



Special Event – the 2<sup>nd</sup> Committee of the 73<sup>rd</sup> session of the UN General Assembly

Monday 15 October 2018, 1:15 – 2:30 p.m. Conf. Room 8

## **Technology Facilitation Mechanism – Demo of an Online Platform**

**Co-organize by DESA and OICT  
supported by Cambodia and Slovenia (TBC)**

### **Introduction**

It has been broadly recognized that science, technology, and innovation are important factors of production to achieve sustainable development. Recent data shows that the world poverty rate has been significantly alleviated, and the proportion of science, technology, and innovation (% of GDP) in economic development has been consistently increased. Nevertheless, the disparity in the availability of scientific knowledge, the capacity of developing and exporting high-tech products, and the application rate of intellectual property rights between the OECD-high income countries and the middle and low-income countries still persist. Addressing the need of expanding the access of technological know-how to developing countries and promoting technology diffusion in the worldwide in order to achieve a sustainable and equitable world, the Technology Facilitation Mechanism (TFM) was established by the Addis Ababa Action Agenda in July 2015, and launched by the General Assembly in September 2015 as part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

In the general sense, the TFM will facilitate the collaboration and partnerships through the sharing of information, experiences, best practices and policy advice among the Member States, civil society, the private sector, the scientific community, United Nations entities and other stakeholders. Under the framework of TFM are three interrelated operational components which include (1) A United Nations Interagency Task Team, (2) A collaborative Multi-stakeholder Forum on Science, Technology, and Innovation (STI) Forum, and (3) an online platform for actual technology transfers via matchmaking.

This special event during the 73<sup>rd</sup> session of the UN General Assembly (UNGA 73) will demonstrate the progress made in the operationalization of the online platform (OLP) and present a development plan and proposal for feedback and support.

### **Background**

The expectations for the OLP are outlined in paragraph 70 of the Agenda: “[t]he online platform will be used to establish a comprehensive mapping of, and serve as a gateway

for, information on existing science, technology and innovation initiatives, mechanisms and programmes, within and beyond the United Nations. The online platform will facilitate access to information, knowledge and experience, as well as best practices and lessons learned, on science, technology and innovation facilitation initiatives and policies. The online platform will also facilitate the dissemination of relevant open access scientific publications generated worldwide. The online platform will be developed on the basis of an independent technical assessment which will take into account best practices and lessons learned from other initiatives, within and beyond the United Nations, in order to ensure that it will complement, facilitate access to and provide adequate information on existing science, technology and innovation platforms, avoiding duplications and enhancing synergies.”

The independent technical assessment for the OLP was carried out under the auspices of the Interagency task team on STI for the SDGs (“IATT”), comprising over 35 UN system entities, and the 10-Member Group of experts in support of the Technology Facilitation Mechanism (“10-Member Group”).

This assessment is available at:

[https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/16505Full\\_Report\\_Online\\_Platform\\_Assessment.pdf](https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/16505Full_Report_Online_Platform_Assessment.pdf)

