executive agencies	Inclusion of academia, industry, civil society in co-design
Budgetary Commitment	Project-based funding, prone to political shifts	Multi-year budgets with cross-party or statutory support



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Comparative Cases (1/2)



Country	Development-philosophy orientation	STI governance approach (headline)	Key policy instruments / flagships	Historical shifts
Iran	Realist-ideological sovereignty focus	Centralized, ministry-segmented	Vision 1404, targeted subsidies	Little reform since 2005
South Africa	Hybrid (liberation realism → incremental liberal)	Inclusionary yet fragmented	STI Decadal Plan, R&D tax credits, SKA	Gradual liberalization post-1994
India	Pragmatic hybrid, “Atmanirbhar” autonomy	Mission-driven planning + market tools	Digital India, Startup India, Atal Innovation Mission	Steady liberal turn since 1991
Korea	Realist developmental → liberal-technocratic	Coordinated state–chaebol, open missions	5th Basic S&T Plan, export incentives	Major shift late 1980s–2000s
China	Pragmatic realist, techno-nationalist	State-directed “megaproject” model	14th FYP, <i>Made in China 2025</i> , mega-funds	Openness under tight control



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Comparative Cases (2/2)



Country	Development-philosophy orientation	STI governance approach (headline)	Key policy instruments / flagships	Historical shifts
Brazil	Import-substitution → partial liberal blend	State-bank-centered finance	BNDES innovation loans, EMBRAP II	Swing back to activist 2020s
Saudi Arabia	Petro-realist → techno-national Vision state	Top-down megaproject portfolio	Vision 2030 programs, NEOM, AI policy	Reform wave since 2016
Ukraine	Sovereignty-first realism + open-source ingenuity	Crisis-innovation networks	Defense-tech drones, Diia digital state	War-driven 2022→
Chile	Neo-liberal export base + emerging “network state”	Public–private green missions	Green H ₂ Action Plan 2023-30, CORFO funds	Pivot 2020-present



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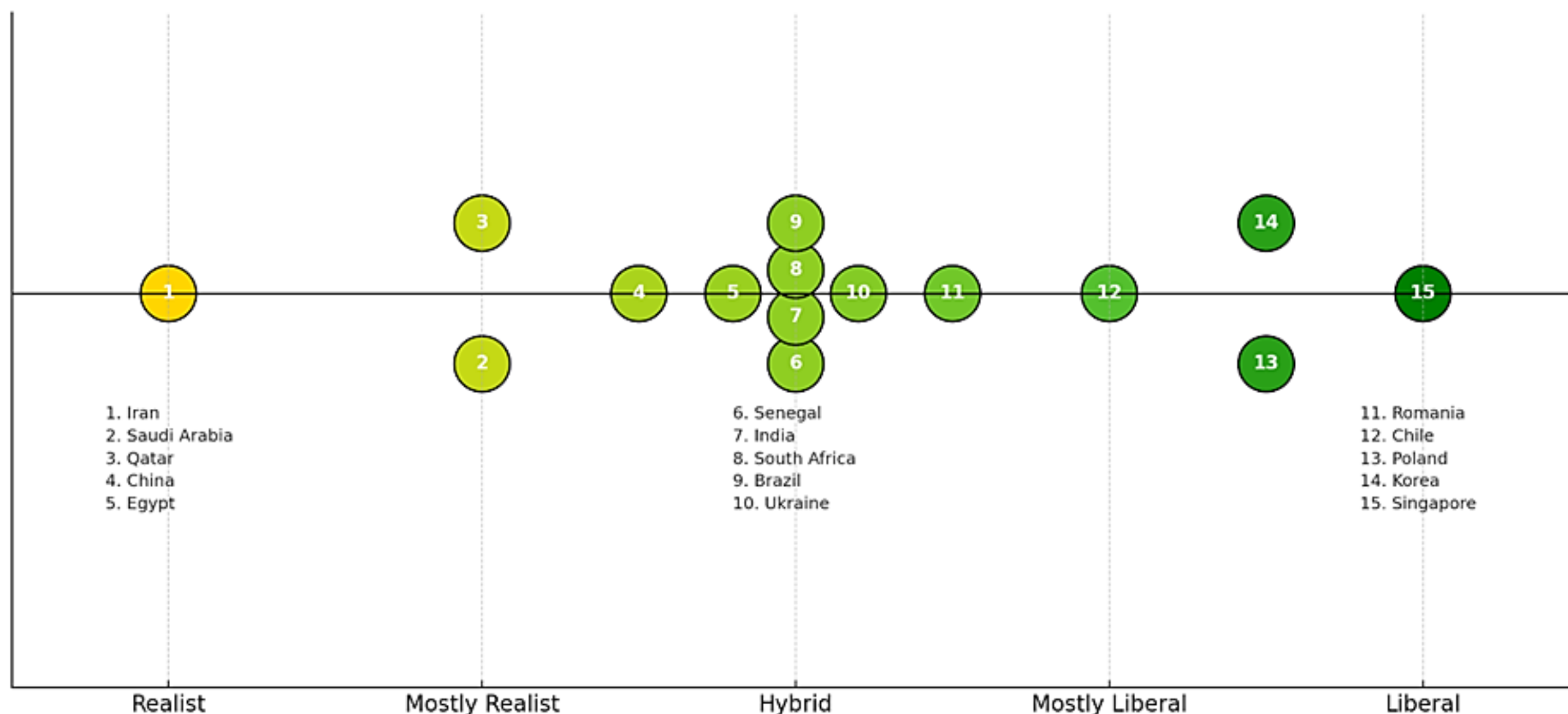


