



Science Forum South Africa 2020

“Still igniting conversations about science”

9-11 December 2020

Description of Parallel Sessions organised by Partners for Online Publication

Session Title:

Launch of the Project on *Technology assessment in the energy and agricultural sectors in Africa to accelerate progress on Science, Technology and Innovation*

Date: 9.12.2020

Time: TBC

Session Overview: (Maximum 300 words providing short contextual background for the sessions and highlighting key questions to be interrogated)

The session will launch the Technology Assessment project with the objective of strengthening capacities of national Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) policymakers and other stakeholders in selected developing countries in Africa in designing and implementing policies that support the learning, diffusion and adoption of technologies in the energy and agricultural sectors and help build resilience to and recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and future health emergencies. The main problem that this project addresses in target countries is the lack of capabilities to understand the socioeconomic and environmental implications of new and emerging technologies in the energy and agricultural sectors so that their benefits can be harnessed and their potentially negative effects minimized. The project will support STI policy makers and other stakeholders in target countries in Africa to design and implement a technology assessment exercise in the energy and agricultural sectors, and to take action to utilize technologies as catalysts for sustainable development. Enhanced capacity would be demonstrated by having identified and characterized the

relevant technological trends and associated socio-economic and environmental implications in the area of energy and/or agriculture, as well as having an action plan for these technological sectors in each target country defined and adopted by various stakeholders. UNCTAD will serve as the lead entity involved in project implementation with substantive and logistical support from UNEP, FAO, UNECA, and UNDP. The project will commence in early 2021.

Programme: (Description of the running order of the session – 60 minutes)

1. Opening remarks by UNCTAD
2. Keynote speech by African partner countries (South Africa, Angola and Zambia)
3. International experts to share cases of doing technology assessment
4. Presentation of the UNCTAD project and proposed plan on the implementation of the project - UNCTAD
5. Concluding remarks by the Moderator

Moderator: (Name and maximum 100 words biographical summaries – URL link if relevant)

Mr. Angel Gonzalez Sanz, Head of Science, Technology and ICT Branch, Division on Technology and Logistics (DTL), UNCTAD

Speakers: (Names and maximum 100 words per speaker biographical summaries – URL links if relevant)

- Ms. Shamika N. Sirimanne, Director, DTL, UNCTAD (opening remarks)
- High-level officials from Angola, South Africa and Zambia (keynote speech)
- International experts to share cases of doing technology assessment: Prof. John Ouma Mugabe, Uni. Of Pretoria, and Dr. Miltos Ladikas, Karlsruhe Institute of Technology.
- Mr. Bob Bell, Economic Affairs Officer, STI Policy Section, STICT Branch, DTL, UNCTAD (presentation of the project)

Session organiser(s): (Names of institutions and contact details of a contact person – URL links if relevant)

DTL/UNCTAD & DST/South Africa