

## **8<sup>th</sup> Multi-stakeholder Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation for the Sustainable Development Goals**

**3-4 May 2023**

**Trusteeship Council Chamber**

**United Nations Headquarters, New York**

*“Science, technology and innovation for building back better  
from COVID-19 while advancing the full implementation of the  
2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at all levels”*

### **Programme**

with annotations of sessions and special events

#### **Tuesday, 2 May 2023**

##### **Science Technology and Innovation in Africa Day Special Event**

Conference Room 2 (10:00 – 13:00; 15:00 – 18:00)

The STI in Africa Day will be held at the margins of the STI Forum in New York on 2 May, with a focus on STI for the SDGs: “Priority Areas, Levers and Actionable Steps for Africa”. Over the past three decades, Africa has made significant progress in educating its youth, building its industrial base, and creating a large internal market that have collectively enabled Africa to withstand global crises. The first STI in Africa Day will explore how Africa can mobilize and leverage the youth, its diaspora, the African Continental Free Trade Area, and growing industrial base to drive STI to meet its development aspirations and meet all SDG targets. It will provide a platform for exchanging ideas and exploring ways to accelerate the development, application, and scaling up of technologies to fast-track progress on the SDGs and Agenda 2063. This special event will provide a global stage for conversations between the diaspora and home (global Africa), business levers in Africa vs. the diaspora and its capacity to strike partnerships to invest in overseas markets and Africa itself.

- Co-Chairs of the Forum

#### **Wednesday, 3 May 2023**

##### **Meeting with Major Groups and other stakeholders – outcomes of STI conferences, initiatives and events**

Trusteeship Council Chamber (8:15 – 9:30)

This special event will facilitate an exchange between senior representatives of UN major groups and other key TFM stakeholders, the President of ECOSOC, and the Forum co-chairs. It will also ensure that key outcomes and findings of the groups’ STI conferences, initiatives and events can systematically be considered and are brought to the STI Forum. The scientific and technological community and the children and youth group will lead the discussions, but other major groups and TFM stakeholders will also be engaged.

- Co-Chairs of the Forum

## Welcome and Opening

(10:00 – 10:50)

### Opening Remarks

- H.E. Ms. Lachezara Stoeva, President of the Economic and Social Council
- H.E. Mr. António Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations (represented by Ms. Maria-Francesca Spatolisano, Assistant Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Inter-Agency Affairs)
- Video remarks by H.E. Mr. Csaba Kőrösi, President of the General Assembly

### Other speakers

Keynote speakers:

- H.E. Bonginkosi Emmanuel Nzimande, Minister of Higher Education, Science and Innovation, Republic of South Africa
- Ms. Charlotte Watts, Professor, Chief Scientific Adviser and Director for Research and Evidence in the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Offices, United Kingdom
- Presentation of the Report of the 10-Member-Group of High-level Representatives of Scientific Community, Civil Society and Private Sector by a Co-chair of the Group
  - Ms. Quarraisha Abdool Karim, Associate Scientific Director, CAPRISA, South Africa; Professor, Columbia University' Pro-Vice Chancellor, University of KwaZulu-Natal; UNAIDS Special Ambassador for Adolescents and HIV
  - Ms. Cherry Murray, Professor of Physics and Deputy Director for Research, Biosphere 2, University of Arizona, USA

The 10-Member Group of High-level Representatives of Scientific Community, Civil Society, and Private Sector (10-Member Group), appointed by the UN Secretary General, is tasked with supporting the Technology Facilitation Mechanism (TFM), including the STI Forum, and it has a broad mandate on science, technology and innovation for the SDGs. Group members work closely with the Inter-Agency Task Team on Science, Technology and Innovation for the SDGs (IATT) and guide the work of the TFM. In this presentation, one of the Co-chairs of the 10-Member Group will present the Group's final report, comprising a big picture view of how far we have come in terms of STI for the SDGs, a vision on STI in 2030, and a global STI4SDGs roadmap to get there with high-impacts actions. The presentation will provide an overall frame for the STI Forum sessions.

### Ministerial session under the theme “Innovating to deliver the SDGs”

(10:50 – 12:00)

The 10-Member-Group will issue a brief guiding note on the theme of the Ministerial session for consideration by speakers. The list of Ministerial speakers will include the chair of the UN Commission on Science and Technology for Development who will report on the outcomes of the Commission's 26<sup>th</sup> session.

