FOURTH SESSION OF THE POST-2015 INTERGOVERNMENTAL NEGOTIATIONS

United Nations, New York, 23 April 2015
1:15 p.m. to 2:45 p.m.

Side Event and Round Table Discussion on

Science, Technology and Innovation:
Critical Means of Implementation for Sustainable Development Goals

Organized by the United Nations Scientific, Cultural and Educational Organization (UNESCO)

Objective
The Round Table will provide an opportunity for governments, UN agencies, civil society and academia to discuss with members of the UN Secretary-General’s Scientific Advisory Board key challenges and opportunities provided by science, technology and innovation (STI) as critical means of implementation for the post-2015 sustainable development agenda.

Background
In the current discussions on the post-2015 development agenda and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), STI are clearly recognized as a critical means of implementation for desired sustainable development paths.

Many countries have experienced for themselves the transformative power of STI, so there is little doubt that, if properly managed, STI will be a game changer and accelerator of future global development. The key question is: How can we harness this power for the benefit of all people, particularly for the most marginalized and vulnerable?

Both challenges and opportunities lie ahead of us to ensure that Member States can rely on appropriate integrated approaches to design and develop STI systems that will allow them to fully harness the game-changing power of STI in terms of increasing economic productivity and contributing to job creation, while promoting social cohesion and environmental sustainability.

In 2012, the UN Secretary-General appointed a Scientific Advisory Board (SAB) to provide him with advice on science, technology and innovation for sustainable development. SAB is composed of 26 internationally renowned experts with a broad spectrum of scientific expertise covering the social, economic and environmental dimensions of sustainable development.
Issues for discussion at the Round Table will include:

- **What measures are needed to ensure that STI contributes effectively to eradication of poverty and to sustainable development and that its benefits are harnessed by all including the most vulnerable and marginalized?**
- **What further developments are required to strengthen national and regional STI capacities and enhancing the gender equality dimension of STI?**
- **What mechanisms are needed to ensure evidence-based implementation and monitoring of the future development agenda with SDGs in its core? How can STI be better connected to policy and decision-making processes?**

Programme

Introduction of the side event/round table objectives and speakers by the Moderator, Ms Flavia Schlegel, Assistant Director-General for Natural Sciences, UNESCO

Short commentary by Silvia Montoya, Director of the UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS)

Round table discussion involving members of the UN Secretary General’s Scientific Advisory Board:

- Ms Susan Avery, Director and President, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, USA (confirmed)
- Ms Joji Cariño, Director of the Forest Peoples Programme, Philippines (confirmed)
- Mr Jörg Hacker, President of the National Academy of Sciences Leopoldina, Germany (confirmed)
- Ms Maria Ivanova, Co-Director, Center for Governance and Sustainability, Bulgaria (confirmed)
- Mr Winston Soboyejo, President, African University of Science and Technology, Nigeria (confirmed)
- Mr Hamid Zakri, Science Adviser to the Prime Minister of Malaysia, Malaysia (confirmed)

Further interventions from the floor:

- Mr Guido Schmidt-Traub, Executive Director, Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) (confirmed)

Contact person: Ms Ana Persic, UNESCO New York Office, a.persic@unesco.org.