

Expert Group Meeting on Science, Technology, and Innovation for the SDGs

Meeting of the 10-Member Group of High-level Representatives, the IATT and other experts on high-impact STI4SDSG solutions, in preparation for the Multi-Stakeholder Forum on Science, Technology, and Innovation for the SDGs and the SDG Summit 2023
United Nations Headquarters, New York, 11-13 January 2023

Introduction to the Workshop

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CHARTER of THE UNITED NATIONS

AND STATUTE of THE
INTERNATIONAL COURT
OF JUSTICE



“We the peoples of the United Nations determined to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war...”

- Integrated approach to great global issues
- Changing role of scientists and engineers
- Dual-use



TECHNOLOGY FACILITATION MECHANISM



47 UN entities, 100+ staff volunteers, work streams



appointed by SG every two years

1

UNITED NATIONS INTERAGENCY TASK TEAM ON STI FOR THE SDGS (IATT)

2

10-MEMBER GROUP TO SUPPORT THE TECHNOLOGY FACILITATION MECHANISM

3

MULTI-STAKEHOLDER FORUM ON SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION FOR THE SDGS (STI FORUM)

1,000s of stakeholders have been involved, with many related events.

4

ONLINE PLATFORM (2030 Connect) - GATEWAY FOR INFORMATION ON EXISTING STI INITIATIVES, MECHANISMS AND PROGRAMS

Single entry point to STI solutions and information by many partners

→ A new one-UN, multi-stakeholder way of working?

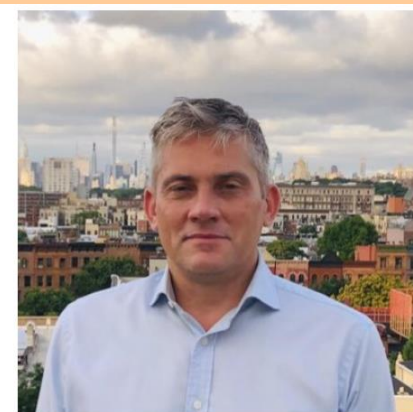
8th Multi-stakeholder Forum on STI for the SDGs (3-4 May 2023)

Theme aligned with HLPF in its in-focus SDGs



H.E. Ms. Mathu Joyini

H.E. Ms. Mathu Joyini, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of South Africa to the United Nations, Co-Chair of the 2023 STI Forum



H.E. Mr. Thomas Woodroffe

H.E. Mr. Thomas Woodroffe, United Kingdom Ambassador to the UN Economic and Social Council, Co-Chair of the 2023 STI Forum

- Bringing UN closer to the pulse of scientific and technological progress
- Ministerial session, thematic sessions, special events

Engagement:

- Call for Inputs (Science-Policy Briefs)
- UN innovation competition, solutions, partnerships and policies
- Side events, associated events

Expected outputs:

