

# STI FORUM

Science, Technology & Innovation for  
the Sustainable Development Goals

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

New York, 5-6 June 2018

### *Meeting Summary for side event:*

### *“Intergenerational Dialogue, Capacity Building and Lifelong Learning in STI”*

Conference Room B, New York, 6 June 2018, 1:15-2:30

#### 1. Objective of the side event

Each year, the Multi-stakeholder forum on Science, Technology and Innovation for the SDGs highlights the importance of capacity building with a dedicated plenary session aimed at sharing experiences, recommendations, and best practices. It has focused on, amongst other topics, building human and institutional STI capacities, effective scientific advisory systems, national and regional STI policies and programmes, exchange of knowledge and appropriate technology production, dissemination and utilization to spur innovation from the grassroots levels all the way to large-scale production. This session focuses on one of the core pillars of the UN MGCY's *Vision for Youth in STI at the UN & Beyond* - capacity building, making sure to emphasize the importance of lifelong learning and skills-building from an intergenerational lens. Specifically, it seeks to promote dialogue, the sharing of STI capacity building programs, and best practices from the global, national, and local level. Approaching them from an intergenerational lens, as a key priority for long-term resilience and accumulation of efforts towards the 2030 Agenda. It also highlights the importance of lifelong learning and skills building, in light of increasing rapid technological change and concerns outlined in GA Resolution 72/242. The outcome of the side event will set the path for programmatic work within UN MGCY aimed at promoting intergenerational capacity building within the STI architecture at the UN, national governments, and at the grass-roots level.

#### 2. Organizers & Participation

##### Organizers:

- Permanent Mission of Denmark to the UN
- UN Major Group for Children and Youth
- Office of Secretary General's Envoy on Youth
- WFEO UN Relations Committee (WURC) and Young Engineers/Future Leaders Committee
- Science Diplomacy Center at The Fletcher School, Tufts University

##### Participation:

##### Panelists:

- Nkandu Luo, Minister of Higher Education, Republic of Zambia
- Amber Barth, International Labour Organization
- Gong Ke, President-Elect, World Federation of Engineering Organizations (WFEO)
- Veerle Vandeweerd, Policy Director at Global Science Technology and Innovation Conference Series
- Ernesto Fernandez, UN Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
- Tolu Oni, Fellow of the Leading Integrated Research for Agenda 2030 in Africa, International Council for Science (ICSU) & Co-Chair of the Global Young Academy (GYA)

##### Case Studies:

- Tracey Elliott, InterAcademy Partnership (IAP)

- Jean-Christophe Mauduit, Science Diplomacy Center at The Fletcher School
- Marga Gual Soler, Senior Project Director, AAAS Center for Science Diplomacy

Moderator:

- Donovan Guttieres, UN MGCY

### 3. Major issues discussed in the session (in bullet form)

The panelists in this session were questioned on the gaps and possible actions that can be taken to increase capacity within and between countries, as well as across genders and age, as well as what skills are needed to accelerate progress towards the 2030 Agenda and maintain sustainable development trajectories, and how they can be learned while “leaving no one behind”. Some of the major issues and missing links in active stakeholder participation discussed in the session where

- Challenges can be seen as opportunities for governments to work with youth in capacity building
- Intergenerational issues focus on youth, and organizations should move from working for, to with, youth
- An environment that brings youth voices to different forums needs to be enabled
- Working with youth is not just a different view on the future, it involved different vested interests
- Capacity building needs to become a more bidirectional type of engagement, and science culture could more easily engage youth
- For LDCs, capacity building can aid in bridging the skills gap and leapfrogging
- A lot of useful technology is already out there, but they are not used by some countries because of the difficulty that comes with scaling them up
- A shift in views about what skills are important to acquire is needed to achieve SDGs, this will require disruptive thinking in the STI environment

### 4. Main outcome

- We will create innovation that is useful for the world when we recognize the regional variations in the experiences of young scientists
- Need to create a place for scientists and engineers to learn to contextualize their roles in society in order for them to be more aware of their impact and deliberate with their projects
- The value of sustainability needs to be merged to all subjects, and collaboration should be interdisciplinary
- Create a different breed of scientists and young people to not apologize for who they are
- Make citizens more aware of the SDGs and how their countries are implementing them

### 5. Key recommendations for action (in bullet form)

- Instead of focusing on identifying gaps we should focus in how to fill the gaps efficiently
- We need to invest in the next generation of STI leaders to pull the value chain of society
- There is a need to make the education system sufficiently responsive, and relevant to the nations and industries they serve
- For meaningful engagement, it is necessary to think more broadly about the ecosystem of skills and the communities we need to build
- Scientific input is needed in global policy making in order for informed decisions to be made
- Young professionals program needs a track for scientists to enter
- Capacity building at the interface of science and technology is needed to engage scientists in diplomacy, and make policy makers more informed