

# STI Forum Briefing

Thank you Co-Chairs for the floor,

My name is Oumaima Makhoulouk from Morocco and I am speaking on behalf of the Major Group for Children and Youth (MGCY). As we gather here today for this briefing session, I am thrilled to announce two transformative initiatives led by MGCY in collaboration with UN DESA that epitomize the spirit of innovation and collaboration and will be taking place during the STI Forum: the STI Forum Innovator's Showcase and the STI Forum Youth Hackathon.

Firstly, the Innovator's Showcase is a commitment to inspiring innovation by showcasing successful technology implementations in challenging environments. It will aim at recognizing 10 outstanding innovators and their solutions (5 hardware and 5 software), all of which will be technology-based, have a prototype, and demonstrate testing outcomes. At its core, the Innovator's Showcase will serve as a collaborative hub for knowledge exchange among stakeholders. Solutions showcased will align with Goal 13 (combat climate change) and specifically target low-resource settings and humanitarian settlements. By spotlighting successful technology implementations, it will hopefully serve as a catalyst for further innovation while encouraging active engagement from developers, communities, including youth, as well as organizations in similar endeavors.

Secondly, we are preparing the 1st edition of the STI Forum Youth Hackathon which will support youth empowerment and innovation. This hackathon, aligned with the core principles of the STI Forum, will aim at harnessing the power of technology and youthful creativity to address pressing challenges linked to the SDGs, specifically SDG13 on climate change. This hackathon will indeed synergize with the **STI Forum Innovators Showcase**. It will seek to mentor 20-30 teams of 3-5 young people (18-30 years old) as they brainstorm virtually during a week from May 1st to May 8th on both hardware and software solutions addressing climate change. The hackathon will end with a final hybrid pitch deck presentation during the STI Forum that the teams can either attend virtually or on-site at the UN Headquarters. This hackathon is inspired by the annual UN Datathon organized by MGCY in collaboration with the UNSD as well as initiatives such as UNLeash.

Together, these initiatives underscore the transformative power of science, technology, and innovation in advancing sustainable development goals. By fostering collaboration, knowledge exchange, and the sharing of best practices, we pave the way for a more effective and coordinated approach to addressing SDGs.

As we embark on this journey together, let us embrace the opportunities that lie ahead and commit ourselves to driving meaningful and inclusive change through innovation and collaboration. We would love to collaborate with member states and partners of the STI Forum to ensure success for both of these events.

Thank you.