



CONCEPT NOTE

Side Event at the 3rd International Conference on Financing for Development

**“Role of Science, Technology and Innovation
for achieving sustainable development”**

Date: Monday, 13th July, 2015

Time: 13:15 – 14: 45 p.m.

Venue: ECA Press Briefing Room, Economic Commission for Africa, Addis Ababa

Background

Technology facilitation, science and capacity building are major pillars of the Means of Implementation of the Post-2015 Agenda and of the Rio+20 follow-up processes. In order to eradicate poverty and reorient current unsustainable development trajectories over the period 2015 to 2030, affordable technological solutions have to be developed and disseminated widely in the next fifteen years.

In his Synthesis Report entitled “The road to dignity by 2030: ending poverty, transforming all lives and protecting the planet”, the UN Secretary-General highlights that “a sustainable future will require that we act now ... to invest in innovation and in the development of clean and sound technologies for sustainable development.” In the report, the Secretary-General proposes to establish an online, global platform, building on and complementing existing initiatives, to map existing technology facilitation initiatives, needs and gaps, enhance international cooperation and coordination in this field, and promote networking, information sharing, knowledge transfer and technical assistance, in order to advance the scaling up of clean technology initiatives.

An informal Inter-Agency Working Group (IAWG) has been formed – currently comprising UN-DESA, UNEP, UNCTAD, UNIDO, ITU, WIPO, World Bank and UNESCO – to follow up this proposal. Its current work is structured around four main work streams:

1. Mapping of existing technology facilitation initiatives including support for policy formulation and strengthening of technological capabilities and innovation systems;
2. Identifying areas of synergy and areas of possible cooperation within the UN system on technology-related work;
3. Developing options for an online knowledge hub and information-sharing platform;
4. Cooperating with relevant stakeholders on building or strengthening technology-focused partnerships and collaborations, including on STI capacity building.

Objective

This high-level side event will be convened by the informal IAWG on a Technology Facilitation Mechanism. It will focus on how the United Nations system is prepared to coordinate its initiatives including capacity-building efforts on science, technology and innovation in support of the sustainable development goals. It will provide an opportunity for a dialogue with Member States and other stakeholders, including the private sector, on a coordinated way forward to support implementation of the STI-related decisions contained in the Addis Ababa Accord.

Format

The side event will commence with short welcome remarks, followed by a briefing on the ongoing efforts of the UN system on technology facilitation, and then by a panel discussion including Member States, heads of UN agencies, and private sector and civil society representatives. It will end with an interactive discussion where participants will have the opportunity to inquire in more detail on points of interest.

The event will include the participation of:

High-level representatives of states, *inter alia* from France, Kenya and Belgium

Heads or High-level representatives of UN agencies which are IAWG members, *inter alia*:

Ms. Irina Bokova, Director General of UNESCO

Mr. Li Yong, Director General of UNIDO

Mr. Mukhisa Kituyi, Secretary-General of UNCTAD

Mr. Hartwig Schafer, Vice President, Operations Policy & Country Services, the World Bank Group

Mr. Elliott Harris, UN Assistant Secretary-General, UNEP

Mr. Nikhil Seth, Director, Division for Sustainable Development, UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs

Ms. Dalila Hamou, Director, External Relations Division, WIPO

Mr. Gary Fowlie, ITU Representative and Head of ITU Office to the United Nations

Questions

- How could the UN entities facilitate STI cooperation and related capacity development in support of the SDGs in a coordinated fashion, also engaging other stakeholders such as private sector?
- What concrete initiatives could facilitate technology cooperation, information and knowledge sharing on technological advances in support of sustainable development and the means of their broad dissemination?

AGENDA:

- 13:15 – 13:20 Welcome remarks by Mr. Wu Hongbo, UN Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs (to be delivered by Mr. Nikhil Seth, Director, Division for Sustainable Development)
- 13:20 – 13:30 Joint statement and briefing on the UN systems' coordination efforts on technology facilitation by Ms. Irina Bokova, Director General of UNESCO on behalf of IAWG members
- 13:30 – 14:05 Panel discussion moderated by Mr. Li Yong, Director General of UNIDO, on the key role of science, technology and innovation for achieving sustainable development
BELGIUM: H.E. Mr. Alexander De Croo, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Development Cooperation, Digital Agenda, Post and Telecom, Belgium
KENYA: H.E. Macharia Kamau, Permanent Representative of Kenya to the UN, Co-Facilitator of intergovernmental negotiations on post-2015 development agenda
FRANCE: Mr. Frederic Bontems, Director for Development and Global Public Goods, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, France
- 14:05 – 14:10 Lead discussant: Mr. Mukhisa Kituyi, Secretary-General, UNCTAD
- 14:10 – 14:40 Interactive discussion with the audience
- 14:40 – 14:45 Closing remarks by Moderator