



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

*Special Event 1: Global research cooperation, funding, and partnerships*

**(12:15-13:15 EDT, 5 May 2022; hybrid format)**

### **Background**

As we approach the half-way point of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development accelerating progress toward the Sustainable Development Goals will be imperative. Acceleration can be powered by science, technology and innovation, but STI impacts at scale on global challenges require collaboration, innovative partnerships, trust and open access to knowledge sources. We know this kind of collaboration is possible based on the experience of COVID-19 where sharing of genome sequencing data, open-source designs for PPE, preprint publishing of research articles and data sharing platforms like GitHub together accelerated the flow of information and the pace of action to match the urgency of the crisis. The promotion of collaboration across disciplines and geographies has been especially important for developing countries that may lack the laboratories and resources to independently advance such research but can feed into and benefit from global knowledge networks.

STI has a crucial role to play in addressing a multitude of challenges including the restoration and conservation of our natural resources, tackling increasing inequalities including those exacerbated by the digital divide, and accelerating efforts to eradicate poverty, create green jobs, achieve zero hunger, and speed up the race to achieve carbon neutrality. Joint work in research and development, increased funding for STI for sustainability, collaboration and new partnerships will determine the degree to which STI can accelerate progress on the SDGs.

### **Objectives**

This special event will explore the status of global research cooperation and funding - especially in the Global South - to support the achievement of the SDGs. It will consider the short-term context of the pandemic and how it has highlighted the need for national capacity in STI while also showing how crucial arrangements for global collaboration are for responding to global crises and achieving the SDGs. A conversation among key R&D actors from public and private sectors will explore how to better share knowledge, how to work on joint funding proposals and projects, and how to strengthen collaboration and build new partnerships. The conversation will also include research funders to discuss the way forward.

## **Format**

The session will be structured as a moderated panel discussion (5 minutes per panelist). After the panelists' interventions, the moderator will take comments and questions from the audience during an interactive discussion. The session will close with a brief presentation of main outcomes of the discussion by the moderator.

## **Questions for discussion**

The discussion will be guided by the following questions:

- What new initiatives have emerged during the pandemic that can be scaled up to accelerate the adoption and sharing of technologies and innovations for the SDGs within a common framework?
- What are some practical ways the STI community can collaborate across sectors and across national borders to tackle global challenges? How can the private sector be involved?
- What are some promising initiatives for advancing knowledge generation and sharing in the Global South? What can be done in the next 1 year, 5 years and the long-term to build capacity, overcome R&D funding inequities, and facilitate technology transfer for accelerating STI solutions everywhere?

## **Supporting documents/publications**

The following science-policy briefs were submitted in support of this special event by TFM stakeholders, see also <https://sdgs.un.org/tfm/STIForum2022> and the IATT report 2022.

- *Avenues for using Science for Smarter Development*, by Susan Schneegans and Tiffany Straza (UNESCO)