



**The President
of the
Economic and Social Council**

27 April 2020

Invitation: Call for inputs from all interested science and technology communities and Technology Facilitation Mechanism (TFM) stakeholders

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development launched the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the UN Technology Facilitation Mechanism (TFM) to support their implementation. Many of you have been active contributors to the TFM, including through participating in the annual Multi-stakeholder Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation for the SDGs (STI Forum) which, every year since 2016, has provided key inputs to the review of the SDGs at the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF).

I thank all stakeholders for their active engagement and contributions.

In view of the COVID-19 pandemic, ECOSOC is postponing the 2020 STI Forum (originally scheduled over 12-13 May), along with other large-scale meetings scheduled around that time at the UN headquarters. Inputs from the STI Forum will therefore not be available to inform the HLPF this year.

At the same time, we need your expertise and continued engagement, in order to facilitate positive science, technology and innovation (STI) solutions for the SDGs in this first year of the Decade of Action. In the midst of the current pandemic, it is more urgent than ever to have such multi-stakeholder cooperation to help address the current crisis, mitigate its longer-term impacts, and prepare for future challenges that can threaten progress on the 2030 Agenda.

I am therefore calling on all interested policy makers, scientists, engineers, innovators, entrepreneurs, and organized science communities, to consider engaging in online consultations and providing substantive inputs in preparation for the STI contributions towards the HLPF 2020. In particular, I am inviting current and former members of the TFM 10-Member-Group and the Inter-agency Task Team on STI for the SDGs to fully engage in this endeavor.

Some guiding questions include: How can we strengthen international cooperation around science and technology to better deal with challenges such as the coronavirus pandemic? What kind of international cooperation on knowledge, capacity building and finance is needed to understand and effectively leverage interlinkages across the SDGs, ensure that no one is left behind and direct emerging technologies towards positive impacts on sustainable development? What are the most promising innovations and technology solutions that will help accelerate progress towards the SDGs in countries at different levels of development?

Details for contributing experts will be posted on <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/TFM>.

Thank you in advance for your contributions. Please accept the assurances of my highest consideration.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mona Juul". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Mona" and the last name "Juul" clearly distinguishable.

Mona Juul
President of ECOSOC