



Global Pilot Programme on Science, Technology and Innovation for SDGs Roadmaps

United Nations Inter-Agency Task Team for STI for SDGs

2019

1. Background

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, unanimously adopted by all member states, reaffirmed Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) as key means of implementation and launched the Technology Facilitation Mechanism (TFM) to support the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The past three STI Forums in 2016, 2017, and 2018 highlighted that “... the STI roadmaps and action plans are needed at the subnational, national and global levels, and should include measure for tracking progress.” The United Nations Inter-Agency Task Team (IATT) proposes to establish a Global Pilot Programme on Science, Technology and Innovation for the SDGs Roadmaps as part of the Technology Facilitation Mechanism (TFM)’s deliverables, to be discussed at the 4th STI Forum 2019 and further expanded or strengthened after 2019.

2. Objectives

The objectives of the Programme include the following:

- test out the draft guidebook on building STI for SDGs Roadmaps as a policy-making and communication tool for Member States;
- build capacity for and scale up adoption of the Member States’ STI for SDGs Roadmaps;
- promote good practices, knowledge sharing, peer learning, international cooperation and partnerships on design and implementation of such roadmaps;
- maximize opportunities and mitigate risks of STI and frontier technologies to accelerate achievement of the SDGs; and
- institute mechanisms to continuously scan the horizon, analyze the gaps, track progress and inform corrective measures.

Following the broader TFM mandate within the Agenda 2030 framework, the Programme is designed as a non-intergovernmental and multi-stakeholder engagement process. At its initial phase in 2019, the Programme will be an IATT’s voluntary initiative, implemented jointly with the Member States that have been participating in the consultative process and supported by existing UN STI initiatives as well as contributing partners. The Programme will initially focus on demonstrating concrete value-added for Member States as part of their national processes to design and implement such roadmaps as integral elements of national sustainable development strategies. For IATT agencies and other contributing

partners, the Programme will create stronger synergies and complementarities in the field of STI policy, technical assistance and related capacity development and investment to Member States.

Beyond 2019, the Programme will aim at mobilizing dedicated support funding, upon Member States' early experiences and demands for further support, including for enabling arrangements such as online platforms and offline forums for matchmaking, knowledge and experience sharing.

3. Criteria

In the initial phase, given the capacity of the IATT, seven to ten countries that have been already involved in the consultation processes will be proposed for the Pilot Programme. In a second phase of the programme, countries that have expressed interest will be considered for pilot activities.

Countries' selection will be based on the following criteria:

1. Geographic diversity: ensure that pilot countries are from different regions (Africa, Arab States, Asia and the Pacific, Europe and North America, Latin America and the Caribbean), giving priority to Africa.
2. Priority will be given to developing countries, while potentially including a few developed countries to strengthen international partnerships.
3. Countries that have recently undertaken or are currently in the process of designing/reviewing the national STI Roadmaps, and related policy and actions with adequate cross-ministerial consultation and coordination mechanisms.
4. Countries actively engaging UN agencies regarding STI Roadmaps.
5. High-level political commitment/support to launch the global programme on STI for the SDGs.

4. Selection process

IATT will issue a call for expression of interest, followed by an issue brief and a draft chapter of the guidebook on development of national STI for SDGs Roadmaps, in December 2018, to countries through their national authorities/representatives who have been involved in the TFM STI Roadmap process. IATT may hold an informal briefing session upon countries' request, to the interested countries in New York.

Interested countries will be requested to submit an expression of interest by 18 January 2019 to engage in collaboration with IATT in the initial phase of the Programme for the 2019 period. The expression of interests should include the following information:

- Name, title and institutional affiliation of a senior official responsible for the national STI for SDGs Roadmap.
- Name, title, institutional affiliation and contact information of coordinating focal point person(s), concerning communications with IATT.
- Name of IATT member agency/agencies as IATT's main focal point concerning the country's participation to the Programme.

- A total of 2 pages describing both existing policy frameworks related to STI for SDGs and focus areas of the envisaged pilot activities, in context of the steps and elements proposed in the draft guidebook (before 22nd February 2019).

Interested countries are requested to agree on making the above information public through TFM's website. Upon validation of the submitted information by IATT, the country and IATT can start the collaboration as part of the Programme.

Upon follow-up engagements and discussions including through the planned Expert Group Meeting (EGM) on STI for SDGs Roadmaps in March, IATT will announce the final pilot countries in March/April 2019 on the TFM website. After the announcement the pilot countries are expected to prepare information about further actions for the STI Roadmaps and subsequently present these on the HLPF-SDG Summit 2019.

Timeline:



5. Activities and value added

Pilot activities can constitute, but are not limited to, any of the below:

- Define objectives and scope of national STI for SDGs Roadmap;
- Evaluate current situation, gaps in achieving SDGs and opportunities/risks related to STI;
- Assess alternative pathways of utilizing STI toward achievement of the SDGs;
- Develop vision, goals and targets related to utilizing STI toward achievement of the SDGs;
- Develop a detailed STI for SDGs Roadmap; and/or
- Monitor, evaluate and update current STI for SDGs Roadmap.

These activities are expected to fully benefit from key inputs such as stakeholder consultation; scientific, technical and managerial expertise; and data/evidence. Pilot activities may focus on domestic inter-ministerial and/or multi-stakeholder engagements or include deliberations on receiving and/or providing international contributions, such as through partnerships and development assistance programmes, and including on implications of frontier technologies. Therefore, various stakeholders should be encouraged, including ministries, institutions, private sector and academia, to share knowledge, experience and know-how.

Pilots are expected to build on existing, ongoing or planned activities as part of national processes, and are not meant to necessarily produce a new set of "Roadmap" documents. The Programme rather aims at strengthening countries' ownership and momentum on STI for SDGs, by surfacing and connecting country-by-country practices and advancing good practices and peer learning through fostering

communities of interested practitioners and partners. Further, strengthening international cooperation is essential to advance in the achievement of sustainable development. Building on pilot experiences, the Programme after 2019 will aim at instituting mechanisms to continuously scan the horizon, analyze the gaps, track progress and inform national and international corrective measures.

Pilot countries are invited to join the policy advocacy efforts in 2019, including through STI Forum, HLPF and UNGA, to elevate STI for SDGs agenda and step up international efforts and collective action in support of STI for SDGs Roadmaps.