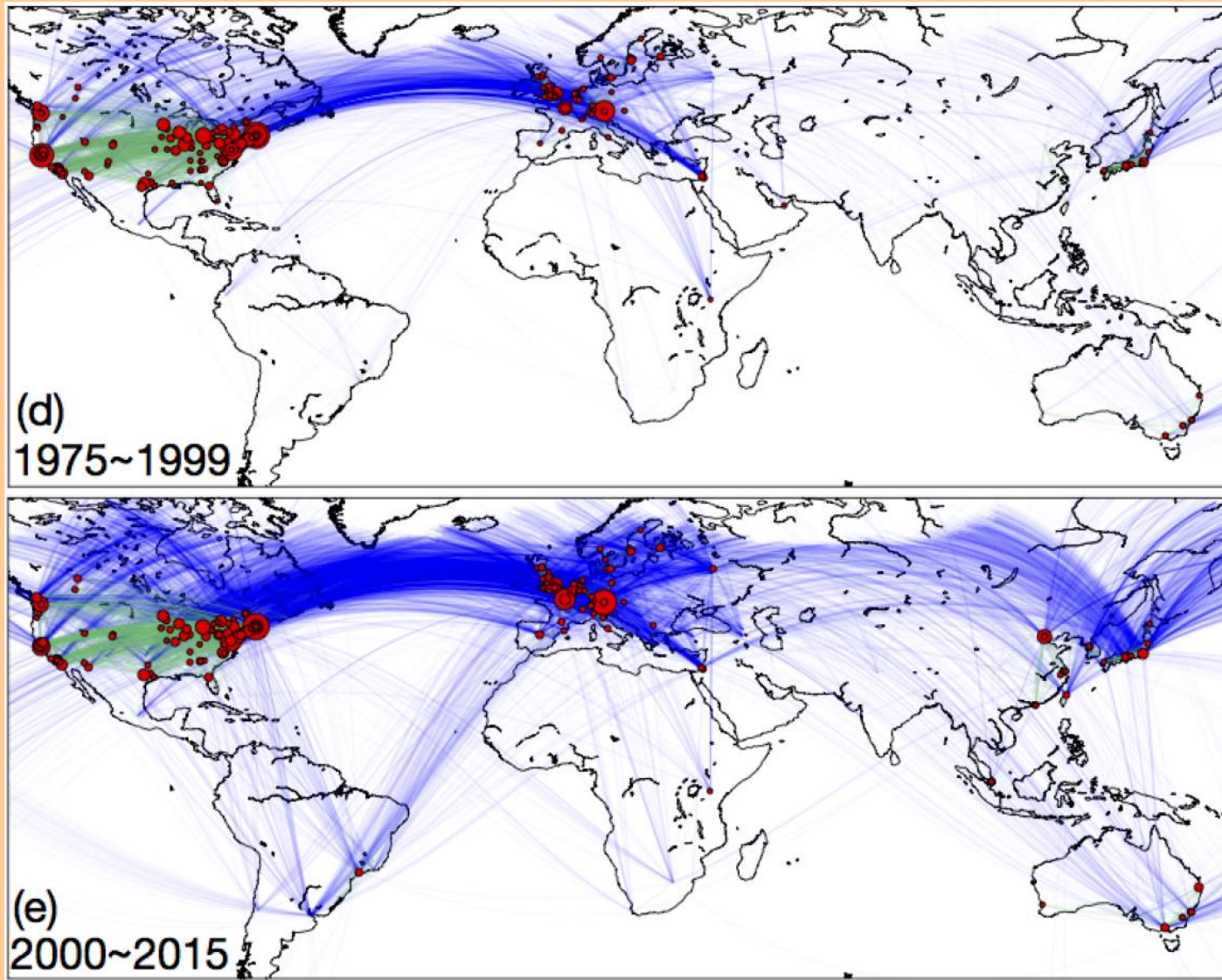
- Co-chairs summary
- STI solutions & partnerships
- Mid-term and in-focus STI4SDG review, key milestones (road map), and future vision

<https://sdgs.un.org/tfm/STIForum2023>



Example call for inputs

Global science collaboration, 1975-2015



Lines: relative strength of cooperation between institutions

Circles: top 200 most-cited institutions

Source: KDD 2017, [h.p://dx.doi.org/10.1145/3097983.3098016](http://dx.doi.org/10.1145/3097983.3098016)

STI Forum is unique in the UN

- Brought STI debate back to UN headquarters after decades!
 - Recognizes special role of STI. Took 4 years of MS deliberations, 2011-2015
 - GA-mandated: Addis Ababa Action Agenda (§123), 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (§70), STI and rapid tech resolutions.
- But “Multi-stakeholder”:
 - Member States, civil society, private sector, scientific and technological communities, UN system,...
 - Beyond UN “major group” system: Engages many new stakeholders (not usually engaged with UN)
 - Speakers primarily scientists and engineers from academia, private sector and NGOs who engage with MS, including Ministers. No hierarchy between participants.
- 10-Member-Group has broad mandate on STI for SDGs. Not just *advisory* group, but directly engaged. Primary substantive responsibility for sessions, supported by Secretariat and IATT.