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Spectrum of Development Philosophies



Development Philosophy Spectrum (Realist → Liberal)



This figure turns the comparison matrix into a quick visual scan. Each bubble shows where a country sits on the Realist → Liberal line, with colors shifting from yellow (strong realist) to deep green (strong liberal). The bold numbers inside the bubbles match the mini-legend just under the axis, so readers can find the country name in one second.

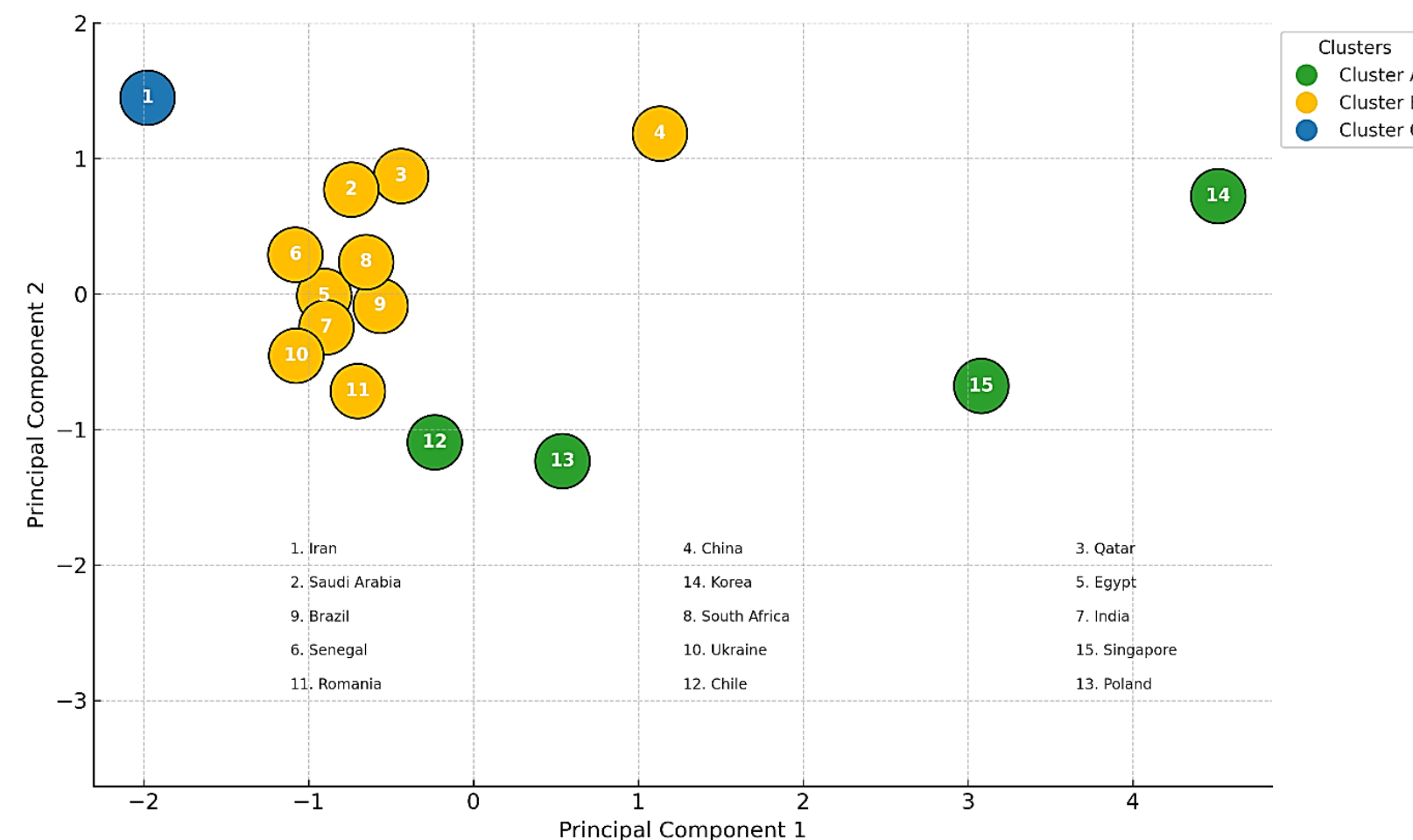


Machine-Learning Check



- Techniques: **K-means** clustering + **PCA**
- Message: *STI Governance philosophy aligns with performance indicators (R&D, patents, institutions)*

- **Liberal systems:** steady funding, openness, accountability.
- **Hybrid systems:** need coordination to reconcile autonomy & collaboration.
- **Realist systems:** require multi-year budgets, audits, and wider stakeholder engagement.





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Policy Hints



Korea (1980s):

