



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

5 May 2021, virtual conference, UN Headquarters, New
York

**Closing Remarks by the
President of the Economic and Social Council
(ECOSOC)**

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

We had just concluded two days of intense and informative discussions. Many issues were discussed and various important recommendations have been made.

We have seen practical examples of what is possible when innovators bring their creativity and talent to fight



the pandemic, underpin the recovery and accelerate progress towards the SDGs.

We have also learnt much about the impact of pandemic on the future of the STI; about the need for development, diffusion, and transfer of modern technologies; about the urgency to bridge the digital divide; and the benefits that a more flexible and cooperative intellectual property regime could yield.

Our discussions have also thrown a spotlight on inequalities and gaps among countries, and how international cooperation can help in addressing them. We also discussed how our multilateral cooperation on the STI could help to bridge the development gaps.

We have also seen how the Technological Facilitation Mechanism (TFM) can strengthen national capacities



including in promoting the access of marginalized communities to the STI.

I hope that these discussions will inspire you in your own endeavours to connect science, technology and innovation to the COVID-19 response and recovery, while forging an inclusive path towards the SDGs.

Excellencies,

I would like to highlight some of the concrete steps recommended during the discussions.

One, to expand the Technology Facilitation Mechanism online platform, 2030 connect, to develop a database on open source technologies available to all.



Second, to agree to identify and direct research towards objectives designed to solve crucial sustainability challenges, especially those faced by developing countries and fragile communities.

Third, to bridge the digital divide by investing in sustainable ICT related infrastructures, including through consideration of specific steps to implement the Secretary General's roadmap on digital cooperation.

I am confident that these steps would continue to be discussed at various forums such as Commission on Science and Technology for Development and the Internet Governance Forum.

Excellencies,

I wish to thank our distinguished Co-Chairs, Ambassador Mohammad Koba of Indonesia, and



Ambassador Andrejs Pildegovičs of Latvia, for their support and leadership through the entire preparation and execution of the Forum. I look forward to their summary, a critical input to the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, which I am convening in July.

I am grateful to all the distinguished representatives of the Secretary-General's 10-Member Advisory Group for their thoughtful engagement and substantive leadership.

I appreciate the 45-member UN-Inter -Agency Task Team, co-convened by UN-DESA and UNCTAD, for their exemplary collaboration.

Most importantly, I thank all of you, distinguished participants, for your active engagement. It is your



experience and expertise that make our recommendations meaningful.

We hope to see all of you again next May and encourage you to stay involved throughout the year and beyond, to help realize the full potential of STI for building back better and achieving the SDGs.

I thank you.