



11th Annual Multi-Stakeholder Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation (STI Forum)

Digital Innovation for Sustainable Development

Side-event – Concept Note

Last update: 01 May 2026

1. **Introduction**

The 11th Annual Multi-Stakeholder **Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation** (STI Forum) for the Sustainable Development Goals will be held on 6-7 May 2026 in New York, under the theme *Transformative, equitable and coordinated science, technology and innovation for the 2030 Agenda and a sustainable future for all*. On this occasion, the GoF, supported by the Digital Cooperation Organization (DCO), will convene a roundtable titled “Digital Innovation for Sustainable Development”. This side event will provide a platform to elevate the voices of diverse stakeholders from the Global South, and DCO partners, including governments, start-ups, entrepreneurs, and private sector leaders, within the multilateral dialogue on science, technology, and innovation for sustainable development. The session will focus on **how digital innovation can accelerate progress across the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), while highlighting the importance of building inclusive digital ecosystems that enable meaningful participation from both developed and developing economies.**

2. **Event Details**

- Title: *Digital Innovation for Sustainable Development*
- Duration: 75 min
- Format: Roundtable
- Co-hosts:
 - Digital Cooperation Organization
 - Permanent Mission of Pakistan
 - Permanent Mission of Saudi Arabia
 - UNCTAD
- Date and Time: 5 May 2026, 11:30-12:45 (EST)
- Venue: Conference Room 9 (CR9), UNHQ, New York
- Targeted audience: STI Forum Participants incl. government representatives, policymakers, Multilateral agencies, start-up ecosystem, private sector, academia, civil society.

3. Agenda and run of show

For alignment, all speakers and panelists (or their focal points) are kindly requested to **be at the venue (CR9) by 11.15 am (EST)**

Time / Session	Description
Welcoming Remarks (5 min)	Remarks by a representative of the Group of Friends for Digital Cooperation (tbc)
High-level Segment (15 min)	Keynote by DCO Council representative: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ministerial level speaker (tbc) Additional remarks from DCO Observer representative: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> High-level private Sector (tbc)
Startups Segments (20 mins)	Elevator Pitches DCO will convene a delegation of 9 start-ups founders (details in the Deal book) from various DCO Member States. Each founder will deliver a 1-minute elevator pitch highlighting their business model, impact on relevant SDGs, and scalability potential.
Roundtable Discussion (25 min)	Moderated Dialogue on Digital Innovation and Sustainable Development Reflecting on the initial segments of the roundtable, primary respondents (co-host and partners) will be invited to intervene and share their perspectives on challenges and opportunities for digital innovation. Proposed primary respondents: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr. Juan Jose Martinez Badillo, Chief of New York Office, UNCTAD (confirmed) Representative from the UN Office for South-South Cooperation (tbc) Representatives from the UN Group of Friends Following the primary respondents, the floor will be given to all participants to share perspectives and comments.
Closing remarks (10 min)	Wrap-up and call to Action The host will deliver final remarks, summarize key insights and actionable outcomes of the discussion.

Nigeria	Zeeh Africa	Open banking and identity infrastructure enabling secure digital financial ecosystems across Africa	Fintech	SDG 8 (Economic Growth), SDG 9 (Infrastructure), SDG 16 (Strong Institutions)
Oman	Walkk	Smart mobility solutions promoting sustainable urban transport and micro-mobility ecosystems	Mobility	SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities), SDG 13 (Climate Action)
Saudi Arabia	Me'kaaz	Wearable health technology for remote monitoring and preventive healthcare delivery	Healthtech	SDG 3 (Good Health & Well-being), SDG 9 (Innovation & Infrastructure)