



8th Multi-stakeholder Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation for the Sustainable Development Goals

Science, technology, and innovation (STI) for accelerating the recovery from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) and the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at all levels

3-4 May 2023

Guidelines for Side Events

Pursuant to General Assembly decision [A/RES/73/226](#) of 20 December 2018, the 8th annual [Multi-Stakeholder Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation for the SDGs](#) (STI Forum) will be held from 3 to 4 May 2023 at the UN Headquarters in New York. The Forum will be convened by the President of ECOSOC, Her Excellency Lachezara Stoeva, who has appointed two co-chairs – H.E. Ms. Mathu Joyini, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of South Africa to the United Nations; and H.E. Mr. Thomas Woodroffe, United Kingdom Ambassador to the UN Economic and Social Council – to guide the organization of the Forum.

Side events can be organized in connection with the STI Forum, either in-person or virtually, by Member States, the UN system, Intergovernmental Organizations and accredited non-governmental stakeholders. The side events will be an opportunity for all participants to share knowledge and solutions to accelerate implementation of science, technology, and innovation, identify new and emerging issues, exchange national and local experiences and practices, and showcase voluntary commitments for the role of STI in achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Side events may be held on the day prior to the Forum (2 May: from 10 am to 6 pm, EST), as well as on the days of the STI Forum itself, during specific designated times (3-4 May: from 8:30 am to 9:45 am, from 1:15 pm to 2:45 pm, or from 6:15 pm to 7:45 pm, EST).

Thematic Focus

The theme of the STI Forum is aligned with this year's High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF), to be held on 10-19 July 2023, "Accelerating the recovery from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) and the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at all levels". The 2023 HLPF will review in-depth SDGs 6 on clean water and sanitation, 7 on affordable and clean energy, 9 on industry, innovation and infrastructure, 11 on sustainable cities and communities, and 17 on partnerships for the SDGs. While placing a particular focus on the role and contributions of science, technology, and innovation to these SDGs, the STI Forum will also take a broader look at the contribution of STI to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda as a whole as a contribution to the SDG Summit to be held in September this year.

Side events should be aligned to the overall focus of the STI Forum.

Who is eligible to organize side events?

Member States, Intergovernmental Organizations (IGOs), UN entities, and non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the ECOSOC can apply to have a side event inside the UN Headquarters, outside the UN Headquarters, or virtually. Submissions by universities, laboratories, and scientific and engineering organizations, partnerships and initiatives without consultative status will be considered on a case-by-case basis. All interested parties are strongly encouraged to partner with others to organize a side event.

Criteria for side events

In view of the large number of requests anticipated and taking into consideration the limited space and time allocated for the side events, the following principles will be applied by the Secretariat when conducting the selection of side events:

- Organizations that are not in consultative status with ECOSOC should have a co-sponsor (Member States or UN entities) to organize their side events. Events without such co-sponsor will be considered on a case-by-case basis.
- Proposed side events should be closely related to the theme of the 2023 STI Forum.

- Side events should ensure gender balance and strive for meaningful participation of stakeholders, including civil society, women, youth, indigenous people, academia and others.
- Side events should highlight concrete success stories and examples of innovations, solutions and technologies that support the implementation of one or more SDGs.
- Organizers are encouraged to make the side events as interactive as possible, including by allocating sufficient time for dialogue with the audience.
- Only one organization should submit the application for the proposed joint side event.

Application process

- The Call for Side Events is open from 13 February – 6 March 2023.
- Completed side event application forms can be submitted to the Secretariat through the online form available [here](#).
- Deadline for submission of applications is COB EST 6 March 2023.

Selection process

- The Secretariat will work with the co-chairs of the Forum to select side events, based on the above-mentioned criteria. Organizers of approved applications will be notified by 20 March 2023. Only organizers whose side events have been approved will be contacted by the Secretariat.
- Organizers of selected events will be requested to submit additional details about their side events, including a concept note no later than 27 March 2023. Side events will be listed in the programme to be posted on the [STI Forum 2023 website](#).

Format of side events

- Side events can be hosted in-person or virtually.
- In-person side events at the UN Headquarters can be a maximum of 90 minutes in duration. Side events outside the UN Headquarters or virtually have no time limit imposed by the Secretariat

- In-person side events can be organized either inside the UN Headquarters in New York, or in outside locations in New York City. Please note that participation in events held inside the UN Headquarters is restricted to registered and approved participants of the 2023 STI Forum.
- Space inside the UN Headquarters is very limited. In case space is not available within the UN Headquarters premises, organizers are encouraged to find an alternative location in New York City or organize the event virtually.
- Organizers should plan to hold their event in English or make their own interpretation arrangements for side events.
- For side events inside the UNHQ, organizers are responsible for the costs.
- For side events outside UNHQ and virtually, side event organizers are responsible for choosing the event location/platform and must bear ALL costs incurred.
- Publicizing a side event is the responsibility of its organizers. The Secretariat will not produce fliers, distribute notices, or run other publicity efforts for side events.
- Participation in the UN 2023 STI Forum is free for all participants. Charging a fee for participation in side events is strictly prohibited.
- Related materials that are directly related to the agenda will be uploaded to the STI Forum website. The Secretariat reserves the right to not use materials deemed inappropriate.
- Organizers are required to provide a half-page summary of the key recommendations and messages within one week of the completion of the side event to the UN Secretariat at stiforum2023@un.org.

Who can I contact about side events?

- For questions regarding side events, please contact stiforum2023@un.org indicating [Side Events] in the subject.

For more information on the UN 2023 STI Forum, please visit:

- 2023 STI Forum [official website](#)
- UN 2023 STI Forum [call for substantive inputs](#)