Introduction to the Workshop

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“We the peoples of the United Nations determined to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war...”.

- Integrated approach to great global issues
- Changing role of scientists and engineers
- Dual-use
A new one-UN, multi-stakeholder way of working?

- **United Nations Inter Agency Task Team on STI for the SDGs (IATT)**
  - 47 UN entities, 100+ staff volunteers, work streams
  - Appointed by SG every two years

- **Multi-Stakeholder Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation for the SDGs (STI Forum)**
  - 1,000s of stakeholders have been involved, with many related events.

- **Online Platform (2030 Connect)**
  - Gateway for information on existing STI initiatives, mechanisms and programs
  - Single entry point to STI solutions and information by many partners
8th Multi-stakeholder Forum on STI for the SDGs (3-4 May 2023)

Theme aligned with HLPF in its in-focus SDGs

Expected outputs:
- Co-chairs summary
- STI solutions & partnerships
- Mid-term and in-focus STI4SDG review, key milestones (road map), and future vision

Engagement:
- Bringing UN closer to the pulse of scientific and technological progress
- Ministerial session, thematic sessions, special events

Call for Inputs (Science-Policy Briefs)
UN innovation competition, solutions, partnerships and policies
Side events, associated events

https://sdgs.un.org/tfm/STIForum2023
Example call for inputs
Global science collaboration, 1975-2015

Lines: relative strength of cooperation between institutions
Circles: top 200 most-cited institutions
Source: KDD 2017, h.p://dx.doi.org/10.1145/3097983.3098016
Brought STI debate back to UN headquarters after decades!
- Recognizes special role of STI. Took 4 years of MS deliberations, 2011-2015

But “Multi-stakeholder”:
- Member States, civil society, private sector, scientific and technological communities, UN system,...
- Beyond UN “major group” system: Engages many new stakeholders (not usually engaged with UN)
- Speakers primarily scientists and engineers from academia, private sector and NGOs who engage with MS, including Ministers. No hierarchy between participants.

10-Member-Group has broad mandate on STI for SDGs. Not just advisory group, but directly engaged. Primary substantive responsibility for sessions, supported by Secretariat and IATT.
• IATT as a new one-UN way of working
  o Working-level cooperation among expert STI staff across the UN system – they self-organize their work.
  o Volunteer work, underfunded. IATT coordinators can rotate.
  o DESA as the SG’s Department ultimately responsible to deliver.

• Political ownership:
  o Oversight through 2 co-chairs appointed by ECOSOC President (previously one PR, one national science advisor).
  o No negotiations, no need for consensus. Exchange on issues of concern and solutions suggested by STI stakeholders.

• Inclusive space and science-policy interface - what does it offer scientific and technological communities?
  o Good faith substantive engagement, not the place for institutional politics. Focus on policy solutions and tech solutions.
  o Anyone can submit science-policy brief or organize a side event (only subject to peer-review/quality control).
• Inherently uncertain and skeptical

Science  Our EGM

• Universal
• Precise
• Rational
• Long-term
• Win-win

Politics

• 100% certain, skepticism is heresy.

• National, regional
• Inclusive
• Emotional
• Short-term
• Zero-sum

Source: adapted from Robbert Dijkgraaf at IIASA, 2014
Preparations to-date

➢ 10-Member-Group:
  o Discussions since summer 2022
  o Discussion of vision and elements of a global STI4SDG roadmap
  o Broadly defined thematic sessions and special events, proposed keynote speakers, and discussed and follow-up
  o Various proposals, policy briefs and reports.

➢ Forum Co-chairs and their teams:
  o Regular meetings with IATT coordinators since Oct.
  o Welcomed sessions proposed by 10-Members (20 Jan.)
  o 1st MS briefing on 13 Jan

➢ IATT
  o Call for substantive inputs in 5 UN languages (Russian speaker volunteers?): (abstracts by 3 Feb., draft submissions by 10 March)
  o Established Forum task force (STI Africa day, etc.)
  o IATT work in work streams
Respective roles

• The STI Forum co-chairs provide overall political ownership and rally support, approve overall programme.

• The 10-Member-Group provides overall substantive ownership, moderate the Forum sessions, and explore initiatives and partnerships.

• The interagency IATT (47 UN entities, currently led by DESA and UNCTAD) provides organizational and substantive expert support.

• Secretariat reviews and finalizes concept note, programme, notes, and speaker list. Ultimately responsible for delivery and filling of any gaps.
Objectives of our meeting

• Mid-term review of STI progress for the SDGs (overall, and in-focus SDGs 6, 7, 9 and 11)
• Discuss future vision and elements of a global STI4SDGs roadmap
• Identify high-impact innovations and technology solutions in key SDG areas
• Take stock of the TFM: 10-Member-Group and IATT since 2015
• Help conceptualizing the substantive focus and documentation for the STI Forum 2023
Expected outputs of our meeting

• Detailed meeting report with sufficient information to help finalizing the STI Forum concept note and programme
• Substantive materials/feedback for the 10-Member-Group to complete their vision and global STI4SDGs roadmap
• Compilation of written STI proposals and of high-impact innovations and technology solutions in key SDG areas
• Stock take of the TFM since 2015
## Workshop plan

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Time (EST)</th>
<th>Focus of our discussions</th>
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<tr>
<td>11 Jan.</td>
<td>09:30-18:00</td>
<td><strong>Part 1:</strong> Mid-term STI4SDGs review, vision and perspectives on what will be needed until 2030</td>
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| 12 Jan. | 09:30-18:00      | **Part 2:** “Deep-dive” into selected STI issues, solutions and proposed actions in the SDG areas in focus (6, 7, 9, 11)  
**Part 3:** Mid-term review of the TFM |
|         |                  |                          |
| 13 Jan. | 09:30-13:45      | continued: IATT work streams  
**Part 4:** Discussion of substantive focus and organizational planning for the STI Forum  
**Member States briefing** (ECOSOC Chamber)  
**10-Member meeting** (closed) |
|         | 15:00-16:00      |                          |
|         | 16:00-16:45      |                          |
Next steps after the meeting

• Within 10 days: meeting report
• By 3 Feb: abstracts of science-policy briefs, by 10 March draft submissions
• 15 Feb: complete first draft programme with speakers (and backups). Start inviting speakers.
• March: CSTD
• Mid-March: deadline for side event application
• By 15 March: all sessions notes completed
• End March: Briefings to MS and stakeholders
• 2 May: IATT report (briefs) and 10-Member-Group’s vision and global roadmap published.
“Creativity is contagious. Pass it on!”
(Albert Einstein)

Thank you!

https://sdgs.un.org/events/expert-group-meeting-science-technology-and-innovation-sdgs-meeting-10-member-group-high
https://sdgs.un.org/TFM/STIForum2023