STI FORUM

Science, Technology & Innovation for the Sustainable Development Goals

Third Annual
Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation for the Sustainable Development Goals

United Nations Headquarters, New York
5 and 6 June, 2018

<u>DRAFT</u> Concept Note for the STI Forum

Status: 26 April 2018

Context

The Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development established a technology facilitation mechanism (TFM) that Member States agreed "*… will be based on a multi-stakeholder collaboration between Member States, civil society, the private sector, the scientific community, United Nations entities and other stakeholders and will be composed of a United Nations inter-agency task team on science, technology and innovation for the sustainable development goals, a collaborative multi-stakeholder forum on science, technology and innovation for the sustainable development goals and an online platform.*"

The collaborative multi-stakeholder forum on science, technology and innovation for the sustainable development goals ("STI Forum") is convened by the President of ECOSOC and expected to "*discuss science, technology and innovation cooperation around thematic areas for the implementation of the sustainable development goals, congregating all relevant stakeholders to actively contribute in their area of expertise.*" It will "*provide a venue for facilitating interaction, matchmaking and the establishment of networks between relevant stakeholders and multi-stakeholder partnerships in order to identify and examine technology needs and gaps, including with regard to scientific cooperation, innovation and capacity-building, and also in order to help facilitate development, transfer and dissemination of relevant technologies for the sustainable development goals*".[1]

Agenda 2030 tasked the IATT to work with the 10-Member Group to organize the meetings of the STI Forum. Reflecting this mandate, this concept note is jointly put forward by the IATT and 10-Member Group for the consideration of the Co-Chairs of the STI Forum.

Theme for the STI Forum 2018

The theme of the 2018 High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) is *"Transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies",* and the Member States have decided that the HLPF 2018 shall focus on five SDGs (6, 7, 11, 12 and 15) in addition to SDG 17 that will be considered at each HLPF.

Accordingly, the theme of the STI Forum 2018 is: "*Science, Technology and Innovation for sustainable and resilient societies – Focus on SDGs 6, 7, 11, 12 and 15*".

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[1] See Paragraph 70 of the Post-2015 Development Agenda Outcome Document, A/RES/70/1.

Objectives

In line with its mandate as per A/RES/70/1 (supplemented by 72/242), the STI Forum will address the following objectives:

(1) <u>STI cooperation:</u> *"Discuss science, technology and innovation cooperation around thematic areas for the implementation of the sustainable development goals":*

   a. Congregate all relevant stakeholders to actively contribute in their area of expertise;
   b. Open new fields of dialogue between stakeholders and promote the sharing, exchange and scaling up of ideas, technologies and innovations for the SDGs;
   c. Share success stories and challenges in scientific collaborations, innovation, technology transfer and diffusion, and promote the development of accessible repositories of 'best practices'.

(2) <u>Needs and gaps analysis:</u> "*Identify and examine technology needs and gaps, including with regard to scientific cooperation, innovation and capacity-building":*

   a. Support the development of gaps and needs analysis at the national and regional levels, act as an observatory for STI needs for SDGs, and promote capacity-building efforts;
   b. Determine how the STI Forums (2016-2030) can contribute to the design of roadmaps for the use of science, technology and innovation (STI) for sustainable development;
   c. Consider means of measuring progress in implementation of the SDGs in terms of the role of STI, including technology development, transfer and diffusion, and take stock of progress made.

(3) <u>Networking:</u> "*Facilitate interaction, matchmaking and the establishment of networks between relevant stakeholders and multi-stakeholder partnerships"*

   a. Suggest new initiatives and partnerships to be developed to help promote new solutions for the SDGs.
   b. Organize a Networking Forum to profile exceptional innovators who are already delivering solutions to one or more of the SDGs, and to illustrate the breadth of diverse sources of innovation (both geographic and sectoral);
   c. To explore potential for inter-disciplinary approaches to innovating solutions for sustainable development challenges, including open and collaborative innovation;
   d. Provide regular reporting on thematic topics and regional initiatives in line with the principles of the TFM.

(4) <u>Technologies for the SDGs:</u> "*Facilitate development, transfer and dissemination of relevant technologies for the sustainable development goals"*

   a. Identify practical means and solutions to foster science, technology and innovation geared towards the target SDGs (6, 7, 11, 12 and 15);
   b. Enhance enabling environments for STI development and the removal of obstacles to the scaling up of the development of and access to technologies.
   c. Explore innovative approaches to leverage human and financial resources for STI;
   d. Support the collection and dissemination of best practices and solutions, as well as case studies of actual experiences in STI development, transfer and diffusion;
   e. Identify means of employing technologies and technological know-how and information in the public domain.

