

STI Forum 2022
Side event on
Green hydrogen windows of opportunity for developing countries

4 May 2022, 15:00-16:30 CET (9:00-10:30 EDT)
Online

Background

To achieve the SDGs, the world should transition towards a more sustainable economy based on (i) decarbonization across sectors of the economy; (ii) greater reliance on renewable energy; and (iii) sustainable production, consumption, packaging, and waste disposal. These transitions could provide developing countries with green windows of opportunity (GWO) for technological catch up and leapfrogging, economic diversification, and sustainable and inclusive growth.

UNCTAD will discuss these issues in depth in its next Technology and Innovation Report. As part of a pre-publication consultation process, UNCTAD, in collaboration with the [Global Solutions Summit \(GSS\)](#), plans to convene a series of workshops, each one devoted to a specific GWO. The proposed side event at the 2022 STI Forum would be the first in this series and will focus on green hydrogen programs.

This side event will highlight policies and programs that will enable countries to exploit a specific green window of opportunity on green hydrogen, so that participants will have a clearer understanding of the wide range of issues that should be considered to develop GWO roadmaps tailored to each country's unique circumstances. The side event will address the following issues:

- What are the technical, organizational, human resource, financial, regulatory, prerequisites for successfully establishing a green hydrogen hub? If some of these prerequisites are absent or weak, how can these deficiencies be corrected?
- What sort of regulatory policies, financial support, skills development programs, infrastructure development, and other programs should the Government implement to support the proposed green hydrogen hub?
- What type of foreign technical and commercial partners is the country hoping to attract?
- How will the Green Hydrogen program foster skills development within the country's labor force and technology transfer to domestic entrepreneurs and enterprises?
- How does green hydrogen fit into the country's comprehensive energy development, climate change adaptation, and socio-economic development strategy? Why did the country select this specific GWO as opposed to other possible options?

By focusing on these broader policy issues in the context of specific case studies, the workshop organizers hope that participants will come away with a clearer understanding of the wide range of issues that they need to consider as they develop their own GWO roadmaps tailored to each country's unique circumstances.

Format of the event

The side event will be organized online as a moderated discussion with four panelists, and Q&A at the end. After the opening and an initial presentation, the moderator will invite each panelist to introduce their views on the topic in about 10 min each, that will be followed by two rounds of questions for each panelist. It is expected that each panelist will take around 5 min to answer each question. The panelists will also respond to questions from the participants sent via chat. The duration of the webinar will be 1h and 30min.

Tentative Programme

Opening:

- Ms. Shamika N. Sirimanne, Director, Division on Technology and Logistics, UNCTAD
- Mr. Alfred Watkins, Founder and CEO of the Global Solutions Summit and a member of the Governing Council of the UN Technology Bank for the Least Developed Countries

Presentation: Green windows of opportunities, Mr. Rasmus Lema, Associate Professor, UNU-MERIT, co-editor in chief of the journal Innovation and Development and vice-chairman of the Globelics Scientific Board

Moderator: Mr. Clovis Freire, Economist, Science, Technology and ICT Branch, DTL, UNCTAD

Panel:

- Mr. Tilman Altenburg, Head of the Department “Sustainable Economic and Social Development” at the German Development Institute (DIE)
- Mr. Mbangiseni Mabudafhasi, Deputy Director, Power, Department of Science and Technology, South Africa
- Mr. Constantino Frate, Coordinator of Green Hydrogen Hub and Public Policies Development, Secretariat of Economic Development and Labor, Government of Ceará, Brazil
- Ms. Winnie Huynh, Founder and CEO of The Green Solutions Group, Viet Nam

Q&A