Workshop on Building Capacity and Exploring Resources for implementing STI4SDGs Roadmaps | Department of Economic and Social Affairs (un.org)

Oct. 8-9, 2024

Co-organized by DESA and ECA

supported by UNESCO, Future Africa, EC/JRC, International Science Council (ISC), Africa-Europe Science and Innovation Collaboration Platform (AERAP), and the International Research Center of Big Data for Sustainable Development Goals (CBAS)

Conference Room 6, UNCC, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Annotated Programme, Guiding Questions, and Moderation and Discussion Guidance

Time		Programme Annotation and Guiding Questions
Tuesday, Oct. 08 2024	9:00-9:30	Welcome and registration
	9:30-10:00	**Opening Ceremony** The keynote speakers will frame the discussion around the STI for SDGs roadmaps, with a focus on "building partnerships and STI capacity in developing countries". In order to ensure strong and sustainable development, inclusive processes and voluntary funding models/mechanisms need to be established to support STI4SDGs Roadmaps and related measures. In this connection, the opening could present an outline on discussing how to mobilize youth, the Diaspora, innovators, the private sector and others to engage in the development of STI roadmaps. The opening session will also provide a brief background about the development of the Guidebook for the Development and Implementation of STI for SDGs Roadmap for the Six Transitions (see annex), and expected outcomes from this workshop.

Time	Programme Annotation and Guiding Questions
10:00-10:45	**High-level Segment: STI Policy and investment for advancing the SDGs towards National and Regional Strategic Blueprints for STI** STI is a key driver of sustainable development and accelerate progress towards the SDGs. However, realizing this potential will require strong political leadership, effective policies and increased investment in STI. This High-level Segment will provide an opportunity to discuss how to (i) further strengthen international cooperation and collaboration and (ii) mobilize the necessary financial resources, and (iii) share experiences of effective STI strategies, roadmaps, policies and planning, at national and regional levels. **Questions:** Although most countries have integrated STI in their national development plans and strategies, STI remains at the periphery in meeting national development challenges. What are the key challenges in making STI one of the key pillars of national development strategies, and how can these be overcome? How can we ensure alignment of national STI policies and efforts with the SDGs? What support is needed to enable developing countries to foster the right policy environment for STI to grow? What measures are needed to ensure STI is prioritized in investment decisions to stimulate research, promote innovation, and foster coordination among stakeholders?
10:45-11:00	Group photo & Coffee/tea break

Time	Programme Annotation and Guiding Questions
11:00 – 12:30	**Thematic Session 1: Overview and mapping exercise to understand the landscape of skills, capacities and activities related to STI Roadmaps** The session will explore key STI and engineering partnership models operating at different levels, specifically on national and regional scales, while emphasizing the requisite skills and capacities for STI development. It will also review a high-level mapping of the regional and national STI policy landscape; key global and regional STI and engineering partnership initiatives, under specific environmental, economic and social conditions; and Technology Facilitation Mechanism platforms across various regions. This mapping of partnerships models, skills and capacities for STI development also reflects on the experiences of various countries which have made progress in implementing the STI4SDGs Roadmaps. The session will also discuss a dedicated call for inputs, including background notes, sharing experiences, best practices, case studies, models and tools which could serve as valuable input to the Global STI Roadmap Guidebook. **Questions:** What STI and engineering partnership models and experiences can be shared to support STI roadmaps? Building on these models and experiences, what innovative tools and methods are available for mapping and analyzing the landscape of STI and engineering activities and capacities, in the sectors of the key transitions? How can these tools improve the effectiveness of STI roadmaps? How can the Global STI Roadmap Guidebook work drive the development of STI indicators and tracking systems at the national, regional, and global levels, with a focus on gender and STI? Any important elements to be included in the Guidebook? What are effective methods for monitoring progress toward SDG achievement through STI?
12:30-14:30	Lunch

