

THE RIGHT INVITATION

A workbook
for creative
transformation



UN
GLOBAL
PULSE

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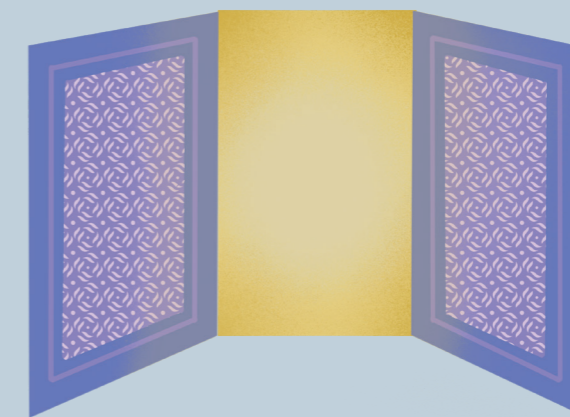
UN Global Pulse is the Secretary General's Innovation Lab. We work at the intersection of innovation and the human sciences to inform, inspire and strengthen the ability of the United Nations family and those it serves to anticipate, respond and adapt to the challenges of today and tomorrow.

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Made possible thanks to the generous support of the
Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland.



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UN Global Pulse
2023

This workbook is intended as a companion to the UN Global Pulse research paper *'The Most Creative Look To The Future: Imagination and Creative Practice in Service of Organizational Transformation'*. The paper makes the case that integrating imagination, art and creative practice is essential for organizations like the UN to meet 21st century challenges.

In this workbook you will find prompts for reflection, experimentation and creative expression, that we hope will help the reader to digest our research and embody it in a different way - making this workbook itself an example of imagination-as-practice that we call for in the paper.

We hope that this workbook will be used as a jumping off point for further conversations that support the implementation of creative and imaginative practices in your organization. Take what you need and leave the rest - feel free to adapt and build on the suggestions here to best fit your context.

CREATIVE PROMPTS & PROVOCATIONS

The prompts below are divided into different sections: Personal Reflection, Organizational Culture, Practices and Spaces, Innovation Experiments, Moving Through Resistance and Looking Ahead.

Feel free to use these alone or in a team, and notice what reactions they provoke and stir in you. Perhaps you might work with one prompt a day, or set aside a block of time to sit with them all. Either way, allow your mind to roam free, knowing that there is no 'wrong' response.

Personal
Reflection

Organizational
Culture

Practices
and Spaces

Innovation
Experiments

Moving Through
Resistance

Looking
Ahead

Personal Reflection



What artwork or culture has shaped your thinking or worldview?

How might you bring some of that influence into your workplace?

How could you extend an invitation to a new project in a more imaginative, playful way?

What questions or contradictions does your work currently embody that creative practices could hold in tension?

A large rectangular area for writing, consisting of a grid of small dots. The grid is white and is surrounded by a decorative border with a repeating pattern of purple and teal scalloped shapes.

Organizational Culture



What quote, lyric or line of poetry captures the current essence of your organizational culture?

What are the stories that shape your organization's culture?

What new stories could you tell?

Are staff incentivised and rewarded for demonstrating creativity and imagination? If not, how might that obstacle be addressed?

A large white rectangular area with a grid of small dots, intended for writing answers to the questions on the previous page. The grid consists of approximately 20 columns and 30 rows of dots. The area is framed by a decorative border with a repeating pattern of orange and yellow teardrop shapes.

Practices and Spaces



How might you involve more embodied, somatic practices in your next meeting, workshop, or retreat?

Imagine you are writing a future fiction novel about your organization. What would that world look like?

What type of spaces are required in order to create organizational accountability to people, planet, and future generations?

A large white grid for writing, framed by a decorative border of orange and blue concentric circles. The grid consists of 20 columns and 20 rows of small dots, providing a guide for handwriting or structured notes.

