

9th Annual Multi-Stakeholder Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation for the Sustainable Development Goals

Science, technology and innovation for reinforcing the 2030 Agenda and eradicating poverty in times of multiple crises: the effective delivery of sustainable, resilient and innovative solutions

9-10 May 2024

Guidelines for Side Events

Background

The [Ninth Annual Multi-Stakeholder Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation for the Sustainable Development Goals \(STI Forum\)](#) will be held on Thursday, 9 May and Friday, 10 May 2024, at the United Nations Headquarters in New York. The Forum will be convened by the President of ECOSOC, [Her Excellency Paula Narváez](#), and the meetings of the Forum will be co-chaired by [Her Excellency Christina Markus Lassen](#), Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Denmark to the United Nations, and [Her Excellency Inga Rhonda King](#), Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines to the United Nations.

In line with the 2024 theme of the ECOSOC and of the high-level political forum on sustainable development (HLPF), the Forum will focus on “*Science, technology and innovation for reinforcing the 2030 Agenda and eradicating poverty in times of multiple crises: the effective delivery of sustainable, resilient and innovative solutions.*” Special focus will be given to the Sustainable Development Goals under review at the HLPF, namely Goal 1 - End poverty in all its forms everywhere; Goal 2 - End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture; Goal 13 - Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts; Goal 16 - Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels; and Goal 17 - Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development. The Forum will also consider how science, technology and innovation can be harnessed to accelerate progress across the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development following the 2023 SDG Summit political declaration, and to help prepare for the Summit of the Future in September 2024.

In connection with the 2024 STI Forum, **a limited number of side-events** can be organized by Member States, the UN system, Intergovernmental Organizations and accredited non-governmental stakeholders. Side events will be an opportunity to share knowledge and successful practices to accelerate the

implementation of science, technology, and innovation solutions for the SDGs, identify new and emerging issues, exchange national and local experiences and practices, and showcase voluntary commitments for the role of science, technology and innovation in achieving the 2030 Agenda.

Eligibility

Member States, Intergovernmental Organizations (IGOs), UN entities, and non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the ECOSOC can apply to organize a side event. Submissions by universities, laboratories, and scientific and engineering organizations, partnerships and initiatives without consultative status will be considered on a case-by-case basis. All interested parties are strongly encouraged to partner with others to organize a side event.

Format

- Side-event sessions should be planned for a duration of maximum 90 minutes.
- Side events can be organized either in-person inside the UNHQ premises or in a virtual format. Due to limited availability of space for in-person side-events inside the UNHQ, side-event organizers are **highly encouraged to hold their events virtually**.
- Participation in in-person side events inside the UNHQ premises is **strictly restricted to registered and approved participants of the 2024 STI Forum**.
- In-person side events inside the UNHQ premises can only be held in English. Interpretation services will not be available for side events.
- Organizers are encouraged to make the side events as interactive as possible, including by allocating sufficient time for dialogue with participants.
- Charging a fee for participation in side events is strictly prohibited.

Criteria for the selection of side events

The following principles will guide the selection of side events:

- Proposed side events must be closely related to the theme of the 2024 STI Forum.
- Side events should ensure gender and geographic balance and strive for meaningful participation of stakeholders, including civil society, women, youth, indigenous peoples, academia and others.
- Side events should highlight concrete success stories and examples of innovations, solutions and technologies that support the implementation of one or more SDGs, especially those under in-depth review in 2024 (SDGs 1, 2, 13, 16 and 17).
- Preference will be given to side-events that are organized by coalitions of actors including UN Member States, UN entities and/or relevant Intergovernmental Organizations and recognized stakeholder networks, associations, Major Groups or other stakeholder constituencies. **Only one organization should submit the application for any jointly organized side event.**

Responsibilities of side event organizers

- Side-event organizers will be responsible for covering all costs related to hosting their sessions.
- Organizers of side events hosted inside the United Nations should NOT plan any physical, technical, or structural changes to the assigned Conference Rooms.
- Organizers of side events hosted inside the United Nations should plan to hold their events in English. Interpretation services will not be available for side events.

- Side-event organizers' responsibilities include – but are not limited to – the invitation and travel arrangements for speakers, including visa and security clearance; checking registration status of speakers as needed; the oversight of the “run of show” and moderation of the event, including strict time management and note taking.
- Side-event organizers are responsible for promoting their events through their respective online and social media channels. The Secretariat will not produce fliers, distribute notices, or make any publicity effort for side events.
- Side-event organizers are required to submit a short summary of key recommendations and messages (maximum one page) to the UN Secretariat **by 17 May 2024**. The Secretariat reserves the right to not post materials that are deemed inappropriate.

Application process

- Side-events applications should be submitted for consideration through the dedicated form here: <https://forms.office.com/e/zviyBFZziJ>
- Deadline for application is **6pm, 6 March 2024 (EST, New York Time)**.
- Applications should be limited to ONE per entity.
- Application of joint side event should be submitted by ONE entity only.
- UN Member States should apply through their Permanent Missions in New York.

Selection process

- The Secretariat will work with the Co-Chairs of the Forum to select side events, based on the above-mentioned criteria. Organizers of approved applications will be notified by email in late March 2024. Only organizers whose side events have been approved will be contacted by the Secretariat.
- Considering the high number of requests for events to be held in person at the UNHQ, the Secretariat may request that proposals addressing similar themes be merged.
- Following the selection of the proposals, the Secretariat will assign a meeting room and a timeslot for each approved in-person event inside of the UN Headquarters.
- Side events programme will be posted on [the STI Forum 2024 website](#).

Further information

Please visit [the 2024 STI Forum website](#) for additional information about the Forum.

Should you have any questions regarding side events, please contact Ms. Stephanie Rambler (rambler@un.org), Ms. Meng Li (li39@un.org), or Ms. Nadine Salame (salame1@un.org) at the Division for Sustainable Development Goals, United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA). Kindly start the subject line with "2024 STI Forum Side Events".