



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

Special Event 3: Supporting national capacities and the Partnership in Action for STI4SDG roadmaps

(12:15-13:15 EDT; 6 May 2022, hybrid)

Background

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development identified science, technology and innovation (STI) as key means that can facilitate the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Since 2016, the *Multi-stakeholder Forums for Science, Technology and Innovation* suggested STI Roadmaps as suitable instruments to be used by countries to integrate STI imperatives into the implementation of SDGs.

STI for SDGs Roadmaps (STI4SDGs) are useful for strengthening countries' ownership, for elevating the policy debate on STI for SDGs, and for effectively mobilizing national efforts. Roadmaps also offer opportunities for partnerships with global actors to harness STI for the achievement of the SDGs. As a forward-looking approach, roadmaps can support coordinating effective STI actions to achieve the SDGs at national, regional and local levels. For this purpose, in 2019, the Interagency Task Team on STI for the SDGs launched a global pilot programme on STI for SDGs roadmaps with an initial group of five pilot countries (Ethiopia, Ghana, India, Kenya and Serbia). The programme aimed to support pilot countries in developing their own roadmaps based on a "[Guidebook for the Preparation of STI for SDGs Roadmaps](#)" developed jointly by IATT members. In 2021, Ukraine also joined the programme bringing the number of pilot countries to six. The broad guidebook is complemented by practical background papers on methodologies and on international partnerships.

Following the successful experience of the global pilot programme, in November 2020 at the margins of the 75th General Assembly, a proposal for a "Partnership in Action" was launched, with a view to scaling-up the pilot programme in support of many more countries. The Partnership is conceived as a multi-stakeholder, informal technical group to support the STI roadmap work in the Technology Facilitation Mechanism. It aims to create the political momentum, drive practical solutions, and mobilize public and multi-stakeholder engagement. Further demand for support with STI roadmaps was driven also by a desire to accelerate closing the digital divide and supporting digital inclusion, against the background of the experience with the COVID-19 pandemic. The Partnership in Action will serve as a platform to strengthen the development and implementation of the roadmaps. As part of the initiative, interested "champion countries" may want to provide guidance, share their experiences, further support the work on roadmaps, provide political support, apply the lessons contained in the IATT's Guidebook and share inputs for its refinement, and mobilize stakeholders and resources.

In line with the *Guidebook's* recommendations, it is critical to assess the current gaps, establish baselines and realistic goals, and to assess the likely impact of emerging trends. As part of its follow-up and review mechanisms, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development encourages UN Member States to "*conduct regular and inclusive reviews of progress at the national and sub-national levels, which are country-led and country-driven*". These so-called voluntary national reviews (VNRs) voluntary, state-led, undertaken by both developed and developing countries, and involve multiple stakeholders. They aim to facilitate the sharing of experiences, including successes, challenges and lessons learned., and they seek strengthening policies and institutions of governments and mobilizing multi-stakeholder support and partnerships for the SDGs. The national experiences from the global pilot programme STI4SDGs roadmaps could help integrating STI perspectives in support of accelerated SDG implementation.

Objectives

The special event explores effective ways for supporting STI capacity building, including inter-agency joint work by the IATT in support of STI policy frameworks, action plans and STI4SDG roadmaps. Panelists will present national and regional initiatives related to design and review of STI for SDG roadmaps and related policy actions, including regarding gender and STI. It will discuss potential ways forward for the Partnership in Action, and linkages to STI4SDG capacity-building in the context of the VNRs and the SDG Summit 2023.

Format

The special event will be organized as a moderated panel discussion (with 3-4 minutes per panelist), followed by an interactive discussion. The moderator will close the event with a brief summary of the main outcomes of the discussion.

Guiding questions

The discussion could be guided by the following questions:

- How can the STI for SDGs (STI4SDGs) roadmaps process support the development of national STI systems, the mapping of STI capacities and stakeholders, and evidence-based policy-making and better cooperation?
- In how far can STI4 SDGs roadmaps provide guidance on effective pathways to sustainable recovery and future resilience from current crises?
- How to prepare to the implementation of STI for SDGs roadmaps? And what are the existing tools, the practical experiences and success stories?
- How can the UN contribute to foment a more responsive STI4SDG ecosystem in your country through capacity building and roadmap approach?

Supporting documents/publications

- UN Inter-agency Task Team on STI for the SDGs (IATT) Background Information [Work Updates](#)
- [Partnership in Action](#) on Science, Technology and Innovation for SDGs Roadmaps

The following science-policy briefs have been prepared by TFM stakeholders in support of this session (see also <https://sdgs.un.org/tfm/STIForum2022> and IATT report 2022):

- *Enhancing the sustainable development component in the Action Plan of the STI for SDGs Roadmap in Serbia*, by Alessandro Rainoldi, Liliana Pasecinic, Monika Matusiak, Angela Sarcina (EC- Joint Research Centre); Olga Bolibok (expert); Viktor Nedovic, Tijana Knežević, and Lazar Zivkovic (Serbian Smart Specialisation Team).
- *Localised Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) for SDGs Roadmap in Ukraine: defining the governance and policy frameworks*, by Monika Matusiak, Angela Sarcina (EC- Joint Research Centre); Olga Bolibok (expert); Darya Chayka (Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine); and Lyudmila Musina (Ukrainian Institute of Scientific and Technical Expertise and Information).
- *Technology upgrading in the UN Global Pilot Programme on STI for SDGs Roadmaps countries: Serbia, Ukraine, Ghana, Kenya, Ethiopia, and India*, by Randolph Luca Bruno, Monika Matusiak, Kirill Osaulenko, Slavo Radosevic.