

Food for thought paper on a possible Technology Facilitation Mechanism

This paper builds on existing proposals included in the FFD Revised Draft Addis Ababa Accord (6 May 2015) and on discussions during the Joint FFD/Post 2015 negotiations on 22 April and those in the FFD inter-sessional on 15 May. The content also reflects some of the work being undertaken by the Informal inter-agency working group (IAWG) on a technology facilitation mechanism. It is envisaged that there will be further discussion of this topic during the next FFD inter-sessional in the week of 25 May 2015.

A technology facilitation mechanism could be an initiative that engages interested Governments and stakeholders, including the business sector, academia, national labs and scientific/engineering academies, philanthropies, etc. It could facilitate access to and exchange of information and knowledge to support the development, transfer, dissemination and diffusion of technologies for achieving the SDGs, with a particular focus on technologies of benefit to the poor and vulnerable. A mechanism could include the following mutually supporting elements:

1. *Online knowledge hub and information-sharing platform could:*

- a. Map and bring into one location information on existing technology facilitation mechanisms, initiatives and programmes in the UN system and beyond, including support for policy formulation, technological capabilities and innovation systems, as well as key demonstration projects.
- b. Share information, knowledge and experience, good practices, lessons learned; enhance coordination and cooperation; support “matchmaking” between technology supply and needs, including needs for technical assistance.
- c. Create an online inventory of SDG-relevant technologies that are in the public domain, inviting all governments to contribute and regularly update lists of such technologies.
- d. Promote networking and communities of practice relating to key technology clusters for the SDGs.

2. *Annual (or biennial) forum on science, technology and innovation for the SDGs could:*

- a. Promote networking among governments, private sector, academics and others active in technology promotion, development and transfer, and build multi-stakeholder partnerships.
- b. Promote discussion of issues related to science and technology policy, innovation financing, technology cooperation and transfer.
- c. Facilitate intergovernmental dialogue on the transfer and diffusion of publicly owned or funded technologies.
- d. Review innovative proposals for STI cooperation and for facilitating technology dissemination and transfer.

- e. Be convened at the UN back-to-back with other international STI related fora/conferences, including the Commission on Science and Technology for Development supported by UNCTAD.

3. *UN system interagency working group on STI for the SDGs could:*

- a. Coordinate UN system work for optimal efficiency of delivery and promote technology cooperation.
- b. Regularly identify areas of synergy and cooperation and promote partnerships in support of the SDGs.

4. *Coordinated STI capacity building programme could:*

- a. Be built incrementally on existing programmes by the UN system, development banks, and international organizations.
- b. Be in partnership with academic consortia, national R&D labs, and the business sector.
- c. Provide special support for the least developed countries, SIDS, LDCs, and Africa.
- d. Support technology needs and gap assessments, and provide advice on available technologies.
- e. Support STI policy reviews for strengthening of national innovation ecosystems in developing countries.