



**“Better Leveraging *Science, Technology, Innovation and Engineering* for  
Accelerating Progress on the Sustainable Development Goals”**

*Organized by the World Federation of Engineering Organizations (WFEO) and  
International Science Council (ISC)*

*13:15 –14:30 EST, 9 May 2024,*

*Trusteeship Council Chamber, UNHQ New York*

Opening Remarks

by

H.E. Ms. Paula Narvaez, President of the Economic and Social Council

Ambassador

King,

Ambassador

Lassen,

Professor

Gupta,

Dr. Gunalan,

Excellencies,

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is truly a pleasure to join Denmark and St Vincent and the Grenadines, in welcoming you to this side event titled “Better Leveraging Science, Technology, Innovation and Engineering for Accelerating Progress on the Sustainable Development Goals”. Few topics hold greater weight in these challenging times.

First and foremost, I would like to congratulate the World Federation of Engineering Organizations and the International Science Council for organizing this important side event to the 9<sup>th</sup> Multi-stakeholder Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation for the SDGs.

The STI Forum's contribution to the upcoming High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development in July is crucial, as it will address how science, technology, and innovation can drive the implementation of key SDGs under review, including SDG1 on ending poverty, SDG2 on zero hunger, SDG13 on climate

action, SDG16 on peace, justice, and strong institutions, and SDG17 on partnerships and means of implementation.

However, the impact of STI extends far beyond these specific goals. The Forum's broader look at its contribution to achieving all 17 SDGs is essential, particularly as we approach the Summit of the Future this September.

The Pact for the Future, envisioned as a transformative agenda for the UN, presents a significant opportunity to leverage Science, Technology, and Innovation (STI) for a sustainable future. The outcomes of STI's discussions can provide crucial input to shape this agenda, particularly through the Global Digital Compact (GDC).

To translate this vision into reality, we need to stay at the forefront of scientific and technological advancements. This requires staying connected with the pulse of progress – the very expertise offered by organized science and engineering communities. Therefore, your full engagement in ECOSOC meetings, forums, and other relevant platforms is essential.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

We are at a critical juncture. Decades of development progress are being reversed by a confluence of crises: climate disasters, conflicts, economic downturns, and the lingering effects of the pandemic. Inequalities are widening both within and between countries, pushing millions back into poverty and exacerbating hunger and malnutrition. Yet, amidst these challenges, science and technology can be our beacon of hope.

Major groups, including scientists, academics, civil society organizations, local governments, the private sector, and many other stakeholders, all have critical roles to play in harnessing the power of STI for sustainable development. Engaging young scientists, engineers, and experts is essential. Their fresh perspectives, boundless energy, and innovative thinking will fuel our journey towards a sustainable future.

CSOs play a particularly vital role as advocates. They champion policies that promote equitable access to technology and infrastructure, alongside their responsible use. They bridge the gap between scientific advancements and the

communities that stand to benefit most. The voices of CSOs are crucial in shaping inclusive, ethical, and needs-based STI policies.

In addition, we must actively tap into the invaluable traditional knowledge and practices of Indigenous peoples. By combining these diverse knowledge systems, we can craft a more holistic and effective approach to achieving the SDGs.

Through collaborative efforts, under the exceptional leadership of the STI Co-Chairs, Ambassadors King and Lassen, we can unlock the power of STI and civil society to open a new chapter for a more sustainable and equitable future – a true UN 2.0.

I am looking forward to hearing your views and recommendations and to learn about your experiences, strategies and solutions, in order to make the 2030 Agenda a reality for all, including for those furthest behind.

Thank you.

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