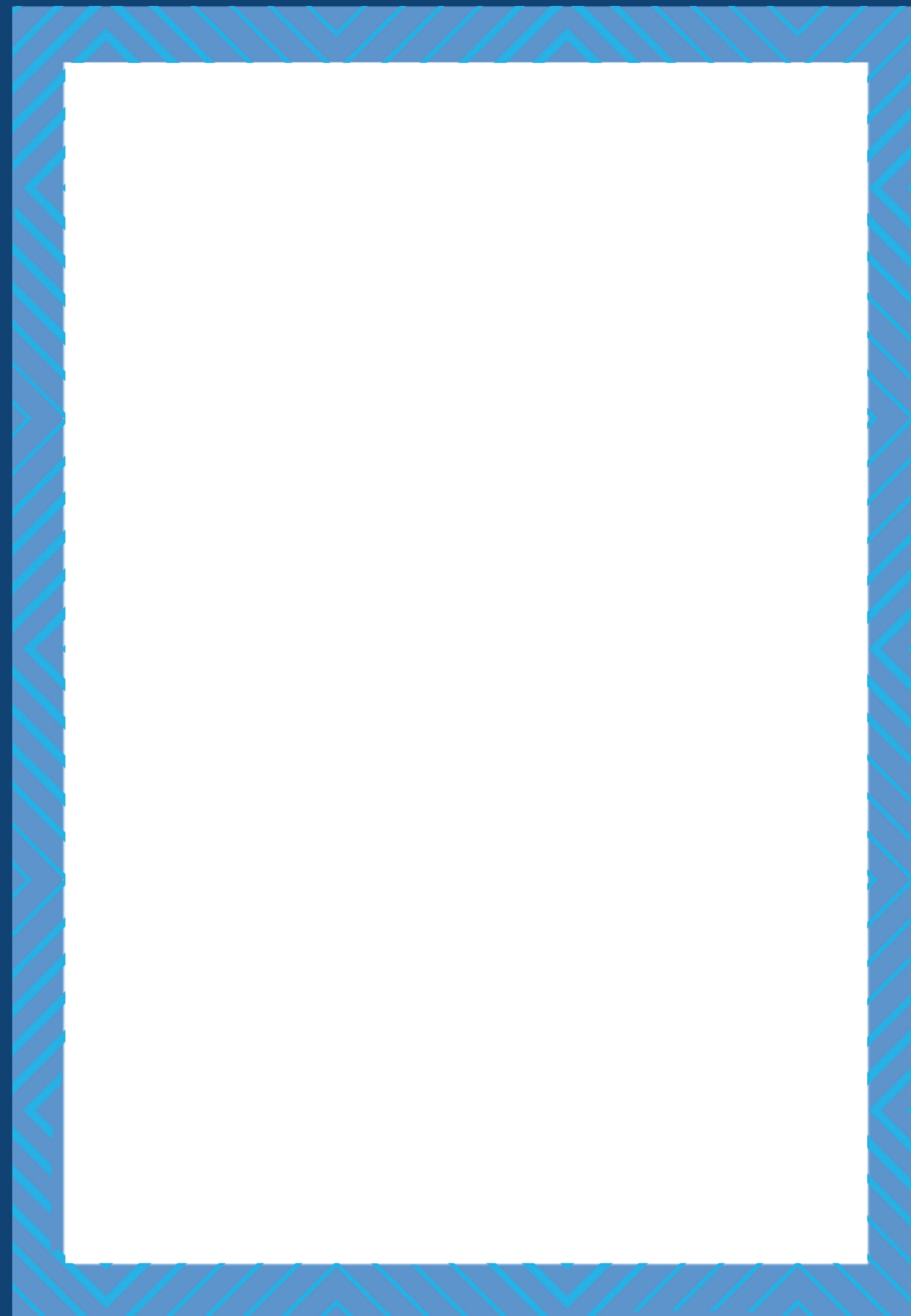
CREATIVE VISUALISATION PRACTICE

Think about a time when you felt really creative as a child or young person.
What were you doing?
What was freeing about this moment?
What sensations or emotions did you feel?
What was easy or difficult?

