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

First Meeting of the Inter-agency Task Team (IATT)

Date: Thursday, 22nd October, 2015
Time: 9:00 am – 13:00 pm
Venue: DC1-1025, New York (10th floor of DC 1 Building at 1 UN Plaza)

Key messages

Decisions

- Adoption of the Terms of Reference of the IATT, following deletion of property rights section and addition of an Annex detailing the current work streams.
- Circulation of the current list of candidates for the 10 member group for the TFM by the Secretariat to all IATT members (22 October 2015) for preliminary familiarization with list.
- Additional nominations by agencies should be processed through the online form by the established deadline (Sunday, 25 October 2015).
- On Monday, 26 October, the secretariat of IATT will circulate the final consolidated list of self- and agency-nominated candidates to IATT members for their assessment.
- On Tuesday, 27 October (COB New York), IATT members are requested to submit to the secretariat of the IATT their list of top 10 candidates for selection.
- On Monday, 2 November, the Secretariat will submit the short list of 20 candidates to the EOSG for its consideration.
- Secretariat to prepare draft Terms of Reference for the 10-member group, based on first discussions, to share with shortlisted candidates.
- Paper on the initial mapping of STI initiatives will be circulated to IATT members for comments, to contribute and for feedback on the findings.
First draft note on a coherent approach to STI capacity building will be circulated to members for comments, contributions and feedback
- Agencies are expected to indicate to which work streams they would like to contribute.
- Meetings of the IATT to be convened on a monthly basis in the start-up phase of the IATT

Requests
- IATT secretariat to compile and circulate a calendar of UN events related to STI for SDGs to better coordinate the activities of the IATT.
- IATT members to provide any suggestions on candidates for undertaking the independent assessment of the online platform.
IATT Secretariat to set up platform for electronic collaboration, containing all background documents

Contributions
- FAO focal point has offered to contribute to mapping of STI initiatives.
- ITC offered to contribute, take lead on the partnership and fund raising work stream.

Summary

1) **ToR of the IATT**

- DESA and UNEP introduced briefly the ToRs. There was an agreement among the TT members to accept the TORs with the deletion of the para on property of rights to avoid possible legal and controversial discussions. It was highlighted that the principles of intellectual property rights could be treated in other places other than the TORs, if necessary (e.g. any contracts or terms of use related to external products, such as the online platform).
- The online platform will require an independent assessment, looking at lessons learned and value added. It is envisioned to be a hub linking to multiple existing platforms and initiatives. It is important to prepare a short list of potential assessors for undertaking the independent assessment to share with 10-member group once constituted.
- 25 Agencies are involved in this effort. Agencies have indicated their respective focal points for the IATT and for communicating with the Secretariat of the IATT. A formal core secretariat to coordinate efficiently the activities is expected to be formed; agencies are welcomed and encouraged to suggest members of their staff to be part of it.
- Discussants expressed the need to clarify the long-term objectives of the IATT and its concrete deliverables in relation to the SDGs, as well as the need to measure the results of its work. It will be important to monitor the progress on outcomes and link those to metrics of transfer of technology, technology facilitation. Consequently it will be important to work on a theory of change and maybe a log frame for the IATT's work to cater for monitoring and evaluation.
- It was suggested that the frequency of the meetings of the IATT would initially be once a month, with more frequent meetings as needed.

2) **Work streams of the IATT**

Group of 10 representatives of civil society, private sector and science
- In relation to the briefing to MS, it would make sense to hold such briefing once the 10-member group is close to being constituted. It is expected to be appointed by the end of November.
- Participants expressed the need to define what science means within the context of the group, and it was stressed that the work should span science, technology and innovation. In that regard, it was noted that it could be useful if a member of SG's science advisory board was part of the 10-member group.
- An open call has been issued to civil society groups and private sector to suggest candidates for the 10-member group to be appointed by SG. The deadline for submission has been extended to this Sunday, 25 October, at midnight. By mid-November the SG has to decide the final members to be invited to join the group. The challenge to the IATT is to decide how to proceed with the selection of the candidates, honing down the current list to roughly 20 names.
- It is anticipated that the SG would announce the members at COP21 in Paris. There is an Innovation Day in Paris in parallel to the COP21 meeting which seems to be the ideal occasion for announcing the constitution of the group of 10. More detailed planning on how to best facilitate the announcement needs to be carried out, led by the Secretariat.

- The criteria to take into consideration is:
  o Expertise on the various phases of the STI cycle;
  o Expertise on STI on the various SDGs;
  o Balance of representatives of civil society, private sector (including philanthropies), scientific and technological community;
  o Gender and regional balance.

- There is a need to prepare in parallel the ToR of the 10 member group. The ToR should be ready when the selected candidates are initially contacted by the IATT/EOSG to ascertain their interest and availability.
- Caveat: need to be flexible on the selection process. If not enough high level candidates are proposed from the list, the SG will need to have discretion to make own selection.
- The list of 20 names will be sent by IATT Secretariat to the SG office on 2 November.

