

**Workshop on building capacity and scaling up STI actions and adoption of countries'  
STI4SDGs Roadmaps in Africa**

Oct. 12-13, 2023

**Roundtable 2: funding and institutional mechanisms for promoting mission-oriented  
technology deployment to solve specific problems**

**Co-organizers: DESA and OECD, supported by Global Solutions Summit, Science Summit, World  
Food Forum/ FAO, and UN MGCY**

*Thursday, Oct. 12<sup>th</sup>, 11:00am-12:30pm, CR6 UN ECA Conference Room, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia*

***Focus of the session***

In the Political Declaration of the SDG Summit 2023, the world leaders had a Call to Actions and made significant commitments on science, technology and innovation:

Para 38 q) “We commit to bridging the science, technology and innovation divides and the responsible use of science, technology, and innovation as drivers of sustainable development and to build the capacities necessary for sustainable transformations. ... We will take action to enhance the ability of developing countries to benefit from science, technology, and innovation and address the major structural impediments to accessing new and emerging technologies including through scaling up the use of open science, affordable and open-source technology, research and development, including through strengthened partnerships...”

As an immediate follow up, and a response to recent UN General Assembly resolutions which requested the UN to explore a voluntary funding model for the full operationalization of all components of the TFM, this session examines the potential options for funding STI4SDG programme. It will frame the discussion around roadmaps precisely because the designed roadmap creation programs can be an indispensable catalyst for sustainable development and the SDGs. In other words, the process of creating the roadmap is almost as important as the roadmap itself. Among other issues, to ensure a strong and sustainable roadmapping process, a voluntary funding model/ mechanism to support national roadmapping efforts needs to be established. In this connection, the session will discuss how roadmaps could help Africa mobilize youth, the Diaspora, innovation, and the private sector to add value to African manufacturing sector and/or to shift to more regenerative agricultural systems – the priority areas identified by the Coalition on Science, Technology, and Innovation for Africa’s Development during the first STI for Africa Day. But, the real challenge is how to move swiftly towards more socially inclusive and environmentally sustainable growth with tangible, permanent development of infrastructure and material technoscientific capability, not simply growth without development based upon foreign market-controlled raw material exports while roads, rail, energy, and industrial infrastructure is non-existent. In other words, STI4SDGs as enabler of capability (defined as the quality of being capable to do, physically or

intellectually, hence focused on developing ability, skills, and talent) not so much capacity (defined as being able to receive, hold or absorb forces not of one's own making).

The current situation and issues are well summarized in the Global Sustainable Development Report (GSDR) 2023. It emphasizes the extremely important role of STI in response to the significant delay in achieving the SDGs, and stresses that actions grounded in context specific science and analysis are imperative for the kinds of transformations we need to achieve the SDGs. STI funding was seriously discussed at the STI Forum in May 2023. This workshop could serve as a launchpad for a process on STI funding driven by African people and communities that build on existing mechanisms to bring collaborative efforts from multiple countries. It will also discuss the potential value of blending different financing sources and those that create multiple venues to comprehend the complexity of blended financing model, and explore practices especially in the field of health and energy transition.

### ***Objectives***

Achieving SDGs requires major structural and technological changes in key sectors such as infrastructure, industry, energy, construction, agriculture, and transportation. Near-term investments in all these sectors must be financed in order to facilitate the transition towards long-term sustainable development. "Near-term" roadmapping must be seen as an instalment on the long-term, not "short-termism" defined as short-term fixes or temporary buildings that will be torn down when the long-term arrives. At the SDG Summit September 2023, the world leaders welcomed the UN Secretary General's SDG Stimulus Plan and emphasized the need to unlock private capital. STI financing shall be part of the SDG Stimulus Plan. The purpose of this roundtable is to provide an overview of blended finance in STI for SDGs and shed some light on the questions by discussing practical approaches to promoting African-driven mission-oriented technology deployment to solve specific problems. It will discuss the role of funding and institutional mechanisms that are relevant to the UN and proposals on public, private and mixed resources of finance, including international finance, which could be part of a proposed STI4SDG finance package. Reforming technology sourcing and procurement process, a robust technology and fintech-sourcing system global in reach, and once in-country, innovative deployment considerate of local knowledge systems and not just purposes for which equipment is designed, and acceleration of local value addition through targeted manufacturing technology importation where local ones are unavailable, are areas that need concrete roadmapping.

