

# Strings Project Report Launch

*Changing directions: Steering science, technology and innovation  
for the Sustainable Development Goals*

Thursday 20 October 2022

14:00-15:35 pm

All times are in GMT+1 (London time)

Online, via Zoom

[Registration link\\*](https://bit.ly/3EjD35U): <https://bit.ly/3EjD35U>

\*A personalised Zoom access link will be provided automatically upon your registration

# Agenda

- 14:00 – 14:05 **Welcome and Introduction by the Launch Moderator**  
*Ehsan Masood, Bureau Chief Editor (Africa and the Middle East), Nature*
- 14:05 – 14:10 **Video Message**  
*Csaba Kőrösi, President of the 77th Session of the United Nations General Assembly*
- 14:10 – 14:15 **Opening Keynote Speech**  
‘Issues behind the misalignment of STI and sustainable development that cause rising inequalities, across the globe’  
*Vanessa Nakate, Climate Justice Activist and UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador*
- 14:15 – 14:40 **STRINGS Report Overview from the STRINGS consortium**  
[STRINGS team members](#)  
*Saurabh Arora, Senior Lecturer, Technology and Innovation for Development, Science Policy Research Unit, University of Sussex*  
*Joanna Chataway, Professor and Head of Department of Science Technology, Engineering & Public Policy, University College London*  
*Tommaso Ciarli, Senior Researcher, UNU-MERIT, United Nations University, The Netherlands & Science Policy Research Unit, University of Sussex*  
*Pedro Conceição, Director, Human Development Report Office, United Nations Development Programme*  
*Ine Steenmans, Associate Professor in Futures, Analysis and Policy Science, Technology, Engineering and Public Policy, University College London*  
*Andrew Stirling, Professor of Science & Technology Policy, Science Policy Research Unit, University of Sussex*
- 14:40 – 15:30 **Panel discussion and Q&A session**  
‘How can STI contribute to the SDGs between now and 2030?’  
**Chaired by**  
*Ehsan Masood, Bureau Chief Editor (Africa and the Middle East), Nature*  
  
**Panellists**  
*Lidia Borrell-Damián, Secretary General, Science Europe*  
*Lidia Brito, Regional Director of Science for LAC region, UNESCO*  
*Anil Kumar Gupta, Founder Honeybee Network GIAN (Gujarat Grassroots Innovation Augmentation Network) and Coordinator SRISTI, Former Executive Vice Chair, National Innovation Foundation*  
*Tshilidzi Marwala, Vice-Chancellor, University of Johannesburg, Incoming Rector of United Nations University*  
*Frances Wood, International Director, UK Research and Innovation*  
*Haoliang Xu, UN Assistant Secretary-General, UNDP Assistant Administrator and Director of Bureau of Policy and Programme Support, United Nations Development Programme*
- 15:30 – 15:35 **Closing remarks from the Launch Moderator**  
*Ehsan Masood, Bureau Chief Editor (Africa and the Middle East), Nature*

## ABOUT the STRINGS project

The [STRINGS](#) project was launched in June 2019 with [nine leading academic institutions around the world](#), in collaboration with the UNDP and funded by the Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF) of the UK Research and Innovation (UKRI).

The project has an ambitious research agenda **to better understand the ways in which science, technology and innovation (STI) contribute, or not, to meeting the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in low- and middle-income countries (LMIC)**. In the past two years, the project has produced evidence, tools and guidelines that can empower more effective policy actions as well as more inclusive political and technical debates about the possible roles for STI in meeting the SDGs by 2030, and the ways this might be achieved in different contexts.

**The STRINGS Report:** The report findings were produced in a research-intensive two-year period, using a pioneering methodological approach alongside targeted engagements with key stakeholders in the STI/SDG area and specialized case studies in India, Sub Saharan Africa and Latin America and were based on the analysis of the synergies, competing priorities and trade-offs between STI and the SDGs, and the ways these operate in different contexts at local, national and global levels.

## Who should attend?

The Launch will bring together a global multi-stakeholder audience working at the crossroads of STI and sustainable development, from research, policy, civil society and the private sector.

- ✓ Researchers and organisations working on mapping STI in relations to the SDGs, studying specific STI pathways in relation to the SDGs, or collecting data on both STI and the SDGs
- ✓ Funders interested in improving the alignment of their research portfolio to the SDGs
- ✓ International organisations and aid agencies interested in better understanding how to use different forms of STI to address the SDGs
- ✓ NGOs interested in understanding and/or promoting different STI pathways in relation to the SDGs
- ✓ Anyone willing to mobilise efforts and resources for better directing STI towards the support of the SDGs

## Why attend?

- ✓ To hear first-hand the key messages and policy recommendations presented in the STRINGS report
- ✓ To learn from others' research findings and experiences that help explain the complex relations between STI and the SDGs
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- ✓ To think with key players in research funding, international organizations, aid agencies and NGOs about how to improve decision making in STI investments to better serve the aims of the SDGs
- ✓ To contribute to a transdisciplinary research agenda to improve understanding of how STI contributes to the SDGs