

9th Multi-stakeholder Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation for the Sustainable Development Goals

Ministerial session: Harnessing science and technology for the effective delivery of sustainable, resilient, and innovative solutions

Background

The theme of the Ministerial Session is closely related to the overall theme of the STI Forum, namely “Science, technology and innovation for reinforcing the 2030 Agenda and eradicating poverty in times of multiple crises: the effective delivery of sustainable, resilient and innovative solutions” which mirrors that of the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) in July. The Ministerial session will examine potential opportunities for accelerating progress towards the SDGs that are under review by the HLPF in July, as well as ways to support effective delivery of sustainable, resilient, and innovative solutions. The co-chairs of the Forum have identified Artificial Intelligence (AI) and climate change as two critical issues of our times that will be considered throughout the Forum.

STI can drive sustainable development and accelerate progress towards the SDGs. However, realizing this potential will require strong political leadership, effective policies and increased investment in STI. The Ministerial Session will provide an opportunity to discuss how to further strengthen international cooperation and collaboration in this regard and to mobilize resources and expertise to support sustainable and inclusive development for all.

Objectives

The objectives of the Ministerial Session are to:

- Strengthen political will and leadership to enhance the contribution of STI to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs at all levels.
- Highlight the importance of STI for achieving the SDGs and identify critical challenges and opportunities.
- Share national experiences and good practices on STI policies and initiatives that contribute to making the SDGs a reality.
- Rally for increased investment in SDGs-focused STI development and adoption.

Format

The Ministerial Session will be chaired by one of the co-chairs of the STI Forum. In order to hear as many statements as possible within the limited time available, a time limit of three minutes per statement will be strictly implemented. A provisional list of Ministers that have expressed an interest in speaking during the Ministerial Session will be circulated prior to the opening of the Forum.

Questions for discussion

To guide the discussion, it is proposed that the speakers address the following guiding questions:

1. *Strengthening political will to enhance STI for inclusion and social equity*: Strong political will is essential to enhance STI capacity and contributions to SDGs and will require raising awareness amongst policy makers of the challenges and opportunities of a fast-advancing STI. What STI strategies and roadmaps have been developed in your countries and/or communities to ensure a conducive policy environment, coherence across sectors and international collaboration? What type of policies and investments are needed in STI to drive sustainable development and accelerate progress towards the SDGs in your country? Are there examples/good practices of policy initiatives, measures and impactful programmes adopted in support of STI to tackle inequalities, particularly affecting vulnerable groups, for example, to equalize access to good quality healthcare, education, clean water and sanitation and affordable and clean energy?

2. *STI4SDGs Roadmaps for realizing the benefits and addressing the challenges of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and climate change*: Proactive STI policy measures are needed to stimulate research efforts, focus investments, promote innovation, and foster coordination and multi-stakeholders' participation in STI. How can SDG-oriented STI be prioritised in investment decisions? How can national STI roadmaps or action plans be aligned regionally -and globally- to help develop more mission-oriented and SDGs-focused STI and their adoption? How can STI roadmaps and policies contribute to realizing the benefits and addressing the challenges of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and climate change?

3. *Lessons learned towards SDGs 1, 2, 13, 16 and 17*: How have STI contributed to meeting the targets related to Goal 1 - End poverty in all its forms everywhere; Goal 2 - End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture; Goal 13 - Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts; Goal 16 - Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels;, and SDG 17 - Partnerships for the Goals? What are the main challenges, and how could potential barriers be overcome? How can the UN system strengthen its support for STI, including developing guidelines and best practices and providing technical assistance to countries, to accelerate progress towards all the SDGs?

Supporting documentation:

[Background note for the 9th STI Forum, prepared by the 10-Member-Group of High-level Representatives, 22 March 2024](#)