Chaired by H.E. Mr. Thomas Woodroffe, United Kingdom Ambassador to the UN Economic and Social Council

- Mr. Li Junhua, United Nations Under-Secretary-General of Economic and Social Affairs (video remarks)
- Ms. Ana Cristina Amoroso das Neves, Chair of the UN Commission on Science and Technology for Development

## Session 1. Strengthening trust in science and technology

(12:00 – 13:00)

This session will address one of the key mandates of the STI Forum, namely the science-policy interface, and demonstrate the value of robust scientific facts and understanding for policy-making and related actions. Evidence-based policy is crucial to solving the interconnected and complex challenges our societies are facing at all levels. The COVID-19 pandemic has demonstrated the importance and potential of science to address such challenges, including by having vaccines developed at record-speed. At the same time, the pandemic has also highlighted the need to foster trust in science and technology as an essential basis for swift and effective policy actions. This session will take stock of the overall global picture and critically explore specific recent cases to answer the question of how stakeholders can work together to jointly build trust in science and technology, to tackle misinformation, and to explore how the science-advisory systems across the UN system, governments, civil society and private sector could work together in a more effective way.

Chaired by H.E. Ms. Mathu Joyini, Permanent Representative of the Republic of South Africa to the United Nations

- Moderator:
  - Ms. Quarraisha Abdool Karim, Associate Scientific Director, CAPRISA, South Africa; Professor, Columbia University Pro-Vice Chancellor, University of KwaZulu-Natal; UNAIDS Special Ambassador for Adolescents and HIV; co-chair, Secretary General's 10-Member-Group
- Panelists:
  - Mr. Joel Netshitenzhe, Executive Director, Mapungubwe Institute for Strategic Reflection (MISTRA)
  - Ms. Cary Funk, Director, Science and society research, Pew Research Center (online participation)
  - Ms. Ana-Maria Cetto, Professor, Institute of Physics, Faculty of Sciences, Universidad Nacional Autonoma de Mexico (UNAM)
- Lead discussants:
  - Mr. Peter Gluckman, President, International Science Council (video remarks)
  - Mr. Scott C Ratzan, Executive Director, Business Partners for Sustainable Development
  - Mr. Taffere Tesfachew, Acting Managing Director, UN Technology Bank for LDCs

Interactive discussion with interventions from the floor:

-

## **Opening Ceremony: Metaverse for SDGs lab and the innovation exhibit – young problem-solvers and inspiring innovations**

13:15 – 14:30, Trusteeship Council Chamber

This special event comprises a high-level opening ceremony for the Metaverse for SDGs lab and exhibit, followed by a showcase of innovations for addressing sustainability issues in local communities and beyond. A particular focus will be highlighting innovations that address multiple SDGs (the in-focus SDGs 6, 7, 9 and 11) and/or that address the needs of vulnerable communities. This year's exhibit showcases some of the winners from various competitions and challenges throughout the UN System. Innovators will describe their cutting-edge initiatives and share insights from their experience implementing development solutions in areas including water, energy, innovation, and sustainable cities. They will discuss opportunities for these new technologies to accelerate sustainable and inclusive recovery from the pandemic towards a brighter future.

Chaired by H.E. Mr. Thomas Woodroffe, United Kingdom Ambassador to the UN Economic and Social Council

- Mr. Johannes Cullman, Chief Scientific adviser to the President of the 77th United Nations General Assembly
- Ms. Aissata Camara, Deputy Commissioner/Chief of Staff, NYC Mayor's Office for International Affairs
- Ms. Lotta Tähtinen, interim Chief, Integrated Policy Analysis Branch, Division for Sustainable Development Goals, United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs
- Mr. Rui Wan, Liaison Officer, International Telecommunication Union
- Innovator Lightning Talks
  - Moderator: Ms. Quarraisha Abdool Karim, Associate Scientific Director, CAPRISA
  - Ms. Freda Korarome, Coordinator of Ecoforestry, Division of Natural Resources, Eastern Highlands, Provincial Administration, Papua New Guinea
  - Sudhakar Velayutham, Entrepreneur in Residence, Aquaconnect
  - Henrik Cox, Head of Product, Conservation X Labs
- Metaverse for SDGs lab presentation
  - Marcus Shingles, Co-Founder, Exponential Destiny