(5) <u>Impact of rapid technological change on the SDGs:</u> *GA resolution 72/242 (OP4) from 2017 mandates the third STI forum to include a session on "the impact of rapid technological change, including in cases in which changes may occur at an exponential pace, on the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals"*

    a. In continuation with similar discussions in previous STI Forums, seek to identify ways in which recent developments in science and technology, especially those which have the potential for large-scale transformative impacts, can impact the SDGs;

    b. Explore policy options based on country practices to enhance the positive impacts across countries at different stages of development;

    c. Engage with the many communities and stakeholders impacted by these advances.

Modalities & Participation

The STI Forum is collaborative and multi-stakeholder in nature, including Member States, United Nations entities, civil society and NGOs, private sector, philanthropic sector, scientific community, academia, youth, indigenous peoples and other stakeholder groups. The two-day meeting should mobilize decision-makers, practitioners and experts, as well as users of technologies and the private sector that invests in technological R&D and innovation. It is important to secure participation from the broad range of communities along the STI continuum. It is important to work closely with Member States to secure the participation of high-level experts and policy makers from capitals, and to include young scientists and innovators in national delegations.

The STI Forum is open to participation by all accredited delegates and representatives through an open call for registration to ensure a wide range of participation. Resources permitting, the STI Forum will be webcast, and the proceedings recorded and made available for open viewing.

Proposed structure of program and organization of work

This year's Forum is co-chaired by Japan and Mexico. Draft program of the Forum can be found in the Annex.

The opening session should set the general tone for the STI Forum, while the concluding session should discuss recommendations and key messages for the Co-Chairs' summary and set out expectations for the STI Forum in future years.

The STI Forum and its sessions aims to be as interactive as possible; exploring innovative seating arrangements, use of different media (videos, and visualizations) with side events, innovations exhibits and affiliated events contributing to the discussions.

The Secretariat will be responsible for overall coordination and preparation of the STI Forum, and for planning the opening and closing sessions. Members of the IATT and the 10-Member Group will self-nominate to join sub-groups to organize the sessions. The organizers of each session will prepare a concept note, identify and issue invitations to potential speakers, and plan the use of different media and discussion formats. The co-chairs of IATT and of the 10-Member Group will ensure coherent approaches across sessions.

Speakers

A list of potential speakers and moderators will be provided by the IATT and 10-Member Group for the Co-Chairs' consideration on the basis of their expertise in different facets and sectors of STI,

bearing in mind geographic and gender balance, as well as balance between producers and users of technologies (i.e., those who innovate and those who need innovations).

Session panels should aim to mix Ministers, high-level STI experts from government, representatives of the development community, science and knowledge institutions, technology companies and entrepreneurs/ innovators. Panels should include speakers with on-the-ground experience and case studies of successful deployment of innovations for sustainable development.

Networking and matchmaking

The STI Forum 2018 will include opportunities to fulfil its function of networking and matchmaking, as mandated in the TFM:

- A global Call for Innovations, in partnership with the Global Innovation Exchange[2] has invited submission of innovations geared towards solutions to any of the five focus SDGs. The Call for Innovations was held over a one-month period, commencing two months before the STI Forum, and the IATT and 10-Member Group will use their network of STI contacts to ensure that the reach of the Call is global and inclusive of diverse knowledge systems.

- The Call for Innovations should aim to identify practical and already existing solutions, and create a community of innovators in the field of STI, and will feed into the STI Forum discussions. Innovations submitted in response to the Call for Innovations will be reviewed and some 10-15 strong innovations illustrating the wide diversity of solutions, approaches and sources of innovation would be featured at a Special Event, subject to availability of resources.

- In parallel, a call for poster exhibits from national research laboratories has also been issued and submissions will be featured.

- Other opportunities for networking will include events to connect innovators to enablers and adopters; the Global Solutions Summit on June 4, 2018; a special event with G-STIC on June 7, 2018; the Global Symposium on MSMEs over June 7-8 2018; and various side events all held at the UN HQ premises (see below for further details).

Substantive inputs

In line with STI Forum mandate, the organizers will organize a wide outreach for inputs and documentation from all relevant stakeholders, including the following:

- Brief background notes prepared by IATT and 10-Member Group, synthesizing multi-stakeholder inputs, mapping results, key STI challenges and solutions for each of the five goals.
- Summary of responses to Call for Innovations.
- List of written submissions by all stakeholders received in connection with the Forum.