Multi-stakeholder forum on STI

- WIPO briefed participants on the initial thinking carried out among the IAWG and the first tentative and preliminary concept for the STI forum.
- Participants expressed that the questionnaire recently sent to MS on the HLPF is interesting in the way it was formulated because MS are expected to reply with their own ideas on the follow up and review mechanisms. These ideas could inform the STI forum and explore how close this forum should be to the HLPF.
- The two days of the face-to-face forum is not enough time to exhaust discussions, networking, etc., so an online discussion preceding the forum could also be considered. Eventually, the online platform should serve to facilitate networking, discussions, knowledge sharing in between face-to-face annual STI forums.
- The first forum might usefully focus on technology needs to achieve the SDGs, taking a big picture approach.
- The forum should inform the HLPF in the next years. IATT can benefit from the responses to the questionnaire. The ECOSOC retreat might also help to define the theme of the HLPF. It is important to consider if the group can send a joint response to the questionnaire on the STI forum in relation to the HLPF.
- The work stream on mapping of STI initiatives will serve as a technical input for the preparation of the Forum.
- Some ideas for the first forum where formulated: innovation, science and technology to support the SDGs. Broad theme on challenges and opportunities for STI for the SDGs, combined with specific SDG clusters
- The solution summit was a very good example for the forum. IATT could use this as a prototype to organize (part of) the forum, including possible award of SD innovation prizes.
- Participants mentioned that is important to have knowledge sharing and innovation in the forum. It could be a place to show what already exists in terms of technology platforms, possibly informing the design of online platform of TFM prior to its launch. The forum can be a very important space to bring different actors working on these streams already.
- There is also a need to consider what value added is the UN bringing into the forum. It is important to identify global projects/initiatives where the UN may be able to catalyze cooperation among governments.

Mapping of STI initiatives

- World Bank briefed participants on former work on the mapping of STI initiatives.
- New participants were encouraged to review the papers produced by the IAWG for comments and feedback on the findings and invited to participate in the mapping initiative, to help in identifying gaps and areas left behind.
- The work stream team would need to work on revising the framework of STI initiatives and to prepare a technical approach paper. The paper would be done by November, and feedback is expected from whole IATT by December; the 10 member group could also inform this paper, if established in time.
- The mapping could help inform design of both the STI forum and the online platform.
- The work stream team is expected to expand the initial mapping to STI initiatives to outside the UN and to cover STI demand side in countries.

Online Platform

- Participants concurred that the establishment of the online platform would constitute a crucial task of the IATT and be one of the deliverables with most potential / visibility of the TFM.
- Independent assessment is important to be considered in this work stream. There are two candidates so far who could perform this assessment: Impact 2030 or McKinsey (however pro bono basis only realistic if high-level political request from UN). High level representation in the 10-member group could facilitate the engagement of the private sector in conducting the assessment.

Capacity development

- UNIDO briefed participants on the first tentative and preliminary note on coordinated approach to capacity building in the STI area.
- The aim of the work stream would be to promote coordination and enhance capacity development projects. In the first draft note, UNIDO identified three types of capacity development: individual, institutional (governments), organizational. Specific training activities could be designed in each area, building on what is already being done. UNIDO indicated its willingness to act as co-lead in coordinating this work stream. The new agencies are welcome and encouraged to contribute to the paper on this issue.
- In the following discussion, participants focused on several questions, such as: What are the real capacity building needs of MS? What exists that the IATT could draw from? How can each agency contribute considering its ongoing programs on capacity building?

List of Participants

DESA   **O'Connor,**   **David**   **(Chair)**

DESA   Liu,   Wei

DESA   Roehrl,   Richard Alexander

DESA   Montes-De-Oca,   Gabriela

DESA   Freire,   Clovis

FAO   Tavares,   Lucas

IMO   Haag,   Frederick

ITC   Selvanathan,   Puvan

ITU   Fowlie,   Gary

UNCTAD   Miroux,   Anne

UNCTAD   Wu,   Dong

UNECE   Heinrich, Ralph Peter

UNEP   Cabani,   Tobias

UNEP   Ould-Dada,   Zitouni

UNEP   Low,   Victor

UNESCAP   Wong,   Jonathan

UNESCO   Persic   Ana

UNESCWA   Fraihat,   Haidar

UNIDO   Bredel,   Ralf

UNIDO   Lee,   Miya

UNIDO   Alcorta,   Ludovico

UNOHRLLS   Oumar,   Diallo

UNOSSC   Liu,   Teresa

UNRISD   Krause,   Dunja

WIPO   Longcroft,   Lucinda

WMO   Egerton,   Paul

World Bank   Kanehira,   Naoto