Session 1 on Current approaches to STI Policy making in the context of SDGs

18 October 2022, 15:00-17:00 (CET) / 14:00-16:00 (UTC+1)

Work stream 6 of the UN-Interagency Task Team (IATT) of the Technology Facilitation Mechanism (TFM) is convening a series of three online interactive training modules to build capacity of policymakers on Science, Technology, and Innovation (STI) for achieving the SDGs in Tunisia and countries of the North Africa region.

Session 1 will introduce existing approaches and methodologies for policymaking and implementation across UN agencies with discussion on case studies in developing, reviewing and implementing STI policies and strategies. The session will present examples of how STI policies are being geared towards achieving SDGs and strengthening STI systems for better responses to current and future crisis.

Session 1 will present different strategic approaches to STI Policy for the SDGs, while highlighting their commonalities, and in particular, their common focus on strategic directionality and multistakeholder participation in the STI policy making due to systemic nature the SDGs. Through multistakeholder, participatory processes, policymakers seek to foster shared visions of strategic goals, identify tested policy tools for scaling up, inform the design of policy incentives or uncover capability gaps between different types of firms or other relevant agents.

This 2-hour training session will be broken up into an introductory session, the main thematic session divided into three presentations, each with interactive Q&A and open discussion with the participants, followed by a wrap-up session of lessons learned and next steps by participants. The three presentations will focus on:

1. **Introduction to STI policy for SDGs approaches**: the presentation will make a brief overview of existing approaches and frameworks in policy-making, focusing on the STI policy cycles, from priority setting to design, review and implementation of STI policies. The presentation will include key aspects and questions that a STI policy might address. It will focus on key challenges in fostering STI for SDGs, highlighting the need to follow participatory and inclusive approaches and engaging broad range of stakeholders at local, national, regional and international levels.

2. **Science for supporting decision-making:** broadly, this theme will look at how governments, businesses and civil society can build processes to bring the best science and evidence into their decision-making processes on STI policy. The presentation will provide some basic principles surrounding these processes, such as ensuring the scientific and evidence-based findings are considered legitimate by the user audience, that they findings are also considered relevant to solving the question at hand and finally that the process developing the science or evidence for decision-making is considered scientifically or technically credible.

3. **Country examples in STI for SDGs policy-making and implementation:** the presentation will present STI policy approaches that have been applied in countries that are currently implementing STI for SDGs projects and activities. Examples will illustrate different practices and experiences in designing strategies and integrating STI for the achievement of the SDGs. The examples will describe policy approaches that have been applied, discussing different

participatory and multistakeholders techniques. The examples will also discuss issues of STI governance, coordination and capacity-building bringing lessons learnt from various countries.

The closing part of the session will focus on 2-3 key takeaways that participants should take with them for their daily works in STI policy making. Agencies involved can also provide contact points should the participants want to follow up in any specific point or access the support of a specific agency.

Agenda Session 1

Introduction	Welcome remarks (Moderator)	2 min
	Overview and outline of the sessions (Moderator)	5 min
14:00-14:15	Participants profile (Mentimeter questions)	5 min
	Transition (Moderator)	1 min
15min		
Strategic approaches to STI policy for SDGs	**Introduction to approaches to STI policy for SDGs** - UNESCO presentation	15 min
	Science for supporting decision making - UNEP presentation	15 min
14:15- 15:50	Moderated discussion with participants and IATT presenters and discussants, questions and answers, including chat questions	20 min
95min		

	Country examples and experience in STI policy for SDGs (diagnostics, policy design, reviews and implementation, governance)
	  - UNCTAD presentation
	  - UNESCO presentation
		25 min

	Moderated discussion with participants and IATT presenters and discussants, questions and answers, including chat questions, and questions / quiz on Mentimeter	20 min
Wrap up	**Summary of the session and take away messages** (Moderator)	3 min
15:50-16:00	Final quiz on key words STI for SDGs - Mentimeter	5 min
	Transition to session 2	2 min
10 min		