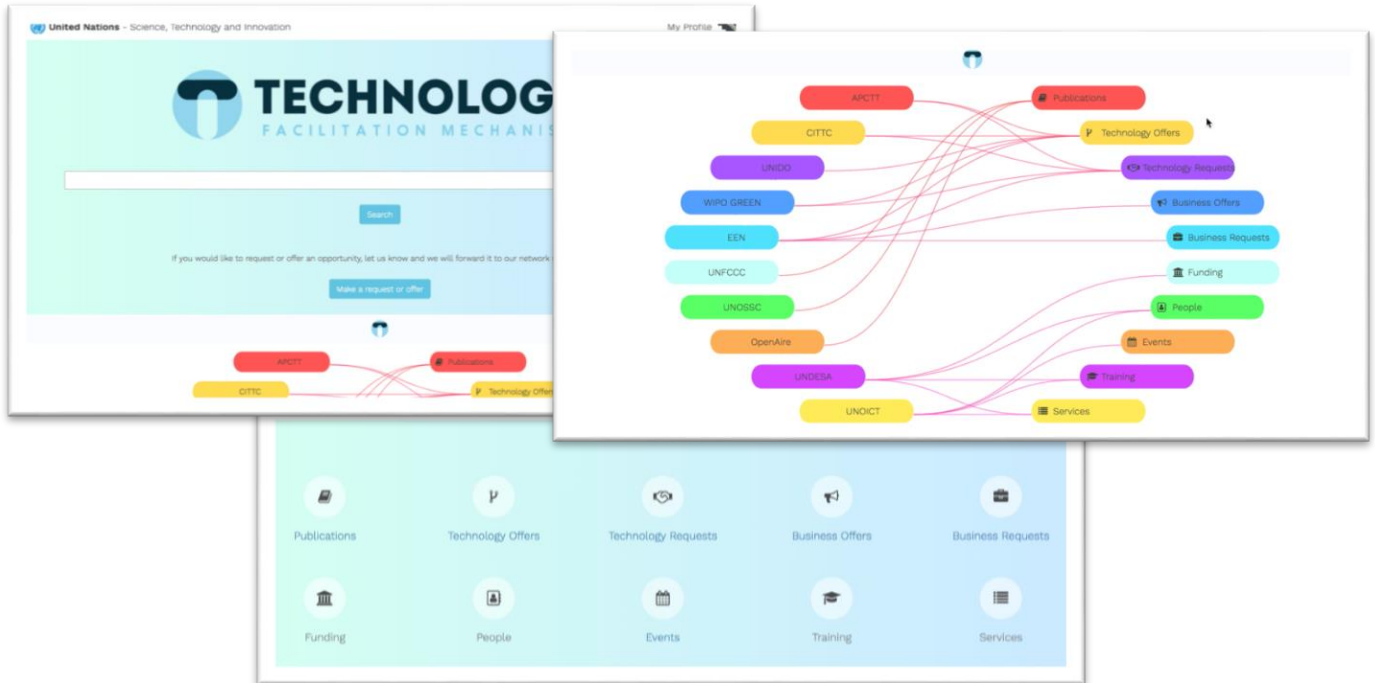
It was recommended that the online platform will serve as a gateway to technology-related resources from a range of UN entities and other relevant organizations, making these resources more accessible and recognizable especially for users from developing countries. The platform will curate these resources and provide a stamp of legitimacy. Moreover, it should support technology transfer via matchmaking, not be simply a repository for policy guidance or scientific information. The platform will ideally create networks among local communities and promote technology transfer services offline. The value added of the platform will come not only from the quality of the resources and services but also the way in which they are organized and presented.

## **Objectives**

Against this background, the special event will be to raise awareness of the OLP during the 73<sup>rd</sup> UN GA among TFM stakeholders and to seek their input on how to shape and enhance the platform to maximize its value. The event will also discuss the key challenges and opportunities in operationalization of OLP.

## Organizers

The event is organized by UNDESA and OICT, with support of other members of the UN Inter-agency Task Team on STI for the SDGs, and other network members.



## Participants

The event will bring representatives of governments, development partner organizations and/or bilateral donors. The meeting could also invite representatives of partner that agree to exchange technology databases and those potential partners with important online technology databases.

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15 Oct. 2018, 1:15 – 2:30 p.m. Conf. Room 11

### Draft agenda

Opening remarks by Mr. Liu Zhenmin, Under-Secretary-General, Department of Economic and Social Affairs (tbc).
Opening remarks by Ms. Atefeh Riazi, Chief Information Technology Officer, Assistant Secretary-General, United Nations Office of Information & Communications Technology, Department of Management (tbc).
Demo of the OLP by Mr. Lambert Hogenhout, United Nations Office of Information & Communications Technology, Department of Management (tbc).
Development plan and proposal of the OLP by Mr. Shantanu Mukherjee, Division for Sustainable Development Goals, Department of Economic and Social Affairs.
Interactive dialogue with by Member States and other stakeholders <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Lead discussant: Cambodia (tbc)</li><li>• Lead discussant: Slovenia (tbc)</li></ul>
Open discussion.
Closing remarks.