



Policy Dialogue Room

on the sidelines of the PGA High-level Thematic Debate on Achieving the SDGs

Realising the potential of science, technology and innovation for the SDGs: opportunities and challenges for maximising the contribution of STI and deploying existing knowledge

Co-organized by the *10-Member Group to Support the Technology Facilitation Mechanism* and the *UN Inter-agency Task Team on Science, Technology and Innovation for the SDGs*

Thursday, 21 April 2016

11:30 – 13:00

Conference Room E, UN Headquarters, New York

Information on the ‘Policy Dialogue Room’

Science, technology and innovation (STI) play an essential role for sustainable development, as they are the crucial backbone of economic activity, embody the human ingenuity that will be necessary to overcome local, national and global challenges and are key enablers for the successful attainment of all Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Acknowledging that STI are crucial means of implementation for sustainable development and building on long-standing discussions, Member States created the Technology Facilitation Mechanism through the adoption of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The annual Multi-stakeholder Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation for the SDGs is one of the facilitation mechanism’s main elements and will provide an important platform for all relevant stakeholders to discuss how to best harness STI for the SDGs.

The purpose of this ‘policy dialogue room’, organised in the margin of the High-level Thematic Debate on Achieving the SDGs convened by the President of the General Assembly, is to bring together high-level representatives from various stakeholder groups for a focused discussion around two key questions in relation to how STI will contribute to the SDGs.

- First, what are the main opportunities and challenges - at policy, organisational and individual levels - for maximising the contribution of STI to the achievement of the SDGs?
- Second, how can we deploy existing knowledge and new, innovative solutions and technologies and make them more readily available to those who need them?

With an envisioned participation of 15-20 selected high-level experts, this informal exchange will provide an opportunity to engage participants in a focused and concrete discussion on two of the guiding questions for the 2016 Multi-stakeholder Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation, which will take place from 6-7 June 2016, with a view to informing deliberations at the STI Forum.

All participants are invited to share with their constituencies the call to participate in the online discussions in the lead-up to the STI Forum, currently being conducted until 6 May. More information on the technology facilitation mechanism and the STI Forum can be accessed on the TFM webpage:

<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/TFM>



Format

The main purpose of this discussion is to draw on the concrete experiences and expertise of the participants to produce key messages to inform the Multi-stakeholder Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation. Key messages that are identified at this side event will supplement the ongoing online discussions and help to capture the broad and varied depth of expertise and concrete examples that different actors can share. Therefore the discussion will be interactive and formal speaking roles will be limited. The policy dialogue room will be open, and while it is envisioned that it will draw on the perspectives and experience of invited experts, the audience will have the opportunity to contribute to the discussion.

The moderator will conduct the discussion in two rounds. First, participants will be invited to identify – building on their experience – the two key messages/elements in response to the two guiding questions in a quick tour de table (limited to 3 minutes each). In a second round, the moderator will facilitate direct discussion among participants in relation to key issues identified in the first round and also invite participants in the audience to contribute. Participants are encouraged to take a look at the two guiding questions in advance to the event, in order to identify the central points that they consider to be most important against the backdrop of their (and their institutions') experience. Concrete examples will be most welcome as they serve the important purpose of gathering evidence and translate general policy discussions into concrete recommendations for action.

Programme

- 11:30 – 11:35** **Welcome Remarks**
Setting the Stage: the Technology Facilitation Mechanism and the Forum on STI for the SDGs
- William Colglazier**, Co-Chair of the 10-Member Group to Support the Technology Facilitation Mechanism
- 11:35 – 11:40** **Keynote remarks**
Challenges and opportunities for harnessing STI for the SDGs: the private sector perspective
- Peter Bakker**, President of the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD)
- 11:40 – 12:55** **Interactive Discussion on Guiding Questions**
Moderated by William Colglazier
- 11:40 – 12:15 Tour de table among participants for concise key messages on guiding questions
- 12:15 – 12:55 Interactive discussion among participants on points raised
- 12:55 – 13:00** **Summary and Closing Remarks**
- Xialoan Fu**, Director of the Technology and Management Centre for Development, Oxford University



Selected Invited Participants

William Colglazier	Co-Chair of the 10-Member Group to Support the Technology Facilitation Mechanism, American Association for the Advancement of Science
Peter Bakker	President of the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD), 10-Member Group to Support the Technology Facilitation Mechanism
Xialoan Fu	Director of the Technology and Management Centre for Development, Oxford University, 10-Member Group to Support the Technology Facilitation Mechanism
Hayat Sindi	Founder of the I2I Institute, 10-Member Group to Support the Technology Facilitation Mechanism
Nebojsa Nakicenovic	Deputy Director-General, International Institute for Applied System Analysis, 10-Member Group to Support the Technology Facilitation Mechanism
Andy Mangan	US Business Council for Sustainable Development Materials Marketplace
Jeffrey Sachs	Director of the Earth Institute, Columbia University
Shenggen Fan	DG International Food Policy Research institute
Barbara Birungi	Women in Technology in Uganda
Steve Waygood	Aviva Investors
Robert Kirkpatrick	UN Global Pulse
Elliott Harris	Assistant Secretary-General and Director of UNEP New York Office
Erica Hagen	Board Member & Founder of Map Kibera
Andrew Steer	President and CEO of World Resources Institute [TBC]
Rachel Kyte	CEO of SE4All [TBC]
Akihiko Tanaka	Former President, JICA [TBC]