

10th Annual Multi-Stakeholder Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation for the Sustainable Development Goals

Advancing sustainable, inclusive, and evidence-based, science and technology solutions and innovations for the 2030 Agenda and its SDGs for leaving no one behind

STI Action Day 6 May 2025¹

STI Forum 7-8 May 2025

Guidelines for Side Event Proposals

Background

The tenth annual Multi-Stakeholder Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation for the SDGs ([STI Forum](#)) will be held at the United Nations Headquarters in New York from 7 to 8 May 2025. It will be convened by the President of ECOSOC, [His Excellency Mr. Bob Rae](#), and the meetings of the Forum will be co-chaired by [H.E. Mr. Omar Hilale](#), Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Morocco to the United Nations and [H.E. Ms. Elina Kalkku](#), Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Finland to the United Nations.

In line with the 2025 theme of the ECOSOC and of the high-level political forum on sustainable development (HLPF), the Forum will focus on “*Advancing sustainable, inclusive, and evidence-based, science and technology solutions and innovations for the 2030 Agenda and its SDGs for leaving no one behind*”. Special focus will be given to the Sustainable Development Goals under review at the HLPF, namely Goal 3 – (Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages); Goal 5 - (Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls); Goal 8 – (Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all); Goal 14 – (Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development); and Goal 17 – (Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development).

In connection with the 2025 STI Forum, a **limited number of side-events** can be organized by Member States, the UN system, Intergovernmental Organizations and accredited non-governmental stakeholders. Side events will be an opportunity to share knowledge and science, technology, and innovation solutions to accelerate the implementation of the SDGs, identify new and emerging issues around STI, exchange

¹ The STI Action Day is an initiative led by the UN Secretariat and not a mandated event.

national and local experiences and practices, and showcase voluntary commitments in the areas of science, technology and innovation that can help to achieve the 2030 Agenda. The side events will serve as a gateway to the STI Forum and will primarily take place virtually and off-site though there are a limited number of opportunities for on-site side events on the margins of the STI Forum.

Eligibility

Member States, Intergovernmental Organizations (IGOs), UN entities, and non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) can apply to organize a side event. Submissions by universities, laboratories, and scientific and engineering organizations, partnerships and initiatives without consultative status will be considered on a case-by-case basis. All interested parties are strongly encouraged to partner with others to organize a side event.

Format

- Side-event sessions should be planned for a duration of a maximum of 75 minutes.
- Side events can be organized either in-person inside the UNHQ premises, in-person at off-site locations or in a virtual format. Due to limited availability of space for in-person side-events inside the UNHQ, side-event organizers are **highly encouraged to hold their events virtually**.
- Only registered and approved participants of the 2025 STI Forum may attend side events held within the UNHQ premises.
- In-person side events inside the UNHQ premises can only be held in English. Interpretation services will not be available for side events.
- Organizers are encouraged to make the side events as interactive and multisegmented as possible, including by allocating sufficient time for dialogue with participants.
- Charging a fee for participation in side events is strictly prohibited.

Criteria for the selection of side events

The following principles will guide the selection of side events:

- Proposed side events must be closely related to the theme of the 2025 STI Forum.
- Side events should ensure gender and geographic balance and strive for meaningful participation of stakeholders, including civil society, women, youth, indigenous peoples, academia, persons with disabilities and others.
- Side events should highlight concrete success stories and examples of innovations, scientific breakthroughs, solutions and technologies that support the implementation of one or more SDGs, especially those under review in 2025 (SDGs 3, 5, 8, 14 and 17).
- Preference will be given to side events that suggest new, innovative formats for engagement and that have a clear event outcome vision, including announcements, commitments and specific follow-ups.
- Preference will be given to side-events that are organized by coalitions of actors including UN Member States, UN entities and/or relevant Intergovernmental Organizations and recognized stakeholder networks, associations, Major Groups or other stakeholder constituencies. **Only one organization should submit the application for any jointly organized side event.**

Responsibilities of side event organizers

- Side-event organizers will be responsible for covering all costs related to hosting their sessions.

- Organizers of side events hosted inside the United Nations should NOT plan any physical, technical, or structural changes to the assigned Conference Rooms.
- Side-event organizers' responsibilities include – but are not limited to – the invitation and travel arrangements for speakers, including visa and security clearance; checking registration status of speakers as needed; the oversight of the “run of show” and moderation of the event, including strict time management and note taking.
- Side-event organizers are responsible for promoting their events through their respective online and social media channels. The Secretariat will not produce fliers, distribute notices, or make any publicity effort for side events. The Secretariat will advertise the overall programme for the side events but not specific side events.
- Side-event organizers are required to submit a short summary of key recommendations and messages (maximum one page) to the UN Secretariat **within two working days after the completion of the side event** for publication. The Secretariat reserves the right to not post materials that are deemed inappropriate.

Application process

- Side-events applications should be submitted for consideration through the dedicated form here: <https://forms.office.com/e/XcMnrxFMFH>
- Deadline for application is **6pm, 10 March 2025 (EST, New York Time)**.
- Applications should be limited to ONE per entity.
- Application of joint side event should be submitted by ONE entity only.
- UN Member States should apply through their Permanent Missions in New York.

Selection process

- The Secretariat will work with the Co-Chairs of the Forum to select side events, based on the above-mentioned criteria. Organizers of approved applications will be notified by email in late March 2025.
- Considering the high number of requests for events to be held in person at the UNHQ, the Secretariat may request that proposals addressing similar themes be merged.
- Following the selection of the proposals, the Secretariat will assign a meeting room and a timeslot for each approved in-person event inside of the UN Headquarters.
- The final side events programme will be posted on [the STI Forum 2025 website](#).

Further information

Please visit [the 2025 STI Forum website](#) for additional information about the Forum.

Should you have any questions regarding side events, please contact Ms. Nadine Salame (salame1@un.org), Ms. Nora Boudghene (nora.boudghene@un.org), or Ms. Xinyi Zhang (Cathy) (xinyi.zhang@un.org) at the Division for Sustainable Development Goals, UNDESA, with the subject line "2025 STI Forum Side Events".