



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

**New York, 15-16 May 2017**

***Concept Note for Session 7 on***  
***'Supporting the Technology Facilitation Mechanism'***

Conference Room 4, UN Headquarters New York, 16 May 2017, 16:00 - 17:30 am

## **1. Background**

The Technology Facilitation Mechanism (TFM) consists of three components: (a) the Inter-agency Task Team on STI for the SDGs (IATT) and the 10-Member Group of high-level representatives to support the TFM; (b) the Multi-stakeholder Forum on STI for the SDGs; and (c) an Online Platform to serve as information gateway on existing initiatives. As of now, two of these three elements are operational and work is underway to progress with the establishment of the online platform. Nonetheless the operation of the mechanism as a whole is at its very beginning. The present Forum offers an opportunity to discuss the way forward for TFM implementation and the structure of inter-sessional work between the annual meetings of the Forum. There is a need to engage support from different stakeholders for all elements of the TFM, in order to meet the ambitious expectations by Member States and many stakeholders alike.

The Co-chair's Summary of the first STI Forum in 2016 outlined key recommendations for the work of the Forum and the TFM which will also serve as input for the deliberations during this session, for example:

- §39: In between annual sessions of the Forum, the 10 Member Group and the UN Interagency Task Team may promote activities that catalyse and enable stakeholder engagement in the technology facilitation mechanism, fostering the inclusion of existing initiatives and organizations that also promote STI for sustainable development.
- §40: In particular, the Forum has to serve as catalyst for multi-stakeholder partnerships that include the private sector. It needs to link closely with and bring together existing initiatives, (...) as well as development and research funding agencies at national, regional and global levels.
- §41: (...) the STI Forum needs to be coherent with and link closely to ongoing STI activities at global, regional and national levels, many of which were mentioned in the course of the Forum.
- §42: The Forum must be action-oriented and cumulative in its impacts. Over the next 14 years, future STI Forums should learn from and advance the achievements of previous Forums. (...)
- §43: The Forum should become the outcome of an annual programme of results-oriented activities and, as part of a series, a regular moment for collaboratively defining priorities for needed activities.

Throughout the inter-sessional period of operation since the first Forum in 2016, it has become clear that some of the expected work streams and envisioned tasks simply cannot be delivered within existing resources. This is particularly so when considering general funding constraints and extra-budgetary lock-in of many agencies and funds. Against this background, a pragmatic discussion is needed on realistic next steps and deliverables over the coming year, including on how raise resources that are commensurate with the expectations.

## **2. Objectives**

Through its cross-cutting focus on all elements of the TFM, this session will speak to the STI Forum's mandated functions of "STI cooperation" and "needs and gaps analysis". In particular, this session will provide an opportunity to take stock of the development of the TFM and its elements.

The session will draw on the discussions that have taken place in the preceding meetings. In line with the recommendations issued in the Summary of the first STI Forum, which called for the TFM and the Forum to become a multi-year endeavour - with each forum building on the previous one and efforts to be guided by an inter-sessional work plan - this session will discuss the status, achievements and the way forward.

Specific objectives of the session are: (a) to present the results of the independent assessment for the online platform of the TFM and to discuss next steps for the establishment of the online platform; (b) to present messages arising from the mapping of UN STI initiatives and discuss next steps; (c) to present the outcome of a pre-meeting with STI-funding foundations; (d) to discuss how inter-sessional meetings can be leveraged to feed into the STI Forum and vice versa; and (e) to discuss the work and operation of TFM elements.

### **3. Format and/or scenario of the session**

The format of the session will be a panel discussion. The moderator will introduce the theme (3 min), and the panellists will make remarks (max. of 7 minutes each). 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 would be key deliverables for the next inter-sessional period in the run-up to the third STI Forum?
- How can we ensure that the envisioned and proposed work under the TFM is resourced?
- What are your top three recommendations for action by the United Nations system, governments, businesses, scientists, civil society, and others?

### **5. Supporting documents or publications**

- Co-Chair's Summary of the first STI Forum<sup>12</sup>
- Mandated Independent Assessment of the TFM Online Platform<sup>13</sup>
- Mapping Report of UN STI activities<sup>13</sup>

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<sup>12</sup> [http://www.un.org/ga/search/view\\_doc.asp?symbol=E/HLPF/2016/6&Lang=E](http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=E/HLPF/2016/6&Lang=E)

<sup>13</sup> To appear on the TFM website: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/TFM/>