



Science, Technology & Innovation for
the Sustainable Development Goals

4-5 May 2021, UN HQ New York (virtual)

*“Science, technology and innovation for a sustainable and resilient
COVID-19 recovery, and effective pathways of inclusive action
towards the Sustainable Development Goals”*

Draft Programme

4 May 2021

**Pre-Event: Opening of Virtual Innovation Exhibit
(7:30-8:30)**

**Welcome and Opening
(9:00-9:45)**

High level remarks and keynotes (2)

**Session 1: STI Lessons from the COVID-19 pandemic
(9:45-11:00)**

This session will explore lessons from the COVID-19 pandemic for a better science-policy-society interface, a resilient, sustainable and inclusive recovery, and rapid solutions for global challenges. This will include reflections on the response of the scientific community to the pandemic, its impact on open science, building trust in science, support for the economic and social recovery, including through the creative economy, advancement of gender equality as well as lessons-learned on how to better harness science and technology to resolve global challenges.

**Special event: Dialogue between the outgoing and incoming 10-Member Group*
(11:15 – 12:15; no interpretation)**

The Secretary-General's 10-Member Group is tasked with supporting the Technology Facilitation Mechanism, including the STI Forum. Each group serves for two years, with the successor group 'taking over' at the STI Forum. Group members work closely with the IATT and guide the work of the TFM. This session will serve to introduce the new members and discuss the findings and recommendations of the previous group.

**Lunch break
(12:15 – 15:00)**

**Virtual Innovation Exhibit
(12:30-14:30)**

In an interactive exhibition, the winners of the 2020 and 2021 UN Calls for Innovations will present their cutting-edge initiatives and share insights from their experience designing solutions to development issues in a rapidly changing global context.

Session 2: Effective paths towards the SDGs: STI for ending poverty and hunger, enhancing human well-being and building resilience (15:00-16:00)

This is the first of two sessions dedicated to the SDGs in-focus at the HLPF 2021. This session would look specifically STI to advance SDGs 1, 2, 3, and 16, including through their interlinkages with the rest of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Discussions could include new approaches to accelerate SDG progress through innovations, focused priorities for STI development and successful experiences from the pandemic that can be scaled up to have impact across multiple goals and targets as well as ways to improve the science-policy-society interface; increasing scientific collaboration globally for tackling major challenges.

Session 3: Effective paths towards the SDGs: STI for transforming economies toward equity, sustainability and climate action (16:00-17:00)

This is the second session of two dedicated to the SDGs in-focus at the HLPF 2021. This session would look specifically STI to advance SDGs 8, 10, 12 and 13, including through their interlinkages with the rest of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Discussions could include new approaches to accelerate SDG progress through innovations, focused priorities for STI development and successful experiences from the pandemic that can be scaled up to have impact across multiple goals and targets as well as ways to improve the science-policy-society interface; increasing scientific collaboration globally for tackling major challenges.

Special event: STI and harnessing global opportunities for transformations in 2021*

(17:15 – 18:15; no interpretation)

The year 2021 is set to be a landmark year with major global events, such as the Food Systems Summit, the High-level Dialogue on Energy, the second global Sustainable Transport Conference, the UN Biodiversity Conference (COP15) and UN Climate Change Conference (COP26). This roundtable will examine the most impactful STI applications- as well as the most significant unsolved problems- in these areas, with the potential to simultaneously influence multiple SDG targets. Several of these correspond closely to the 'entry' points advanced in the scientific assessment of the Global Sustainable Development Report, 2019.

5 May 2021

Virtual Innovation Exhibit (continued) (7:30-8:30)

Session 4: Ministerial Session: STI policies and initiatives for sustainable development - best practices and lessons learned (9:00-10:15)

Ministerial and other statements, including statements from country groupings

Session 5: Emerging science and technology trends, challenges and the SDGs (10:15-11:00)

This session will explore the latest developments in science and technology and their current and potential future impacts on sustainable development and the SDGs. As mandated by the GA, the session will include updated elements of "TFM findings on the impacts of rapid technology change on the SDGs", bringing together views of experts from the UN system, 10-Member Group, scientist and engineers active in the TFM. The session will explore technology convergence and the multiple technology divides, including gender digital divide, and other challenges associated with these trends related to clusters such as blockchain, biotechnology, nanotechnology, artificial intelligence and quantum technologies.

Special event: Digital Cooperation in the Decade of Action*

(11:15 – 12:15; no interpretation)

This special event will build on session 5, focusing specifically on digital cooperation in the Decade of Action can accelerate progress to the SDGs. It will include discussions on artificial intelligence (AI), connect to the PGA's high-level thematic debate on digital cooperation and connectivity, and seek TFM synergies with multiple stakeholders active in the follow-up to the SG's roadmap on digital cooperation. The event will explore broader STI actions that are essential to close digital divides, including gender digital divides.

Lunch break

(12:15 – 14:45)

Special event: Promoting Inclusion to accelerate innovation*

(14:45-15:45; no interpretation)

This session will consider the advancement of the SDGs by building up an inclusive innovation ecosystem that nurtures and champions the contributions of all, including women, youth, indigenous peoples, local communities, people with disabilities, and other vulnerable groups. It will also include the TFM's online platform as a means for connecting technology seekers to providers of technology and other resources.

Session 6: Supporting national capacities through the TFM

(16:00-17:00)

This session will present the UN IATT's joint work in supporting the development and roll-out of STI policy frameworks, STI action plans and the STI roadmaps; gender and STI efforts; and capacity-building for STI ministries. Participants will present the progress made, as well as challenges, opportunities and future work. They will also elaborate on TFM priorities in the current context and discuss innovative approaches for promoting STI through multi-stakeholder collaboration.

Session 7: Delivering in Decade of Action for achievement of the 2030 Agenda and its SDGs: Next steps for the TFM and its partners

(17:00-17:45)

This session will begin by presenting a number of initiatives from across the world that support the science-based, solution-oriented, multi-stakeholder and collaborative approach of the Technology Facilitation Mechanism (TFM) including discussions on broadening their impacts and closer connection to the TFM. It will conclude with a presentation of the way forward for the TFM.

Closing remarks

(17:45-18:00)

*[*Organized by the Co-Chairs of the Forum, His Excellency Andrejs Pildegovičs, Permanent Representative of Latvia, and His Excellency Mohammad Koba, Charge d'Affaires, Permanent Mission of Indonesia]*