

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

Oct. 12-13, 2023

**Roundtable 4: Localising the SDGs: mobilizing stakeholders to bridge the gap from the
laboratories to farms, factories, and communities**

Co-organizers: EC/JRC, WFE0, World Food Forum/FAO and UNMGCY

Thursday, Oct. 12th, 15:15-17:00, CR6 UN ECA Conference Room, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Focus of the session

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are a global call to action to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure prosperity for all by 2030. Achieving these ambitious goals requires a collective effort involving governments, businesses, academia, civil society, and local communities. While progress has been made on a global scale, there is a pressing need to localize the SDGs, tailoring strategies to the unique challenges and opportunities faced by regions and cities. Realizing the SDGs requires collaborative efforts across all levels of governance (Nakicenovic et al., 2021; Miedzinski M., 2022). Countries, regions and cities play a vital role in translating the SDGs into actionable initiatives that align with local contexts and needs.

According to the United Nations Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN, 2016), approximately 65% of the SDG targets necessitate the active involvement of local and urban actors. Leveraging STI for SDGs roadmaps can serve as a pivotal means of mobilizing local Science, Technology, and Innovation (STI) potential to drive the transformation towards the SDGs. These roadmaps and action plans also facilitate synergies with other relevant policies.

One key aspect of the localization is in fact the adoption of advanced technologies that can transform agriculture, industry, and community development and provide local sustainable solutions. Many innovative solutions are developed in laboratories, but often face challenges when transitioning to real-world applications at the local level. Bridging this gap requires a concerted effort to mobilize stakeholders and promote sustainable development through technology adoption.

This roundtable discussion aims to bring together stakeholders from different countries and backgrounds to explore how systemic approaches can accelerate sustainable development through STI at the local level.

The session will focus on the following topics:

1. **Localizing the SDGs:** Understanding the unique challenges and opportunities of regions and cities in achieving the SDGs.
2. **Identifying local STI potential for Sustainable Development:** Exploring approaches to identify cutting-edge technologies applicable to agriculture, industry, and community development.
3. **Stakeholder Engagement:** Building partnerships among governments, businesses, academia, civil society, and local communities.

4. **Scaling Up and Replicating Success:** Learning from successful projects and initiatives that have effectively localized the SDGs and adopted place-specific solutions.

Objectives

The session will aim to

1. Explore the significance of localizing the SDGs to address national, regional and urban challenges effectively.
2. Highlight the role of advanced technologies in achieving sustainable development goals.
3. Foster collaboration among stakeholders to facilitate the transfer of technologies from laboratories to farms, factories, and local communities.
4. Showcase successful cases and best practices in SDG localization and technology adoption.

Guiding questions

- How can the localization of SDGs help tailor strategies to address specific regional and municipal needs? What examples or case studies showcase successful efforts in localizing the SDGs? What lessons can be drawn from them?
- How can we effectively identify and harness local Science, Technology, and Innovation (STI) potential to drive sustainable development? What strategies can be employed to bridge the gap between laboratory-developed innovations and real-world applications within local contexts?
- What role do different stakeholders, such as governments, businesses, academia, civil society, and local communities, play in advancing sustainable development through STI? How can partnerships and collaborations among these stakeholders be fostered to maximize their impact? What are the best practices?
- Can you share examples of successful projects or initiatives that have effectively localized the SDGs and adopted place-specific solutions? What were the key factors that contributed to the success of these projects, and how can they be replicated or scaled up in other regions and cities? What challenges or barriers have been encountered in the process of scaling up localized solutions, and how can they be addressed?

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.