

8th Multi-stakeholder Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation for the Sustainable Development Goals

Opening remarks by

**Her Excellency Lachezara Stoeva
President of the Economic and Social Council, Permanent Representative of Bulgaria to the
United Nations**

New York, 3rd May 2023, 10:00 – 11:00 am EDT

Dear Participants,

Welcome to the 8th Multi-stakeholder Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation for the Sustainable Development Goals.

First, special thanks to the two co-chairs of the Forum, H.E. Ms. Mathu Joyini, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of South Africa to the United Nations, and H.E. Mr. Thomas Woodroffe, United Kingdom Ambassador to the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), and their teams, for all their work in putting together this Forum which they did with enthusiasm, creativity and passion.

I also thank the UN interagency task team on STI for the SDGs (IATT); the 10-Member Group of high-level representatives appointed by the Secretary General, UN DESA and UNCTAD for their efforts to prepare for this important session.

The theme of this year's STI Forum is "Science, technology and innovation for accelerating the recovery from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) and the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at all levels".

The multiple crises of the last three years have dealt a major blow to SDG implementation efforts.

The STI Forum is an opportunity to boost evidence-based policy making, anchored in science, for designing and implementing transformations to sustainable development. It is also a space to foster closer collaboration between policymakers and the scientific community.

Dear colleagues,

ECOSOC serves as a conduit for knowledge sharing, collective response and coordinated action to work toward a more equitable and sustainable future.

The follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the annual ECOSOC High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) is one such space to embrace the interdependence of the three dimensions of sustainable development (environmental, social and economic), including through thematic reviews of individual SDGs and their interlinkages with other Goals, and through Voluntary National Reviews of SDG progress.

Your special attention to the SDGs that are under review at the HLPF this year, namely SDG 6 (clean water and sanitation), SDG 7 (affordable and clean energy), SDG 9 (industry, innovation and infrastructure), SDG 11 (sustainable cities and communities), and SDG 17 (partnership for the goals) is especially appreciated.

There are clear connections among these Goals that can motivate cross-cutting actions – for example, the role of consistent energy supply for the development of manufacturing capabilities and increasing employment in manufacturing; the role of industrial capacity and robust infrastructure for the provision of clean water and sanitation; and the role of partnerships for sustainable urban living.

Your valuable deliberations will also serve as an important stepping stone to the upcoming midterm review of all the SDGs at the SDG Summit in September.

Dear Colleagues,

As we reset over the next seven years, we can draw confidence from the fact that we have access to more knowledge, technologies and resources than ever before. Our efforts can be focused on working together to leverage these to the maximum effect.

ECOSOC will continue its work to provide opportunities to strengthen cross-sectoral and cross-border cooperation aligned with the SDGs and catalyze actions by UN Member States as well as other stakeholders including academia, civil society, and the private sector.

The STI Forum, the HLPF and other ECOSOC events all serve as platforms to identify concrete actions and strengthen multilateralism to deliver the tangible results on sustainable development and resilience that the world desperately needs.

Distinguished participants,

Thank you for being with us at the Forum, for bringing your ideas STI which will allow us to make progress on the SDG implementation.

I wish you a successful two days of deliberations. I look forward to the outcomes from your meetings as these will be key in shaping the SDG Summit and guide the actions of all key stakeholders in achieving the SDGs.

Thank you.
