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

United Nations Headquarters, New York
14 and 15 May 2019

DRAFT Concept Note for the STI Forum

Prepared by the Inter-Agency Task Team on Science, Technology and Innovation for the SDGs ('IATT') and the 10-Member Group appointed by the Secretary-General as representatives of civil society, the private sector and scientific community ('10-Member Group').

Status: 4 April 2019

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 2019

The theme of the 2019 High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) is "*Empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality*". Member States have decided that the HLPF 2019 shall focus on five SDGs: SDGs 4 (Quality Education), 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), 10 (Reduced Inequality), 13 (Climate Action), and 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions) in addition to SDG 17 (Sustainable development through global partnerships) that will be considered at each HLPF. In this

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

context, the theme of the STI Forum 2019 is: "Science, Technology and Innovation for ensuring inclusiveness and equality, with a special focus on SDGs 4, 8, 10, 13, and 16".

Objectives

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

(1) STI cooperation: *"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) Needs and gaps analysis: "*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, and 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) Networking: "*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) Technologies for the SDGs: "*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 (4, 8, 10, 13, and 16);
   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) 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. Resource 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 Barbados and the Czech Republic. Draft Agenda of the Forum can be found in the Annex and online (https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/TFM/STIForum2019). The Forum will have sessions dedicated to SDGs in focus of 2019 HLPF (see above) and a number of cross-cutting issues, including rapid technological change, STI for SDG roadmaps, youth and women perspective, and harnessing indigenous knowledge.

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 aim to be as interactive as possible, to explore innovative seating arrangements, use of different media (videos, and visualizations) and to feature 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 2019 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.
- Other opportunities for networking will include the Global Solutions Summit (GSS) on 13 May 2019; a special event with Global Sustainable Technology and Innovation Conference (G-STIC) on 16 May 2019; and various side events all held at the UN HQ premises.

Substantive inputs

In line with STI Forum mandate, there will be 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.

Summary of the Forum

The Co-Chairs of the STI Forum 2019 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 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The IATT and the 10-Member Group will provide any assistance necessary to fulfil this task.

Other outputs

Other outputs will include:

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

- 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 inputs 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) 2019 and the Special Global Sustainable Technology and Innovation Conference (G-STIC) event.

Annex: Draft Agenda of the STI Forum

<u>Day 1, 14 May 2019</u>

10:00 – 10:40 Welcome address and opening: appreciating the cross-cutting nature of science, technology and innovation

10: 45 – 11: 55 Session 1: Emerging technology clusters and the impact of rapid technological change on the SDGs

This session will discuss the implications of rapid technology change on the SDGs, in particular, the social, economic and environmental impacts of new and emerging technologies, such as AI, biotechnology, nanotechnology. It will conclude with policy recommendations.

12:00 – 13:00 Ministerial Segment (Session 2): Strengthening capacity and policy for the development of STI roadmaps

During this session, the ministers will present national and sub-national initiatives related to design and review of STI for SDG roadmaps and related policy actions. The session will also discuss potential support to strengthen international partnerships in the area of capacity-building on STI for SDG roadmaps.

13:00 – 15:00 Lunch break

UN HQs Visitors' Lobby:

13:30 – 14:15 Special event 1: Launch of exhibition of innovative technology solutions for SDGs

UN-DESA together with the Global Innovation Exchange launched a Global Call for Innovations for the SDGs – a call for innovators, scientists, entrepreneurs and sustainability change agents worldwide to submit innovative solutions for sustainable development, especially with regard to the five SDGs that have been selected for focus in 2019 in particular: SDGs 4, 8, 10, 13, and 16.

15:00 – 16:30 Session 3 STI for education and decent work for the future (SDG 4 and SDG 8)

The session will discuss ways and means in which science, technology, and innovation can better support SDG 4 (quality education) and SDG 8 (decent work and economic growth). In particular, the session will focus on how to re-shape education to prepare for a rapidly changing future of work. It will identify challenges and needs, good practices and policy recommendations.

16:30 – 18:00 Session 4 Gender and STI for SDGs

This session will discuss issues related to attracting and retaining women in STI/STEM fields, supporting women entrepreneurship, and improving access to capital. It will take conclude with policy recommendations.

Day 2, 15 May 2019

10:00-10:05 Brief video message: UN Commission on Science and Technology for Development

10:05 – 11:30 Session 5: A Brighter Future – Youth, Innovation Ecosystems and Development

The session will discuss ways and means of building sustainable innovation ecosystems of the future that are commensurate with the SDG aspirations, including national research and engineering institutions and infrastructures. There will be a focus on the role and perspectives of youth.

11:30 – 13:00 Session 6: STI for inclusive and equitable societies (SDG 10 and SDG 16)

The session will discuss ways and means in which science, technology, and innovation can better support SDG 10 (reducing inequalities) and SDG 16 (peace, justice, and strong institutions). In particular, the session will focus on how to achieve inclusive societies in a rapidly changing world. It will identify challenges and needs, good practices and policy recommendations.
13:00-15:00 Lunch break

Conference Room 11:

13:30 – 14:45 Special event 2: Roundtable on STI roadmaps for SDGs - the technical perspective

The special event will discuss the UN work and collaboration on development of the guidebook on building STI roadmaps for SDGs as a policy-making and communication tool for Member States. It will also present a proposed global pilot programme on STI roadmaps in order to build capacity for and scale up adoption of the Member States' STI roadmaps for the SDGs. The session will discuss recommendations on the topic.

15:00 – 16:00 Session 7: STI for taking action to combat climate change and its impacts. (SDG 13)

The session will discuss ways and means in which science, technology, and innovation can better support SDG 13 on addressing anthropogenic climate change.
This may include aspects of international cooperation, capacity-building, and the facilitation of development, scaling up, adoption, and dissemination of climate-relevant

technologies. The session will identify challenges and needs, good practices and policy recommendations.

16:00 – 17:00 Session 8: Linking science, technology and innovation of indigenous peoples, culture and traditional knowledge and the achievement of the SDGs

This session will discuss how to harness indigenous and traditional knowledge and local technologies relevant to the achievement of the SDGs. It will also present recommendations on how better highlight and mainstream the role of indigenous knowledge.

17:00 –18:00   Session 9: Supporting the implementation of the Technology Facilitation Mechanism – the way forward for joint action – and closing

This session will present a number of initiatives from across the world (including the on-line platform) that support the science-based, solution-oriented, multi-stakeholder and collaborative approach of the Technology Facilitation Mechanism (TFM) including discussions on broadening their impacts and making them self-sustaining, lessons learnt and ways forward.