

**UNITED NATIONS COMMISSION ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
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Geneva, 14-18 May 2018**

**Briefing by the co-chairs of the third Multi-stakeholder Forum on
Science, Technology and Innovation for the Sustainable Development Goals
(STI Forum)**

Statement submitted by

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Remarks

Ambassador Juan Sandoval Mendiola, Deputy Permanent Representative of Mexico to the United Nations
Co-Chair III Multi-Stakeholder Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation
Briefing at the Commission for Science and Technology for Development (CSTD)
May 14, 17:30-18:00

At the outset, I would like to thank UNCTAD for inviting us to participate and allowing time to give a briefing to the members of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development on this year's STI Forum. I believe this is the first time this is done and it is certainly a good precedent in order to include all areas of the UN involved in the topics of science, technology and innovation to work together for a better understanding of these issues and how the UN can contribute to a fruitful discussion on these matters.

We are looking forward to this year's STI Forum, which we expect will have more than 1,000 participants from across the world representing governments, the private sector, civil society and academia, as well as scientists and innovators.

We highly **encourage the participation of representatives** from Least Developed Countries, Small Island Developing States and Landlocked Countries. The registration is open on the web site of the forum, until May 25. This is a unique opportunity to learn and share experiences, as well as to foster partnerships that allow us to advance, through technology and innovation, in the achievement of the SDG's.

I am glad to briefly **describe the programme** that we both co-chairs Japan and Mexico have put together, in close collaboration with DESA and UNCTAD, as co-chairs of the Technology Facilitation Mechanism, upon the recommendations of the Inter Agency Task Team.

First, we will have an **opening session** and we have invited the President of ECOSOC, the PGA, and DESA Under Secretary General to attend, as well as Secretary General Guterres, being the frontier issues his Fourth priority for 2018. This will be a unique opportunity for him to engage with Member States with

regards to developments in innovation and frontier technologies that he is leading with the Chief Executive Board. We are approaching fantastic keynote speakers, yet to be totally confirmed, but rest assured that it will be an outstanding personality in the field of science, technology and innovation, who is at the forefront of these issues.

After the opening, we will have the **first session** on the Impact of rapid technological change on the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. In this session, the Technology Facilitation Mechanism, in accordance with resolution 72/242, will present its findings, and the chair of this Commission on Science and Technology for Development will also present the conclusions of this 21st session of the CSTD, and we will have a panel on the effects of rapid technological change, stressing the need of all countries to be prepared for the impact of this change that we are already resending in many countries. We have many challenges on this field but also we can create a wave of opportunities thru innovation for the development of science and technology in favor of our peoples.

Next we will have a **dialogue with the newly designated 10-Member Group** in support of the Technology Facilitation Mechanism. We expect a fruitful dialogue that will engage the participation of all Member States in order for them to get acquainted with this diverse group of highly respected experts in technology and innovation.

As the objective of the STI Forum is to identify practical means and solutions to foster science, technology and innovation geared towards the SDGs that will be reviewed in this year's HLPF (6, 7, 11, 12 and 15), we will hold **dedicated sessions** that will target these goals.

It is also important to mention that we will hold a **special session on realizing the full potential of local, indigenous knowledge and home growing innovation** for the achievement of the SDGs where we will examine how indigenous and home-grown technologies can impact the lives of the most vulnerable people, seeking to leave no one behind in reaping the benefits that technology and innovation can bring for sustainable development.

We see this Forum as a unique opportunity for capacity building and joint action, to share best practices, to develop public policies to implement the SDGs, to engage young innovators where additional funding and partnerships are encouraged, and to develop new and creative partnerships as mandated by SDG 17 for the accomplishment of the targets of Agenda 2030.

During the months that we had been preparing this Forum, we have been realizing the extraordinary relevance of this topic for the future of humanity. The importance and relevance of technological change is not the same as it was last October, when Mexico proposed to analyze this topic in The General Assembly. It is in fact exponentially growing in its presence in the media and in the news as well as in its effects in our economies and societies.

In the framework of the both mandates that we have, one coming from the implementation of SDGs and Addis and the other coming from resolution 72/242, we need to articulate new understandings, to favor countries in the development of concrete public policies helping States to accomplish the SDGs, and to face in the best possible manner the impact of technological change, because it is a global issue.

This Forum **will be successful** if we can support States and if we can develop new partnerships with all the stakeholders present, as is indicated by Goal 17 of Agenda 2030. It **will be relevant** for showing us that technological change is already affecting the international community and that we have to be prepared to take advantage of the incoming transformations; thus is relevant for the United Nations, for the General Assembly, where we can find together new ways and means to face it.

We look forward to an interactive dialogue with all of you members of the CSTD, in order to take your inputs to make this third STI Forum the most successful yet.

Thank you.