



Side Event at the Fourth Multi-Stakeholder Forum on Science, Technology and Innovative (STI Forum)
on

**“Development partnerships to address binding constraints around innovation,
education and the environment”**

New York, 14 May 2019

13:15hr – 14:30 hr

Venue: Conference Room 1 in the UN Conference Building

Description:

Technology is a potentially enabling factor for development as it helps to enhance the capabilities of multiple social and economic agents to address pressing development needs. For this potential to materialize however, those agents frequently need to learn new knowledge and to create the base of competencies needed to address a series of binding constraints around the development, dissemination and use of existing and emerging technologies. Moreover, social and economic agents need to agree on development priorities, identify suitable solutions –including technologies- and to mobilize the required resources to achieve intended development goals.

Two specific topics attract considerable attention in most up-to-date global development debates:

1. The potential for the current wave of innovation, particularly digitalization and its convergence with other new technologies, to impact on employment and demands for skills, particularly in developing countries. Unless training institutions are able to keep up with these changes, a skills gap between what the training systems develop and what industry demands will expand. Relevant questions emerge on the necessary transformations to be made on the functioning of education and skill development systems, or on how countries can prepare themselves to deal with expected workplace transformations with direct implications on the determinants of productive employment and decent work. Technical and vocational education and training (TVET) is particularly interesting as it involves multi-stakeholder approaches: implementation is ensured by public institutions, by private sector training providers and vital inputs from industry. How to ensure these multi-stakeholder partnerships are possible? How to ensure enhanced coordination and contribution to the achievement of intended goals?
2. The need for urgent climate change action through up-scaling in both the development and uptake of climate change technologies to accelerate countries’ low-carbon and resilient pathways. Technology developers and suppliers need business development support and investment to scale up, while developing countries are reaching out for access to relevant technologies, knowledge and capacity building to achieve economies of scale and speed up their climate transitions. Addressing pressing climate challenges demands new knowledge on existing and emerging mechanisms to build capacities and to bridge finance, technology and capacity gaps for both technology providers and developing



countries. How to ensure that relevant agents work in unison along the climate action value chain? In particular, how to nurture innovation and climate technology entrepreneurship, facilitating collaboration and financing, and helping countries navigate the landscape of technology transfer?

This side event propose to showcase initiatives that are bridging capability gaps to enable the uptake and scaling up of STI for the SDG's. These initiatives stress the importance of collaborative approaches and multi-stakeholder development partnerships to nurturing innovation and entrepreneurship and facilitating resource mobilization in an inclusive and sustainable manner. Likewise emphasized will be the role of private sector in identifying gaps and building capacity to respond to relevant finance, technology and policy challenges.

In summary, the session will draw attention away from technology itself, and back onto the processes underpinning problem-identification and solving, and the contribution from multiple agents and perspectives. The basic argument is that public intervention is needed to initiate and stimulate processes of change toward achieving SDGs, but the knowledge required is typically fragmented over many institutions and organizations. Policy makers alone are seldom adequately informed to decide about future priorities. Key to achieve results in terms of growth, productivity and transfer and uptake of STI is effective coordination and cooperation between public and private and social actors.

Thematic Focus: Facilitating development, transfer and uptake of STI for the SDG's through multi-stakeholder development partnerships

Focus on concrete initiatives:

The session will introduce initiatives that share an emphasis on multi-stakeholder partnerships as essential to facilitating the process of market and technology development:

- The Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of Morocco will share the Country's experience with UNIDO's proposed approach to the provision of vocational training through public-private development partnerships (PPDP) to develop a workforce with sector-specific skills that supports business growth while reducing unemployment and poverty. The PPDP model helps to create opportunities and jobs by bridging the gap in skills produced through public TVET systems, and skills demanded by private sector firms. The model facilitates a process of aligning public TVET programs with job market demand. Relevant SDG's: **SDG4 (main)** and SDG8 and SDG10 (secondary)
- UNIDO's Global Cleantech Innovation Programme (GCIP) aims to develop vibrant innovation and entrepreneurship ecosystems by providing systematic support to SMES, entrepreneurs and start-ups in their efforts to scale up their innovations and become fast-growing and investible enterprises that contribute to SDGs.



- UNFCCC Climate Technology Centre & Network (co-hosted by UN Environment and UNIDO) will share a collaborative, matchmaking methodology that it uses to mobilize a global network of 500 technology and finance providers to help developing countries access a broad range of clean technologies, capacity building and finance to accelerate climate change action and maximize SDG co-benefits. The UNFCCC Climate Technology Centre & Network facilitates stakeholders' engagement in a wide range of activities related to climate technologies to coordinate south-south, north-south, and triangular collaboration and cooperation. Relevant SDG's: **SDG13 (main)** and SDG8 and SDG10 (secondary)
- The European Commission-Joint Research Centre's (EU-JRC) will introduce the entrepreneurial discovery approach (EDP) which is at the core of the EU smart specialization approach – the biggest experiment in localized STI policy in the world – implemented in 28 EU Member States and 21 other countries worldwide. The EDP is an inclusive and interactive bottom-up process in which participants from different environments (policy, business, academia, etc.) discover and produce information about potential new activities and opportunities that emerge through this interaction, while policymakers assess outcomes and ways to facilitate the realization of this potential. The EDP pursues the integration of entrepreneurial knowledge fragmented and distributed over many sites and organizations, companies, universities, clients and users, specialized suppliers through connections and partnerships. Relevant SDG's: **SDG17 (main)**

Intended Contribution to the STI Forum:

- To illustrate collaborative approaches to addressing binding constraints for the uptake and mobilization of STI for the SDGs
- To present viable models for up-scaling technology development, transfer and dissemination for the SDG's.
- To foster public-private partnership building around STI for the SDGs

Co-Organizers:

The European Commission-Joint Research Centre (EU-JRC), the Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations, the Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of Morocco to the United Nations and United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)



Programme

13:15-13:18	Welcome by Moderator, Ms. Jamira Burley, Head of Youth Engagement and Skills at the Global Business Coalition for Education
13:18-13:21	Opening remarks. Mr. Paul Maseli, Director & UNIDO Representative to the UN & international organizations
13:21-13:29	Mr. Omar Kadiri, Deputy Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Morocco to the United Nations
13:29-13:37	Ms. Charlina Vitcheva, Deputy Director General, EU-JRC
13:37-13:45	Mr. Viktor Nedovic, State Secretary, Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development, Republic of Serbia
13:45-13:53	Ms. Karina Kolbrún Larsen, Knowledge and Communications Manager/ Gender Focal Point, Climate Technology Centre & Network (CTCN), UNIDO
13:53-14:01	Mr. Kevin Braithwaite, Global Cleantech Innovation Programme
14:01-14:14	Q&A
14:15	Closure