### ***Questions***

- In line with UNGAs commitment, how can the global community finance and facilitate the transfer of environmentally sound technologies to developing countries? More specifically, who will transfer these technologies to whom and who needs to receive financing from whom in order to facilitate this transfer? How can developing countries incorporate these issues directly into their STI Roadmaps?
- UNGA identifies several structural impediments blocking developing countries from benefiting from STI. These include impediments to scaling up the use of open science, affordable and open-source technology, and research and development. Are these the only impediments blocking developing countries from benefiting from STI? If other impediments exist, what are they and how

can various funding mechanisms help to eliminate or mitigate them? How can developing countries incorporate these issues directly into their STI Roadmaps?

- What are the existing STI funding mechanisms that bring collaborative efforts of multiple countries together and connect individual funding entities? How could this workshop be a catalyst for a process that will lead to STI funding? What type of funding—seed, investment, grants, hybrid? What is the ask and what is the value proposition to funders? How should we proceed, and how much would it cost to build and implement an ecosystem based on STI4SDGs roadmapping?
- How can we strengthen the linkages and enhance synergies between UN STI4SDGs activities and those of relevant funding entities?
- How then to ensure participatory approaches, including of member States and other stakeholders in the process of setting up a voluntary fund for STI? How to include and build on the progress made by non-UN partners' events – the partners who will take an active role in the STI funding for roadmapping and roadmap implementation?
- What timelines for deliveries or next steps do you put to your suggested solutions or propositions? What will success or failure look like?

### ***Moderation and Discussion Guidance***

The moderator, speakers and discussants will be seated in the inner row of the table with microphone on each seat.

In short opening remarks, the moderator will begin the panel by introducing the subject with a few messages and highlighting the questions for discussion as contained in the session concept notes. The introduction should be limited to 3 minutes.

The moderator will introduce the speakers/keynotes/high-level respondents and guide a conversation among them. In a first round, speakers/keynotes/high-level respondents will make their remarks (maximum of 5 minutes each) which should be aimed at answering questions for discussion.

Speakers' remarks should be informal, focused and frank. They should avoid long descriptions of issues or policies, and not be excessively technical. Rather, they should identify the key challenges, lessons learnt and their policy implications. Most importantly, they are encouraged to present their top three recommendations for action by the United Nations system, governments, businesses, scientists, civil society, and others. They can also present one or two issues warranting further reflection.

If time permits, the moderator may ask follow-up questions and focus them on the special areas of expertise and experience of the speakers/high-level respondents. Speakers/high-level respondents can also react to each other. The moderator will ensure equal time allocation and participation by all.

The moderator will then open the floor to discussants for comments and questions from the floor (maximum of two minutes each for the first intervention and one minute for each additional following intervention).

Interventions can take the form of comments, or questions to the panel or to identified speakers. The moderator can direct such questions accordingly.

The moderator may decide to allow a brief discussion after two or three interventions by discussants. He/she may ask speakers/high-level respondents to make remarks related to one another and to react to specific questions from the discussants.

The moderator will then open the floor to audience for comments and questions from the floor. Audience will need to first introduce herself or himself before making two minutes or less intervention. Time permits, questions posted in Zoom chat from the online participants can be read by the moderator and commented by the speakers/high-level respondents.

Some five minutes before concluding the session, the moderator will pass the floor back to the panellists for concluding remarks of one minute each. S/he should highlight a few key messages from the discussions at the end.