Close your eyes and take three deep breaths in and out, imagining this moment. Then open your eyes again.

What advice would that young person give you today to help you live a more creative life? How might you bring that advice into the spaces you live and work in today? What can young people teach us about how to be more imaginative in our day-to-day work?

Journal or draw what comes to you.



Innovation Experiments



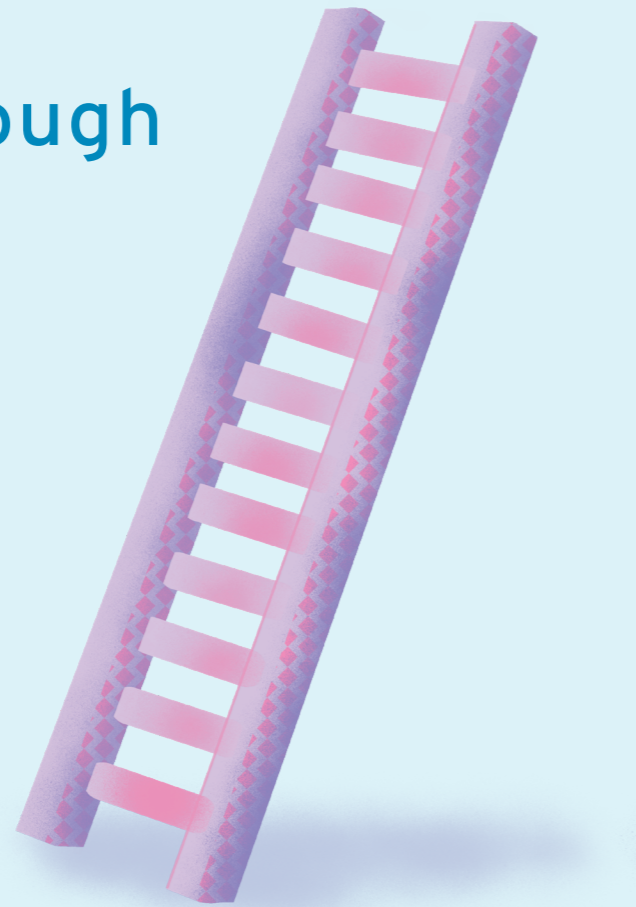
What small creative experiments could you prototype to spur innovation?

How might you involve the perspective of future generations to bring more imagination and ambition into your next project?

What creative vision exists at the edges or margins of your workplace? How might you integrate those ideas?

A large grid of dots on a white background, framed by a decorative border of pink and blue circles. The grid consists of 20 columns and 20 rows of small, light blue dots. The border is composed of larger, overlapping circles in shades of pink and blue.