- IATT as a new one-UN way of working
 - Working-level cooperation among expert STI staff across the UN system – they self-organize their work.
 - Volunteer work, underfunded. IATT coordinators can rotate.
 - DESA as the SG's Department ultimately responsible to deliver.
- Political ownership:
 - Oversight through 2 co-chairs appointed by ECOSOC President (previously one PR, one national science advisor).
 - No negotiations, no need for consensus. Exchange on issues of concern and solutions suggested by STI stakeholders.
- Inclusive space and science-policy interface - what does it offer scientific and technological communities?
 - Good faith substantive engagement, not the place for institutional politics. Focus on policy solutions and tech solutions.
 - Anyone can submit science-policy brief or organize a side event (only subject to peer-review/quality control).

Science

Our EGM

- *Inherently uncertain and skeptical*
- *Universal*
- *Precise*
- *Rational*
- *Long-term*
- *Win-win*

Politics

- *100% certain, skepticism is heresy.*
- *National, regional*
- *Inclusive*
- *Emotional*
- *Short-term*
- *Zero-sum*

Preparations to-date

➤ 10-Member-Group:

- Discussions since summer 2022
- Discussion of vision and elements of a global STI4SDG roadmap
- Broadly defined thematic sessions and special events, proposed keynote speakers, and discussed and follow-up
- Various proposals, policy briefs and reports.

➤ Forum Co-chairs and their teams:

- Regular meetings with IATT coordinators since Oct.
- Welcomed sessions proposed by 10-Members (20 Jan.)
- 1st MS briefing on 13 Jan

➤ IATT

- Call for substantive inputs in 5 UN languages (Russian speaker volunteers?): (abstracts by 3 Feb., draft submissions by 10 March)
- Established Forum task force (STI Africa day, etc.)
- IATT work in work streams

Respective roles

- The STI Forum co-chairs provide overall political ownership and rally support, approve overall programme
- The 10-Member-Group provides overall substantive ownership, moderate the Forum sessions, and explore initiatives and partnerships.
- The interagency IATT (47 UN entities, currently led by DESA and UNCTAD) provides organizational and substantive expert support.
- Secretariat reviews and finalizes concept note, programme, notes, and speaker list. Ultimately responsible for delivery and filling of any gaps.

Objectives of our meeting

- Mid-term review of STI progress for the SDGs (overall, and in-focus SDGs 6, 7, 9 and 11)
- Discuss future vision and elements of a global STI4SDGs roadmap
- Identify high-impact innovations and technology solutions in key SDG areas
- Take stock of the TFM: 10-Member-Group and IATT since 2015
- Help conceptualizing the substantive focus and documentation for the STI Forum 2023

Expected outputs of our meeting

- Detailed meeting report with sufficient information to help finalizing the STI Forum concept note and programme
- Substantive materials/feedback for the 10-Member-Group to complete their vision and global STI4SDGs roadmap
- Compilation of written STI proposals and of high-impact innovations and technology solutions in key SDG areas
- Stock take of the TFM since 2015

Workshop plan

Day	Time (EST)	Focus of our discussions
11 Jan.	09:30-18:00	<u>Part 1:</u> Mid-term STI4SDGs review, vision and perspectives on what will be needed until 2030
12 Jan.	09:30-18:00	<u>Part 2:</u> “Deep-dive” into selected STI issues, solutions and proposed actions in the SDG areas in focus (6, 7, 9, 11) <u>Part 3:</u> Mid-term review of the TFM
13 Jan.	09:30-13:45	continued: IATT work streams <u>Part 4:</u> Discussion of substantive focus and organizational planning for the STI Forum
	15:00-16:00	<u>Member States briefing</u> (ECOSOC Chamber)
	16:00-16:45	<u>10-Member meeting</u> (closed)

Next steps after the meeting

- Within 10 days: meeting report
- By 3 Feb: abstracts of science-policy briefs, by 10 March draft submissions
- 15 Feb. complete first draft programme with speakers (and backups). Start inviting speakers.
- March: CSTD
- Mid-March: deadline for side event application
- By 15 March: all sessions notes completed
- End March: Briefings to MS and stakeholders
- 2 May: IATT report (briefs) and 10-Member-Group's vision and global roadmap published.



“Creativity is contagious.

Pass it on!”

(Albert Einstein)

Thank you!

<https://sdgs.un.org/events/expert-group-meeting-science-technology-and-innovation-sdgs-meeting-10-member-group-high>

<https://sdgs.un.org/TFM/STIForum2023>