Time	Programme Annotation and Guiding Questions
14:00-15:30	**Thematic Session 2: Deep dive of challenge led STI4SDG Roadmaps** Unlike traditional STI roadmaps, which may focus broadly on technological advancements, a challenge-led STI roadmap is centered around solving particular problems, such as climate change, public health, or sustainable urban development. This session will explore the concept of a challenge-led STI roadmap, delving into its strategic implications and practical applications. It will examine how such roadmaps can effectively address complex societal challenges, fostering interdisciplinary collaboration and driving transformative advancements, advancing the six key transitions, taking into account synergies and trade-offs of SDGs. **Questions:** What strategies can be employed to enhance interdisciplinary collaboration and stakeholder engagement in the development and implementation of challenge-led STI roadmaps? How are synergies and trade-offs among different SDG goals managed when designing and implementing challenge-led STI roadmaps? What are national experiences in the region that can contribute to the development of a global Guidebook for STI4SDGs Roadmaps? Any important elements to be included in the Guidebook? What are regional support needs and existing STI initiatives that could be leveraged?
15:30-15:45	Tea/coffee Break

Time	Programme Annotation and Guiding Questions
15:45-17:00	**Thematic Session 3: UN Project on Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) for Integrated Climate Action for Small Island Developing States (SIDS).** This session will present UN Project on Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) for Integrated Climate Action for Small Island Developing States (SIDS). The project will support 3 Lusophone SIDS (Cabo Verde, Guinea Bissau, São Tomé and Príncipe) to strengthen their capacity to develop, deploy, and expand their use of STI in the context of the SDGs and particularly for building ocean knowledge and coastal resilience. The session will learn from country-level experiences in the region to understand regional support needs and identify existing initiatives that could be leveraged; and to engage UN Resident Coordinators (RCs) and government officials from African SIDS that could benefit from and support capacity development project next year in 2025. **Questions:** • What are the primary challenges faced by SIDS in developing and deploying STI solutions, especially related to ocean knowledge and coastal resilience, and how can these challenges be addressed? • How can SIDS be supported to mobilize development finance and/or appropriate partnerships needed to invest in and develop their STI sectors at national and regional levels? How can the private sector in SIDS be mobilized to contribute? • What kinds of infrastructure or platforms are needed at national and regional levels to foster the research and development needed to enable African SIDS to meet their sustainable development goals?
17:30-19:00	**Evening reception** (hosted by the Irish Embassy in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia)

Time	Programme Annotation and Guiding Questions
Wednesday Oct. 09, 2024 9:00-10:30	**Thematic Session 4: The evolution of science systems as a prerequisite for the six transitions** There is broad recognition that limited scientific and technical knowledge is translated into actions to address the six transformations towards sustainable development. Part of the challenge lies in current practices for disseminating scientific knowledge, science funding, and researcher and institutional assessment, which often failed to incentivize actionable knowledge and real-world impact. Moreover, these practices are unevenly applied across the globe and evaluated using metrics that have been asymmetrically developed. Often, excellent policy documents, laws and legislation are created, yet they have little to no impact on the population. Effective communication with policymakers and political leadership is very crucial for advancing STI. This session will explore key factors that hinder the application of action-based scientific knowledge and research. It will also examine the roles of various stakeholders, including funders, publishers, policymakers, research infrastructure providers, and scientific networks. This session will offer recommendations for systemic changes in how science is conducted at both national and global levels. **Questions:** What are national experiences in the region that can contribute to the development of a science system that is better placed for taking action on the six transitions? What are regional support needs and/or existing STI initiatives that could be leveraged? How might we effectively engage international scientific organizations, Global North and Global South collaboratively in the STI roadmap process? How can we ensure the active participation of young people and private sector? What systemic inequalities exist in current scientific practices globally, and how can these be addressed at a policy level to foster a more equitable science system?

Time	Programme Annotation and Guiding Questions
10:30-10:45	Tea/coffee Break

		Thematic Session 5: Voluntary funding models on STI for the SDGs, STI Policy Instruments and Capacity Building in support of national implementation of the STI Roadmaps
	10:45-12:30	This session explores existing international STI funding models, considering their strengths and weaknesses and examining innovative approaches to address the SDG funding gap. It will raise questions about the principles and practical considerations for designing effective voluntary international funding models. The session will also explore potential pathways for deploying resources secured through these models, focusing on national-level activities such as developing strategic investment plans and deploying STI policy instruments. Finally, it will consider the capacities potentially needed for effective participation in international funding initiatives and for designing and implementing policy instruments that could advance STI progress towards the SDGs. **Questions** *Funding Models:* • What are the most pressing financial barriers hindering STI progress towards achieving the SDGs, and how do these barriers vary across different SDGs and national contexts? • What are the existing international STI funding models? What are the strengths and weaknesses? • How can innovative financing models, such as blended finance, be strategically deployed and scaled up to address the STI funding gap for the SDGs? What are the key risks, opportunities, and ethical considerations associated with these models? • What principles and practical considerations should guide the design of effective voluntary international funding models for STI in the context of the SDGs? *Policy Instruments:* • How can countries effectively prioritise and allocate resources within their national STI investment plans to maximise their contribution to the SDGs? What criteria and decision-making frameworks can be used to ensure alignment with national development priorities and global SDG targets?

