

GLOBAL SOLUTIONS SUMMIT 2023

At the margins of the Multi-stakeholder Forum on Science, Technology,
and Innovation for the SDGs 2023

Theme: Harnessing STI4SDGs by 2030

Venue: ECOSOC Chamber, UN HQs

Date: May 5th, 2023

Time: 10:00am – 1:30pm, New York time

The guiding theme of GSS 2023 is that scientific discoveries, by themselves, will not help countries achieve the SDGs unless countries in Africa and other emerging regions strengthen their capacity to translate results in the lab into tangible results on the ground. African Development Bank President Adesina said it best when he remarked, “Technologies to achieve Africa’s green revolution exist. For the most part, they are all just sitting on the shelves.” GSS 2023 asks "why are these game changing technologies sitting on the shelves and how can Africa leverage the Diaspora, youth, engineering know-how, the private sector, and the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) to transfer these technologies from the shelves of research laboratories to farmers in the field, factories in the cities, processing plants that add value to basic commodities, and urban and rural consumers still lacking reliable and affordable access to water, power, sanitation, health care, and other basic services."

Preliminary Programme

	Opening Session
10:30 - 10:30	<i>Chair/moderator:</i> Alfred Watkins, Global Solutions Summit Opening remarks and key messages <ul style="list-style-type: none">• H.E. Mr. Thomas Woodroffe, United Kingdom Ambassador to the UN Economic and Social Council• Dr. Marlene Kanga AO, Former President (2017-2019), World Federation of Engineering Organizations (WFEO)• DESA or another UN Representative
10:30 - 11:30	Thematic Session 1: Technology Transfer and Deployment for Value Addition in African Agriculture Key Questions: <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ What can be done to facilitate the transfer and deployment of modern, sustainable technologies to Africa’s agricultural food system?

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ How can technology transfer programs help farmers add value to their produce and market these higher value processed products within the AfCTA as well as global markets? <p><i>Chair:</i> Alfred Watkins, Global Solutions Summit</p> <p><i>Panelists</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ms. Freda Korarome, Coordinator of Ecoforestry, Division of Natural Resources, Eastern Highlands, Provincial Administration, Papua New Guinea ▪ Prof Clapperton Chakanetsa Mavhunga, MIT ▪ Mr. Taffere Tesfachew, Acting Managing Director, UN Technology Bank for the Least Developed Countries or Ms. Federica Falomi, Economic Affairs Officer, UN Technology Bank ▪ Heifer International -- Speaker TBD
11:30 - 11:45	Break
11:45 - 1:00	<p style="background-color: #00aaff; color: white; padding: 5px;">Thematic Session 2: Technology Roadmaps and Needs Assessments For Technology Deployment and Sustainable Development</p> <p>Key Questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ What are the critical ingredients and consultation processes for developing socially inclusive, financially sustainable technology roadmaps and needs assessments? ▪ How can roadmaps and needs assessments integrate the diaspora, youth, entrepreneurship, and the private sector with engineering and scientific excellence. <p><i>Chair:</i> Alfred Watkins, Global Solutions Summit</p> <p><i>Moderator:</i> Ms. Cherry Murray, Professor of Physics and Deputy Director for Research, Biosphere 2, University of Arizona, USA</p> <p><i>Panelists</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Professor Deepakraj Divan, Director of the Center for Distributed Energy at the Georgia Institute of Technology and Chair, IEEE Empower a Billion Lives Competition ▪ Mr. Surya Raghu, Founding Partner, ETCube International ▪ Prof Paul S. Chinowsky, Director, Resilient Analytics ▪ Mr. José Ramón López-Portillo Romano, Chairman, Q Element Ltd., Advisor to Mexico Government, member of the UN SG’s 10 Member Group for the TFM
1:00 - 1:30	<p style="background-color: #00aaff; color: white; padding: 5px;">Closing and the way forward</p> <p><i>Chair:</i> H.E. Mr. Thomas Woodroffe, United Kingdom Ambassador to the UN Economic and Social Council.</p>

Panelist:

- **Christoper Benosky**, VP, AECOM Global Water Climate Adaptation and Resilience Lead
- **Mr. KN Gunalan**, Chair WFEO UN Relations Committee and Immediate Past President of American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE)
- **ECA and DESA** (recap on key STI initiatives from Africa Day, STI Forum and outline the way forward)