## **STI Forum 2023 Metaverse for SDGs lab**

The Lab will open for visitors after the opening ceremony during the following hours:

**May 3 from 2:30pm to 3pm & 5pm to 6pm** (Conference Room 9)

**May 4 from 1:15pm to 2:30pm** (Conference Room D)

This special interactive and hands-on exhibition, entitled "Metaverse for SDGs lab", will be organized by ITU with support from DESA. The exhibit will consist of a virtual reality experience created by teams of young people from 70 countries who are participating in a global competition – the Metaverse for SDGs Global Prize and Virtual Reality Competition. This year-long competition was launched in Kigali, Rwanda, at ITU's Generation Connect Global Youth Summit in June 2022. The event will give STI Forum attendees and the UN community in New York the opportunity to experience in a hands-on way how these new digital technologies can be used to support acceleration of the SDGs, through supporting empathy, awareness and education. The showcase will be staffed by young people including from underserved communities.

## Session 2. Integrated solutions to make progress across SDGs 6, 7, and 9

(15:00 – 16:30)

This session will look at integrated technological solutions to the energy, food, water, and climate crises. These crises are strongly interconnected, with important trade-offs and synergies between them. It will also examine the current “polycrisis”, long foretold by sustainability science, and the emerging scientific and engineering work focused on this “nexus” of issues. Against this background, the session will explore cases of the most effective technology solutions in energy, food, water and climate that minimize major trade-offs and optimize synergies across other areas. These include solutions that may require sustainability gap financing because they may be less profitable in a narrow business sense but that have outsized, wider benefits across societies. The session will kick off with an overview presentation followed by specific case studies. A key output of the session may be the identification of high-impact and synergistic global actions to drive SDG progress.

Chaired by H.E. Mr. Thomas Woodroffe, United Kingdom Ambassador to the UN Economic and Social Council

- Moderator:
  - Mr. Nebojsa Nakicenovic, Professor em., Technical University of Vienna, Austria
- Panelists:
  - Mr. Keywan Riahi, Director, Energy, Climate and Environment Program, International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis, Austria
  - Ms. Mónica Gutiérrez, Renewable Energy Engineer, Mott MacDonald; formerly Apü üya Wüin —The Guardian of Water, Colombia
  - Mr. Rao Narasimha, Associate Professor, Yale School for the Environment, Yale University, USA
  - Ms. Catarina Baptista, Junior Water Engineer, VITO WaterClimateHub, Belgium
- High-level respondents:
  - Mr. Shlomi Kofman, Vice President & Head of the International Collaborations Division, Innovation Authority, Israel
  - Mr. Nobuo Fukuda, Chairperson, Carbon Recycling Fund Institute, Japan (video remarks)
- Lead discussants:
  - Ms. Ismahane Elouafi, Chief Scientist, Food and Agriculture Organization
  - Mr. Jean-Pierre Cayol, Programme Coordinator, Department of Nuclear Sciences and Applications, International Atomic Energy Agency

Interactive discussion with interventions from the floor.

## Session 3. Think global, act local – people and community led innovation and tech infrastructures for “smarter” and inclusive cities

(16:30 – 18:00)

This session will explore people-led innovation and tech infrastructures in cities. The ongoing rapid urbanization has the potential to enhance the lives of billions of people around the world, especially when coupled with rapid technological advances. However, it is crucial to ensure that cities do not only get “smarter” but also more inclusive and that technological innovations are used to enhance the lives of all, not just of a few. In this decade, most of the innovation and tech infrastructure will be concentrated in cities and urban areas. It is in cities where most materials and resources will be used, where most pollution will be created and also where the largest inequalities exist. The world’s success in achieving SDGs will be largely decided in cities, by a myriad of local actions that need to add up at the global level. “Think global and act local” has long been a unifying call by sustainability practitioners and policy makers concerned with prioritizing the most effective local actions that equally contribute to the global goals and perspective. This session will showcase this principle by exploring people-led innovation systems and related high-impact tech infrastructures that serve local needs yet contribute effectively to the world SDG aspirations.

