

Roundtable discussion with the 10-Member Group on the Technology and Innovation Report 2023 “Opening Green Windows: Technological opportunities for a low-carbon world”

Taking recommendations forward

02 May 2023 (09:00 to 10:00 EST and 15:00 to 16:00 CEST)

Concept note

Objective

This event will present UNCTAD's [Technology and Innovation Report 2023](#), followed by a roundtable discussion by the 10-Member Group representatives. It will be a side event at the STI Forum. The discussion will centre around the implementation of the recommendations from the report and ways of moving forward for countries to strategically position themselves to take advantage of green windows of opportunity. The event will raise awareness of policy options to harness the frontier technologies for inclusive and sustainable development.

Background

The world is facing pressing social and economic challenges of unprecedented nature. Hovering over this conjuncture is the climate crisis. As of 2023, carbon emissions are at a record high, reflecting historical growth patterns sourced by fossil fuels and a lack of political will to transition towards renewable energies. Governments are facing complex trade-offs between promoting inclusive economic growth and mitigating climate change.

Green technologies offer transformative solutions to achieve this dual goal. Green technologies are usually associated with renewable energy technologies but also include the strategic use of traditional and new digital technologies like blockchain, artificial intelligence, and the Internet of Things. They enable cleaner and more efficient production, thus creating a synergy between economic development and climate change mitigation.

Green transformation, supported by frontier technologies, offers a viable route for developing countries to claim agency in their own development narrative and move from crisis to sustainable development. To benefit from the green technology revolution, strong government efforts are needed to take strategic, long-term action to build innovation and technological capacities to spur sustainable economic growth and increase their resilience to future crises.

Technology and Innovation Report 2023

UNCTAD's *Technology and Innovation Report 2023* “Opening green windows: Technological opportunities for a low-carbon world” analyses the opportunities presented by the green transition and the technologies linked to it. By unleashing green innovations, countries can have access to ‘green windows of opportunity’ for not only building resilience and climate change mitigation mechanisms but also for spurring economic

growth and technological development. These opportunities can particularly support developing countries to “leap” out of the cascade of crises and move forward.

The Report has three key messages. Firstly, developing countries must strategically position themselves to catch the green technological revolution early. Secondly, the international community needs to step up in gathering enough resources and building the required know-how to support developing countries to take advantage of the green windows of opportunity. Lastly, agency and urgency are pivotal in the fight against climate change and inequalities – if we all share the same problem, then we must also share the same tools to solve it.

10-Member Group

The [10-Member Group](#) appointed by the Secretary-General is mandated to work with the UN interagency task team on STI for the SDGs (IATT) to prepare the annual Multi-stakeholder Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation for the SDGs (STI Forum) and to support the development and operationalization of the online platform (2030 Connect). In practice, several of them are actively involved in the various IATT work streams. Its members bring diverse expertise and experience across disciplines on science, technology, innovation and entrepreneurship for the SDGs. They are internationally recognized in their respective areas of work. As representatives of various stakeholder groups, they, among others, provide a link to the academies, universities, NGOs, and the private sector. The group is an important pillar of the Technology Facilitation Mechanism.

Format

The Roundtable discussion with the 10-Member Group on the Technology and Innovation Report 2023 is part of a set of events conducted to disseminate the findings of the report to a broader audience comprised of policymakers, international organisations, the academia, and other stakeholders.

The event will be comprised of an introduction of the report followed by a roundtable discussion by the 10-Member Group representatives on the ways to leverage technologies for a low-carbon world. The Roundtable discussion will be an open event, and UNCTAD is responsible for disseminating the event. The 10 Member Group are invited to promote the event in their network as well. After the discussion, the floor will be opened to questions and contributions from the audience. The event will be conducted in English (without translation) in a hybrid format, using the Zoom online platform.

Guiding questions for discussion

- What are the major challenges that prevent developing countries from promoting green technology and innovation to contribute to national development priorities and accelerate the progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals?
- How can developing countries harness the full potential of frontier technologies while minimizing risks?
- How can the international community support developing countries to seize green windows of opportunity?
- What are the essential next steps to implement the recommendations from the report?