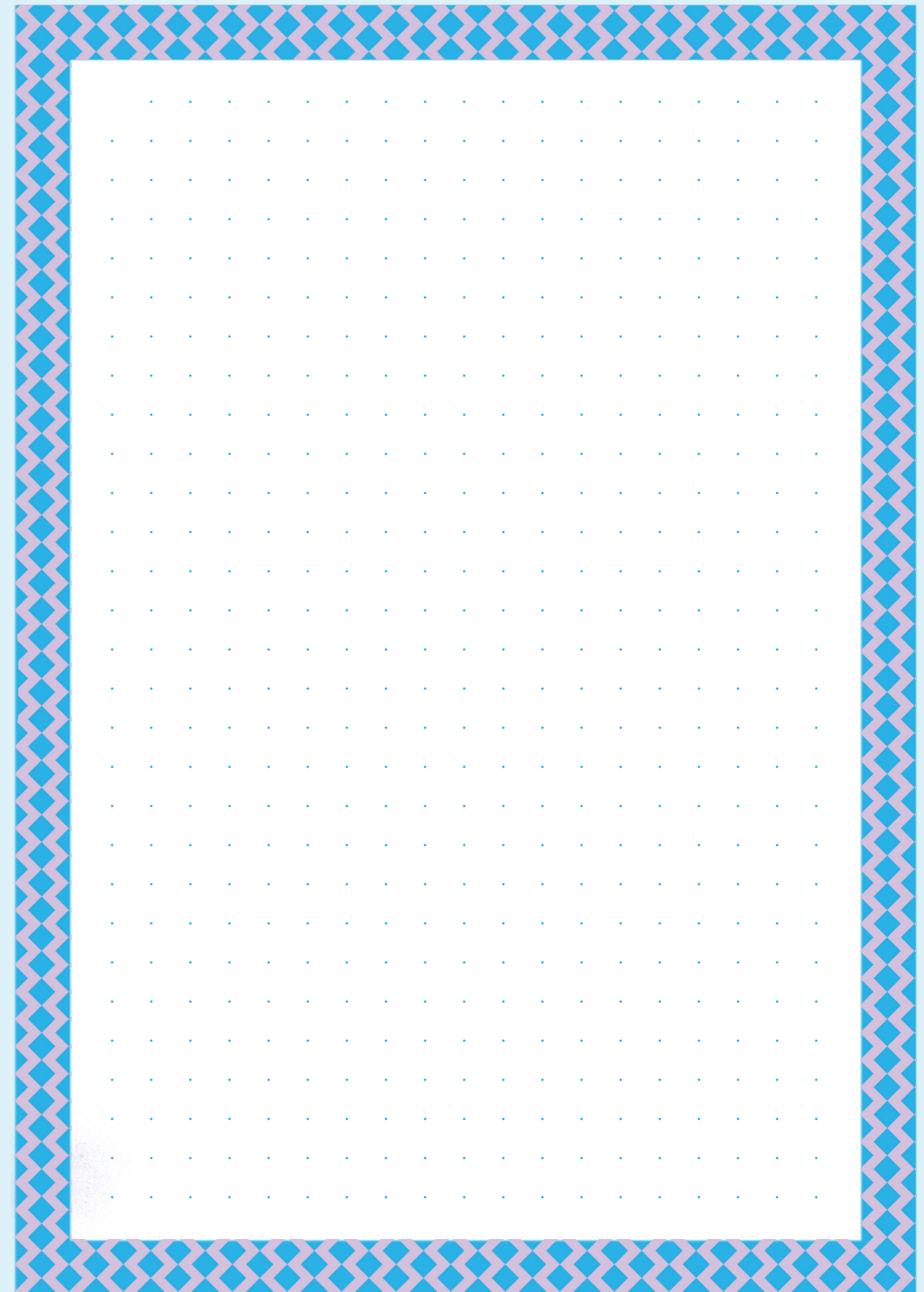
Moving Through Resistance



What are some signs of "brittleness" or resistance to change that may indicate more groundwork is needed before implementation?

How can you model embracing uncertainty and complexity as a leader?

What might a more imaginative budget or resource allocation look like in your context?



Looking Ahead



What future headline about your organization would indicate success in practicing creativity?

Imagine jumping ahead 10 years – how have artists and creative practitioners transformed your organization?

If you had no limitations, what bold, imaginative strategy would you propose for your organization? How can you pitch it to leadership?

A large, empty grid of dots for writing. The grid is composed of small, light-colored dots arranged in a regular pattern. The grid is enclosed within a decorative border that features a repeating pattern of stylized 'X' marks in a golden-yellow color. The background of the page is a light, warm tone.