Chaired by H.E. Ms. Mathu Joyini, Permanent Representative of the Republic of South Africa to the United Nations

- Moderator:
  - Mr. Tālis Juhna, Rector for Research and Professor; Chairman of Advisory Board of the Latvian Council of Science, Riga Technical University
- Panelists:
  - Mr. Axel Graael, Mayor. City of Niterói, State of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
  - Ms. Louise Bedsworth, Former chair of the Council on Strategic Growth, Executive Director, Center for Law, Energy & the Environment, UC Berkeley Law School, USA
  - Ms. Nzambi Matee, Founder, Gjenge Makers, Kenya (online participation)

Interactive discussions with interventions from the floor:

:

- Mr. Taikan Oki, Professor, University of Tokyo, Japan
- Ms. Shulang Fei, Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences (CAAS), Member of the Young Scientist Group of the World Food Forum
- Mr. Jason Cheng, Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) Youth Local Pathways Fellow
- Ms. Gabriela Alvarado, Country Director for the Dominican Republic, World Food Programme

## Thursday, 4 May 2023

### **A celebration of ideas: Policy perspectives of experts and stakeholders on emerging science, frontier technologies, future scenarios, and the SDGs**

8:15 – 9:30, Trusteeship Council Chamber

This special event will provide an opportunity to hear from the authors of the science-policy briefs submitted by scientists and engineers from academia, private sector, UN system representatives and governments, in response to a call by the UN. Innovative formats will be explored to allow a frank discussion between authors and policy makers. The event will explore the latest developments in science and technology and their current and potential future impacts on sustainable development and the SDGs. The session will explore technology convergence and the multiple technology divides and challenges associated with these trends related to clusters such as blockchain, biotechnology, nanotechnology, artificial intelligence and quantum technologies. As in the previous years, a senior UN official will present the “TFM findings on the impacts of rapid technology change on the SDGs” as a brief synthesis and update of what science and technology communities have learned on the wider societal and developmental impacts of scientific and technological breakthroughs in the preceding year.

Chaired by H.E. Ms. Mathu Joyini, Permanent Representative of the Republic of South Africa to the United Nations

Moderator:

- Ms. Salome Muthoni Guchu, Principal Innovation and Outreach Officer, Inter-University Council for East Africa, Kampala, Uganda

Presentation by Secretariat: “Overview of this year’s science-policy briefs and updated TFM findings on the impacts of rapid technological change

- Mr. Richard A Roehrl, Senior Economic Affairs Officer, UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs

Presentation of science-policy briefs

- Mr. Huadong Guo, Director General, International Research Center of Big Data for Sustainable Development Goals, China
- Ms. Valentine Goddard, Founder and Executive Director, AI Impact Alliance, Canada
- Ms. Alma Cristal Hernández Mondragón, Visiting Professor. Center for Research and Advanced Studies of the National Polytechnic Institute, Mexico

Q&A on the science-policy briefs

Conversation on lessons from science-policy inspired futures and scenarios:

- Mr. Nebojsa Nakicenovic, Professor em., Technical University of Vienna, Austria
- Mr. Keywan Riahi, Director, Energy, Climate and Environment Program, International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis, Austria

TFM partners work on harnessing scientific breakthroughs and frontier technologies for the SDGs

- Ms. Daria Robinson, Executive Director, Solution Accelerator & Deputy CEO, Geneva Science and Diplomacy Anticipator Campus Biotech, Switzerland
- Mr. Thulani Dlamini, Chief Executive Officer, Council for Industrial and Scientific Research, South Africa

Interactive discussion

## **Presentation of the Global Sustainable Development Report 2023**

(10:00 – 10:20)

This short presentation will provide an opportunity for the Independent Group of Scientists preparing the 2023 Global Sustainable Development Report (GSDR) to engage with policymakers in a discussion on the key findings of the report. Mandated by Member States, the GSDR is produced once every four years, serving as a scientific “assessment of assessments” to inform the quadrennial SDG Summit at the General Assembly. It is written by the Independent Group of Scientists, consisting of 15 experts, appointed by the UN Secretary-General, representing a variety of backgrounds, scientific disciplines, institutions, and geographic regions. This year’s report will be launched in September 2023, as the world approaches the half-way point of the 2030 Agenda and struggles to rebuild from the COVID-19 pandemic and other interrelated crises. In this session, the scientists will engage in a discussion with policymakers about the practical, evidence-based solutions they recommend for accelerating transformations for the SDGs.

