



Creating Resilience and Sustainable Innovations through Emerging Technologies

Side event co-organized by Ministry of ICT of Bangladesh, Technology and Management Centre for Development, University of Oxford, SBK Foundation, UNCTAD, and the UN Technology Bank for the Least Developed Countries

2nd May 2023, 4:45 PM - 6:00 PM EST, New York

Background

Sustainable and inclusive development has long been in focus for the United Nations. With only 7 years left, achieving the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) has become a pressing task for the global community. The Covid-19 pandemic has posed significant challenges to the implementation of SDGs and reversed years of development gains. Effectively using “Science, technology, and innovation for accelerating the recovery from COVID-19 and the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at all levels” is a central priority in the global development agenda and the theme of the 8th Multi-Stakeholder Forum on Science, Technology, and Innovation for the SDGs.

The UN Secretary-General’s Strategy on New Technologies recognises that new and rapidly developing technologies such as artificial intelligence, biotechnology, material sciences and robotics hold incredible promise for the advancement of human welfare. Indeed, strategically implementing emerging technologies can result in a potent combination of resources and capabilities that can produce growth that is higher-quality, more inclusive, sustainable, and resilient. Frontier technologies represented a \$1.5 trillion market in 2020, which could grow to \$9.5 trillion by 2030.¹ This offers great opportunities for those ready to catch this technological wave, but so far, developed economies are seizing most of the opportunities, with many developing countries, and especially least developed ones, still not fully prepared to equitably use, adopt and adapt to the ongoing technological revolution.

Objectives

This Side Event aims to generate greater knowledge as to how emerging technologies can provide innovative solutions to the implementation of SDGs and contribute to accelerate the

¹ UNCTAD’s Technology and Innovation Report 2023 entitled “Opening green windows: Technological opportunities for a low-carbon world” analyses the market value of 17 frontier technologies and discusses how they could help developing countries to build a greener, smarter, more resilience, inclusive and sustainable society. Available at: <https://unctad.org/publication/technology-and-innovation-report-2023>.



development of least developed countries. Leveraging the power of science, technology and innovation to fight against multidimensional vulnerabilities and to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals is one of the six priority areas of the Doha Programme of Action (DPoA) and tapping into the potential of emerging technologies will be key for the development ambitions of the least developed countries. The event will present examples of successful adoption of emerging technologies and share good practices that enable these technologies to work effectively in the context of developing countries and least developed countries. Finally, the event will discuss the role of appropriate policy, regulatory and infrastructural frameworks to enhance absorption of emerging technologies.

Expected outcomes

The event will include discussions on:

- The role and contribution of emerging technologies to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda, the DPoA and accelerated recovery.
- Emerging technologies for SDGs: the specific need and the efforts made in least developed countries.
- Policy conditions under which emerging technologies can accelerate progress towards achieving the SDGs and the role of policy makers.
- Emerging technologies for SDGs in action: a panel sharing experiences of using emerging technologies for SDGs
 - Short video platform – entrepreneurship with zero investment in Bangladesh.
 - UN Technology Bank ‘Technology Makers Lab’ – equipping the youth with frontier technology skills in Niger
 - AI – affordable and accessible technology valuation, Oxford
 - Blockchain – innovative way for fund raising, UK&US
 - Web 3.0 for education