CONCLUSION

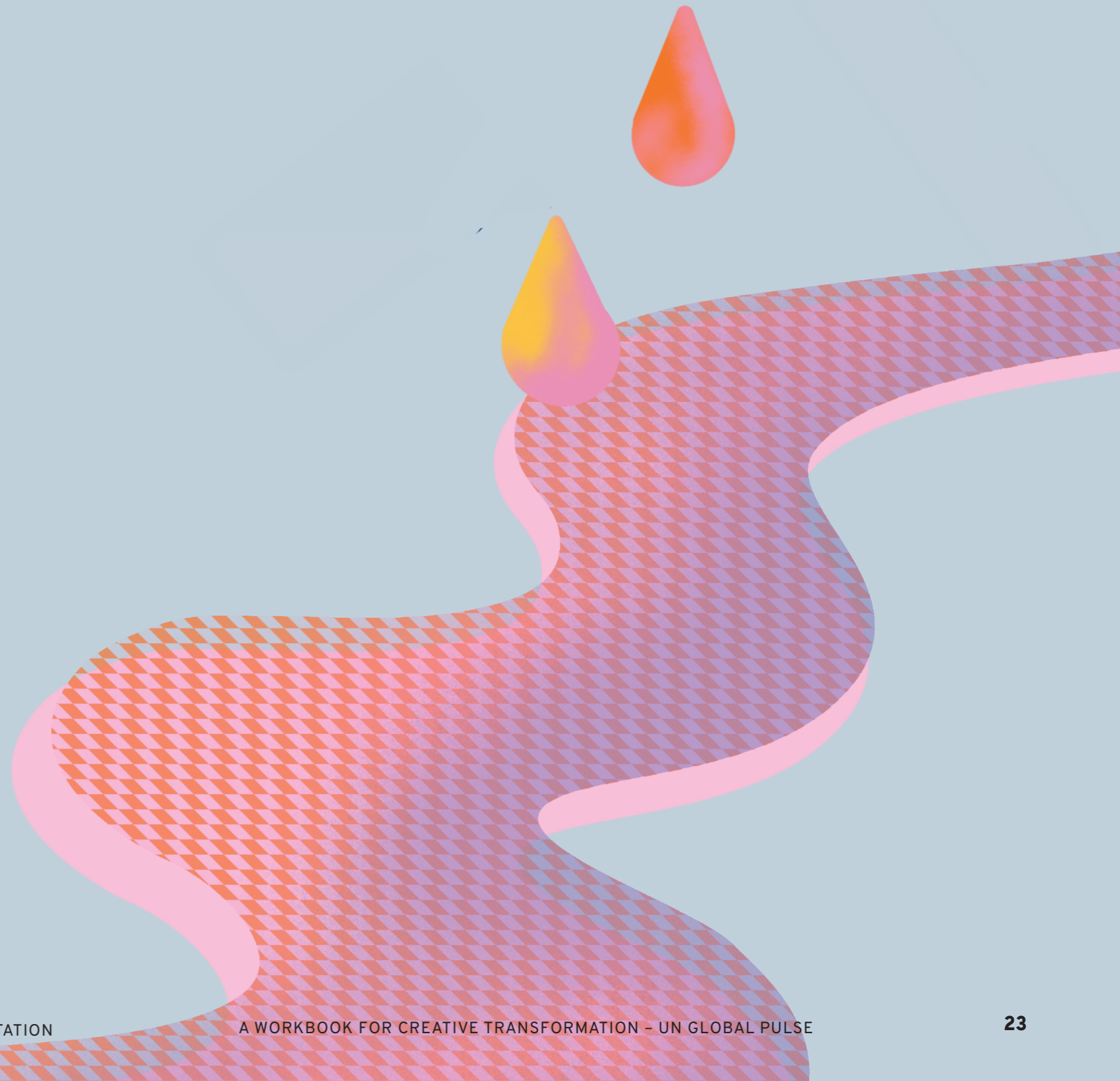
For more ideas and insights on how to use creative practice in your innovation work, you can refer to the original research paper: *'The Most Creative Look To The Future: Imagination and Creative Practice in Service of Organizational Transformation'*.

You have reached the end of the workbook, but hopefully your exploration into integrating art and creative practice is just beginning.

Reflect on your key insights and take-aways from engaging with the exercises and prompts here.

What resonated with you most?
What challenged you?
What new perspectives or ideas emerged?

Consider how you might build on these sparks in order to “combine the best of our past achievements with the most creative look to the future if we are to deepen solidarity and achieve a breakthrough for people and the planet.”





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