



## Seventh annual Multi-stakeholder Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation for the Sustainable Development Goals

### Note for Ministerial Session

The Ministerial Session on STI and COVID-19 recovery will be organized after the Opening Session of the [7<sup>th</sup> annual Multi-Stakeholder Forum](#) on Science, Technology and Innovation for the Sustainable Development Goals (2022 STI Forum). The Session will be held on 5 May 2022 in virtual format.

#### Theme

The Ministerial Session should be closely related to the theme of the STI Forum, namely “*Science, technology and innovation for building back better from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) while advancing the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*” which mirrors that of the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) this year. They should examine potential opportunities for accelerating progress towards in-focus SDGs<sup>1</sup>, under review at the HLPF 2021 meeting, as well as ways to support COVID-19 recovery through STI.

#### Guiding Questions

To stay focus on the discussion, it is suggested that the high-level statement and intervention could directly address at least one of the following guiding questions:

**1. Best practices for equality:** Are there examples/good practices of technologies and innovations that have emerged during the COVID-19 crisis to tackle inequalities, particularly affecting vulnerable groups, including those equalizing access to good quality healthcare, education, and finance? How can these be shared and scaled up? Would international investment

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<sup>1</sup> Sustainable Development Goals 4 on quality education, 5 on gender equality, 14 on life below water, 15 on life on land, and 17 on partnerships for the Goals.

in the creation of Global Public Goods, serve to foster innovation while reducing global risk and ensuring equitable access to its benefits?

**2. STI4SDG roadmaps:** Proactive STI policy measures are needed to stimulate research efforts, focus investments, and inspire coordination. How can your national STI roadmaps or action plans be aligned regionally -and globally- towards a more cost-effective SDGs-focused STI development? How are your STI roadmaps contributing to the mitigation of global risks, including future outbreaks? How to better support innovation system (e.g. in universities) to facilitate entrepreneurship and problem-solving skills? How can the UN contribute to foment a more responsive STI4SDG ecosystem in your country?

**3. STI for resilience building:** What are some of the most promising innovations and technologies for resilience building and reversing the trends of rising inequalities? How can these technologies be scaled up quickly to make them accessible to the most vulnerable groups and countries? How can national STI systems become more resilient, making their positive impacts sustainable, while mitigating the risks of changing patterns of globalization and accelerated technological change?

**4. STI toward low-carbon economies:** What are the most promising ways STI can contribute to a permanent shift toward inclusive low-carbon economies within the next 1, 5 and 10 years? What capacities should be built/strengthened to achieve this purpose? What are the most important opportunities and risks to the STI system?

**5. Lessons learned towards SDGs 4, 5, 14 and 15:** Looking back, what are some of the key lessons learned from an STI perspective on what worked and what did not work to meet the targets related SDG 4 on quality education, SDG 5 on gender equality, SDG 14 on life below water, and SDG 15 on life on land? Taking into consideration the methods that did not work to meet the SDG targets, how could these barriers be overcome in the near future?