

First Briefing to Member States on the 6th Multi-stakeholder Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation for the SDGs (STI Forum) under the Technology Facilitation Mechanism (TFM)

25 February 2021

Indonesia's CdA (Amb. Mohammad K. Koba)

Introduction

1. Thank you Ambassador Andrejs. Allow me to also thank the President of ECOSOC, Ambassador Munir Akram, for the mandate given as co-chairs of this year's STI Forum.
2. The Forum will provide a venue to facilitate interaction, matchmaking and the establishment of networks between relevant stakeholders and multi-stakeholders partnerships.
3. To-date, hundreds of scientists, young innovators, technology specialists, entrepreneur, policy makers and civil society representatives have gathered to discuss and showcase STI solutions for achieving SDGs and various cross-cutting themes.

Overall Preparation

4. As in previous years, a call for innovations will be made, focusing this year on advances in mitigating the non-medical consequences of COVID-19, especially those with the potential to accelerate progress towards the SDGs even after the pandemic.
5. Specific sessions are expected to address SDG achievement, especially through those that will be in-focus at the HLPF; as well as lessons from the pandemic experience that can serve to better operationalize STI for the SDGs in a more inclusive fashion.

6. These can include ways to improve the science-policy-society interface; increasing scientific collaboration globally for tackling major challenges and accelerating SDG progress through innovations that can be scaled up to have impact across multiple goals and targets, including those such as poverty eradication and decent works.

→ In this context, and in line with the 2021 International Year of Creative Economy, we would also like to include the vital role of creative economy for economic and social recovery; as part of the discussions.

7. These sessions will give the Forum a focus and lens through which to discuss specific scientific insights and technology and innovation solutions that are crucial for pandemic response, recovery and progress towards the SDGs. The sessions will also allow for a discussion of challenges and bottlenecks.

8. At the same time, we will continue to build upon the discussions at previous Fora and feature a number of cross-cutting themes such as the impacts of rapid technological change on the SDGs; STI roadmaps; capacity building; facilitating the sharing of relevant knowledge and technologies; and further advances in the operationalization of the TFM's on-line platform, in which you have also expressed interest.

9. For us as co-chairs it will be also important to proactively encourage the participation of women and youth, including in the selection of panel moderators and participants, and address topics on women and youth engagement in a cross-cutting manner within the context of STI.

10. Over the years, the global STI forum has inspired similar multi-stakeholder gatherings in different regions, and among different groups of specialized actors. We hope to bring together several here, to further deliver on the networking and matchmaking aspects of the Forum.

11. We envision highly interactive discussions that will provide adequate time for interventions from Member States and all relevant stakeholders.
12. We intend to include a virtual high-level ministerial segment, and would like to encourage the participation of Ministers from relevant fields, such as planning, industry, innovation, creative economy, agriculture, education, science and technology, energy, environment, rural development, governance and equality advancement.
13. We welcome your feedback and will keep that in mind as we proceed with the preparations. The draft agenda will be posted on the website of the Forum.
 - ➔ Further details about side events applications will also be posted on the Forum's website. We will ensure that all necessary communications to be sent to all Missions in New York.
14. Before closing, we would like to bring to your attention that the Technology Facilitation Mechanism or TFM's mandates remain extremely underfunded compared to other GA mandated activities.
 - ➔ The TFM is one of the most tangible achievements of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and of the 2030 Agenda, which requires everyone's support.
 - ➔ Without adequate funding, the reality will fall short of expectations. Hence, the increased voluntary contributions towards earmarked support for the Forum are important to enhance its inclusiveness and representativeness.

Closing

15. Going forward, we will keep you informed on the progress made and look forward to your participation to make the Forum a success.
16. We welcome your thoughts and guidance - to carry on this conversation towards the STI Forum in May and beyond.

17. I would like to again thank our colleagues in DESA and in UNCTAD's New York office for their valuable and continuous support, as well as to the UN Inter-agency Task Team and the 10-Member Group for their work and dedication.

18. Thank you.