



**Talking Points for Mr. Sen Pang, UN Resident Coordinator (RC), at
Capacity Building Workshop on Policy Formulation and SDG Acceleration**
Policy Issue/ Theme: Improving Service Delivery through Effective Public Policy Making for STI
**Organized by the National Planning Commission (NPC), UNDESA, UN Namibia, with GIZ
Namibia**
Hybrid Format: 27 – 28 April, Otjiwarongo, Out of Africa Lodge

Ms. Mary Hangula, Expert in Planning and International Development and Facilitator of the workshop

Ms. Habani Munyungano, Deputy Chief: National Development Advise, National Planning Commission (NPC)

Dr. Natascha Cheikhyoussef, Chief Science and Technology officer: Ministry of Higher Education, Technology and Innovation (MHETI)

Mr. Nhlanhla Lupahla, Deputy Director of Innovation: Ministry of Higher Education, Technology and Innovation (MHETI)

Dr. Wilhemina Quaye, Director: CSIR-Science & Technology Policy Research Institute, Ghana

Colleagues from the Division for Sustainable Development Goals at UNDESA,

Colleagues from the Technology, Climate Change & Natural Resources Division, UNECA

UN Country Team members present UNESCO, UNDP, UNICEF, UNFPA

Honorable and Distinguished Guests & Experts,

Dear Participants,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good Morning.

It gives me much pleasure to welcome you back, on our journey to contribute to capacity building for the acceleration of the SDGs, in Namibia.

I wish for us all to remember how far we have come: We started this work in early 2020. With commitment at the Highest-level in the Government and at NPC, we were able to:

1. Convene a Virtual Official Launch, Scoping, and Institutional Engagement Webinar, kickstarting the work, in September 2020;
2. Deliver the first workshop that mobilized the Presidency, the National Planning Commission, Senior Officials in the Government, and a range of expert resource persons within and out of Namibia, in October 2020.

This third workshop in 2021, aims to build capacity for policy formulation in a way that is effective, inclusive, and accelerates the achievement of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs.

The NPC has chosen science, technology, and innovation (STI) as the policy issue for this workshop.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

STI is one of the Means of Implementation (MOI) of the SDGs, for mainstreaming and acceleration.

STI and capacity building, are also one of the Action Areas of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda (Agenda) on financing for development.

Developing STI capacities is critical to achieving development objectives. The COVID-19 pandemic has further underlined the multiple importance of STI, from basic research on vaccines, rapid development of technologies, to innovation in the remote delivery of e-learning, tele-health, fintech, and other services.

At this workshop, we will hear about global and regional frameworks for the promotion and strengthening of STI capacities, including capacity building initiatives.

Next week, from 4 to 5 May the Multi-stakeholder STI Forum will convene in New York, under the theme of “Science, technology and innovation for a sustainable and resilient COVID-19 recovery, and effective pathways of inclusive action towards the Sustainable Development Goals”.

This workshop links work on STI at the global and national level.

Ladies and Gentlemen

Since the beginning of our delivery of this work, partnerships have been at the core.

I am pleased that this workshop once again, under the leadership and the ownership of the NPC, is bringing together the expertise and capacity of the UN system, both in country and from further afield, to support the Government.

Similarly, it is very encouraging to have GIZ Namibia supporting the workshop, knowing your long-standing relationship with the NPC.

For this work, I am especially pleased to recognize the presence of the Ministry of Higher Education, Technology and Innovation, which holds the mandate on STI policy, in the country.

I wish for this same spirit of joint work, as we proceed with delivering to the Government and the people of Namibia.

And, you can continue to count on the expertise, resources, and teamwork of the UN System.

I wish you success, at this workshop.
