

## **7th Multistakeholder Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation for the SDGs**

Thematic Session 6: Delivering on the SDGs: Next steps for the TFM and its partners

UNHQ New York, Conference Room 2 and virtual (hybrid format)

6 May 2022, 16:25 – 16:45

Remarks by

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United Nations

Excellencies,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

The discussions at this Forum, which I have had the pleasure to chair with my colleague from Ukraine, have provided very useful insights on the role of STI in recovering better and supporting the achievement of the SDGs.

They have also outlined several priorities to be addressed going forward. Allow me to only mention a few.

First, we need to accelerate progress on addressing the challenges of the digital economy. These include first and foremost ensuring meaningful connectivity for the 2.9 billion people still without access to the internet. The Covid-19 pandemic has shown the benefit of digital public goods such as digital infrastructure. More investments are needed in that infrastructure, including from the public sector. But there is also a need to ensure inclusive and participatory governance of the internet, to support a safe online environment, ensure adequate data protection and privacy and minimize adverse environmental impacts. We also must avoid the transposition of existing biases onto the online sphere; this requires a multistakeholder approach to internet governance.

Second, the Forum highlighted the need to strengthen Science, Technology and Innovation capacities in developing countries, who often invest a much lower share of their income in innovation. We heard about the potential of developing greater partnerships, including South-South, North-South and triangular partnerships, and about the need not just for transfer of technologies but also for assistance with their adoption and implementation. Indeed, technology should be appropriate to local needs and priorities.

Third, we need to increase investment in national innovation systems, measured not just in terms of R&D, but also in terms of secondary and tertiary education, innovation financing, and government support for fundamental research. In addition, participants highlighted the importance of multistakeholder engagements in the identification of priorities, and global networks as well as public private partnerships in implementation. The IATT work on STI for SDG Roadmaps can play an important role here. It would effectively guide STI4SDG efforts in an articulated, homogeneous, far reaching, scalable, equitable, systemic, collaborative, and global manner. We have learned from the STI4SDG Roadmap Pilot Programme and the emerging Partnership in

Action. In this context, the 10 Member Group proposed to create an international network of banks of ideas and funds for innovation as a repository for the identification of problems, opportunities and solutions, open to all.

Under STI4SDGs Roadmaps programme, the UN TFM and IATT are encouraging countries and all stakeholders to participate in developing an effective, coherent, interconnected and collaborative global system to stimulate, focus and channel creativity, and help protect, promote and finance all stages of innovation.

These are only some of the recommendations made at the rich discussions over the past two days.

I hope that the TFM in collaboration with the CSTD can advance work in some of these areas, so as to unlock the potential of innovation for our shared future.

As this is my last intervention at this forum, allow me to also express my sincere gratitude to the representatives of the Secretary-General's 10 member-group, as well as all the agencies of the Inter Agency Task Team for the important work they are doing to drive this agenda. I would also like to thank the UN-DESA and UNCTAD for their support in organizing this STI Forum.

Last but not least, I would like to thank all the speakers, moderators and participants of this Forum for their significant contributions, which have helped shape the STI for SDG agenda. My Co-Chair and I look forward to presenting a summary of your discussions to the HLPF in July.

Thank you very much.