

DRAFT BACKGROUND NOTE

Prepared by UN-DESA and UNCTAD on behalf of the Inter-Agency Task Team on Science, Technology and Innovation for the SDGs ('IATT')
for
Mandated Briefing to the member States on the recommendations contained in the co-Chairs' summary of the 2nd Multi-stakeholder STI Forum

29 January 2018

Context

The Multi-stakeholder Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation for the SDGs ("STI Forum") is one of the three components of the UN Technology Facilitation Mechanism (TFM), created by the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and launched by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.¹

The President of ECOSOC convenes the STI Forum once a year, for a period of two days, co-chaired by two Member States. The 2030 Agenda tasked the United Nations Inter-agency Task Team on Science, Technology and Innovation for the Sustainable Development Goals (IATT) to work with a group of 10 high-level representatives from civil society, the private sector and the scientific community (10-Member Group) to prepare the meetings of the STI Forum. The current co-conveners of the IATT are UN-DESA and UNCTAD.

Following Paragraph 70 of Agenda 2030, the STI Forum is to *"discuss science, technology and innovation cooperation around thematic areas for the implementation of the sustainable development goals, congregating all relevant stakeholders to actively contribute in their area of expertise."* They *"provide a venue for facilitating interaction, matchmaking and the establishment of networks between relevant stakeholders and multi-stakeholder partnerships in order to identify and examine technology needs and gaps, including with regard to scientific cooperation, innovation and capacity-building, and also in order to help facilitate development, transfer and dissemination of relevant technologies for the sustainable development goals"*.²

The STI Forum should take into account the theme of the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF). The result of the Forum is a summary of the discussions by the Co-chairs as an input to the HLPF in the context of the follow-up and review of the implementation of the Post-2015 Development Agenda.

Arising from the United Nations' General Assembly resolution A/72/L.38, the TFM (including the IATT and the STI Forum) should also *"give due consideration to the impact of key rapid technological changes on the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals,"* and *"requests the TFM to present its findings, with an evidence-based approach, in this regard at the 3rd STI Forum in 2018."* The resolution also *"decides to include in the programme of the [3rd STI Forum] a session on the impact of rapid technological change including in cases in which changes may occur at an exponential pace, on the achievement of the [SDGs]..."* It requests for *"support to be given for*

¹ See Paragraph 70 of the Post-2015 Development Agenda Outcome Document, A/RES/70/1. Other components of the TFM are the United Nations Inter-agency Task Team on Science, Technology and Innovation for the Sustainable Development Goals (IATT), and an Online Platform.

² A/RES/70/1, paragraph 70.



participation from developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, and to be funded by extra budgetary resources..."

Modalities & Participation

The 3rd STI Forum will be held at UN Headquarters in New York over 5-6 June 2018.

It is collaborative and multi-stakeholder in nature, including Member States, United Nations entities, civil society and NGOs, private sector, philanthropic sector, scientific community, academia, youth, Indigenous Peoples and other stakeholder groups. The meeting should mobilize decision-makers, practitioners and experts, as well as users of technologies and the private sector that invests in R&D and innovation. Member States are encouraged to secure the participation of high-level STI experts from capitals, and to include young scientists and innovators in national delegations.

The STI Forum is open to participation by all accredited delegates and representatives through an open call for registration to ensure a wide range of participation. The STI Forum will be webcast, and the proceedings recorded and made available for open viewing.

Side events

Member States and all stakeholders will be encouraged to organize side events on specific topics and key initiatives that support TFM work. This will be an opportunity for more in-depth discussions. The side events will be closely linked to and support the official sessions of the STI Forum. Against this background, a fair and transparent selection process will be put in place to select a limited number of side events.

First and Second STI Fora

The first and second STI fora were held over 6-7 June 2016 and 15-16 May 2017 respectively at UN Headquarters in New York. They were prepared and serviced by the IATT and the 10-Member Group. The fora were attended by a large cross-section of stakeholders from various relevant communities from different parts of the world. Exhibitions featured innovators from different countries, and side events allowed for more tailored discussions.

Programmes and the co-Chairs' Summaries are available at:

<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/TFM/STIForum2016>

<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/TFM/STIForum2017>
