

An Overview of UN Technology Initiatives



Introduction to Innovation Policy for Developing Countries, HLPF SD-Learning Course

Presentation by

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Rio+20 follow-up process on technology

- Rio+20 outcome document, 2012
- Member States continued discussions on the way forward, in particular in the form of eight “workshops” and “structured dialogues” that were convened by the President of the General Assembly in 2013 and 2014.
- Agreed on 3 areas: 1) an online platform; (b) improving coordination within the UN System; and (c) analysis of technology needs and gaps in addressing them.
- In 2015, FfD3 and Post-2015 Development Agenda ...



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The UN Interagency Working Group on a Technology Facilitation Mechanism



- The group's work is structured around four work streams, including:
- (a) mapping of existing technology facilitation initiatives including support for policy formulation and strengthening of technological capabilities and innovation systems; (b) developing options for a possible online knowledge hub; and (c) cooperating with relevant stakeholders on technology-focused partnerships and collaborations.

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STI Capacity Building in UN (I)

- UNESCO
 - Gender and ICT
 - HIV and AIDS
 - ICT in Education
 - Knowledge Mapping of IT competencies in the Mediterranean
 - Media and Information Literacy
 - People with Disabilities and ICT
 - Training of Information Professionals
 - Training of Media Professionals
 - Youth and ICT
- ITU
 - Technologies and services
 - Policy and regulation
 - Business and management
 - ITU-T courses
 - Indigenous people
 - Training the trainers

STI Capacity Building in UN (II)

- WIPO
 - WIPO Academy
 - Professional (workshops and distance)
 - Industrial property and copyright at the intermediate and advanced levels;
 - IP for specific audiences, in cooperation with partner institutions;
 - Collective management organizations (CMOs);
 - Training of Trainers
 - Ad-hoc
- UNIDO Capacity Development Institute
 - Executive Programs
 - Professional Programs
 - Summer School
 - Master and PhD Program

Potential for UN Wide Capacity Building in Technology for Development

- Organizational Model
 - Unified
 - Rotational
 - Coordination
- Themes
 - Modular
 - Thematic
 - Issues
 - Policy
- Audience
 - Policy makers
 - Students
 - Trainers
 - Representatives
- Funding

Online knowledge hub and information-sharing platform

- To support SG's proposal, the IAWG has been developing options for an online knowledge hub and information sharing platform since late 2014. So far, we achieved:
 - Survey of existing online platforms
 - Conceptual work: first draft of concept paper has been prepared for review
 - Visual designs: online mock-ups of three options of the potential platform.



General observations from the survey

- More than 46 existing online platform in support of STI
- They are operated largely in isolation
- Serve a range of different communities
- Most of these platforms do not share formal coordination or joint governance arrangement.
- Most of them engage a range of stakeholders and partners beyond the UN system.
- The continuing success of the platform depends on **making them interoperable, carefully maintaining it, updating to keep it current, and making improvements as the website grows.**



Mapping of UN technology initiatives

- Overview of the current landscape of UN technology related initiatives
- Assessment framework to view institutional arrangements, coverage, functions, and inter-linkages and possible coordination
- To inform the current inter-governmental processes in the context of post-2015 development agenda and FfD3.
- To support stakeholders' decisions on improving coordination.

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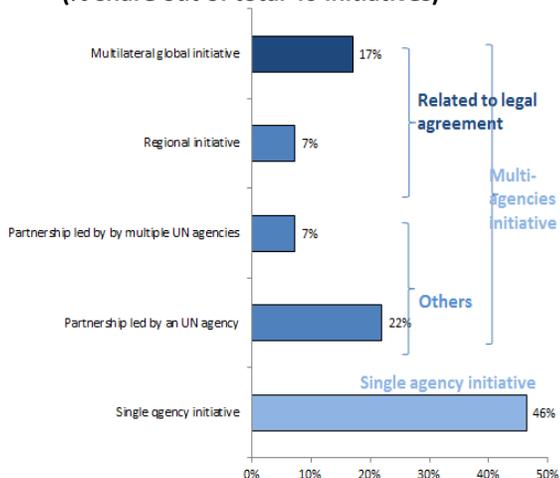
Scope, data and assessment framework

- Based on the 22 responses received and 70 initiatives submitted, this study describes the landscape of technology related initiatives by referring to the following assessment framework:
 - Institutional arrangements
 - Coverage
 - Functions
 - Inter-linkages

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Institutional arrangements

Chart 1: Typology of initiatives with respect to institutional arrangement
(% share out of total 40 initiatives)

