



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

New York, 15-16 May 2017

Concept Note for Session 3 on

'Lessons learned in improving the impact of STI on the SDGs – highlighting the cross-cutting nature of STI'

Conference Room 4, UN Headquarters New York, 16 May 2017, 10:00 - 11:00 am

1. Background

Session 3 will bring together and integrate the main messages and recommendations arising from the six sessions 2a to f in which participants discussed challenges and STI solutions for each one of the following SDGs: 1, 2, 3, 5, 9, and 14, as well as the overarching means of implementation SDG 17, in line with the themes of the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development in 2017. The session will highlight synergies and trade-offs between actions under different goals and emphasize the cross-cutting nature of STI.

The session will also explore lessons-learnt from countries' strategic efforts to promote science-policy interfaces in many context and to ultimately institute effective national science advisory systems – systems that are capable to effectively deal with the complexity of interconnected sustainable development issues at various levels, from local to global. The session will provide an opportunity to highlight the challenges that developing and developed countries face in this respect and collaborative ways forward, in order to mobilize the scientific and technological communities in support of informed and evidence-based decision-making.

2. Objectives

The objectives of the session are: (a) to present key messages and recommended STI actions that were suggested in the SDG-specific sessions 2a to 2f; (b) to discuss key trade-offs and synergies between STI actions focused on various SDGs and identify barriers to scaling up solutions with benefits across the SDG system; and (c) to discuss lessons-learnt from countries' strategic efforts to institute effective national science advisory systems capable to deal with the complexity of integrated SDGs and recommend potential collaborative ways forward.

3. Format and/or scenario of the session

The moderator will provide an overview of the main messages and recommendations arising from session 2. Thereafter, the sessions will be organized in the form of a panel discussion. The moderator will provide a brief introduction to the theme (3 min) and introduce the panellists who will address the topic with brief remarks (no more than 7 minutes each) focused on the questions for discussion. Then, the floor will be opened for a series of 3 min remarks, followed by a moderated discussion and remarks from other participants.

4. Questions for discussion

The discussion will be guided by the following questions:

- What are the main messages and recommendations arising from the goal-specific discussions in sessions 2a to 2f? Which of them are cross-cutting? What is missing from an integrated SDG systems perspective? What are potential trade-offs between STI policies/actions for different SDGs? What are key barriers to scaling up technology solutions?
- What lessons can be drawn from the experiences with national science advisory systems? How can the science-policy interface be strengthened and embedded in national political governance systems? How can the scientific and technological communities worldwide become engaged at the national level?

- What are your top three recommendations for action by the United Nations system, governments, businesses, scientists, civil society, and others?