



DRAFT CONCEPT NOTE

Briefing for Member States on the UN System's work in support of a possible Technology-facilitation Mechanism

Date: Monday, 22nd June, 2015

Time: 13:15 – 14: 30 p.m.

Venue: Conference Room 7, Conference Building, UN Headquarters, New York

Background

The informal Inter-agency Working Group on a Technology Facilitation Mechanism (IAWG) was convened jointly by DESA and UNEP in 2014 to support the proposal of the Secretary-General contained in paragraph 125 of his Synthesis Report and the follow-up of resolution A/RES/68/310 of 15 September 2014 on the “Four one-day structured dialogues on possible arrangements for a facilitation mechanism to promote the development, transfer and dissemination of clean and environmentally sound technologies”. Its current work is structured around four main work streams through which it has identified opportunities to collectively advance and achieve greater impact within the scope of existing mandates within the UN system:

1. Mapping of existing technology facilitation initiatives including support for policy formulation and strengthening of technological capabilities and innovation systems;
2. Identifying areas of synergy and areas of possible cooperation within the UN system;
3. Developing options for a possible online knowledge hub and information-sharing platform;
4. Cooperating with relevant stakeholders on building or strengthening technology-focused partnerships and collaborations.

Objective

The proposed briefing to Member States has two main objectives: (i) to present initial findings of the mapping exercise of existing technology facilitation initiatives and the ongoing efforts of the UN system with respect to increased coordination and cooperation through the work of the IAWG; and (ii) to give an overview of existing technology facilitation activities in which the UN system engages, including the maintenance of databases and online platforms as well as capacity building activities, with a view to achieving greater synergies. The purpose is to inform Member States of the progress to date of the IAWG on the mapping, developing options for an online platform, and enhancing coordination and coherence of UN system capacity building work on science, technology and innovation. It provides an opportunity to highlight how the UN system stands ready to deliver as one in supporting implementation of an Addis decision on enhanced global technology facilitation in support of the SDGs post-2015.¹

¹ See the Food for Thought paper: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/post2015>

Format

It will be a lunchtime briefing during the week of the sixth session of the intergovernmental negotiations on the post-2015 development agenda (IGN-6). The meeting will commence with short welcome remarks, followed by briefing on the work of the IAWG on a possible Technology Facilitation Mechanism, and then by reflections on the relevance of the UN systems' efforts on this issue. It will end with an interactive discussion where participants will have the opportunity to inquire in more detail on points of interest.

Questions

- How could an online knowledge hub and information-sharing platform contribute to achieving the following objectives: i) to provide an extensive mapping of and links to a full range of technology facilitation activities; ii) to promote coordination, synergies and cooperation in delivery of technology-related technical advice, capacity building, and other services; and iii) to facilitate technology needs assessments and identification of sources of expertise and relevant technologies to address those needs?
- How can the findings from the mapping analysis help us to strengthen UN system coordination and devise a coordinated UN capacity development programme on STI in support of the SDGs?

Draft agenda

- 13:15 – 13:25 Welcome remarks
Mr. Elliott Harris, ASG and Director of the New York Office of UNEP
- 13:25 – 13:40 Briefing on the work of the IAWG on a possible Technology Facilitation Mechanism
Mr. David O'Connor, Officer-in-Charge, Division of Sustainable Development, UN-DESA
- 13:40 – 14:15 Reflections on the UN efforts on technology and a possible future technology facilitation mechanism
H.E. Antonio de Aguiar Patriota, Permanent Representative of Brazil to the UN
H.E. David Donoghue, Permanent Representative of Ireland to the UN and Co-Facilitator of the post-2015 negotiations
H.E. François Delattre, Permanent Representative of France to the United Nations (tbc)
H.E. George Talbot, Permanent Representative of Guyana to the UN and Co-Facilitator of the FfD preparatory process (tbc)
Mr. Christopher Walker, Director of US Office, World Business Council on Sustainable Development
- 14:15 – 14:30 Interactive discussion, Q & A
The moderator will facilitate an exchange between IAWG representatives and the panellists as well as an interactive dialogue with the audience.

Moderator: **Mr. Elliott Harris**, ASG and Director of the New York Office of UNEP

Participants

Open to all missions and observer missions, accredited civil society representatives as well as UN system representatives.