Time	Programme Annotation and Guiding Questions
	• What are the best practices and key success factors for designing and implementing effective STI policy instruments at the national level? Provide real-world examples of successful implementation and discuss common pitfalls to avoid. *Capacities:* • What critical capacities are needed for effective participation in existing international STI funding models? • What critical capacities are needed for effective STI policy instrument design and implementation? How can we assess existing capacity gaps at national and institutional levels? • What strategies most effectively bridge capacity gaps in STI policy instrument design and implementation??
12:30-14:00	Lunch

Time	Programme Annotation and Guiding Questions
14:30-15:30	**Thematic Session 6: Towards STI Agenda in National Development Planning with UN Development System Support** The Guidebook for the Development and Implementation of Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) for SDGs Roadmap for the Six Transitions is intended for interested policymakers at the national and local government levels, UN regional and country offices, as well as private institutions and industries that wish to use the Roadmaps as a policy tool to harness STI to achieve the SDGs. **Question** What are regional support needs and existing STI initiatives that could be leveraged? How to effectively engage UN RCs in the UN STI for SDGs Roadmaps process? How then to ensure participatory approaches, including of Member States and other stakeholders in the process? 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 effective feedback mechanisms can be established to ensure continuous improvement and adaptation of STI strategies based on real-world outcomes and stakeholder input?
15:30-15:45	Tea/coffee Break

| | | **Closing Session 7: Closing and the way forward - regional networks and other mechanisms for promoting multi-stakeholder approach with localized STI4SDGs and bottom-up community inputs**

This closing session will focus on outlining the future pathways for expanding the reach and impact of STI4SDGs. We will explore strategies for extending successful pilot projects and roadmaps to other regions, including Asia, the Pacific, Latin America, and the Caribbean. The session aims to discuss how existing STI initiatives could be leveraged, and how to drive multistakeholder partnerships including approaches to include private sector and philanthropy collaborations to leverage complementary funding and financing beyond traditional grant funding.

Questions

How can we drive multistakeholder partnerships including approaches to include private sector and philanthropy collaborations to leverage complementary funding and financing beyond traditional grant funding? What are existing platforms to create funding tracks for STI in order to scale up and extend pilot countries (roadmaps, projects) to regions such as Asia, the Pacific (including Pacific Island countries), Latin America, and the Caribbean?

How can we leverage recent advances in digital technologies such as AI, digital twins, and robotics? How can we build smart, circular societies based on integrated databases in key STI domains?

How can we develop human resources and scientific literacy to adapt to the digital age? How can we provide training and opportunities for scientists to adopt a transdisciplinary approach in mission-oriented projects?

What mechanisms can be established to facilitate technology transfer between regions, particularly from technologically advanced regions to those in the developing stages?

How can STI initiatives be designed to reduce inequalities within and among countries, particularly in the context of technology access and capacity building? |
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| | 15:45 – 17:00 | |

Time	Programme Annotation and Guiding Questions
	How can emerging technologies be responsibly harnessed to address specific SDGs challenges, particularly in SIDS?

Annex I: *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.

Annex II: Six Transitions: Investment Pathways to Deliver the SDGs

Rooted in the 17 Sustainable Development Goals, there are transformative entry points or key transitions that can have a catalytic and multiplier effect across the SDGs. These include (1) food systems; (2) energy access and affordability; (3) digital connectivity; (4) education; (5) jobs and social protection; and (6) climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution. The metrics of success for these transitions are primarily in how they deliver for all people in our societies. These must be just and equitable transitions, with human rights, gender equality and the principle of Leaving No One Behind comprising their fundamental design elements.

The Six Transitions	
Transition 1	Food systems
Transition 2	Energy access and affordability
Transition 3	Digital connectivity

Transition 4	Education
Transition 5	Jobs and social protection
Transition 6	Climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution