SDG-FIR Nexus: Connecting the Dotted Lines

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SDGs and technology

48 of the 169 SDG targets are technology-related (UN 2016):

Significant overall technology performance improvement (19 targets) – e.g. 9.4 ...upgrade infrastructure and retrofit industries to make them sustainable, with increased resource-use efficiency and greater adoption of clean and environmentally sound technologies and industrial processes....

Universal access to sustainable technology (12 targets) – e.g. 1.4. ...ensure that all men and women .... have... access to basic services...and...appropriate new technology...

Global effective innovation system for sustainable development (17 targets) – e.g. 8.3 Promote development-oriented policies that support ... entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation...
“No one left behind” - Key risks

Digital divide

• Information and communications technology (ICT) as the foundation of FIR

• Unequal distribution of ICT among and within countries ---> unequal distribution of FIR benefits

Technology and employment

• 3 ways: (a) technology replacing human labor, (b) new jobs created because of technology; and (c) jobs being complemented by technology.

• How do we ensure that the net effect on jobs is positive?

• How do we ensure that people are redeployable and not unemployable?
Harnessing public-private partnerships

Digital divide

• Adopt an ecosystems approach to ICT development

Technology and employment

• Involve industry in curriculum development and delivery
Thank you

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