

**Multi-stakeholder Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) for the SDGs  
Member State briefing, 5 March 2024**

**Video message by H.E. Paula Narváez, President of the Economic and Social Council**

Excellencies, colleagues, ladies and gentlemen.

It is my great pleasure to welcome you to this briefing on the ninth annual Multi-stakeholder Forum on Science, Technology, and Innovation for the SDGs, or STI Forum. I regret that I am not able to be there with you in person.

The Forum, scheduled to take place 9 and 10 May at the United Nations Headquarters in New York under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council, will convene under the theme “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.” The multifaceted theme acknowledges that we are currently in a difficult and complicated moment, when bold action is needed in a range of different areas to address our challenges and move forward toward our shared goals.

Ever since 2015, when Member States created the Technology Facilitation Mechanism as a key means of implementing the 2030 Agenda, the STI Forum has provided an important space for peer learning, frontier thinking, and showcasing solutions. The multi-stakeholder nature of the Forum has always been its greatest strength, and this inclusivity is more important than ever.

This year, another great strength of the Forum is its visionary team of co-chairs, Her Excellency Christina Markus Lassen, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Denmark to the United Nations, and Her Excellency Inga Rhonda King, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines to the United Nations. I was thrilled when they agreed to lead the Forum preparations this year, and I look forward to seeing how they shape the program and associated events.

In times when there is an urgent need for evidence-based policymaking grounded in science to drive transformative change in line with the Sustainable Development Goals, the STI Forum serves as a vital platform for fostering dialogue, collaboration, and knowledge-sharing among diverse stakeholders to advance our collective efforts towards sustainable development.

We all know the diagnosis: we are currently not on track to achieve the SDGs by 2030, with only a fraction of targets showing progress. In this context, scientific innovation must be leveraged as a powerful tool to accelerate progress, ensuring the meaningful participation of all, with the aim of leaving no one behind.

Dear colleagues,

I thank you all for being here and it is my pleasure to hand the floor to the co-chairs.