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The IPU Charter on the Ethics of Science and Technology: Harnessing science, technology and innovation responsibly

Organized by the IPU Working Group on Science and Technology in the context of the 9th Multi-stakeholder Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation for the Sustainable Development Goals

8 May 2024, 14:00–15:30 CEST, 08:00–09:30 New York
(virtual meeting on Zoom)

Draft Concept Note

Background

Rapid and unprecedented advancements in science and technology are outpacing parliaments' legislative and regulatory capacities. At the same time, the ethical implications of scientific and technological innovations have become increasingly complex and consequential, creating a growing need to align policy with evidence and facts.

As the global community strives to harness the potential of innovation for sustainable development and human well-being, the IPU Working Group on Science and Technology is keen to address the inherent risks and ethical challenges that accompany the exponential growth of novel technologies and their profound ramifications on society and the environment.

The proposed IPU Charter on the Ethics of Science and Technology provides a vital framework for navigating these ethical frontiers, offering guidelines to mitigate risks and promote responsible innovation. This framework helps bridge the gap that separates scientific innovation from legislative and parliamentary oversight, and ensures that technological progress aligns with human values and principles, particularly those enshrined in the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights, taking into account the overall well-being of individuals and society as a whole and their dependence on the natural environment.

Objectives

The objective of this side event is to invite feedback and public comments on the draft Charter on the Ethics of Science and Technology, an initiative of the IPU's Working Group on Science and Technology which is expected to be formally adopted at the 149th IPU Assembly in October 2024. By providing an opportunity for STI Forum participants to review and provide feedback on the draft Charter, the IPU aims to promote transparency, inclusivity and accountability in the development of ethical frameworks for science, technology and innovation. Input received during the event will inform possible amendments to the draft Charter, ensuring that it reflects the diverse perspectives and concerns of stakeholders from around the world.

Key themes

- Evidence-based decision-making
- Gender equality and youth participation in science, technology and innovation
- Right to knowledge and sustainable environment
- International cooperation and sharing good practices between the Global North and Global South
- Science as enabler of global peace and harmony

Run of show

Members of the [IPU Working Group on Science and Technology](#) (WGST) led by Mr. Denis Naughten (MP, Ireland), WGST Chairperson, will present the overall purpose and main elements of the draft Charter.

The event will be opened by Ms. Paddy Torsney, Head of the Office of the Permanent Observer of the IPU to the United Nations in New York, and moderated by Mr. Maurizio Bona, former Adviser to the Director-General of the European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN) and Professor at the University of Pavia, Italy.

Q&A with participants will follow.

This event will include simultaneous interpretation in English and French.