

# United Nations Inter-agency Task Team on Science, Technology and Innovation for the Sustainable Development Goals

## First Meeting of the Inter-agency Task Team

**Date**: Thursday, 22<sup>nd</sup> October, 2015 **Time**: 9:00 am – 13:00 pm

Venue: DC1-1025, New York (10<sup>th</sup> floor of DC 1 Building at 1 UN Plaza)

## **Overall Objectives**

The objectives of the inaugural meeting of the IATT are to:

- i) Bring together the IATT focal points for the first time;
- ii) Discuss and ideally adopt the terms of reference of the IATT;
- iii) Discuss the work streams of the IATT and respective next steps;
- iv) Discuss the methods and logistics of the IATT's work.

## Draft agenda

#### 1) Opening

09:05 - 09:10	Welcome
09:10 - 09:40	Introductions
09:40 - 10:00	<b>Briefing</b> on the work of the IAWG for a Global Technology Facilitation Platform and the New
	York-based discussions on technology leading to the establishment of the TFM

#### 2) ToR of the IATT

10:00 - 10:10	<b>Introduction</b> to the draft terms of reference for the IATT
10:10 - 10:45	<b>Discussion</b> of the terms of reference among the IATT focal points

#### 3) Work streams of the IATT

10:45 - 11:15	Co-leads of work streams give a short overview of the respective work streams
11:15 - 12:15	<b>Discussion</b> of specific work streams, identification of next steps and key deliverables

## 4) Methods and logistics of work of the IATT

12:15 - 12:45 **Discussion** on setting up a dedicated core secretariat for the IATT, resource commitments, as well as frequency of meetings, tools for electronic collaboration and finding a logo for the TFM and the IATT

# 5) AOB and next meeting

12:45 - 13:00 AOB, next meeting and closing

#### **Background**

In both the intergovernmental negotiations on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as well as in the preparatory process for the third International Conference on Financing for Development, Member States have clearly indicated that technology development, dissemination and transfer and the strengthening of scientific and technological capabilities of all countries represent key elements of the means of implementation of the 2030 Agenda. In order to eradicate poverty, promote inclusive growth and move economies onto sustainable development trajectories over the period 2015 to 2030, affordable technological solutions have to be developed and disseminated in a timely manner, benefitting the poor as a matter of priority. Such is the vision of the Secretary General for whom "a sustainable future will require that we act now to phase out unsustainable technologies and to invest in innovation and in the development of clean and sound technologies for sustainable development".

At Rio+20 in June 2012, Member States requested the Secretary-General to prepare a report to the GA 67th session to identify options for a facilitation mechanism that promotes the development, transfer and dissemination of clean and environmentally sound technologies. As a follow-up, the GA resolution 68/210 of December 2013 requested the PGA to convene four "Structured Dialogues" in the General Assembly on "Possible arrangements for a facilitation mechanism to promote the development, transfer and dissemination of clean and environmentally sound technologies". In the summary report and recommendations arising from the PGA's Structured Dialogues, the co-facilitators of the dialogues have identified three areas where "the Secretary-General could come forward to the General Assembly with a concrete proposal without further delay regarding the following deliverables:

- 1. Develop an online platform to undertake a thorough mapping of existing technology facilitation mechanisms, frameworks and processes for clean and environmentally sound technologies
- 2. Improve coordination within the UN System on clean and environmentally sound technologies
- 3. Analysis of technology needs and gaps in addressing them."

The informal Inter-agency Working Group on a Global Technology Facilitation Platform (IAWG) was convened jointly by DESA and UNEP in 2014 to support the proposal of the Secretary-General contained in paragraph 125 of his Synthesis Report and the follow-up of resolution A/RES/68/310 of 15 September 2014 on the "Four one-day structured dialogues on possible arrangements for a facilitation mechanism to promote the development, transfer and dissemination of clean and environmentally sound technologies". It work was structured around four main work streams through which it has identified opportunities to collectively advance and achieve greater impact within the scope of existing mandates within the UN system:

- 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;
- 3. Developing options for a possible online knowledge hub and information-sharing platform;
- 4. Cooperating with relevant stakeholders on building or strengthening technology-focused partnerships and collaborations.

With provisions in paragraph 70 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and paragraph 123 of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda on Financing for Development, Member States mandated the establishment of a Technology Facilitation Mechanism (TFM). The TFM was officially launched at a side event to the UN Summit on SD on 26 September, co-organised by France and Brazil with the support of the IATT. The presence of PGA Lykketoft, DSG Eliasson and several ministers are testimony to the high importance Member States assign to this initiative. The TFM constitutes one of the first major global initiatives launched as follow-up to the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the 2030 Agenda, with MS being keen to see expeditious implementation. One of the main elements of this mechanism is the Inter-agency Task Team on Science, Technology and Innovation for the Sustainable Development Goals (IATT STI).