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[2] The call for innovations is accessible at: http://stisolutions4sdgs.globalinnovationexchange.org

Summary of the Forum

The Co-Chairs of the STI Forum 2018 are mandated to prepare a summary of the discussions as an input to the meetings of the HLPF in the context of the follow-up and review of the implementation of the Post-2015 Development Agenda. The IATT and the 10-Member Group will provide any assistance necessary to fulfil this task.

Other outputs

Other outputs will include:
- Summaries of special events;
- Innovator profiles and match-making results, if available;
- IATT work programmes and outputs associated with STI roadmaps and capacity building.

Follow-up Activities

Efforts will be made to establish the STI Forum as a continuum of annual events from 2016 to 2030, each building upon the last to progressively develop a roadmap of policy and practical initiatives to support the use of STI for the SDGs. Similarly, the IATT and 10-Member Group will seek to create links between STI-related activities taking place between each annual STI Forum, in particular those connecting to the theme of the subsequent Forum and thereby to draw input and from multiple sources and communities that can feed into the outcomes of the STI Forum. In this context, the development of a monitoring and evaluation mechanism will be explored to track implementation of the key outputs of the STI Forum.

Side events

Member States and all stakeholders will be encouraged to organize side events on specific topics and key initiatives that support TFM work. This will be an opportunity for more in-depth discussions. The side events will be closely linked to and support the official sessions of the STI Forum. Against this background, a fair and transparent selection process will be put in place to select a limited number of side events.
Two special events will be organized outside of the Forum dates: Global Solutions Summit (GSS) 2018: "From Lab to the Last Mile: Technology Deployment Business Models for the SDGs" and the Special G-STIC (Global Science Technology and Innovation Conference) event "Accelerating technological transition towards the SDGs".

Annex: Draft Program of the STI Forum

Multi-stakeholder Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation for the SDGs

Convened by the President of ECOSOC
Co-chaired by Japan and Mexico
Supported by the 10-Member Advisory Group and the UN Inter-Agency Task Team on Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) for the SDGs

5-6 June 2018
Conference Room 4, UN Headquarters
(unless noted otherwise)

Programme

Note: All sessions will include interactive discussions. Member States are encouraged to submit their written statements to the Secretariat for posting on the UN Website.

Day 1, 5 June 2018

10:00 – 11:00   Welcome address and opening: appreciating the cross cutting nature of science, technology and innovations

11:00 – 12:15   Session 1: Impact of rapid technological change on the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals

The session responds to global trends and GA resolution 72/242 OP4 which mandates the third multi-stakeholder forum to include a session on the impact of rapid technological change, including in cases in which changes may occur at an exponential pace, on the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

12:15 – 13:00   Session 2: Interactive Dialogue with the 10 Member Group to support the Technology Facilitation Mechanism

(Annotation of the session to be elaborated)

Conference Room 4:

13:15 – 14:00 Special event 1: Launch of exhibition of innovative technology solutions for SDGs

15:00 – 16:00   Session 3: STI for sustainable management of water and sanitation for all (SDG 6)

(Annotation of the session to be elaborated)

16:00 – 17:00   Session 4: STI for sustainable consumption and production patterns (SDG 12)

(Annotation of the session to be elaborated)

17:00 – 18:00   Session 5: STI for sustainable terrestrial ecosystems (SDG 15)

(Annotation of the session to be elaborated)

<u>**18:30 – 20:30 Reception (tbc)**</u>

<u>**Day 2, 6 June 2018**</u>

10:00 – 11:00   Session 6: National STI roadmaps for the SDGs and capacity building

(Annotation of the session to be elaborated)

11:00 – 12:00   Session 7: Realizing the full potential of local and indigenous knowledge, and homegrown innovations for the achievement of the SDGs

(Annotation of the session to be elaborated)

12:00 – 13:00   Session 8: Supporting the implementation of the Technology Facilitation Mechanism – the way forward for joint action

(Annotation of the session to be elaborated)

Conference Room 4 (tbc):

13:15 – 14:30 Special event 2: Roundtable of STI funders and innovators

15:00 – 16:00   Session 9: STI for access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all (SDG 7)

(Annotation of the session to be elaborated)

16:00 – 17:00   Session 10: STI for inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable cities and human settlements (SDG 11)

(Annotation of the session to be elaborated)

17:00 – 18:00   Session 11: Conclusions and next steps