Multi-stakeholder Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation for the SDGs

New York, 15-16 May 2017

Concept Note for <u>*Session 2c on the*</u>
<u>*"Key priorities for engaging STI for ensuring healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages*</u>
<u>*(SDG3)"*</u>

Conference Room 4, UN Headquarters New York, 15 May 2017, 15:00 - 16:30 am

1. Background

Health is essential for the achievement of the SDGs and also an indicator for SDG progress. In particular, health outcomes represent a crucial metric of the global commitment to sustainable development and a strong tool to disclose the main challenges that need attention. Recent global issues such as Zika and Antimicrobial Resistance illustrate the fundamental connections between health and development and the need for global STI and public health policy coordination.

SDG 3 ("*Ensuring healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages*") depends heavily on innovation both from the scientific, organizational and social spheres. This challenge is aggravated since innovation, strongly present in the private sector, has not received full attention from governments and health policy agencies, leading to regional and social asymmetries and lack of comprehensive policies and governance at national and global level.

Considering the economic, social and environmental determinants of health, SDG 3 can only be achieved as a result of a holistic approach that harnesses synergies with other SDGs, such as those for energy or education.

Most importantly, new STI paradigms are emerging in the health sector, and they have significant impacts on national innovation systems. These also relate to emerging technologies that are crucial for the achievement of the SDGs, such as bio-, digital-, nano-, neuro-, and green technologies.

During the first STI Forum in May 2016, many good practices related to health were presented. For example, the promotion of science education by museums and scientific associations, the capacity building by academic institutions, as well as the technology transfer will advance the 2030 Agenda's health-related sustainable development objectives.

This year's STI Forum will be an opportunity to reinforce the role of STI for the SDGs from a broad perspective, as well as to tackle the specificity of SDG 3, bringing the whole range of public, private and social stakeholders to share their vision, and engage in a concerted action plan.

The scope of the session will be global but built on regional or national experiences that may be used as good practices.

2. Objectives

This session aims: (a) to promote STI cooperation on health issues based on a discussion of STI needs; (b) to discuss coordinated action plans involving public health networks and relevant stakeholders; and (c) to discuss improving global and regional mechanisms and platforms for innovation, transfer and dissemination of public health-related technologies for the sustainable development.

The ultimate objective of the session is to engage public health stakeholders and connected areas of special social and environmental health determinants on an inter-sectorial high level collaboration on science, technology and innovation, in order to optimize the implementation of SDG3 and other health-related goals and targets.

3. Format of the session

The session will begin with a short (90 seconds) innovation pitch by a winner of the Call for Innovations for the STI Forum, followed by a panel discussion. A moderator will introduce the theme (3 min), and up to three panellists addressing the topics outlined above with 7-minute remarks. Thereafter, the floor will be open for a series of 3 min remarks, followed by a moderated discussion and remarks from the other participants.

4. Questions for discussion

The discussion will be guided by the following questions:

- What are effective and holistic approaches to the achievement of SDG3 taking into account important interconnections to the other 16 SDGs? How can public policy innovations, social technologies, and social sciences in general, support progress toward SDG3 and other health-related goals?
- What are the biggest challenges to make health-related STI available where it is most needed and most effective?
- What are your top three recommendations for action by the United Nations system, governments, businesses, scientists, civil society, and others?