Moved from realist (state-controlled, closed) to liberal (open, export-oriented, collaborative).
illustrate ideology shift → innovation boom.



Ukraine:

Crisis-driven innovation where war forced a compression of cycles, and also forced a rapid adaptation..
crises as accelerators → compressed innovation cycles



“These cases prove that philosophy is not destiny and may evolve over time, the STI governance approaches can recalibrate”



Global South Landscape



Global South : mostly hybrids and pragmatic realists.



- **Shared challenges**: fragmentation, volatility, limited trust (due to the limited involvement of stakeholders)
- **Shared strengths**: fiscal resources, large markets, geopolitical influence

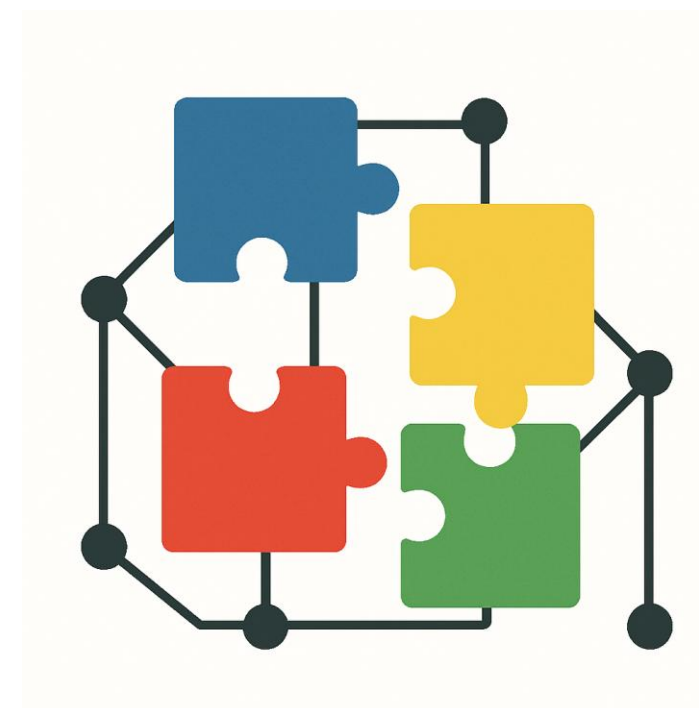


- **Common global challenges** (that all nations are struggling with): Flexibility, Coherence



The Opportunity

- Convert STI governance philosophical diversity → innovation complementarity.
- Turn fragmented STI strategies into shared roadmaps.
- Build trust across different orientations.



