



Supporting Science for the Sustainable Development Goals

Towards a Global Forum of Research Funding Agencies, Foundations and Development Agencies

Meeting of partners to plan the event

Date: 12 May 2017

Time: 10h-18h

Venue: United Nations Headquarters

760 United Nations Plaza, Manhattan, New York City, USA


Number of participants: 20

The importance of UN partnership

Through organisations like the International Council for Science (ICSU), the global scientific community played an active role in the development of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the 2030 Agenda, making the case for the role of science in contributing to the effective delivery of the SDGs. With the establishment, in 2015, of the Technology Facilitation Mechanism (TFM), and the commitment to convene an annual multi-stakeholder Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), United Nations member states have recognised the importance of this role. This provides scientific communities from across the world with new, powerful pathways to inject knowledge that has rigour, credibility and relevance into policy, including at the highest levels through intergovernmental fora and institutions, such as the UN High-Level Political Forum on sustainable development (HLPF).

What will it take for science to respond with impact and success to this opportunity? The challenges are systemic, calling for action at all component levels of national, regional and global science systems, from scientists themselves to the institutions in which they work and the policy makers that shape the conditions under which they work. Priorities need to be agreed, capacities need to be strengthened and mobilised across a range of competencies, new approaches to integrative, solutions-oriented knowledge production need to be pursued, new knowledge partnerships forged, and effective policies to support science for the public good put in place. In this multi-dimensional challenge space, the role of science funders is of central importance.





ICSU's purpose in convening a meeting of senior representatives from key communities that fund research is to initiate debate about that role and, based on an understanding of common interests, opportunities and challenges, to work together on planning the envisaged global forum of research funding agencies, foundations and development aid agencies.

The meeting will bring together national research funding agencies (represented by the Belmont Forum), development aid agencies (represented by the Swedish International Development and Cooperation Agency), foundations (represented by the Volkswagen Foundation) and high-level representatives from the United Nations. To establish direct linkages to the global process related to STI, holding the meeting in New York will afford the opportunity to report on the outcomes of discussions during the 2017 STI Forum for creating more collaborations and partnerships around this initiative.

Preliminary Agenda

9:30-10:10 Welcome and introductions

The global context for science: key challenges and opportunities

Heide Hackmann, Executive Director, International Council for Science

Science, Technology and Innovation for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) – perspectives for the United Nations

UN High-level representative

10:10-10:20 Tour de table

10:20-11:35 Harnessing Science for a Sustainable Future

Keynote address: The role of science in transforming our world towards a more sustainable future

Nebojsa Nakicenovic, Deputy Director General of the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA)

Open discussion, moderated by Heide Hackmann

Guiding questions:

- *What difference is science making, what difference can it make?*
- *What kind of science is needed, with whom and where?*
- *Why is international scientific collaboration important?*
- *How can it best be supported?*
- *Is there a need to develop a global agenda for SDGs-related science?*
- *How best to enable science to foster innovation and contribute solutions to the challenges of Agenda 2030?*

11:35-11:50 Break

11:50-13:00 Understanding the existing funding landscape that supports science for sustainable development

Representatives of different funding organisations/communities will be invited to deliver a 10-minute presentation. Possible guiding questions to be addressed include:

- *How does Agenda 2030 affect your organisation's priorities and the way it operates? What role does science play in the work the organisation does?*
- *What kind of science does your organisation support and what outcomes/impacts are being pursued?*
- *How and why does or could your organisation support international scientific collaboration?*

Open discussion, moderated by Heide Hackmann

13:15-14:15 Lunch

14:15-15:30 Building global partnerships for SDGs-related science

Open discussion, moderated by Heide Hackmann

Guiding questions:

- *Why is it important to collaborate across different funding communities in supporting SDGs-related science, and why now? What is the added value of closer collaboration?*
- *What could be priority issues for such collaboration?*
- *What stands in the way of collaboration and how could these obstacles be addressed?*
- *What are successful examples of effective collaboration across funding communities? What can we learn from them?*

15:30-15:45 Break

15:45-17:15 Towards a Global Forum of Research Funding Agencies, Foundation, and Development Aid Agencies - Supporting Science for the SDGs

Open discussion, moderated by Katsia Paulavets, Science Officer, International Council for Science

Guiding questions:

- *What would be the added value of convening a Global Forum of funding agencies, potentially on an annual basis?*
- *What would be the expected outcome of the first Global Forum of funding agencies?*
- *Whom would you like to meet at such an event?*
- *What partners should be engaged in the Forum's planning?*
- *What is the possible format of the Forum?*
- *Next steps, roles and responsibilities*

17:15-17:30 Conclusion and closure of the meeting