Chaired by H.E. Mr. Thomas Woodroffe, United Kingdom Ambassador to the UN Economic and Social Council

- Moderator:
  - Ms. Anita Gurumurthy, Founding Member and Executive Director, IT for Change, Bangalore, India;
- Presentation and discussion:
  - Mr. Jaime C. Montoya, Professor at the University of the Philippines College of Medicine, Chair of the Health Sciences Division and Secretary, National Academy of Science and Technology
  - Ms. Nancy Shackell, Senior research scientist at Bedford Institute of Oceanography in Nova Scotia

- Mr. Ibrahima Hathie, Research Director for the Initiative Prospective Agricole et Rurale, Senegal
- Lead discussants:
  - Ms. Denise Morais Da Fonseca, Adjunct Professor of Immunology at the Institute of Biomedical Sciences - University of Sao Paulo - Brazil
  - Ms. Sabrina Sholts, Curator of Biological Anthropology, Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History

#### **Session 4: Breaking down barriers- closing the gender gap in science and technology**

(10:20 – 11:45)

This session will highlight examples and lessons learned from gender and STI initiatives that are helping to move the needle towards making innovation ecosystems more inclusive and representative and explore what is needed to scale up and accelerate further progress. With the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its SDGs, countries committed to sustainable development that leaves no one behind. This will require significant global transformation in which science, technology and innovation will be the key transformers and enablers. Women and girls make up half the global population and without their full participation, we are losing half of the potential creators, innovators and scientists, and their essential contribution to solving the world's major problems. Closing the gender gap in this area throughout the cycle of education, employment, entrepreneurship, and leadership will be essential. It is also an imperative for women's economic empowerment, enabling girls and women to make their own choices and participate fully in society. Against this background, this session will follow-up to the recent recommendations of the UN Commission on the Status of Women by exploring specific solutions, critically assessing cases and identifying best practices and practical measures on how to shift priorities, investments, and perceptions on women's and girls' place in science, technology and innovation.

Chaired by H.E. Mr. Thomas Woodroffe, United Kingdom Ambassador to the UN Economic and Social Council

- Moderator:
  - Ms Maki Kawai, President, National Institutes of Natural Sciences
- Panelists:
  - Ms. Tara Chklovski, CEO, Technovation
  - Ms. Najat Aoun Saliba, Professor of Analytic Chemistry, American University of Beirut, Lebanon
  - Ms. Janet Abbate, Virginia Tech Professor of Science, Technology and Society, USA
  - Ms. Navroop Sahdev, CEO, The Digital Economist
- Lead discussants:
  - Ms. Diene Keita, Assistant Secretary General and Deputy Executive on Programme, United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)
  - Ms. Natalia Bayona, Director of Innovation, Education and Investments, World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) (online participation)
  - Ms. Eleonore Fournier-Tombs, Head of Anticipatory Action and Innovation, United Nations University
  - Ms. Elizabeth Basauri Bryan, Senior Scientist, Environment and Production Technology Division, International Food Policy Research Institute
- Interactive discussion with interventions from the floor



## Session 5: Global research cooperation and funding- sharing knowledge through new partnerships

(11:45 – 13:00)

This session will explore the status of global research cooperation and funding - especially in the Global South – for the achievement of the SDGs. It will bring together key public and private funders of research and development (R&D) and other key R&D actors. Following a global status overview, specific cases of R&D cooperation and funding will be discussed, including cases of global and regional cooperation across borders and academic disciplines. These cases will illustrate how important international arrangements have become for global R&D and how indispensable they are for an effective response to the “polycrisis” and for achieving the SDGs. A conversation among key R&D funders and key R&D actors from public and private sectors will explore best practices and new ideas on how to better share knowledge, improve the current funding systems, and to strengthen collaboration and build new partnerships. The session is expected to identify high-impact actions based on lessons learnt.

Chaired by H.E. Ms. Mathu Joyini, Permanent Representative of the Republic of South Africa to the United Nations

- Moderator:
  - Mr. Carlos Henrique de Brito Cruz, Senior Vice President, Elsevier; Member, Brazilian Academy of Sciences; and Professor em., Physics Institute, University of Campinas, Brazil
- Panelists:
  - Ms. Katja Becker, Chair, Global Research Council; and President, Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft, Germany
  - Ms. Ana Cristina Amoroso das Neves, Head, Internet Governance Office, FCCN, Unidade de Computação Científica da Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia, Portugal; and Chair of the UN Commission on Science and Technology for Development
  - Mr. Kazuhito Hashimoto, President, Japan Science and Technology Agency
  - Mr. Fulufhelo Nelwamondo, CEO, National Research Foundation of South Africa
- Lead discussants:
  - Ms. Charlotte Watts, Professor, Chief Scientific Adviser and Director for Research and Evidence in the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Offices, United Kingdom
  - Mr. Marco Antonio Zago, President, FAPESP – São Paulo Research Foundation, Brazil