“Development philosophy is a hidden driver of STI performance. But through shared foresight, developing nations can overcome divides and accelerate innovation.”

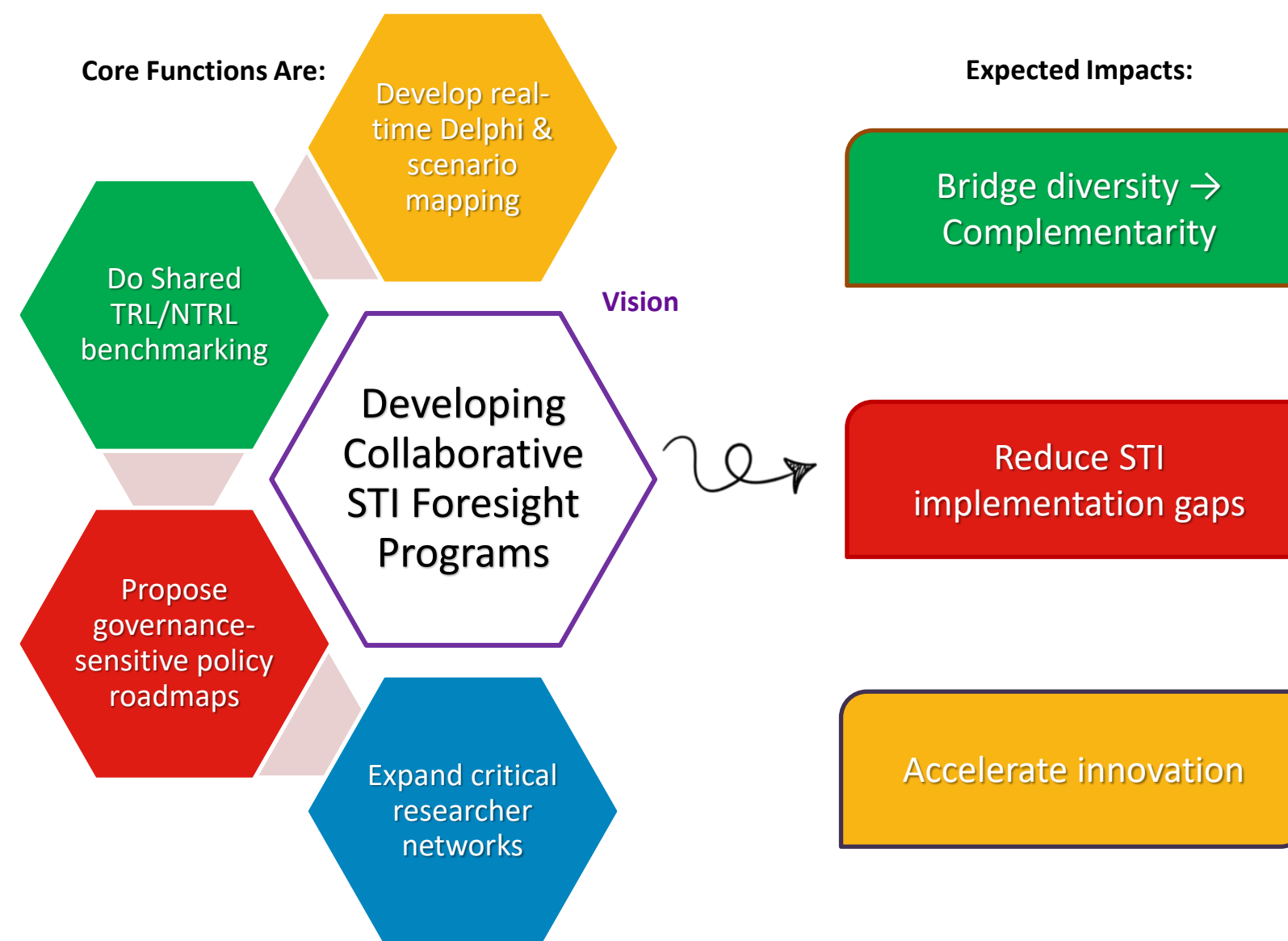


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Turning Diversity into Foresight Power



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پاس از توجه شما

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