



- 💧 President of ECOSOC, H.E. Mr. Shava,
- 💧 H.E. Mr. Thomson, Mr. Gass,
- 💧 Co-Chairs H.E. Mr. Kamau, & Dr. Turekian,
- 💧 Ms. Daño and Prof. Nath,
- 💧 Excellencies,
- 💧 Distinguished participants,
- 💧 Ladies and Gentlemen:



- 💧 I would like to sincerely thank the organizers for convening this important forum again this year, and for giving me the opportunity to speak.
- 💧 I am Taikan Oki, Senior Vice-Rector of the United Nations University (UNU).





- As a global think tank for the UN system, the UNU focuses on solving the crosscutting challenges of sustainable development to enable robust implementation of the SDGs. You will agree, that with 169 targets and 232 indicators, achieving the SDGs is a truly enormous task.
- Nonetheless, as it was mentioned in the Co-Chairs' Summary of the 2016 STI Forum, "the imperative of the 2030 Agenda is to leave no one behind."
- The SDGs, therefore, pursue both inclusive and sustainable socio-economic development. But this cannot be achieved without holistic approaches that strengthen the pillars of sustainable development through good governance, social inclusion, and environmental conservation.





Sustainable Environment and Socio-Economic development

💧 We must always remember that sustainability is an interdependent system. While social and economic development depend on the sustainable management of our planet's natural resources as "natural capital", they also enable the conservation, restoration, and sustainable use of natural resources.





Invention triggers innovation

- ▶ Achieving the SDGs will require an immense amount of work and determination. Vital elements of our efforts will be support for evidence-based decision-making, and the ability to distinguish between invention and innovation. What do I mean by that?
- ▶ A single invention is merely a trigger for the broader innovation that drives social progress. But to transform society through innovation, two key aspects must be considered.
- ▶ First, new inventions must be socially accepted.
- ▶ Second, new technologies must be applied and disseminated inclusively throughout the world.





STI for SDGs

💧 It is with regard to these key aspects that science, technology and innovation (STI) can play a fundamental role for the SDGs. STI can equip humankind with better tools to progress beyond social hurdles and environmental hazards, and reach development equality across nations.





STI for SDGs

💧 I am a strong believer in supporting developing countries to implement the SDGs on their own. As such, STI has the potential to become a form of official development assistance (ODA). But in terms of development, STI has the potential to go beyond ODA, by improving productivity, reducing cost, and creating equal access to resources. Furthermore, as STI enables more effective monitoring and evaluation of indicators, it is an essential tool for evaluating our progress on the SDGs and for ensuring inclusive achievements.

💧 To realize the ideas I have just shared with you, however, three specific actions with clear goals must be initiated.





Expert Panel on STI for the SDGs

First, governments must be encouraged to organize an 'Expert Panel on STI for the SDGs' to guide the localization of the SDGs and set priorities for each nation. Such a panel would comprise relevant stakeholders including, but not limited to, scientists, engineers, officers, and respected individuals from the private and public sectors. This panel would enhance recognition at the head of entities, organizations and corporations that the commitment to the SDGs is not an obligation, but rather a right.





“IPCCnization” of GSDR

- Second, along with localization, we must enhance collaboration between different sectors to achieve integrated solutions throughout the world. How?
- By welcoming the participation of voluntary scientists in the development of the Global Sustainable Development Report. We can look to international bodies such as the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change for structural lessons on how to effectively achieve this.





Open STI Conference on the SDGs

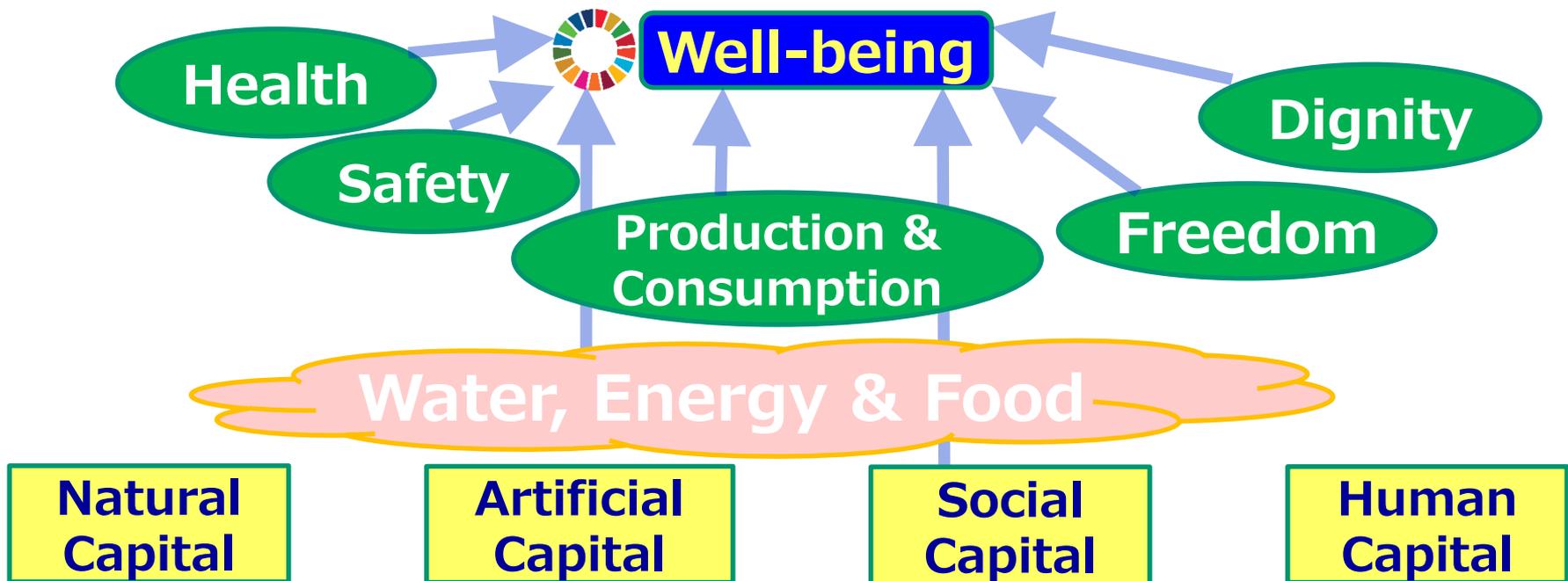
- Third, an 'Open STI Conference on the SDGs' could be organized. This would enable scientists to actively discuss with diverse stakeholders how STI can contribute to and support progress on the SDGs.
- To genuinely benefit from the capacity of STIs, we must ensure that we have the experts, researchers and specialists who can be responsible for research and development, practical applications, and dissemination. These people are truly indispensable. With 2030 peering over the horizon, it is important to train and employ young talent who will become key players in solving problems for the next generation.





Synergies and Trade-offs

💧 In addition, to ensure we will have necessary human resources, we should pay attention to synergies and trade-offs between goals. For example, we must tackle the trade-off between efficiency of production activities and creation of new jobs.





Not just wait for the future we want

💧 We are all stakeholders in the SDGs; every human being is. We all have a vested interest in making the world a better place. Thus, we join here today to develop the future we want, not just wait for it. Science, technology and innovation is a catalyst for achieving that future. Achieving the SDGs certainly seems like a gargantuan task, but it is not an insurmountable one. Today I have mentioned merely three ideas to help get us there. Just three. I have no doubt that this forum will produce many more, which will enable us to rise above the challenge and fully realize the SDGs.

💧 Thank you very much.

