

Side Event

**A Critical Link in the Post-2015 Development Agenda:
Technology Access and Assessment**

12 September 2014

1:15-2:45PM

Conference Room 1 in the Conference Building of UN Headquarters

Background and Draft Programme

On the occasion of the High-Level Stock-taking Event convened by the President of the UN General Assembly to reflect upon the various processes related to the post-2015 development agenda, the UN Non-Governmental Liaison Service (UN-NGLS) and the Action Group on Erosion, Technology and Concentration (ETC Group), an international civil society organization specializing on technology issues, are jointly organizing a Side Event on “***A Critical Link in the Post-2015 Development Agenda: Technology Access and Assessment***”

Background

Access to appropriate, environmentally-sound and socially-just technologies is crucial in attaining the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), especially in food and agriculture, water and sanitation, health, and energy. The total global public and private sector investment in research and development (R&D) is now over US\$1 trillion per year and emerging new technologies will inevitably play a role in attaining the SDGs. Recent reports suggest that as much as 85% of global R&D in healthcare, for example, is not optimized and that substantially more than 90% of research is focused on the particular needs of advanced economies. To realize the SDGs, research must become more efficient and effective, and the world’s R&D must be harnessed to better address socio-economic and environmental priorities at all stages of development. The current lack of a comprehensive global framework for technology assessment particularly affects developing countries, as they can be offered technologies that may not be suited for their particular social, economic or environmental realities. Without an independent assessment capacity (at national or multilateral levels) countries with weaker economies are sometimes left to assess technologies according to the terms of those that provide them.

In the Rio +20 Outcome Document (“The World We Want”), governments called for a technology facilitation mechanism and recognized the importance of

technology assessment. Work has just concluded for three distinct processes that together lay a foundation for the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda: the Open Working Group on SDGs, the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing (ICESDF), and the General Assembly Structured Dialogues on possible arrangements for a technology facilitation mechanism. It is now essential to consider technology access and assessment in more concrete terms. How do technology access and assessment apply across the SDG focus areas? What lessons can we learn from recent history in technology introduction that can help put the SDGs on the right track? Does the UN have existing capacity to facilitate technology access globally and evaluate emerging technologies? These and other technology-related issues that are crucial to shaping the post-2015 development agenda will be tackled at this Side Event.

Please see the Background Note prepared by UN-NGLS for the General Assembly Structured Dialogues on “Possible arrangements for a facilitation mechanism to promote the development, transfer and dissemination of clean and environmentally sound technologies,” which also addresses the need for technology assessment: <http://bit.ly/TechFacilitationMechanism>

Programme

Moderator: Neth Daño, ETC Group

1:15-2:30 PM

- Welcome and Introductions: Susan Alzner, Officer in Charge of the New York Office, UN-NGLS
- *Importance of Technology Access and Transfer in the Post-2015 Development Agenda* - Thomas Gass, UN Assistant Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and InterAgency Affairs (confirmed)
- *How Technology Access and Assessment matter across the SDGs and the current capacity of the UN* – Pat Mooney, ETC Group Executive Director
- Comments from Deputy Permanent Representative of Brazil to the United Nations, Ambassador Guilherme de Aguiar Patriota
- Comments from additional invited participants (the Permanent Representatives of India and Palau to the United Nations have been invited, to be confirmed)
- Open Dialogue

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