



**HIGH-LEVEL
POLITICAL FORUM
ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

Under the auspices of ECOSOC

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**Joint statement on main outcomes of first multi-stakeholder forum on science, technology
and innovation for the SDGs**

By

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United Nations and Dr. Vaughan Turekian, the Science and Technology Adviser to the US
Secretary of State, co-chairs for the STI forum**

**Session 11: Challenges in mobilizing means of implementation at the national level: Financing,
Technology, and Capacity Building**

13 July 2016, 4.30 pm – 6.00 pm

Excellencies,

Colleagues,

Ladies and gentlemen,

It is my great pleasure to be here with you today, to share the main outcomes of the first annual Multi-stakeholder Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation for the SDGs, from the co-chairs, Dr. Turekian and myself.

Pursuant to General Assembly Resolution A/RES/70/1, on 6 and 7 June 2016, the President of the Economic and Social Council, H.E. Oh Joon, convened the first STI Forum. The 2016 STI Forum addressed the topic of "realizing the potential of science, technology and innovation for all to achieve the sustainable development goals." More than 600 participants representing 81 governments and more than 350 scientists, innovators, entrepreneurs and other stakeholders



attended. The forum experimented with ways to promote networking and matchmaking, including online discussions, a call for innovations and exhibition for practical solutions.

The first meeting of the forum was innovative and dynamic - it became a promising venue for continued interaction, networking and sharing of concrete actions being taken to harness science, technology and innovation for the SDGs.

This first forum also highlights a number of priority areas for future work.

Let me to name a few:

- 1) The Forum should *mobilise STI solutions* for all SDGs, in order to achieve transformative change of livelihoods across the world.
- 2) Much larger, upfront, *long-term investments in technology* are needed.
- 3) Attention should be paid to social science and the social context in which STI is fostered.
- 4) *STI capacity*, STI literacy and human skills need to be strengthened in every country, in order to create innovative knowledge societies that utilize scientific evidence to help inform policy.
- 5) *STI policy coherence* needs to be advanced at all levels, in order to create enabling environments that greatly accelerate efficient diffusion, development, and utilization of technology and spur greater levels of innovation that are commensurate with the SDG ambition.
- 6) Flexible, participatory *STI action plans and technology roadmaps* at national and global levels are needed to support SDG achievement.



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- 7) The creation of robust *science advisory ecosystems* at all levels could help societies to inclusively leverage their scientific and technological communities.
- 8) *ICT tools*, forums, and platforms could be more effectively used to learn from each other, encourage citizen driven science and ultimately serve as a platform for socialising other technologies.
- 9) Lastly, fostering diverse international coordination and multi-stakeholder collaboration and partnerships.

Given the urgency of the sustainable development challenges that confront us, it is clear that **the forum must be action-oriented and cumulative in its impacts.**

In particular,

- The forum, as an annual endeavor, should be viewed as a continuum of events building upon each other.
- The forum provides a focal point for Member states to interact with stakeholders in order to leverage the expertise and resources of these groups.
- The forum should catalyze and highlight partnerships that lead to concrete results that can have the widest possible benefit for all in achieving the SDGs.
- The forum should be a venue to showcase best practices and how stakeholders are harnessing STI for SDGs using real world examples.

- The forum should catalyze concrete actions to create and support enabling environments at national, regional, and international scales

Therefore, the Forum, as a multiyear endeavour, should address a number of concrete objectives, such as:

- Monitoring and sharing trends in the deployment of STI for SDGs
- Showcasing specific solutions and achievements – e.g., social and technological innovations, the development of national policy roadmaps, multilateral STI resource mobilisation, etc.
- Collecting and disseminating information on state-of-the-art expertise on specific issues or practice areas – e.g., STI training and education, capacity building and mobilisation, science advice, the development and diffusion of inclusive, transformational technologies, technology assessment, open data/digital platforms, etc.
- Identifying emerging priorities and critical knowledge and innovation gaps, and agreeing on partnerships and modalities for effectively addressing these
- Identifying neglected SDGs and targets and agreeing on ways of stimulating STI responses to these
- Continuing to build the STI-for-SDGs community of collaborators, including UN initiatives, and providing effective matchmaking opportunities

Above all, this forum has given us an idea of the need and willingness for collaboration, a sense of what is possible, a glimpse of what we could accomplish in the years ahead.



Ladies and gentlemen,

Going forward, the UN Inter-agency Task Team on STI for the SDGs (IATT) will be working with the 10-Member Group to further refine these objectives and priority areas, and develop appropriate and concrete actions aimed at addressing them.

The proposed online platform will be key to providing information about the efforts to harness STI for the SDGs, including the information and activities from the forum.

There should be a program of robust intersessional activities that address regional and sectoral issues around STI for SDGs so that more stakeholders can engage on the topic and the input feeds into forum meetings.

That means we must build on the achievement of the first forum and hit the ground running, charting a realistic and coordinated way forward – engaging all relevant actors – in designing and operationalizing the three components of the TFM: the UN Interagency Task Team on STI for the SDGs and the 10-Member Group; the online information, knowledge and experience-sharing platform; and the Multi-stakeholder Forum on STI for the SDGs. These three components are meant to be mutually reinforcing.

To conclude the report of the STI forum, both Dr. Turekian and I would like to take this opportunity to offer great appreciation to Secretary-General H.E. Ban Ki-moon, ECOSOC and its President H.E. Oh Joon, the IATT, the UN staff of



DESA and volunteers of the 10 member group who dedicated time and energy to making the Forum a success.

We look forward to supporting continued activities under the forum and engaging with the multi-stakeholder community.

I wish you all a fruitful discussion.

Thank you.