Interactive discussions with interventions from the floor

## **Implementing national STI4SDG roadmaps – capacity building and Partnership in Action**

13:15 – 14:30, Trusteeship Council Chamber

This special event will explore means and ways to support the implementation of national STI4SDGs roadmaps and highlight national pilot projects. It will build synergies with ongoing STI roadmap collaborations with other strategic partners and will use substantive inputs from the 10 Member Group, and other key stakeholders. It will help participants to use the STI roadmaps as complementary tools for policy making, building capacity and scaling up adoption of countries' STI for SDGs Roadmaps. It will also discuss the path forward for the Partnership in Action and assess the relevance of STI4SDG roadmaps and related capacity building for accelerating progress towards the SDGs.

Chaired by H.E. Mr. Thomas Woodroffe, United Kingdom Ambassador to the UN Economic and Social Council

- Moderator:
  - Mr. José Ramón López-Portillo Romano, Chairman, Q Element Ltd., Advisor to Mexico Government, member of the UN SG's 10 Member Group for the TFM
  
- Panelists:
  - Ms. Lotta Tähtinen, Interim Chief, Integrated Policy Analysis Branch, United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA)
  - Mr. Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, the Research and Information System
  - Mr. George Essegbey, Chief Research Scientist, Science and Technology Policy Research Institute (STEPRI), Ghana
  - Mr. Solomon Benor, CEO for Research and Community Engagement Affairs, Ministry of Education, Ethiopia
  
- High-level respondents:
  - Ms. Bibi Ameenah Firdaus Gurib-Fakim, Former President of Mauritius
  - Mr. Robert Kayinamura, Minister Counsellor, Deputy Permanent Representative of the Republic of Rwanda to the United Nations
  - Ms. Ismahane Elouafi, Chief Scientist of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
  
- Interactive discussion:
  - Mr. Clapperton Chakanetsa Mavhunga, Professor of Science, Technology, and Society (STS) at MIT
  - Mr. Alfred Watkins, Founder and CEO, Global Solutions Summit
  - Ms. Angela Sarcina, Project leader for STI for SDGs, Territorial Development Unit, Joint Research Centre, European Commission
  - Mr. Fernando Santiago, Industrial Policy Officer, UNIDO

## Session 6. Forging an equitable, digital future for all

(15:00 – 16:30)

This session will explore a way forward for forging an equitable, digital future for all. Rapid digitalization is enhancing the way we live and work in a myriad of ways. It has the potential to open-up opportunities that we may not even have imagined yet. However, gaps in connectivity and access to digital infrastructure both within and across countries remain a serious concern. In fact, even as digital gaps in terms of basic infrastructure and skills are being closed, the concern is that rapid emergence of higher-level digital tech infrastructures - such as artificial intelligence (AI) - might further exacerbating inequalities within and between countries, since the benefits of digital transformation are increasingly accruing in a highly unequal way to few, leaving billions behind. Against this background, this session will identify obstacles and assess high-impact actions for ensuring an equitable digital future for all. It will assess what is needed for new digital technologies to help rather than hinder our pathway towards achieving the SDGs. While AI in particular promises new opportunities in many areas, from personalized medicine, to tackling illicit financial transactions, to making energy systems and traffic smart, it is also associated with cyberattacks, job displacements, and ethical dilemmas. The session will provide a pathway towards ensuring that digitalization and its most advanced technologies can become a force for good and explores the role of the UN and other international organizations in this regard.

