



# ECOSOC

United Nations Economic and Social Council

TAKING ACTION TO IMPROVE LIVES

## **Multi-stakeholder Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation for the SDGs (STI Forum)**

Convened by the President of ECOSOC

Supported by the 10-Member Advisory Group and the UN Inter-Agency Task Team on  
Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) for the SDGs

14 May 2019, 10:00 a.m., Conference Room 4, UN Headquarters, New York

**Opening Remarks by H.E. Ms. Inga Rhonda King, President of the Economic and  
Social Council (ECOSOC)**

### **Opening Segment**

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Distinguished Ministers,

Excellencies,

Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, Mr Liu Zhenmin,

Co-Chairs of the Forum, Her Excellency H. Elizabeth Thompson of Barbados, and

Her Excellency Marie Chatardova of Czech Republic

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my great pleasure to welcome you all to the fourth Multi-Stakeholder Forum on  
Science, Technology and Innovation for the Sustainable Development Goals.

Today, no one can ignore the vital contributions of science, technology and innovation  
to the life of humankind.

It is undisputed that STI is shaping the development of the human society, helping the world address global challenges and progress towards more equitable and sustainable development.

Examples are all around us, regardless of where we are.

Mobile phones allow us to stay in touch, and also to transfer money over great distances. Remote sensing and drones improve our responses to natural disasters.

Many would argue, however, that while the pace of these technology driven transformations is rapid, they are not yet fast enough or deep enough to respond to the urgency or the complexity of the challenges we face today.

So, I would like to ask: how can we fully realise this potential of science, technology and innovation? How can we deploy them at scale and with great speed to respond fully to our shared challenges?

Distinguished participants,

I believe what we will be doing here today will help us to answer these questions.

We must recognise that no progress is possible without practical action on the ground. Constant dialogue across stakeholders is needed to be certain that we are indeed developing the knowledge we need, and the solutions that we want to help us deliver on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Therefore, we have to collectively step up our efforts to leverage science, technology and innovation for the SDGs. Such action-oriented cooperation across and within countries and communities will be essential for making progress and bridging divides.

The multi-stakeholder STI Forum serves an important purpose in this regard.

I am happy to see, that as in previous years, it is once again bringing together a wide and diverse representation from both public and private sectors: we have policy-makers and regulators, entrepreneurs and innovators, scientists and civil society representatives.

I am delighted that we have all of you — the change-makers — here with us today.

Distinguished participants,

The objectives of the STI Forum are well defined. They are:

To facilitate interaction, matchmaking and the establishment of networks and partnerships across stakeholders.

To identify and to examine technology needs and gaps - including with regard to scientific cooperation, innovation and capacity building – and

To help facilitate development, transfer and dissemination of relevant technologies for the SDGs.

Clearly, this is a vast agenda, but I am confident that with your active engagement and participation we will continue to make substantial progress along these fronts.

As in the past years, the programme of the Forum contains sessions dedicated to the SDGs selected for in-depth review at the High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, which I am convening in July this year. It will help inform HLPF on the SDG implementation.

The programme of this year's Forum has also been designed to support this review.

I am particularly pleased at the focus this year on the contributions from the youth, women and indigenous people – communities whose full potential to advance the SDGs through knowledge based solutions often remains hidden or unrealised.

I am also impressed with the range and diversity of the side events, the creative solutions being highlighted by individual innovators from across the world, and the partnerships that have been forged with other such events and networks.

I am confident that all of these, taken together, will inspire us to action and success.

Once again, I welcome all of you and look forward to fruitful deliberations and useful results over the next two days.

Thank you.