



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

New York, 15-16 May 2017

Concept Note for Session 5 on
STI capacity building for achieving the SDGs

Conference Room 4, UN Headquarters New York, 16 May 2017, 12:00 - 13:00 am

1. Background

The sustainable development paradigm is fundamentally anchored to the capacity of countries and players on the scientific stage to strategize the development of human capital in science, technology and innovation (STI). Mastering technology and innovation truly plays a defining role in the development of countries, while STI-informed settings and decisions nurture development planning. It is in this context that countries are increasingly demanding both strategic advice and training on STI policy.

In order for STI to be a driving force for sustainable development, national development agendas need to foster knowledge production and dissemination for sustainable development. This might include building human and institutional STI capacities, effective scientific advisory systems, national and regional STI policies and programmes, knowledge and technology production, dissemination and utilization to spur innovation from the grassroots levels all the way to large-scale production.

STI capacity development is essential for creating a critical number of scientists and thus building scientifically-informed societies and achieving scientific development and innovation. Sound STI educational systems are needed and research knowledge need be shared for development. Valuing skills and human capacity development has the potential to make science, technology and innovation truly transformational.

2. Objectives

This session will build upon the previous one to explore existing STI policies for capacity building and scientific advisory systems, and discuss potential ways and means to bridge the gaps. The session will also review what it takes to be able to provide STI-based advice effectively to shape policy, building on country experiences.

3. Format

The session will be organized in the form of a panel discussion on STI capacity building for achieving the SDGs. The moderator will introduce the theme (3 min), followed by three or four panellists addressing the topic 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 successes and gaps in existing policies for STI-related capacity building and science advisory systems? What is the potential of new models of STI capacity building?
- What does it take to provide good policy advice grounded in STI and national experiences?
- What are your top three recommendations for action by the United Nations system, governments, businesses, scientists, civil society, and others?