Chaired by H.E. Mr. Thomas Woodroffe, United Kingdom Ambassador to the UN Economic and Social Council

- Moderator:
  - Ms. Anita Gurusurthy, Founding member and Executive Director, IT for Change, Bangalore, India
- Panelists:
  - Ms. Hermina Johnny, Founder, Artemis Foundation
  - Ms. Alison Gillwald, Executive Director, Research ICT Africa (online participation)
  - Mr. Chris Sharrock, Vice President of United Nations and International Organizations, Microsoft
  - Mr. Henrik Cox, Head of Product, Conservation X Labs
- Lead discussants:
  - Ms. Mi Ock Mun, President of the Science and Technology Policy Institute (STEPI), Republic of Korea
  - Mr. Robert Bertram, Chief Scientist, Bureau for Resilience and Food Security, USAID, USA

Interactive dialogue with interventions from the floor:

- Ms. Shamika Sirimanne, Director, Division on Technology and Logistics of United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)
- Mr. Amir Dossal, President and Chief Executive Officer, Global Partnerships Forum

## Session 7: Messages for the SDG Summit and the Summit of the Future – taking stock of STI for SDGs and closing remarks

(16:30 – 18:00)

This concluding session will be led by the co-chairs of the Forum and of the 10-Member-Group. It will bring together the messages of the 2023 STI Forum towards the SDG Summit in September 2023 and the Summit of the Future in 2024. It will seek to distil the key issues that have permeated throughout the Forum's discussions and to present actionable recommendations for upcoming events. The session will also be an opportunity to take stock of what the Technology Facilitation Mechanism (TFM) has achieved at the mid-term point towards the SDGs. The session will start with a brief progress report by

the Interagency Task Team on Science, Technology and Innovation for the SDGs (IATT) in which 48 UN entities coordinate their work on STI since 2015. TFM partners will also present a number of initiatives from across the world that support the science-based, solution-oriented, multi-stakeholder and collaborative approach of the TFM, including discussions on broadening their impacts and closer connection to the TFM. The session will conclude with next steps and identification of priorities for upcoming work.

Chaired by H.E. Ms. Mathu Joyini, Permanent Representative of the Republic of South Africa to the United Nations

- Presentation on IATT progress
  - Mr. Navid Hanif, Assistant Secretary-General for Economic Development, United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs
  - Ms. Shamika Sirimanne, Director, Division on Technology and Logistics of United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
- Presentation on key messages and looking ahead
  - H.E. Mr. Thomas Woodroffe, United Kingdom Ambassador to the UN Economic and Social Council
  - Ms. Quarraisha Abdool Karim, Associate Scientific Director, CAPRISA, South Africa; Professor, Columbia University' Pro-Vice Chancellor, University of KwaZulu-Natal; UNAIDS Special Ambassador for Adolescents and HIV
  - Ms. Cherry Murray, Professor of Physics and Deputy Director for Research, Biosphere 2, University of Arizona, USA
- Remarks on the ongoing process of the UN Global Digital Compact on behalf of the co-facilitators H.E. Ms. Anna Karin Eneström, Permanent Representative of Sweden and H.E. Mr. Claver Gatete, Permanent Representative of Rwanda, to be delivered by the Permanent Representative of Sweden
- Lead discussants:
  - Mr. Dirk Fransaer, Chair, Global Sustainable Technology and Innovation Community (G-STIC)
  - Ms. Xiaolan Fu, Founding Director of the Technology and Management Centre for Development (TMCD), Professor of Technology and International Development, former member of the 10 Member Group to support the Technology Facilitation Mechanism
  - Mr. Paulo Gadelha, Coordinator of the Fiocruz Strategy for the 2030 Agenda; and former President, Fundação Oswaldo Cruz (Fiocruz), Brazil
- Interactive dialogue with interventions from the floor:
  - Representative of UN Major Group on Science and Technology
  - Ms. Clara Brown, Representative of Major Group for Children and Youth

Closing:

- H.E. Ms. Lachezara Stoeva, President of the Economic and Social Council

**Global Solutions Summit (GSS 2023)**

10:00 – 13:30, ECOSOC Chamber

In partnership with the World Federation of Engineering Organizations and its Affiliate Member, the American Society of Civil Engineers, will organize the Global Solutions Summit 2023 (GSS 2023) at the margins of the STI Forum on 5 May. The guiding theme of the Summit is the call to the private sector, and future leaders to accelerate the demand for and deployment of existing and emerging technologies for green, inclusive, and sustainable development. GSS 2023 will assemble a roster of thoughtful, high-profile doers - women and men who are actively working in the field to overcome these deployment challenges – to explain what they did, how they did it, what went right and what went wrong, where gaps or broken circuits exist in the deployment ecosystem, and what needs to be done to create a more effective and efficient ecosystem that can meet the demand for and support the deployment of these needed innovations on the scale required to achieve the SDGs by 2030.

- Co-Chairs of the Forum