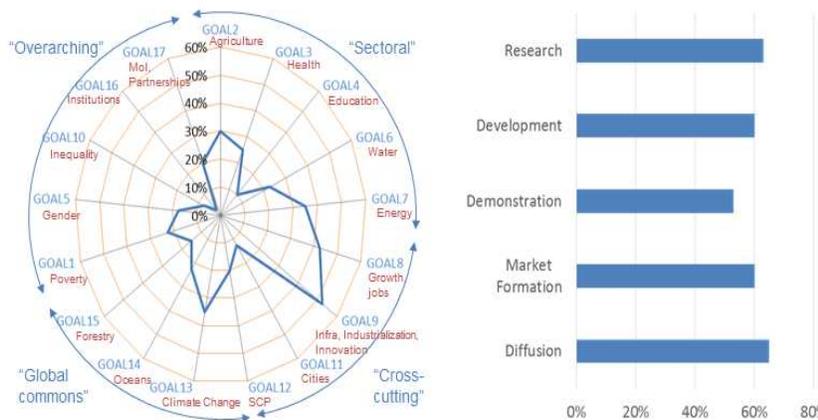


Data source: IAWG Survey (2015).

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Coverage

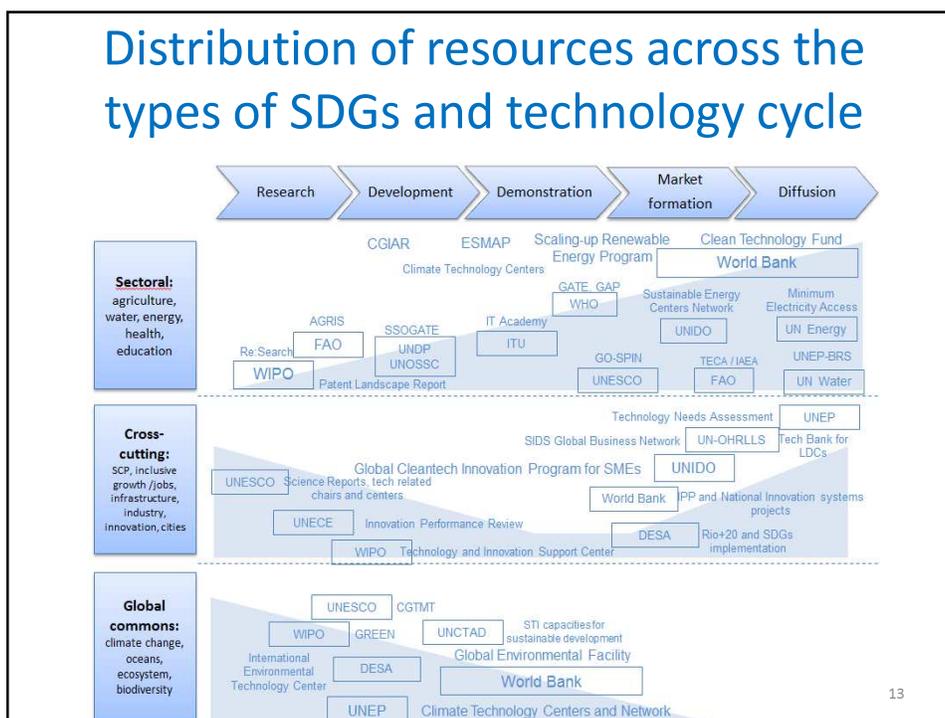
Chart 2: Coverage of SDGs and Technology Cycle



Data source: IAWG Survey (2015).

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Distribution of resources across the types of SDGs and technology cycle



Findings for discussion

Institutional arrangements

- When considering enhanced coordination between the UN technology related activities, the following points shall be considered in the assessment of synergies:
 - Scope and decision-making process
 - Key partners and stakeholders, nature of engagement, and coordination mechanisms(s)

Findings for discussion

Coverage

- Surveyed STI initiatives differ greatly in terms of their approach, content focus, target groups, working methods, etc.
- Hence, when mapped against these dimensions, fragmentation and gaps in resource distribution become apparent.

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Findings for discussion

Functions

- Surveyed STI initiatives cover wide range of functions.
- Few initiatives address political will and policy frameworks across global, multi-national and national technology-related agendas.
- There appears to be room to synergize global knowledge; broaden exchanges of experience and expertise; and extend diagnostic work to support implementation.
- Funding and matchmaking channels may be too narrow/concentrated.

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Findings for discussion

Inter-linkages and Coordination

- There is a need to enhance the links between the different initiatives at global and national level and across functions and levels;
- Few of the UN capacity building initiatives had a good understanding of technology needs and related potential impacts.

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The Way Forward

- Against the backdrop of these findings, the IAWG has started to look into the organizing principles of a coordinated STI capacity building programme that would build on existing UN initiatives, be based on technology needs and gap assessments and be conducted in partnership with relevant stakeholders.

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Questions and comments are
welcome.

Thank you!

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