



## High-level Study Visit to China on STI for the SDGs (DRAFT)

Dates: 4-7 December, 2017

Venue: Hongkou, Shanghai

### 1. Background

The Technology Facilitation Mechanism (TFM) was established by the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and launched as part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development with the objective to support the SDGs. The TFM is a global mechanism designed to mobilize and synergize collaboration around Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) among all governments, the entire UN system, the private sector, civil society and all relevant stakeholders around the world - a global collaboration commensurate with the ambitions of the aspirational and universal SDGs.

While the TFM is a global structure, STI opportunities, constraints and partnerships can be country- and SDG- specific and there is a need for tailoring its components to deliver concrete results on the ground. At the same time, research and practice both show that long term sustainability needs the engagement and support of different stakeholders. Hence the TFM must support and simultaneously develop capacities on the ground while being able to connect with regional, national and local initiatives. An important component of the TFM is the development of an on-line platform to strengthen the sharing and adoption of STI for the SDGs. An independent assessment concluded that in order to be successful, such a platform needed to have both online and offline components.

In this connection, the Division for Sustainable Development (DSD) in UN-DESA is implementing a project for “Mobilizing Science, Technology and Innovation in Developing Countries for the SDGs”.

DSD has already carried out several initiatives in parallel to the initiation of this project. These include outreach and engagement with key national partners such as the Ministry of Science and Technology of China (MOST), completing an independent technical assessment of the online platform; exploring the possible substantive contributions to the development of the online platform by other stakeholders who have undertaken similar initiatives; and engaging STI experts through the Technology Facilitation Mechanism (TFM) for the content and operationalization of the platform.

Based on the preparatory work, DSD together with MOST, is planning an inception meeting for the partnership, along with a high level study visit at the Green Technology Bank of China, Shanghai, 4-7 December, 2017, to be partly funded by the project.

The Green Technology Bank (GTB) is an important initiative of China to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. China has been exploring innovative approaches to facilitate green technology transfers among countries through the establishment of the GTB. It focuses on the use of green finance and capital investment to create a new channel to scale up technology solutions for achieving SDGs. As such, the experience with the GTB holds many important lessons for technology facilitation. As emphasized by the Government of China during the recent UN Science, Technology and Innovation Forum, China attaches great importance to leveraging STI to achieve sustainable development and strongly supports the work of the UN Technology Facilitation Mechanism. China has pledged to provide assistance to other developing countries in line with its National Strategy for Innovation Driven Development and the 2030 Agenda.



## 2. Objectives

Against this background, the high-level visit will combine a 2-day inception meeting for the partnership with a 2-day study visit to the Green Technology Bank. It will serve as a major preparatory event for the development of the prototype of the TFM online platform. It will aim to achieve the following objectives:

Partnership inception meeting:

- strengthening the capacity of key constituents in developing countries to access, operationalize and benefit from STI for the SDGs by taking full advantage of the opportunities offered by the Green Technology Bank and beyond;
- strengthening the learning and adoption of relevant innovations (including institutional innovations) in the context of developing country, to learn about green technology assessment, classification and how the match-making and scaling-up happened;
- improving the capacity of governments and entrepreneurs to access relevant STI solutions through on-line mechanism;

High-level study visit:

- strengthening the online and off-line collaborations for the online platform, and to discuss the content of a proposed Memorandum of Understanding between UN DESA and China's Ministry of Science and Technology;
- exploiting and strengthening the synergies between the components of the TFM and to strengthen the value addition of the UN system in convening different stakeholders and strengthening capacities;
- exploring the possible substantive contributions to the development of the online platform by stakeholders, including national stakeholders from the private sector with cutting-edge technology;
- establishing and strengthening the links between the technology facilitation mechanism and financing mechanisms for scaling up the technology solutions.

## 3. Participation

It is envisaged that some 20-30 international participants will attend this meeting. Representatives of governments, major institutional stakeholders of the TFM process actively associated with the online platform, experts and practitioners in this area (including international and regional initiatives such as Global Cleantech Cluster Associations - G-HUB, Global Innovation Exchange) and national stakeholders (e.g. Alibaba, Tencent, Huawei, China Technology Exchange) will be identified jointly by MOST and DSD on the basis of the relevance of their responsibilities, experience and knowledge to the focus areas of the meeting.

## 5. Host/Venue

The high-level visit will be hosted by MOST, Hongkou in Shanghai, China, which is also host to the Green Technology Bank (GTB).



## 6. Language

The meeting will be conducted in English and Chinese. Interpretation services will be provided.

## 7. High-level Participation

- Mr. LIU Zhenmin, Under-Secretary General of Economic and Social Affairs, UN DESA
- Mr. XU Nanping, Vice Minister of Science and Technology, China
- H.E. Mrs. Marie Chatardová, President of UN Economic and Social Council, Permanent Representative of the Czech Republic to the United Nations
- Vice Mayor of Shanghai, China (tbc)
- Mr. WANG Ruijun, Chair of the 20<sup>th</sup> session of the United Nations Commission on Science and Technology for Development