

STI Forum 2024 – Side event: “Leveraging technology and innovation to enhance the response to emergencies and humanitarian challenges”

DATE : 8 Max 11h30 – 12h45

LOCATION : Interparliamentary Conference Room 9 (UNHQ)

AGENDA :

Opening remarks :

- H.E. Ambassador Olivier Maes, Permanent Representative of Luxembourg
- Deputy Permanent Representative of Austria, Mr. Stefan Pretterhofer, Minister Plenipotentiary
- Deputy Permanent Representative of Senegal, Mr. Diamane Diome
- Paul SKOCZYLAS, Director (ai), UN System & Multilateral Engagement Division

Presentations of ventures supported by the *Humanitarian Innovation Accelerator*:

- Representative from WASDI – Paolo Campanella
- Representative from Bleaglee – Juveline Ngum Ngwa & Numfor Chunga
- Representative from Opal – Natalie Grover

Panel discussion and Q&A:

- General discussion with the 3 ventures supported by the *Humanitarian Innovation Accelerator* around the opportunities and challenges of using technology-based solutions in humanitarian contexts
- Open the floor to questions/ Q&A segment

BACKGROUND:

Innovation and technology have an immense potential in addressing increasingly complex humanitarian crisis, allowing aid to reach the most vulnerable populations in a more efficient and effective way. To promote innovation in humanitarian action, the Grand-Duchy of Luxembourg, together with the World Food Programme and the Austrian Development Cooperation (ADC), have launched the *Humanitarian Innovation Accelerator Programme* (HIA) which aims to support innovative, high-impact solutions that strive to solve emergency and humanitarian challenges faced in the humanitarian space while keeping the individual at the forefront of all interventions. This side event, sponsored by the governments of Luxembourg, Austria, Senegal and the World Food Programme aims to showcase the HIA as an example of how to mobilize technology-based solutions in humanitarian contexts and as a best practice on how to recognize the role of local and national actors in improving the relevance as well as effectiveness of humanitarian response. It will feature testimonies of ventures and solution-providers selected by the programme, in the areas of earth observation, health technologies and telemedicine, and data governance for anticipatory action.

By bringing together actors from the private sector and research, promoting innovation and technology in humanitarian action will have a lasting and structural impact on addressing the most urgent humanitarian challenges, like food insecurity, environmental emergencies and the climate crisis, as well as overall poverty. This event will provide an important platform for building links and perspectives on how to best leverage innovation in humanitarian action, while also addressing challenges linked to the use of technologies in fragile contexts, particularly in terms of resilience and sustainability. The STI Forum is a platform to identify and examine technology needs and gaps in the areas of scientific cooperation, innovation, and capacity-building, to help facilitate development, transfer, and dissemination of relevant technologies for the Sustainable Development Goals. The theme for this year’s Forum is: “Science, technology and innovation for reinforcing the 2030 Agenda

and eradicating poverty in times of multiple crises: the effective delivery of sustainable, resilient and innovative solutions.