

Keynote/presentation on main outcomes of the Seventh Multi-stakeholder Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation for the SDGs (STI Forum)

H.E. Mr. Sergiy Kyslytsya, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations, Co-Chair of the 2022 STI Forum

Session on “Mobilizing and sharing science, technology and innovation for an SDG driven recovery” (5 July 2022)

Excellencies,

Colleagues,

Ladies and gentlemen,

It was an honour and privilege to serve as co-chair of the Seventh annual Multi-stakeholder Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation for the SDGs, together with friend and co-chair, Ambassador Gastorn.

This year’s STI Forum was held in person at UN headquarters, with an online participation over 5 and 6 May. The in-person participation was the first time since the Covid lock-down in 2020. The Forum theme was "Science, technology and innovation for building back better from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) while advancing the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”.

The outcome of this Forum – the co-chairs’ summary - has been issued as UN document E/HLPF/2022/6. I encourage you all to have a close look and take initiative in following-up on its recommendations.

The Forum comprised two days of ministerial, thematic sessions, special events and roundtables - all in plenary. It was well attended, including representation from Governments, scientists, innovators, technology specialists, entrepreneurs and civil society.

Thirty-three (33) national Government Ministers addressed the Forum. To facilitate online participation, the Forum utilized an online platform which brought together all official and informal sessions, events exhibitions, and online booths. The Forum reached a record number of participants with more than 3800 participants registered on the online platform alone.

The Forum included also a record number of sessions, special events and speakers. The official programme of the Forum featured 131 key speakers, and hundreds more spoke in 50 side events and other related events.

Twenty-two (22) online virtual exhibition booths showcased winners of UN innovation competitions and of UN flagship publications on emerging science and technology. Online participation also facilitated strong engagement and networking between speakers and participants, e.g., 9,000 messages were sent between the participants on the dedicated online platform.

Many scientists and engineers from academia, private sector, UN system and from government entities submitted science-policy briefs to highlight key emerging issues arising from their research for which they proposed policy action. Sixty-five (65) of the briefs passed the peer-review and were made available in support of the Forum's deliberations.

The STI Forum served as a truly multi-stakeholder platform and space to renew a commitment to global cooperation and to discuss how to advance the 2030 Agenda.

Among others, the Forum included sessions on STI in Global research cooperation, funding and partnerships, STI at COVID-19 conjuncture, innovation in education, innovation ecosystems, global digital public goods, STI for SDGs roadmaps, carbon dioxide removal technologies for addressing climate change, and capacity development.

The Secretary General's 10-Member Group of High-level Representatives for the Technology Facilitation Mechanism (TFM) also presented ideas and suggestions. Most importantly, the Forum showcased practical examples and proposed recommendations for action. Above all, it called for greater commitment to international cooperation in the area of STI for the SDGs.

Our report puts forward recommendations on science and technology for the SDGs; on lessons from COVID-19; and specific suggestions for future work of the Technology Facilitation Mechanism. Let me just highlight a few recommendations:

Firstly, extraordinary levels of international cooperation are needed to ensure more equitable sharing of benefits through new policies, regulation, open access technologies, access to knowledge, data and information, collaboration platforms and governance structures. It calls for monetizing knowledge generation and strengthening decentralized discovery and manufacturing capacity for diagnostics, therapeutics, vaccines and food security, in order to ensure access, impact, and safety.

Secondly, longer-term thinking and planning, backed up by scientific knowledge and robust data, is needed to ensure that resources are used for sustainable solutions. STI should be considered as an integral part of countries' national

planning, SDG implementation plans and monitoring efforts, such as VNRs. These national reviews should also assess the potential that STI holds for boosting national efforts and to identify next steps.

Thirdly, solutions to the major problems we face are being reimagined in face of overlapping challenges such as the pandemic, wars and conflicts, food insecurity, and climate change. We need to take the timely action now to promote breakthrough innovations. A few lessons highlighted in our report:

- We urgently need for just transformations that support sustainable, inclusive, and resilient societies.
- We must embrace science-informed solutions that are grounded in inclusive and ethical innovation.
- Greater international cooperation and solidarity are needed to bridge the digital divide, enhance digital literacy, strengthen national technology, science and innovation systems, and break down gender barriers.
- The most vulnerable and the marginalized must be considered to ensure context specific solutions.
- And, the UN must be better prepared for future pandemics and for dealing with incomplete and unfinished pandemics and epidemics, as the world's interconnectedness and shared vulnerabilities demand a 'one for all' approach based on the principle of 'no one is safe unless we are all safe'.

Fourth, what were major recommendations for the Technology Facilitation Mechanism?

- The TFM should continue to bring together a wide variety of stakeholders, to discuss both the potential of STI and its challenges for the SDGs.
- It should serve as the platform for forging new partnerships and scaling up solutions that work in a practical way.
- The TFM should continuously deepen our understanding of our relationship with technology, offer an avenue for an open debate and collaboration to the question on "should we do it?".
- The Mechanism should further promote international cooperation on policy, plans and capacity-building, including the Partnership in Action on STI4SDG roadmaps, to support the design of STI for SDGs roadmaps in countries. In this context, the creation of a global network of "banks of ideas" and "funds for innovation" was proposed.
- The work of the TFM and the Interagency Task Team (IATT) should be aligned to the efforts and the process from the SG's "Our Common Agenda".

- All in all, the UN needs to be further strengthened in order to fulfil its mandates.

Ambassador Gastorn and I look forward to future STI Forums that continue to learn from and advance the achievements of previous forums – to make a lasting impact on the achievement of the SDGs by 2030.

To conclude, we would like to take this opportunity to offer our great appreciation to H.E. Mr. Abdulla Shahid, President of General Assembly; H.E. Mr. Collen Vixen Kelapile, President of ECOSOC; UN Secretary-General Mr. Antonio Guterres; Under Secretary-General Mr. Liu; the 10 Member Group; as well as DESA and UNCTAD colleagues in the Interagency Task Team whose dedication was decisive in making this year's Forum a success.

Much work remains to be done. We look forward to continued cooperation with Member States and all relevant stakeholders.

I wish you all a fruitful discussion at the 2022 HLPF.

Thank you.