

**27 October 2025**

ONLINE 13:30-14:30 CET

UNCTAD STI Park Development Project**Pre-Launch of
the STI Park Expert Network****Background**

The UNCTAD project "*Science, Technology and Innovation Parks for sustainable development: building expertise in policy and practice in selected Asian and African countries*", funded by the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Sub-Fund, aims to strengthen the policy and operational capacities of STI parks in selected countries. This project enables policymakers and practitioners to learn from the successful experiences of other countries, where STI parks have played a key role in technological and industrial development.

STI parks, incubators and accelerators are essential instruments for improving national innovation performance. However, attempts to use STI parks to generate positive socio-economic outcomes often fail to deliver optimal results due to insufficient local capabilities for project design, implementation and management. This project addresses these challenges by supporting beneficiary countries in building capacity and sharing best practices, with a focus on developing effective policy frameworks and promoting inclusive approaches.

A key outcome of the project is the creation of a network of STI park experts and practitioners to promote knowledge exchange, policy learning and international cooperation. The network will provide a structured platform for peer learning, exchange of good practices and collaboration across regions. It will also create opportunities to share lessons learned from national experiences and to highlight inclusive approaches to STI park development, with particular attention to building entrepreneurship and supporting the participation of women and youth. The network experts will be invited to join the UNCTAD's Science, Technology and Innovation Policy Network (STIxNet), thereby expanding the pool of UNCTAD's wider community of experts and policymakers working on innovation for development.

Objective

The pre-launch will bring together experts in the network and country focal points engaged in the project to share their thoughts on how to make the network function as expected by the project.





Specifically, the event will:

- Establish the STI park expert network as a platform for peer learning, exchange of experiences and collaboration.
- Present the objective of the network, including its connection with STIxNet.
- Introduce the founding members of the expert network from participating countries and international partners.
- Brainstorm on how to utilize the network.

Target participants

The pre-launch event will bring together:

- Experts in STI park development, innovation policy and related fields from Africa, Asia and Europe.
- Country focal points nominated under the project in Ghana, Mongolia, Mozambique and Uzbekistan.
- UNCTAD staff on the STI park project and STIxNet

Contact

sticourses@unctad.org
