

Concept Note Session 5

Bridging capacity gaps and facilitating technology development and transfer in strategic areas

ECOSOC Chamber, Tuesday, 22 May 2018, 11:45 AM – 1:00 PM

Format

75 minute interactive panel discussion, in plenary and guided by moderator.

Objective

To promote focused, candid knowledge exchange and mutual learning, and to generate concrete messages and policy recommendations on the session's specific themes.

Focus questions

- *Beyond increasing the volume of support in the area of domestic resources, how must development cooperation for domestic resources mobilization be recalibrated for greater impact?*
- *How can the data revolution better support countries in developing statistical capacities to help identify and target those furthest behind?*

Background

Funding for **capacity building for domestic resource mobilization** needs to be stepped up in line with the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the voluntary commitments of the Addis Ababa Tax Initiative. Recent increases have yet to be put on a more sustainable footing. In addition to increasing the volume of funding, capacity building support needs to be recalibrated to respond to countries evolving demands. Several countries will still need support to put in place basic laws, policies and tax administrative infrastructure to participate in international tax norms and transparency standards. Yet others are increasingly moving towards more integrated, whole-of-government approaches to revenue mobilization, such as the development of medium-term revenue strategies - (MRTS), and making efforts to engage the broader public. The 2030 Agenda's emphasis on leaving no one behind also implies increased need for: strengthening countries' capacity to assess the impact of tax policies on efforts to reduce inequalities; building tax capacities at sub-national level in response to decentralization; and strengthening related information systems at national and sub-national levels.

Capacity building to strengthen the national data infrastructure and the larger data ecosystem - Reliable, timely, accessible and sufficiently disaggregated data and statistics are critical to monitoring SDG progress at the local, national, regional and global levels and to bolster evidence-based policy making and accountability. Currently investments in data and statistics fall short of financing needs to monitor even the most vital SDG indicators. Capacity development needs were most frequently identified in a recent survey on environment statistics, followed by income and poverty statistics. Statistical capacities will need to be built not only in Statistical Offices but across government. Today the the statistical capacity of ministries, departments and agencies which are holding the keys to administrative data is frequently very low. Moreover, statistical offices need to partner with the private sector and others to make use of big data and geospatial information.

The second UN World Data Forum, in October 2018 in Dubai, United Arab Emirates will be an important occasion to engage in a dialogue on how to achieve the transformative change of the national data infrastructure and the larger data ecosystem called for in the Cape Town Global Action Plan for Sustainable Development data. It also provides an opportunity to discuss how to engage with the full range of data producers and users to ensure all available and emerging data resources, including citizen-based and big data and geospatial information, are efficiently utilized.

Capacity building for science, technology and innovation plays a critical role in identifying and scaling up affordable solutions that are socially inclusive, environmentally benign, and can address the needs of the poor. Especially countries with limited capacities will need support to put in place broad-based country owned national science, technology and innovation (STI) strategies and policies in support of the SDGs. Initiatives such as the Technology Bank for LDCs will make an important contribution to strengthening LDC's STI capacities. Multi-stakeholder global and regional platforms also play an important role in sharing successful STI policies and strategies, exploring new opportunities by promoting coordination and collaboration.

Knowledge transfer, including the contribution of South-South cooperation - Several developing countries have built up significant STI knowledge, resources and capacity, yet key technologies still lie outside the South. Global innovation systems continue to bypass developing countries, partly because of inadequate and uneven infrastructure. The emergence of global innovation and research networks, and expansion of South-South and triangular cooperation in the STI realm hold great promise though their sustainability remains a concern. Leveraging South-South and triangular cooperation, developing countries should continue to advance their own STI strategies, policies and funding programmes. This entails also integrating STI priorities in national sustainable development plans, and strengthening learning and knowledge generation capacities. Regional platforms should be further utilized to share successful STI policies and strategies, explore new opportunities and promote coordination and collaboration between different STI initiatives. The ASEAN Plan of Action on Science, Technology and Innovation 2016-2020 provides one among a range of examples. Another is the Southern African Development Communities (SADC) Strategic Framework on STI 2015-2020, with technical support to finalizing the framework provided by UNESCO.

Further reference

- Report of the Secretary-General on Trends and progress in international development cooperation, E/2018/55 [[Arabic](#)] [[Chinese](#)] [[English](#)] [[French](#)] [[Russian](#)] [[Spanish](#)]
- International development cooperation to promote technology facilitation and capacity building for the 2030 Agenda – DCF Policy Brief No. 8 [[EN](#)]; [[ES](#)]; [[FR](#)]
- Citizen-based monitoring of development cooperation to support implementation of the 2030 Agenda – DCF Policy Brief No. 9 [[EN](#)]; [[ES](#)]; [[FR](#)]

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