

Concept Note

Side Event:

**Rethinking Technology in the Post-2015 Development Agenda:
Technology Assessment, Facilitation Mechanism
and Non-Financial Means of Implementation
Wednesday, 22 April 2015
1:15-2:30pm
Conference Room 11 at United Nations Headquarters**

Jointly Organized by:

UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)-New York Office
UN Non-Governmental Liaison Service (UN-NGLS)
Women's Major Group
Global Forest Coalition (GFC)
Tebtebba Foundation
Action Group on Erosion, Technology and Concentration (ETC Group)

The “Future We Want” outcome document of the Rio+20 process mandated UN agencies to *identify options for a facilitation mechanism that promotes the development, transfer and dissemination of clean and environmentally sound technologies* (para. 273) and recognized the *importance of strengthening international, regional and national capacities in research and technology assessment* (para. 275). The Technology Dialogues organized by the President of the UN General Assembly in 2014 aimed to fulfill the Rio+20 mandate on technology facilitation but fell short of establishing a global mechanism that will strategically address the technology needs of developing countries. Instead, the Dialogues proposed incremental steps towards technology facilitation across the UN and further discussions on outstanding issues such as technology assessment.

The need for technology facilitation and assessment has been strongly amplified in the deliberations of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals (OWG on SDGs) and the ongoing processes around the post-2015 development agenda where technology is a crucial component of the Means of Implementation. Recognizing the potentials of technology and innovations to transform peoples’ lives and achieving the SDGs, the zero draft of the Addis Ababa Accord on financing for development builds on the recommendations of the Technology Dialogues and supports the establishment of a global online platform to map existing technology facilitation mechanisms, needs and gaps, enhance international cooperation and promote networking to scale up clean technology initiatives. An interagency informal working group that includes UNCTAD have undertaken to fulfill this task and coordinates efforts to have concrete initiatives ready to launch by the time of the Summit in September 2015.

The aspirations expressed at Rio+20 to put in place a global mechanism that will promote the development, transfer and deployment of technologies that respond to the needs of developing countries in a coherent manner remains unfulfilled. The need to develop the capacity to assess new technologies at the regional, national and local levels recognized at Rio+20 has not been given any attention at all in the SDGs and the ongoing negotiations on the post-2015 development agenda. This could be a shortsighted approach in technology transfer without evaluating the potential social,

economic and environmental impacts of technologies that are being deployed particularly in developing countries. Technology, in general, is traditionally linked to financial means and capacity to access and narrowly focused on technologies that are produced by formal institutions and corporate interests. References to traditional and indigenous technologies and knowledge systems in addressing development challenges have largely disappeared in the negotiations. This could potentially lead to further marginalization of women, indigenous peoples and local communities and making invisible their collective actions and contributions to sustainable development.

Addressing the narrow definition of technology as a non-financial means of implementation and the shortsighted approach to technology transfer underlines the need for a rethinking at this stage when governments are midway through the negotiations of the post-2015 development agenda. To provoke such rethinking and to contribute to better understanding of the aspiration for a global mechanism for technology facilitation and assessment, UNCTAD, UN-NGLS, the Women Major Group, GFC, Tebtebba and ETC Group are collaborating on a Side Event on the subject.

Draft Programme

Moderator: Ms. Susan Alzner, Officer in Charge, UN-NGLS New York

Time	Topic	Speaker
1:15 PM	Welcome and Opening Remarks	Dr. Chantal line Carpentier Director, UNCTAD-NY Office
1:20 PM	Technology and other non-Financial Means of Implementation in the Post-2015 Development Agenda	Mr. Olivier Brochenin, Head of Development Policy Unit, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Development, France
1:30 PM	Aspiration for a Technology Facilitation Mechanism at the UN	Amb. Guilherme de Aguiar Patriota, Deputy Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Brazil to the UN
1:40 PM	Technology Facilitation and its importance to Financing, Capacity Building and Global Partnerships	Mr. Amit Narang Counsellor Permanent Mission of India to the UN
1:50 PM	The need to re-think Technology in the SDG and post-2015 development agenda negotiations	Simone Lovera Executive Director Global Forest Coalition (GFC)
2:00 PM	<i>Rethinking technology as we know it:</i> Indigenous knowledge and collective actions to address development challenges	Grace Balawag Programme Director Tebtebba Foundation
2:10 PM	<i>Rethinking Technology as we Do it:</i> Technology Assessment in the Facilitation Mechanism	Mr. Pat Mooney, Executive Director OR Ms. Silvia Ribeiro, LatAm Director Action Group on Erosion, Technology and Concentration (ETC Group)
2:20 PM	Open Discussion	Moderator: Ms. Susan Alzner UN-NGLS New York
2:30 PM	Summing Up and Closing	Ms. Sascha Gabizon Co-Coordinator, Women Major Group