



United Nations Inter-agency Working Group for a Global Technology Facilitation Platform



DRAFT CONCEPT NOTE

Informal Expert Group Meeting on UN System Road Map to Support a Global Technology-facilitation Platform

Date: Wednesday, 11th February, 2015

Venue: S-2724, Main UN Secretariat Building, New York

Background

Technology development, cooperation and transfer are crucial to addressing global sustainable development challenges. At Rio+20 in June 2012, Member States requested the Secretary-General to prepare a report to the GA 67th session to identify options for a facilitation mechanism that promotes the development, transfer and dissemination of clean and environmentally sound technologies. As a follow-up, the GA resolution 68/210 of December 2013 requested the PGA to convene four “Structured Dialogues” in the General Assembly on “Possible arrangements for a facilitation mechanism to promote the development, transfer and dissemination of clean and environmentally sound technologies”.

In the summary report and recommendations arising from the PGA’s Structured Dialogues, the co-facilitators of the dialogues have identified three areas where “the Secretary-General could come forward to the General Assembly with a concrete proposal without further delay regarding the following deliverables:

1. Develop an online platform to undertake a thorough mapping of existing technology facilitation mechanisms, frameworks and processes for clean and environmentally sound technologies
2. Improve coordination within the UN System on clean and environmentally sound technologies
3. Analysis of technology needs and gaps in addressing them.”

In paragraph 125 of his Synthesis Report, the Secretary-General proposed taking into account the recommendations emerging from the Structured Dialogues, to “establish an online, global platform building on and complementing existing initiatives, and with the participation of all relevant stakeholders.” In order to support the initiative of the Secretary-General, an informal inter-agency working group, including UNDESA, UNEP, UNIDO, UNCTAD, ITU, WIPO and the World Bank, has been constituted and has begun developing a plan of work.

Objective

The proposed expert group meeting has two main objectives: (i) to further discuss and refine the work plan and organization of the informal working group; and (ii) to focus on task 1 of the group¹ and review the initial survey results on the stock taking of current initiatives/activities and online services/platforms pertaining to technology facilitation within the various UN entities making up the informal working group. The responses should provide a preliminary indication of areas of synergy and areas of possible cooperation, as well as gaps in the range of services currently offered. The information gathered through the mapping should also help inform initial thinking on the design of an online knowledge platform.

Format

It will be a one-day Expert Group Meeting during the week of the PGA's High-level Thematic Debate on Means of Implementation for a Transformative Post-2015 Development Agenda, to be held on 11 February 2015. The meeting will commence with opening remarks, followed by the discussion on the work plan of the informal working group, and then by a review of the mapping of current initiatives and key online technology facilitation services. The format will be such as to promote open and interactive discussion among the working group members. In order to inform and stimulate discussions, each session will kick off with an introduction of the subject by one or two speakers, and be facilitated by a chair. Co-leaders of proposed tasks in the work plan will present specific elements and how they propose to organize the work and engage other members of the group. Additional tasks could be proposed and considered during the discussions.

Participants

Representatives of UNDESA, UNEP, UNIDO, UNCTAD, ITU, WIPO and the World Bank; the co-facilitators and selected resource persons involved in the PGA's Structured Dialogues will be invited.

¹ See the division of labor table of the inter-agency working group for a global technology-facilitation platform.