



**23 October 2024**

10:00 – 18:00

Hybrid, Room VII, Palais des Nations, Geneva, Switzerland

## Workshop on lessons learned from the UNCTAD pilot project on Technology Assessment in Africa

### Background

Technologies play a key role in enabling sustainable development but can bring benefits and present risks that need to be managed. Policymakers and other stakeholders need to understand and anticipate the potential benefits and risks of adopting technologies that are new to the country. The pilot project on technology assessment (TA) by UNCTAD is now nearing completion. Guided by the [technology assessment methodology](#) that UNCTAD proposed for pilot use in developing countries, country-level implementation of the TA process has been completed in the three beneficiary countries - South Africa, Seychelles, and Zambia. [The report on biogas technology for Zambia](#), validated and adopted by the country, has been published. The reports on agrivoltaics technology for Seychelles and electrolyser technology for producing green hydrogen for South Africa, have been validated and adopted by the two countries, and will be published soon. The three countries also developed draft national action plans with concrete measures and activities for national follow-up. UNCTAD is now preparing a report on lessons learned from the implementation of this pilot project, and an experience-sharing workshop is scheduled for **October 23, 2024**, in Geneva, Switzerland.

The day before this TA workshop, October 22, 2024, the Intersessional Panel of the 28<sup>th</sup> session of the UN Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD) will discuss technology assessment for sustainable development, to which the workshop should provide a natural complement.

### Objective

The workshop aims to give participants in the pilot project an opportunity to share the lessons learned from the process of undertaking a technology assessment, an exercise largely new to the three countries. Their experience could be informative for other countries considering adopting TA as a policy tool. The workshop provides an opportunity to discuss the methodology proposed by UNCTAD, guidelines and good practices on how to conduct TA in a developing country context. It will enable the networking of experts interested in or actively engaged





in technology assessment and contribute towards the establishment of an African TA Network. The discussions will also help to assess interest from African and other countries in undertaking TA activities, and potential interest of donors in supporting them. It will also provide input to the UNCTAD report on lessons learned.

## **Target participants**

This workshop will bring together participants from the three beneficiary countries and non-beneficiary countries in Africa and other continents (including donors). Regional organizations from Africa, other international organizations dealing with agricultural development and renewable energy transformation, and non-profit organizations working in these two areas are also invited. Participants in the Intersessional Panel of the CSTD with interest in technology assessment and foresight are also invited to participate.

## **Topics for discussion**

- What lessons were learned from the pilot project on technology assessment in Africa and other developing countries?
- How to ensure inclusive stakeholder participation and consideration of impacts on women, youth as well and marginalized groups?
- What are good practices for conducting TA in developing countries?
- What interest is there in other developing countries or international agencies in carrying out TA exercises?
- How can donors support TA implementation in the three countries or TA in other interested developing countries?

## **Contact**

[liping.zhang@unctad.org](mailto:liping.zhang@unctad.org) & [michael.lim@unctad.org](mailto:michael.lim@unctad.org)