

**Science, Technology, and Innovation for the Sustainable Development Goals:  
Harnessing Inclusive Innovation to Leave No One Behind**

**(UNCTAD and DESA)**

*Background*

For the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to be achieved within 15 years, unprecedented forms of collaboration and cooperation will be required across regions, sectors and stakeholders as well as solutions that balance economic, social, and environmental concerns. Inclusive, frugal, and pro-poor innovation approaches, largely enabled by the rapid pace of development of information and communication technologies (ICTs), can serve markets previously ignored by traditional innovation, involve and support the poor in solving their own problems, and leverage science and technology to support women's development in key sectors. ICTs are being used at the grassroots level to improve participation, transparency, accountability, debate and ownership of the development process. ICTs can also increase the efficiency and efficacy of the production and delivery of products and services, including in the public sector. In this sector, the introduction of mobile services and other technologies offer important opportunities to increase the effectiveness in the delivery of public services and support inclusive, frugal, and pro-poor innovation.

This side event will discuss how inclusive innovation can support the achievement of the SDGs as well as the policies, mechanisms, and processes that can support inclusive innovation in sustainable development, including well-functioning national ecosystem for innovation, international cooperation and diplomacy in science and technology, and public-private partnerships. Topics for discussion will include how governments can support inclusive innovation for national development strategies and harness ICTs for participatory governance and the provision of more efficient public service delivery. It will also explore the transformation potential of new technologies and will address concrete national and international steps required to ensure that innovation and technological change do not leave countries, communities, or people behind. Finally, the session will explore what new innovation policy frameworks and regional and international cooperation arrangements are needed to enable the potential of inclusive innovation for sustainable development.

*Modality and Participation*

The session will begin with highlights of lessons learned from CSTD's recent priority theme on new innovation approaches to support the implementation of the SDGs. After the opening remarks and introduction of the moderator, the moderator will call on each of the keynote speakers to make an intervention of no more than 10 minutes. Following the keynote speakers, interventions will be requested from the audience for an interactive discussion.

*Draft Discussion Questions*

- What concrete national and international steps are required to ensure that innovation and technological change do not leave countries, communities, or people behind?

- What national, regional, and global partnerships should be built to help developing countries close technology and innovation gaps? What new coalitions, for example South-South and across stakeholders, are needed to enable the potential of inclusive for sustainable development?
- What are lessons learned from applying inclusive innovation approaches to sustainable development?
- How can public innovation contribute to achieve the SDGs?
- How governments take advantage from ICTs and new technologies to improve the provision of services?
- What can countries and policymakers do to ensure equitable and inclusive growth through science, technology and innovation?
- How can government use technology to reinvent its relationship to citizens and better enable achievement towards sustainable development?
- How can gender inclusion can be conceived and implemented as part of national efforts for harnessing science, technology, and innovation for the sustainable development goals?
- What is the role that science and technology diplomacy can play in building bridges between and among nations for inclusive innovation and shared scientific goals?
- How can the United Nations entities, including the Commission on Science and Technology for Development, Technology Facilitation Mechanism (including the STI Forum), and the Technology Bank for LDCs collectively promote inclusive science, technology, and innovation for the SDGs?

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