



Eighth Annual Multi-Stakeholder Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation for the SDGs (STI Forum)

3 to 4 May 2023 2nd week of Council, date TBD

Date & Time: 4 May 2023 from 1:15 to 2:45 PM (EST, New York time)

Title for side-event:

Leveraging the power of ocean science, technology and innovation to support the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development (*online side event*).

Organizing Partners/Sponsors:

- UN Technology Bank for the Least Developed Countries
- The Secretariat of the International Seabed Authority

Background:

Building and developing capacity in science, technology and innovation is essential to address global development challenges and achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The impact of the Covid-19 pandemic was disproportionately damaging for developing countries, highlighting the urgent need for resilient and technology-based economies and societies, particularly in developing countries, to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Investing in the science and technologies allowing for the protection and sustainable use of the ocean is an opportunity to deliver the SDGs. This contribution was showcased at the last UN Ocean Conference. The contribution of ISA to the SDGs was described in an independent report commissioned by the Secretary-General of ISA and released in November 2021¹.

Marine scientific and technological capacities are fundamental to ensuring sustainable development and conservation of ocean resources. Therefore, building the relevant marine scientific and technical capacities today, including investing in women participation and empowerment in marine science, will enable developing States, in particular least developed countries (LDCs), landlocked developing countries (LLDCs) and small islands developing states (SIDS), to participate sustainably in different traditional and emerging ocean-based economies such as marine energy or marine minerals, which can play a key role in the clean energy transition.

¹ https://www.isa.org.jm/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/ISA_Contribution_to_the_SDGs_2021.pdf

SDG 17 underpins the important role of global, regional and national level cooperation and partnerships in enhancing developing countries' science, technology and innovation capacities, including in ocean affairs. Target 17.6 of SDG 17 calls for enhanced North-South, South-South and triangular regional and international cooperation on and access to science, technology and innovation and enhance knowledge sharing on mutually agreed terms, including through improved coordination among existing mechanisms, in particular at the United Nations level, and through a global technology facilitation mechanism.

It is in this context that the International Seabed Authority (ISA) and the United Nations Technology Bank for Least Developed Countries (UNTBLDC) have launched at the recent LDC5 Conference a joint project, *“Building and developing capacities of least developed countries in deep-seabed related science, technology and innovation in support of sustainable development of blue emerging economies”*, which will focus on leveraging partnerships to support the deep sea scientific and technological capacity development and technology transfer in support of LDCs’ priority needs. This is an example of promising UN-level and multistakeholder initiative to leverage the power of ocean science, technology and innovation to support the 2030 Agenda and the needs identified by developing States.

Objectives & expected output of the side event:

ISA and UNTBLDC jointly organize this online side event, which will discuss the role of marine science, technology and innovation for developing States in meeting the goals of the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development.

The objectives of the side event that will be organized in the margins of the eighth annual Multi-Stakeholder Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation for the SDGs (STI Forum) are to:

- Discuss the importance of ocean science and technology in the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development including in relation to SDG14;
- Demonstrate results of meaningful and concrete partnerships on STI at international and regional levels in ocean science and technology;
- Discuss and explore new areas of cooperation to scale up actions to leverage the power of ocean science, technology and innovation in support of the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development;
- Promote women’s empowerment and leadership in ocean science and technology.

The side event contributes to the following:

(1) the overall theme of science, technology, and innovation for the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at all levels

(2) SDG17 Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development by focusing on partnerships in marine science and technological capacity building

(3) SDG7 Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all by understanding the potential role of ocean minerals in the clean energy transition.

Programme (the side event will be online only)

Welcome remarks.

- 01:15-01:25
Jose Dallo Moros, Director OEMMR, ISA
Dr. Taffere Tesfachew, Acting Managing Director, UNTBLDC

Opening addresses

- 01:25-01:35
H.E. Mr. Amrit Bahadur Rai, Permanent Representative of Nepal to the UN
H.E. Mr. Hussein A. Kattanga, Permanent Representative of the United Republic of Tanzania to the UN

The importance of science, technology and innovation in developing countries to support the 2030 Agenda

- 01:35-01:45 Dr. Taffere Tesfachew, Acting Managing Director, UNTBLDC

Science, technology and innovation in the deep sea

- 01:45-01:54 ISA MSR Action Plan
Dr. Noemie Wouters, MSR Coordinator, ISA
- 01:54-02:03 ISA Science-Technology-Innovation: ISA's Draft Technology Roadmap
Dr. Ulrich Schwarz-Schampera, Programme Management Officer (Mining Geologist) & Margaret Koli, Programme Management Officer (Capacity Development), ISA
- 02:03-02:12 Deep-Sea Mining Technology Roadmap: Resource Definition, Systems and Operations, Monitoring & Modeling
Prof. Thomas Peacock, MIT
- 02:12-02:21 Fostering women's empowerment to claim the sea's power
Ms. Lucy Muthoni Njue, Senior Geologist, Geothermal Development Company
- 02:21-02:30 STI approaches to meet the legal framework of the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf (CLCS)
Dr. Beenesh Anand Motah, Mauritius
- 02:30-02:39 State-of-the-Art Digital Approaches in Resource and Environmental Assessments
Dr. João R. Carvalho, ISQ

Closing remarks

- 02:39-02:45 Concluding remarks
Ms. Federica Irene Falomi, Economic Affairs Officer, UN Technology Bank for Least Developing Countries