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

Convened by the President of ECOSOC
Supported by the 10-Member Advisory Group and the UN Inter-Agency Task Team
on Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) for the SDGs

Co-Chaired by H.E. Ms. H. Elizabeth Thompson, Ambassador Extraordinary and
Plenipotentiary, Permanent Representative of Barbados to the United Nations, and
H.E. Ms. Marie Chatardová, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary,
Permanent Representative of the Czech Republic to the United Nations

14-15 May 2019
Conference Room 4 *(unless noted otherwise)*, **UN Headquarters, New York**

DRAFT Agenda

Day 1, 14 May 2019

10:00 – 10:40 Welcome address and opening: appreciating the cross-cutting nature of science, technology and innovation

10: 45 – 11: 55 Session 1: Emerging technology clusters and the impact of rapid technological change on the SDGs

This session will discuss the implications of rapid technological change on the SDGs, in particular, the social, economic and environmental impacts of new and emerging technologies, such as AI, biotechnology, nanotechnology. It will conclude with policy recommendations.

12:00 – 13:00 Ministerial Segment (Session 2): Strengthening capacity and policy for the development of STI roadmaps

During this session, the ministers will present national and sub-national initiatives related to design and review of STI for SDG roadmaps and related policy actions. The session will also discuss potential support to strengthen international partnerships in the area of capacity-building on STI for SDG roadmaps.

13:00 – 15:00 Lunch break

UN HQs Visitors' Lobby:

13:30 – 14:15 Special event 1: Launch of exhibition of innovative technology solutions for SDGs

UN-DESA together with the Global Innovation Exchange launched a Global Call for Innovations for the SDGs – a call for innovators, scientists, entrepreneurs and sustainability change agents worldwide to submit innovative solutions for sustainable development, especially with regard to the five SDGs that have been selected for focus in 2019 in particular: SDGs 4, 8, 10, 13, and 16.

15:00 – 16:30 Session 3 STI for education and decent work for the future (SDG 4 and SDG 8)

The session will discuss ways and means in which science, technology, and innovation can better support SDG 4 (quality education) and SDG 8 (decent work and economic growth). In particular, the session will focus on how to re-shape education to prepare for a rapidly changing future of work. It will identify challenges and needs, good practices and policy recommendations.

16:30 – 18:00 Session 4 Gender and STI for SDGs

This session will discuss issues related to attracting and retaining women in STI/STEM fields, supporting women entrepreneurship, and improving access to capital. It will take conclude with policy recommendations.

Day 2, 15 May 2019

10:00-10:05 Brief video message: UN Commission on Science and Technology for Development

10:05 – 11:30 Session 5: A Brighter Future – Youth, Innovation Ecosystems and Development

The session will discuss ways and means of building sustainable innovation ecosystems of the future that are commensurate with the SDG aspirations, including national research and engineering institutions and infrastructures. There will be a focus on the role and perspectives of youth.

11:30 – 13:00 Session 6: STI for inclusive and equitable societies (SDG 10 and SDG 16)

The session will discuss ways and means in which science, technology, and innovation can better support SDG 10 (reducing inequalities) and SDG 16 (peace, justice, and strong institutions). In particular, the session will focus on how to achieve inclusive societies in a rapidly changing world. It will identify challenges and needs, good practices and policy recommendations.

13:00-15:00 Lunch break

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Conference Room 11:

13:30 – 14:45 Special event 2: Roundtable on STI roadmaps for SDGs - the technical perspective

The special event will discuss the UN work and collaboration on development of the guidebook on building STI roadmaps for SDGs as a policy-making and communication tool for Member States. It will also present a proposed global pilot programme on STI roadmaps in order to build capacity for and scale up adoption of the Member States' STI roadmaps for the SDGs. The session will discuss recommendations on the topic.

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15:00 – 16:00 Session 7: STI for taking action to combat climate change and its impacts. (SDG 13)

The session will discuss ways and means in which science, technology, and innovation can better support SDG 13 on addressing anthropogenic climate change. This may include aspects of international cooperation, capacity-building, and the facilitation of development, scaling up, adoption, and dissemination of climate-relevant technologies. The session will identify challenges and needs, good practices and policy recommendations.

16:00 – 17:00 Session 8: Linking science, technology and innovation of indigenous peoples, culture and traditional knowledge and the achievement of the SDGs

This session will discuss how to harness indigenous and traditional knowledge and local technologies relevant to the achievement of the SDGs. It will also present recommendations on how better highlight and mainstream the role of indigenous knowledge.

17:00 –18:00 Session 9: Supporting the implementation of the Technology Facilitation Mechanism – the way forward for joint action – and closing

This session will present a number of initiatives from across the world (including the on-line platform) that support the science-based, solution-oriented, multi-stakeholder and collaborative approach of the Technology Facilitation Mechanism (TFM) including discussions on broadening their impacts and making them self-sustaining, lessons learnt and ways forward.